



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER
August/September 1988

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ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE FOODTOWN CAR PARK IN FERGUSON STREET. IF YOU WANT TO GO ON A TRIP, PLEASE ADVISE THE LEADER AT LEAST THREE DAYS IN ADVANCE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OR WEEKEND TRIP, CONTACT THE LEADER OF THE SCHEDULED TRIP.

Members are reminded that a charge for transport will be collected on the day of the trip, the amount depending on the distance traveled and vehicles used. Leaders should be able to give an estimate in advance.

COMING EVENTS:

25th August – Club Night

Tony Gates who has recently joined the club will be giving an illustrated talk entitled "Mountaineering in the South Island".

Venue: Society of Friends' Meeting Rooms
227 College Street, Palmerston North
Time: 7.45 pm

27-28th August – Cattle Ridge / Dundas Ridge - Tararuas

This trip will enter the Tararuas from the western side and will involve travel along Cattle Ridge and Dundas Ridge with lots of scope for variation depending on weather and enthusiasm.

Leader: Pat Janssen Ph 78752
Grade: Medium
Departs: Saturday 7am

27th August - Ngamoko Range Ruahines

A day walk up through the beech forest to the tops with views out to the west and from the top down into the Pohangina Valley.

Leader: Jennifer Madgwick Ph. 68610
Grade: Medium
Departs: Saturday 8am

1st September – Committee Meeting

Venue: 94 Wood St, Palmerston North
Time: 7.45 pm

3-4th September – Sphagnum Moss Swamp – Egmont National Park

A trip to Mt Egmont National Park, the park with the most reliable weather! This trip will visit the Sphagnum Moss Swamp on the northern side of Egmont, a place rarely visited by the Club.

Leader: Linda Rowan Ph. 64655

Grade: Medium/fit
Departs: Saturday 6am

3rd September – Manawatu Gorge Scenic Reserve

A day's walk along the top of the Manawatu Gorge cliffs, from the Ashhurst to Woodville end, on the southern side of the river. This track passes through the bush, above the roadway and out of sight of the road.

Leader: John Wright Ph 82041

Grade: Easy
Depart: Saturday 9am.

10-11th September – Tongariro National Park

A trip to the eastern side of Mt Ruapehu, departing from the Tukino skifield area. The intention is to climb the Cathedral Rocks, Mitre Peak or whatever else the enthusiasm of the Club dictates.

Leader: Trevor Bissell Ph 73543

Grade: Fit
Departs: Friday evening or early Saturday morning

11th September – Oroua Valley, Ruahine Ranges

A day's walk in the Oroua Valley in the beech forest, with the possibility of a pack float back down the river for the enthusiastic.

Leader: Terry Crippen

Departs: 8am

Grade: Easy

15th September – Club Night

Bob McKerrow, a widely travelled mountaineer and adventurer, will be speaking on "The Arctic way of Life". Bob recently took part in an epic event to reach the North Pole by foot.

Venue: Society of Friends' Meeting Rooms
227 College Street, Palmerston North
Time: 7.45 pm

17-18th September – Open Snow Weekend – Tongariro National Park

A weekend based at Massey University Alpine Hut, below Tuoa skifield. Come along and do some skiing (if the snow lasts), climbing, a chance to put into practice some of those snowcraft skills or do some tramping along the lower slopes of the mountain. This is a weekend for all!

Leader: John Wright Ph 82041

Grade: All

Departs: Saturday 6am

20th September – QUIZ SHOW

An evening's show against MUAC and MTSC. Entertainment for all come along and be on the team or support the team from the audience. This will be held at Massey on the Tuesday evening probably about 8pm.

Organiser: John Wright Ph 82041

24th September – Turoa Skifield – Tongariro National Park

A day's skiing or ski touring from Turoa skifield. For all those enthusiastic skiers – this is your opportunity to get up the mountain (and see the results of the greenhouse effect). All those Club members with ski touring gear, it's time you pulled it out of the wardrobe and give it a workout. If the weather is not suitable this trip will be postponed to Sunday.

Leader: Urs Schupbach

Grade: Medium

Departs: Saturday 6am

25th September – Waiopahu – Ohau Shelter

An easy day walk in this popular area of the Tararua Ranges.

Leader; Tricia Eder Ph 70122

Grade: Easy

Departs: 8am

27th September – PNTMC – MUAC Debate

The annual debate against MUAC, an evening of humour and wit. The large number of enthusiastic contenders for the team means a play off to get the best people, BUT don't let that stop you from putting your name forward – Just kidding, we actually still need a team. Give John a call if you would like to partake or know a Club member that can be persuaded.

Organiser: John Wright Ph 82041

Venue: Massey University

NOTE: The debate is being held on Tuesday so there will be no Club night on Thursday 29th.

THANK YOU:

Thanks go to those people who have so willingly given talks recently. There is plenty of opportunity for club members to show slides of some of the more unusual trips, or rarely visited place, they have been to recently.

COMING UP

13th October – Club Night

John Barkla will be talking about his and Marilyn's travels in South America.

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Club.

