



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217  
PALMERSTON NORTH  
NEWSLETTER  
January/February 1989

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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.

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## TREVOR GORDON BISSELL (1945-1989)

It was with sadness that we learnt of the death of Trevor Bissell while he was descending Mt Cook on 11 January 1989. Climbing Mt Cook was a goal for Trevor and finally achieved just a short time before being hit by rock and ice fall while on the descent down the North-West Couloir.

Trevor has played a vibrant part in PNTMC both as a committee member and leader for the last 16 years. Trevor was President in 1976 and 1977, Vice-President in 1979, Secretary since 1986 and on the committee for a total of 12 years. He was called on frequently to help in many tasks in addition to those he readily volunteered for and would always "find time" to add more items to the list he kept in his shirt pocket.

Under Trevor's guidance and organisation bush craft, tramping and mountaineering skills have been taught. Most weekends and the longer summer holidays would find Trevor out in the hills, usually leading a trip to lesser known places. As in past years this year's summer South Island trip, organised and led by Trev, consisted of a party of nine going to the Anatoki Valley - Douglas Range - Cobb River.

His full involvement with the ranges and mountains is further shown by Trevor being involved with the N.Z. Alpine Club and helping out with MTSC, MUAC and bushcraft and mountaineering courses.

Family, flatmates and many friends have great memories of Trevor. As fellow trampers and mountaineers and friends our memories will be of:

- his earnestness to stay fit and healthy; getting up in the dark for callisthenics and a quick five and a half mile run before breakfasting and cycling to work; a cycle up the Pahiatua Track in the lunch hour;
- early morning cup of tea in "the bowl" - a sure way to get all other trampers up and moving;
- always being willing to lead yet another Club trip to the Tararuas, Ruahines .....
- pulling down the tent fly or tent while you're inside it - a sure way to get lazy trampers motivated;
- sharing a tent with his snoring and deep breathing until Trevor's discovery that wearing a woolly hat while sleeping (even in summer!) made sleep more easy for everyone;

- the orange streak on the Massey cycle track. Legs pumping like tiny pistons, bicycle lock slung from belt of shorts, pack on back, with pump at the ready, and a determined expression on his face;
- Definition of radiance - the glow on Trev's face when he announces he's done his personal all-time record number of chin-ups;
- Trevor wore the largest and most waterproof parka I have ever seen. He took it everywhere. He never got wet. In bad weather, while tramping Trevor always had his map and compass on hand. An expert navigator and trip leader;
- those thread bare short johns hanging in tatters from under his shorts. Those shorts - running in the dark as the crutch had worn out in the shorts; taping and stapling up his work shorts rather than sitting down and mending them or buying a new pair!;
- Trevor always being fully in control even in the worst weather conditions, always checking his map and compass. Trevor leading several Tararua Main Range trips in white out conditions the whole way;

..... These are just a few of the memories.

Trevor's enthusiasm and dedication to the mountains and to people is to be admired. As a valuable member of the Club and a good friend to many, he will be sorely missed.

### **MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR TREVOR**

A memorial service - a time of sharing and fare welling Trevor will be held at The Chalet, Centennial Drive, Palmerston North on afternoon next week (Wednesday - Friday 25-27th January 1989). Please check the newspapers or call a committee member to confirm the date and time. All fellow trampers, friends, workmates and associates of Trevor's are invited to attend.

## **COMING EVENTS:**

### **21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> January - Sunny Northern Ruahines**

A long weekend and a chance to explore a bit further a field. Kevin will take a trip into the northern Ruahines, details to be finalised closer to the date. For more information contact Kevin.

Leader: Kevin Pearce  
Grade: Medium-Fit  
Departs: Saturday 6am

26<sup>th</sup> January - Barbecue – 15 Ashford Ave (As the BBQ may conflict with the Memorial service for Trevor please phone one of the committee members to confirm arrangements).

A New Year, a chance to catch up with friends, swap stories, etc. Come along to the first informal Club night of the year, bring something to BBQ, a salad, bread, etc.

Venue: 15 Ashford Ave  
Time: 6:30pm Thursday

### **28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> January - Lake Colenso - Ruahines**

A chance to visit the only lake in the Ruahines(?) or maybe it should just be called an oversized tarn. This trip will pass through typical Ruahine forest and there is opportunity for a larger more energetic return trip for the enthusiastic.

Leader: John Wright  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Saturday 7am

### **2<sup>nd</sup> February - Committee Meeting**

The first committee meeting of 1989.

