



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER

March/April 1990

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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

A trip card for six months is being made up. Leaders are being sort for trips to a number of places, if you are keen to lead a trip please phone either Brad ph. 83467 or Tricia ph. 70-1122.

15th March - Club Night

Tonight Martin Eagle speaks on a recent trip to Japan.

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

17th March - Ruahine Crossing

Join Brad for a fit crossing in from the Oroua River across Pohangina Saddle and out on the east.

Leader: Brad Owen ph. 83-467
Grade: Fit
Departs: Saturday early

18th March - Stanfield Hut and Cattle Creek

Leader: Dave Hunt ph. 63-853
Grade: Medium
Departs: Sunday 7:00am

24th-25th March - Iron Gate Hut via Tunjpo

Terry is set to take the long way to Iron Gate Hut in the Oroua. Going in via the ridge and tops to the west of the hut and dropping back down to the river for the night. A more leisurely day out on Sunday.

Leader: Terry Coburn ph. 86-391
Grade: Medium
Departs: Saturday 7:00am

25th March - Day Trip to Kapiti Island

Kapiti Island is a DOC reserve for native birds - forest and shore dwellers. Take the boat across to the island (landing on the island is not permitted so be prepared to wade in) and spend the day checking out the wildlife. Two tracks to choose from - a low level track or track straight up the ridge.

Leader: Ann Young ph. 70-153
Grade: Easy /Family
Departs: Sunday early

29th March - Club Night - AGM

Please come along and support your Club as decisions are made for the next year. A new committee will be selected to steer the activities

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

31st March-1st April - Tararuas

John's back into the Tararuas again! Up the Ohau river and headed over and out down to Otaki Forks. Which route John?

Leader: John Thomson ph.74-320
Grade: Medium/Fit
Departs: Saturday 7am

1st April - Day Trip in the Tararuas
Otaki Forks to Te Waitawaewae.

Leader: Tony Cameron ph. 65-461
Grade: Easy/Medium
Departs: Sunday 8am

5th April - Committee Meeting

The first meeting for the new committee.

7th-8th April - Baring Head

Rock climbing, bouldering, fishing or relaxing. The weekend trip is to Baring Head near Wellington.

Leader: Jenni Madgwick ph. 590-536
Grade: Mixed
Departs: Saturday 8am

7th-8th April - Simply Tramping
In the Tararuas.

Leader: Graham Peters ph. 65-581
Grade: Medium
Departs: Saturday 7am

12th April - Club Night

13th-16th April - Tararua Traverse

Leader: Leader required ph. Tricia 70-122
Grade: Fit or Brad 83-467
Departs: To be arranged

21st-22nd April - Crevasse Rescue

The slots are open and the temperatures are warm for standing around on belay so why not join a team to practice crevasse rescue at Tongariro National Park.

Leader: Leader required ph. Tricia 70-122

Grade: Fit or Brad 83-467
Departs: To be arranged

26th April - Club Night

28th April - Easy Day Trip in the Ruahines

To Diggers Hut. The trip goes in from the Pohangina Valley up to Makawakawa Stream to the Hut.

Leader: Leader required ph. Tricia 70-122
Grade: Easy or Brad 83-467
Departs: To be arranged

28th-29th April - Parks Peak, North-Eastern Ruahines

There are a number of options in picking a route to Parks Peak in lovely part of the Ruahines - Sentry Box, Golden Crown Ridge or in Makaroro Base.

Leader: Leader required ph. Tricia 70-122
Grade: Fit or Brad 83-467
Departs: To be arranged

NOTICES

* Wanted ideas and a Leader for an Easter trip. A four day weekend provides an opportunity to go a bit further a field.

* PNTMC T-Shirts For Sale

Summer or winter – it's time to buy a t-shirt with the Club's emblem on it. Help promote the Club by wearing one in the hills and about town.

Contact: Terry Crippen ph. 63-588.
Sizes: SM & M
Colours: fawn, blue, red
Price: \$15 each

*** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM!)**

PNTMC's AGM is held on the last Thursday in the month of March. The Committee is the driving force behind the Club's activities and as such requires the assistance of people who are keen to get out in the hills and, better still, keen that others join them in the hills. If you can make time available and are prepared to help out please consider joining the committee.

*** Address Changes**

People are on the move again - so time to update your address lists. Best wishes to Phil Clerke who virtually disappeared overnight to take up his new DOC position in Blenheim.

