



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217

PALMERSTON NORTH

NEWSLETTER

October/November 1988

Membership Enquiries:	Tricia Eder	Ph.	70-122
Secretary:	Trevor Bissell		73-543
Gear Custodian:	Daryl Rowan		64-655
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Rowan		64-655

ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

Vaughan Crow:	Home Ph. 69-832	Work Ph. 74-129
Trevor Bissell:	73-543	74-129
Daryl & Linda Rowan:	Ph. 64-655	68-019

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:

27th October - Club Night

Lyndon Badcoe will show slides of the Milford Track. This country is renowned for its beautiful views, waterfalls and sandflies! Take the opportunity to bring along friends who may be interested in tramping the Milford.

Venue: Society of Friends' Meeting Rooms
227 College St, Palmerston North
Time: 7:45pm

29th October - Kapiti Island

Twenty Club members are heading off for the peace and quiet(?) of Kapiti Island - a sanctuary for some of New Zealand's birds. We take the launch across to the Island and return about 4pm. The trip cost is about \$30. A thigh-deep wade from the boat to the island is required so be prepared for it.

Leader: John Wright ph 82041
Grade: All
Departs: Saturday 6: 30am

3rd November - Committee Meeting

For all committee members and those interested in the the Club.

Venue: 110 Manawatu St
Time: 7:45pm

5th - 6th November - Waterfall Hut. Eastern Ruahines

A trip beginning on the eastern side of the Ruahines into Waterfall Hut, at the headwaters of the Kawhatau River. Both the walk in and out will be along open ridge tops providing views out to the east.

Leader: Ruth Schupbach ph 80295
Grade: Medium-Fit
Departs: Saturday 6am

10th November – Club Night

Come along and hear the exploits of a few members of the Club who headed onto the Murchison Glacier (S.1.) for a week of ski-touring and climbing this winter. There was plenty of good snow, action and photography.

Venue: Society of Friends' Meeting Rooms
227 College St, Palmerston North
Time: 7:45pm

11th - 13th November - Search and Rescue Exercise

PNTMC will put a team into this SAREX which is to be held just over the range based at Coppermine Road, Woodville. The exercise is especially geared for those who may not have the experience but have an interest in participating in Search and Rescue. Saturday starts with helicopter practical, moves on to First Aid theory and practical, mapping and compass, radio procedures and finishes with search tactics.

Sunday there is a practical exercise putting together all the things learnt on the previous day.

Contact: Trevor ph. 73543 or Alan (0650)-48612
Grade: Medium-Fit
Departs: Friday evening or Saturday morning

12th - 13th November - Putangirua Pinnacles, East Coast

This is going to be a combined trip with the MT&SC to an interesting area on the East Coast. With never-ending westerlies the weather is bound to be fine. There is plenty of scope for recreation on this trip, phone Terry for details.

Leader: Terry Coburn ph 86391
Grade: Easy
Departs: Saturday 7am

13th November - Purity Hut, Ruahines

A day walk in the Hikurangi Range, with views westwards out to Taihape and northwest to Ruapehu. This walk will take you from farmlands to forest to Ruahine tops and back.

Leader: Catherine Farquhar ph 86739
Grade: Medium-Fit
Departs: Sunday 7am

19th - 20th November Mangatau and Ohau Rivers - Tararuas

An interesting trip beginning at Mangahao Dam, up the Mangahao River and over Girdlestone Saddle, into the south and then the north Ohau River. The return to Mangahao is via Tawirikohukohu. A classic trip in the heart of the Tararuas.

Leader: John Thomson ph 66900
Grade: Medium-Fit
Departs: Saturday 6:30am

20th November - Greens Road Back Country Run

For those of you wanting to work up a keen appetite for the Xmas dinner - this is your opportunity. A run over Greens Rd - this run will start at the microwave station - Old West Road go up to the Tiritea Dam, climb the hill behind the Dam and wander across farm land to come down along the Old West Road to our starting place. The run will probably take about two and a half hours depending on your fitness. For those who might like to take the pace a little slower or walk the route arrangements can be made.

Leader(?): Linda or Daryl ph 64655
Grade: Various
Departs: Sunday 11am from the Microwave Station
Afternoon tea 110 Manawatu St ~3pm

24th November - A Club night with a difference.

As the shops fill up with Christmas goodies, PNTMC beats the rush. So join us for an early Christmas Dinner at the Coachman Restaurant. The menu sounds great, the company guaranteed and the cost is approx. \$33.

Venue: Coachman Restaurant
Contact: Trish ph 70122 to book for dinner

26th - 27th November - Work Party Oroua River - Ruahines

PNTMC has offered its person power to help the Department of Conservation with the maintenance of tracks and huts in our local area. DOC have asked us to provide a group of enthusiasts to help in the Oroua Catchment up to Iron Gate Hut with general track maintenance. They provide the tools, we provide the team.

Contact: Linda ph 64655
Grade: All hands welcome
Departs: Saturday 7am

27th November – Porewa Stream - Pohangina Valley

A day walk up a side stream to the Pohangina River, with good views out across the valley. This walkway has been open for just over a year.