John Thomson, 55 Taranua Tce, Palmerston Nth Ph 66900

Mark Townsend and Sarah Fyfe, Livingstone Rd, RD4 Wanganul Ph. 56909

Jeremy Cole, 26 Richmond Ave, Palmerston Nth, Ph. 83640

Tony Gates, 18 Hammond St, Bulls (0650)-48854

TRIP REPORTS

North Egmont – Holly Hut (ANZAC Weekend)

This weekend, using combined transport, both an easy and a medium trip to Mt Taranaki was possible. The medium group took the round the mountain track whilst Ann and I went to North Egmont with the intention of meeting with the other group on the second night at Holly Hut.

There is a new track that sidles up through the forest to an equally new and large hut (18 bunks), called the Makawtawa Hut. This walk takes about an hour. It was a brilliantly fine day and we had views of Mt Taranaki against a deep blue sky. Unfortunately this weather was not to last, the clouds gathered overnight and the mountain stayed under clag for the remainder of the weekend. Next day we climbed the Puffer to the TV repeater then followed the round the mountain track past Tahurangi Lodge and onto Holly Hut, approximately 5 hours. Having arrived, we then took a walk to Bells Falls, pretty and well worth a side trip.

Back at Holly Hut the medium group now had arrived. The next day the easy group, now numbering four, returned to North Egmont via the Kakawai Track crossing over Ram Stream on a short 3-wire bridge and then walking the Veronica Track to the car park.

We were: Tricia Eder, Anne Young, Anne Kathi, Anne Christine.

Harris Creek – 25th June Easy Day Tramp

After a latish start with a few extra stops on the way up the winding road to the Number 1 Dam at Mangahao, we wandered up the track until we reached the second swing bridge. Here we found a nice sheltered sunny spot, down on the shingle bank where we lunched, and from whence we then ventured to the car park. The Dam was full and for a time we watched the water spraying forth through the open gates. Phil's medium group arrived down and having exchanged pleasantries we returned home.

We were: Sally Hewson, Tricia Eder, Anne Young.

"THE STORM"

by Tony Gates

The last weekend of July saw six optimistic mountaineers battling a storm on Fanthams Peak, M.E.N.P.. Despite a poor weather forecast Trevor Bissell, Bruce Barnes, Greg Reid, Mark Bown and Alan Mountford joined me, and we climbed absolutely nothing. We were all prepared, but could go no further than Syme Hut. The weather was so bad it wasn't easy venturing out to the toilet!**

We managed a pre-dawn start on Saturday, aiming to reach the hut by lunchtime. It is an easy 3 hour climb to the hut, but the deteriorating weather slowed us down. The route isn't difficult to follow until nearing the summit of Fanthams Peak where both the old and new Syme Huts may be difficult to locate in weather such as we experienced. There exists a few marker poles, but most were almost completely buried by ice. The hut too, was encased in ice, but at least not buried by snow (as the old hut often was). Its shelter was very welcome. Obviously, there was no climbing to be done, so some of us visited the rather dilapidated old Syme Hut, shortly to be removed. The New Syme Hut is obviously popular with the locals, and is apparently an amazing place to stay in fine weather. Not for us though, so we could only chin-wag, eat, drink, and sleep.

Sunday, and the storm continued, so we retreated to home by midday. I, for one, will return.

(** Rumour has it that Tony had difficulty finding the hut after visiting the little house. Fortunately a lamp was set up to guide the other relieved members of the party back to the warmth of the hut – Ed.)

22-24th July – Snowcraft II – Blyth Hut

Super spy Phil (his name is secret) warned that the Parawai Club from Waekanae and Ruamati were also holding a snowcraft course from Blythe Hut south of the Ohakune Mountain Road. So, tents were added to the huge pile of ice axes,

snowstakes, crampons, ropes, hammers, etc. that was crammed into vehicles; because of the hideous load the tents were left in the cars to be collected on Saturday night if required; it was not necessary as we got to the hut first at around 11:30 pm. We had seen snow on Girdlestone Peak by moonlight and had hopes for a good day on the morrow.

Saturday was windy and misty but the show had to go on so people were divided among instructors, given notes and gear and all set off bravely up the ridge from the hut. Full storm gear and some body strength were required to make one's way against the wind without freezing to death or being blown over; eventually a sheltered valley was found with some snow in it. Half a day's self arresting, step cutting and rope work followed but by lunch time people's thoughts were mostly about how nice it would be to be dry and warm and everyone retreated to the hut.

The large Parawai group were at the hut on our return; we offered to go and fetch our tents so that part of both groups could sleep outside but they had already decided to stay at the Mangaehuehu Hut further around the around-the-mountain track. After lunch we practiced setting up belays by tying ourselves to the furniture.

Quite a gale blew in the night. By morning the wind had dropped but quite steady rain had begun; hence we packed up, cleaned up and came home.

Instructors: Trevor Bissell, Phil Clerke, Catherine Farquhar, Barry Scott and John Wright.

Pupils: Mark Bown, John Drury, Tricia Eder, Kerry Ford, Sarah Fyfe, Steve Glasgow, Nevil Kennedy, Ian Kirker, Mike McConachy, Greg Reid and Mark Townsend.

Also David Mullinder and Craig From the Ruahine TC plus ##