Venue: 12 Jensen St, P.N.  
Time: 7:45pm

### **9<sup>th</sup> February – Club Night**

The first formal Club night of the year. Kevin Pearce will present slides and his travels in Alaska.

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

### **11<sup>th</sup> February - Ruahines**

An easy day's walking on the eastern side of the Ruahines, behind Dannevirke. This walk will do a loop track, through the bush past Stanfield Hut.

Leader: Liz Morrison ph 76532  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: Saturday 7:30 am

### **18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> February - Ohau - Tararuas**

Been to this area before? But have you ever been onto the tops, to see the views? Here's your chance. Tony is leading a trip, up the Ohau and Upper Otaki Rivers to the tops. Great summer stuff!

Leader: Tony Gates ph (0652) 48854  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Friday 6 pm

### **19<sup>th</sup> February - Oroua River - Ruahines**

An easy day's walking on the eastern side of the Ruahines, across wooden arch bridges, through beech forest and tussock paddocks.

Leader: Margaret Riorden ph 67460  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: Sunday 8 am

### **23<sup>rd</sup> February - Club Night**

Tonight we will catch up on some of the trips and travels from over the summer. Could it be Phil's journeys in the Chatham Islands or John's climbing on the Annette Plateau, or could it be. ... Come along and find out!

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

### **25<sup>th</sup> February - Putara - Tararuas**

An area in the Tararuas that hasn't been visited for some time by our Club. From the road end the track climbs to the Dundas Ridge tops, giving views of the Wairarapa, near Eketahuna. The return trip, depending on enthusiasm, could be via Ngamaia Stream.

Leader: John Thompson ph 66900  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Saturday 7 am

### **25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> February - Mt Tongariro - Tongariro National Park**

Here is a diverse trip that should interest quite a few. The plan is to climb Mt Tongariro from Ketatahi Hut (generally a 4-6 hour walk) and the keen and energetic could also climb Mt Ngauruhoe, returning to the hut for the night. Don't forget there are hot pools, just 5 minutes walk from the hut to soothe those tired legs.

Leader: Ruth Schupbach ph 80245  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Friday 6pm

This month Urs and John have worked very hard to get the trip list for February completed and despite our efforts the number of trips are looking a little scarce, with no planned trip for the long weekend and the beginning of the February. If you have a trip you want to lead, or a trip you would like someone else to lead give John or Urs a call. Remember the trips for the coming month have to be planned a month in advance so that details can be printed in the newsletter. To all those people still inactive after the Christmas break, the trip leaders will only continue to organise and lead the trips if they have participation from the Club members.

Trip Organisers: John Wright ph 82041  
Urs Scupbach ph 80245

### **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:

\* Keep on the lookout for the next trip to Kapiti Island.

\* Really want to work off that holiday food? Then join us on the Aborta Contorta Work Party weekend 11-12<sup>th</sup> March, to Tongariro National Park, to aid in the eradication of Pinus Contorta.

Manawatu PHAB Club has invited members of PNTMC and their families to join them at their camp being held at Punawaitai Sheep Station, near Waipawa, for the weekend Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> March to Sun 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Punawaitai is near Pourerere Beach which has lovely firm sand, easy bush walks, fishing and eeling nearby. Accommodation is in the shearing quarters, which has 20 bunks and ample space for tents. Those attending have the use of the facilities at the homestead, which include a tennis court, swimming pool, croquet lawn and a barbecue which will be used for Saturday tea-time. The cost of the weekend is approximately \$40 per person, which includes accommodation on Friday and Saturday nights, and all meals from Friday supper to Sunday lunch. (Transport costs will be extra, about \$10).

The Manawatu PHAB Club is a social club which seeks to encourage integration and contact between physically handicapped and able bodied people in the community. PNTMC members have been to their camps in previous years and enjoyed it. Contact Sheena Taylor at work (ph. 62311) or home (ph. 76665) if interested.

#### **PNTMC and the Hut Pass System**

Hut Pass tickets are now available at Club nights from Peter Wiles. The Price to Club members is 80% of what would normally be paid.

Wanganui D.O.C. District Hut Pass - entitles the purchaser to stay in the huts in the Egmont, Wanganui, Ruahine, Kaweka, Ruahine, Tararua and Rimutaka Ranges (and a few more). The Pass cost is \$50 if purchased through the Club. It will be valid until 31 March 1989. Check the notice board for a list.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> New Zealand Walkways Conference**

25-25<sup>th</sup> February 1989 in Auckland. The conference will discuss the future of the walkways system. There will be presentations from overseas speakers. The conference is open to the public. Registration is \$60. Final registration date is 6 Feb 1989.