Leader: Margaret Riorden ph 67460
Grade: Easy
Departs: Sunday 9am

NOTICES

Club Events and Future Trips

A number of Club activities are being planned - keep your eye on the newsletter or come along to Club night to find out what is going on.

Coming Up:

* Another trip to Kapiti Island probably about February.

* "Ever felt the urge to kill something...to ever take it and shake it by its roots" well here is your chance! Join us on the Aborta Contorta Work Party weekend in March, to Tongariro National Park, to aid in the eradication of Pinus Contorta. PNTMC will be meeting up with a team from Wanganui Tramping Club to aid D.O.C. in beating the pine.

* Christmas Trip. This year Trevor is proposing a medium trip to North West Nelson starting soon after Boxing Day and for about 6 to 7 days. The area being considered is the Douglas, Lockett and Anatoki Ranges although Trevor may have changed the route by the time the newsletter gets to press. You must have done two weekend tramping trips with the Club to qualify for this trip and Club members have priority. If you're interested talk to Trevor NOW as you will need to book ferry tickets. ph. Trevor 73543.

Hut Pass System

On 1 December 1988 a new National Hut Pass System is being introduced by DOC. The Wanganui Region Pass will allow you to use the huts in the Rimutakas, Tararuas, Ruahines, Egmont, Whanganui and Kaweka Parks.

Hut users will buy the tickets before entering tramping areas. Tickets will be available from a variety of sources. One section of the ticket will be placed in a ticket collection box at the hut and the other displayed. Tickets will valid in all the Department's regions (except the Milford Track) for a 12 month period.

Hut fees will range from \$12 for huts with full service to \$4 for huts with minimal facilities. There will be no charge on huts with no facilities e.g. bivies, shelters.

A Bunch of Talkers - Well Done Teams!

For those of you who missed two of the highlights of the year - sorry.

But to Mark Bown, Jo O'Halloran and Dave Newstead - thanks for a colourful evenings debate against Massey. We lost the cup and trophy to a well polished MUAC team – rumour has it MUAC was practicing right up until THE event. So for those aspiring debaters out there – sharpen up your wit and be ready to win the trophy and cup back next year.

Well-done to our budding Krypton Factor specialists - John Wright, Daryl Rowan and Graeme Peters who made their way through endless Trivial Pursuit questions, tramping quizzes and "identify the slide" rounds to come out a respectable second in the Quiz Competition against Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club and MUAC. Next year MT&SC will be organising the event so brush up on your general knowledge ready for next years team.

New Members & Address Updates

P.N.T.M.C. welcomes the following new members:

Jo O'Halloran, 20 Albert St, P.N. Ph 62296
Tony Williams, Hato Paroa College, Feilding. Ph Cheltenham 731
Greig Reid, RD 2, Masterton. Ph (059) 25-898

Add this address to your list:
Garth Harmsworth, Limbrick St, P.N. Ph 69590

Thank You - Jenny

Our thanks to Jenny Dymock, committee member and newsletter editor, for your time and effort over the past two years. Jenny has recently left Palmerston North on a job transfer with DSIR to Auckland.

PNTMC Club T-Shirts

Terry ph 63588 has a number of Club T-shirts (with the Club boot design and Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club on the front) FOR SALE. Sizes available: SM and M

Colours: Fawn, Blue, Red

Price: \$15 each

Stock available now, be in quick for summer.

Manawatu Crippled Children Society

The Society is seeking people to collect during the appeal week – Tues 22 - Sat 26 November 1988. Anyone willing to collect in their own area or in Sheena's area please contact Sheena Taylor - 76-665 (home) or 62311 (work). Thank you.

Warnings on Wasps

From the most recent FMC Bulletin - Wasps are a problem in some parts of the country and can make summer tramping very unpleasant if disturbed. A few simple precautions - when stopping for a rest check' sunny clay banks, if wasps are about, consider moving on. Avoid crashing through bush or using trees as brakes. Ensure that your party has appropriate first aid material to cope with wasp stings i.e. Antihistamine tablets and cream, calamine lotion and perhaps paracetamol for pain relief.

Macpac Mountain Marathon - 1989

This event will be held January 2-3, 1989 at Craigieburn attracting participants from tramping, orienteering and running. There are five courses this year designed to give new and old competitors a chance at the Mountain Marathon. The two day distances average from 18km for the "Explorer" course to 47km for the "Macpac Classic". The entries close 15 November 1988, although a late entry (with appropriate fee) can be made. Check with Tony Gates for more information.

TRIP REPORTS

Tongariro National Park - August 13/14th

Huey pulled one out of the bag for this trip! Apart from a stiff, cool wind the days were clear and fine - perfect for photography. Nobody made it home with any unexposed film in their camera.

We set off Saturday morning and could see the mountains clearly from Milson Line which warmed our hearts. As we drew nearer we did become slightly lost in a mass of ski-bunnies flashing by in their BMW's and RX7's. However we set off in good time to reach Upper Tama Lake for lunch. The temperature was probably sub-zero as the ground was frozen, there was ice on the edges of the streams and mittens and balaclavas were necessary. This didn't matter so much as the sky was blue. We descended to Upper Tama Lake to study it in intimate detail and concluded that it was more than knee-deep and probably a bit cold for a swim. A three hour cross country trek took us to Waihohonu Hut. The sight of swarms of boy scouts in close proximity of the hut sent visions of a sleepless night on the floor of the hut through our minds. Our thanks and congratulations go out to the leaders of the Papakura boy scouts for controlling these blighters and the designers of National Park huts for building separate bunkrooms to house scouts. We slept well (on mattresses) and set off back along the Waihohonu track at the ungodly hour of 9:30am. A few sunbathing and photo stops made for a most enjoyable day arriving back to the Chateau at 4pm.

We were: Brad Owen, Terry Coburn, Anne Young, David Apimerika, Jean Garmen and Alan Mountford.

Oroua River - 11th September Day Tramp

With black clouds threatening about (sic) 4 of us headed to the road end to be greeted by some new landslides after last week's storm, lots of other trampers about, and non-wetting rain. We took the sidle track to the river having some botany instruction from Tony. We investigated the river and decided river crossings were out, so no pack-floating and sunbathing on this trip. Lunch then back via the track again, with a side visit to Hato Paora. The four of us that went were: Terry Coburn, Tony Williams, Christine Cheyne and Terry Crippen. (Seven others pulled out at the last minute of account of the black clouds!!!).

"TELEMARK": a comment on ski-mountaineering

by Tony Gates

Telemark, or cross country skiing, was developed long before the more commonly seen alpine styles of today. The skis are "skinny", usually longer than alpine ones, and the binding attachment is only at the toe. Boots are flexible, so the heel can easily be lifted, like in a running motion. The skiing style is generally suited to flat-rolling countryside, but, with skill, any slope can be skied on with telemark skis. Fashion nearly destroyed it in New Zealand, but there's a great increase in popularity as more people discover the joys and freedom of cross country skiing.

Firstly, the equipment is not always easy to buy. Only a few shops stock only the most rudimentary selection. At least the skis and bindings are much cheaper than downhill ones, one Christchurch shop was even giving away bindings with every purchase of skis! The boots though are fairly expensive.

Being a self taught telemarker(?), I can mention a little about the technique. It may look ungainly, and very out of place at Turoa, but believe me, it's a neat feeling. One ski can slide way ahead of the other, so the back knee is nearly resting on the fore heel. With both heels free to move, I can at least attempt a telemark turn. If that fails (it usually does) there's always the good old snowplow. Poles are definitely required. Telemarking is apparently inherently more stable than downhill skiing, and there is always the flexibility of easy travel on the flat. I've found I can handle the very steepest slopes of any New Zealand skifield, and glaciers of Mt Cook too (though I'm not too stable in crusty powder). Alpine skis are stronger, and have stronger edges, than telemark skis, so are better suited for Ruapehu conditions.

The equipment I use is a motley collection, with probably the best boots available on the worst skis. My boots are solid leather ones (an Austrian climbed Everest while wearing telemark boots), and I am lucky enough to possess a pair of "yeti" gaiters for them. The skis I use are 210 cm long, with 1/2 serrated sole, named fishscale or bear-claw. That's a useful innovation to provide friction to assist uphill motion, and there are varying amounts on different skis. I once used a pair with nearly 100% fishscale soles, so they were great for uphill, but very slow on the downhill! Those soles are nevertheless not as good as skis, I use mohair (great) skins, which are apparently better than the synthetic ones. Telemark skis with no fishscale are better suited to New Zealand's often icy conditions, so good skins are required. I recently procured an interesting set of poles, the sort I thought would only be seen in a James Bond movie. They are telescopic, so adjustable. Simple plastic friction blocks on a thread provide the locking mechanism, as the lower pole slides into the upper (much the same principle as an expansion bolt). Even a 4 m long avalanche probe (or a flag pole!) can be made by joining two. Any other equipment should be standard for skiing/mountaineering.

After two weeks in and about the Southern Alps, my finances were somewhat depleted, but my lust for skiing enhanced. With fancy new poles and skins, and dreams of new skis, I was indeed saddened to see Rangitikei naked of snow. Egmont was too icy, so Ruapehu beckons. The best is yet to come, all that easy spring snow, long evenings....

Manawatu Gorge - 8th October

Seven of us met at 9am on the Saturday morning and drove the short distance to the Ashhurst end of the gorge. We climbed up an obscure track that ran up a creek and then worked its way along the Gorge. A huge variety of native plants and trees greeted us and the combined knowledge of the group was often insufficient to name them all. One of the most surprising plants and a plant that seemed quite out of place was the Nikau Palm. It had spread along the entire reserve and I'm sure all of us were a little surprised at how predominant it was.

Several spots along the track opened up and we were given a view down to the river, out to Ashhurst and Woodville, reminders that we weren't really in a wilderness and civilization wasn't really far away.

Five hours of easy pleasant walking and we were at the Woodville end of the Gorge. An enjoyable day was had by all.

We were: John Wright, Anneke Bootsma, Mike Grostt, Tony Cameron, Jennifer Madgewick, Karen Marshall, Eiko.