#### **New Members & Address Updates**

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

Dave Hunt 20 Beveledere Cresnet, P.N. ph. 63853

Phone number change for  
Alan Mountford - ph 0650-48310.

## **Thank You**

Thanks to Peter for printing the newsletter off each month – always ready to print it off regardless of the time I get the copy to him!

Thanks to Terry, Trish and Sally for contacting us all after Trevor's accident, for organising flights to Hokitika and the Memorial Service.

## **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.

## **TRIP REPORTS**

### **POREWA WALKWAY - 27<sup>th</sup> November 1988**

Two cars set out from Palmerston North at 9 am stopping to pick up Trish and Sally with a car load of kids on Napier Road. Our tramp commenced at 10 am in very hot humid conditions. We were surprised how overgrown the track was in several parts and a few of us tangled with the dreaded nettles.

Morning tea was on a nice high spot and with very nice views of the Ruahines and Opawe Hut. On descending to the River we were amazed to see how wide the river bed had become since the flood and bringing with it huge amounts of large stones.

Also the massive erosion that had taken place.

Our lunch stop was near a nice swimming hole, and after asking the children the writer (Monica) found she was the only one with swimming gear. (It was good.)

We were back at the cars by 1:45 pm. A lovely day's outing. In the party we had 10 adults and 4 children namely:- Jennifer Madgwick, Anneke Bootsma, Ina Pinxterhuis, Karen Marshall, Sally Hewson, Monica Cantwell, Joan O'Neill, Marion Carey, Tricia Eder, Margaret Riorden, Moana Eder, Philip Eder, Bridget Eder, Malana Jenkins. The leader for this trip was Margaret Riorden.

### **10-11 September - Tongariro National Park**

The TV weather map showed a big anticyclone over the Tasman Sea and promised good weather; the cloud cover ended by Waiouru and a clear mountain stood behind. But small patches of windrift high on Ruapehu suggested that it might be windy; or was it just mist?

Urs and Roger managed to drive their cars some distance past the lower car park and as far as the repeater station; from here we walked up the road as far as the Tukino Ski Field Village. Five of us thankfully removed skis from our packs and attached "skins" to our skis; all donned extra clothing as we had just encountered the Norwester below the village. The guns, being Urs, Ruth and John, skinned and skied all the way up the Whangaehu Hut which overlooks a 20 metre bluff in the Whangaehu Gorge; Trevor and Mark could not skin over the icy ridge before the hut and had to removed their skis. Roger and Brad used the most suitable mode of transport for the conditions, they walked.

After a long and leisurely lunch, during which the wind whistled around the hut, Urs and John skinned up to the Plateau for a ski run. Ruth spent the afternoon working on a jersey and the remainder followed on foot but deviated into the shelter of the gorge. Here an hours' entertainment was provided by a 20 foot wall of ice plus a top rope belay.

A group from Cambridge, who had passed by the hut at lunch time, set up tents further down the gorge and constructed shelter walls out of blocks of snow.

The wind blew all night and was stronger by the morning so we packed up and walked or skied out. The combination of:

(a) strong gusts of wind

(b) patches of icy snow followed by thick furrowed windpack snow, and

(c) flat lighting which made it hard to tell what you were about to encounter,

made it very difficult to proceed in a dignified fashion. The ultimate indignity was suffered by Trevor who was pitched face down onto the snow by a gust from behind.

Party: Ruth & Urs Schupbach, John Wright, Brad Owens, Roger Redmayne, Mark Bown and Trevor Bissell.

### **Greens Road Run 20<sup>th</sup> November**

The idea of this trip was just to get outdoors and work on the fitness training. With this objective we set out in various groups to do just that: Warwick and Trevor departed peddling furiously aiming to do the Pahiatua Track Saddle Hill cycle loop, Sally and Trish set of to cycle Greens Road - putting Sally's new mountain bike through its paces; and Daryl and Linda set off to run the road.

It was a lovely warm summers day and - generally successful! Linda and Daryl met Sally and Trish at the top of the run and scheduled to meet back at the house for afternoon tea. Surprisingly enough Warwick and Trevor were waiting back at the house before us - Trevor's noisy chain having decided to part copy after only 20 or so kilometres. A leisurely tea was taken.

We were: Trevor Bissell, Warwick Jones, Sally Hewson, Trish Eder, and Linda Rowan.