Phil Clerke	23 Keiss St, Blenheim	ph. 88-099
Mary Crow		ph. 290-749
Simon Allen	4 Lowestoft Place, PN	ph. 70-129
Claire Binney	10 Newhaven Place, PN	ph. 552-730
Helen Dakin	80 Hutchison St, Blenheim	
Tony Gates	26 Haast Place, PN	ph. 55-0941
Alison McColl	375 Ruahine St, PN	
Maureen Woodruff	32 Haast Place, PN	ph. 78-807
Dave Newstead		ph. 76-080
Steve Glasgow	26 Victoria St. Pahiatua	ph. Pahiatua 68-838
Doug Strachan	Pahiatua St, PN	ph.

Marion Smith is now Marion Bryant. Congratulations!

* **Search and Rescue** (SAR) the AGM for the Palmerston North SAR will be held on Wednesday 13th June at 7:30pm at the Canteen, 1st Floor Central Police Station, if you are interested come along. PNTMC will be represented at this meeting.

A few comments from the SAR Committee meeting held in March re: the SAREX last November. Congratulations to the novice radio controllers who followed instructions and handled the radio schedules with confidence. When making radio contact with the helicopter pilot keep messages brief – they are busy people! Remember to keep warm while waiting around for a lift from the chopper - some people have been bordering on hyperthermia from getting chilled while hanging around.

*** Bye from the Ed!** This is my last newsletter. Good luck to the new editor, and I hope to meet some of you in the hills.

TRIP REPORTS

Well.... I asked for trip reports and I certainly got them! Thanks to those who supplied them. Trip leaders please remember to write up your trips and pass the reports on to the new newsletter editor.

THE OHAU RIVER DAY TRIP TO THE OROUA RIVER - 18 February

In order to make it compulsory for every body to have to do at least one stretch of pack-floating, i.e. getting totally wet, this trip went to the Oroua River in the Ruahines instead of the Ohau River in the Tararuas. Up the sidle track past Heritage Lodge it took about an hour to get to the river. Unfortunately the day was not as hot and sunny as expected, there had been some thunderstorms about, so it was not totally ideal for spending all the time in the water. However there were some enthusiastic water-babies amongst the eleven of us, so a good example was set. As a result everybody took to the deep compulsory swimming section of the river with "enthusiasm". A bit of rain kept some of the warmth away so the odd jumper or parka were needed as we headed down river and eventually back to the cars. For some of us including the children it was a first experience of river swimming/pack-floating.

We were: Cathy Mullins, Stuart Boyd, Robin and Craig Geenty, Colin Allan, Meg, Richard and Megan Ellis, Jo Edwards, Julian Dalefield and Terry Crippen.

FIELD HUT - Sunday 3rd December 1989

We met, as usual, at the Foodtown carpark and set off in two cars for the Otaki Forks. The weather forecast was for "gale force winds in the Wellington area" which didn't seem to make for a very promising tramp. The track was well marked and began with a climb up through second growth country to the bush line. The A1 DOC track petered out shortly after entering the bush and from then on, it was the usual ridge track; mud; tree roots; rocks and the rest in varying degrees. Cloud all around but no wind. Various tramping parties coming down from Kime Hut brightened our day, however, and it seems that this hut is a popular overnight destination. We strolled into Field Hut slightly over two hours after leaving the forks. Plans to continue up another 200m to Table Top after lunch were discarded because of the cloud cover. After a stop of an hour we descended to the carpark, now full of cars and Sunday picnickers.

The traditional ice cream stop was made at Otaki on the way home. All in all, a pleasant day.

We were: Paul Cleghorn, Sandra Chapman, Gavin Rogerson, Simon Storey, Maureen Woodruff, Monica Cantwell, Tony Cameron.

BEEHIVE CREEK - 11th February by Robin Geenty

Doug welcomed our friendly group of 14 and three cars left for the Beehive Creek Walkway. Doug's relaxed persona plus the tranquillity of native bush and coolness of the creek appealed to the children, teenagers and adults in the group. The proof that this gentle creek could rage into a threatening force was etched into the embankment. The surrounding terrain also told stories of past earth disturbance and present erosion. Two of the teenagers were repeatedly stung by an angry wasp but they stoically continued. The steady, hot climb over open farmland was rewarded by the lunch-stop view over the Pohangina Valley. Returning was easy, downhill and stream. Thanks to Doug and company for a delightful day.

Those in the party were the Hendrikson and Vanderkrogt families, Lisa Birchall, Megan Spellar, Angela Lee, Margaret Reid, Robyn Geenty and Doug Strachan.

KAPAKAPANUI - 27th January 1990 by Tricia Eder

- Easy medium day trip by Tricia Eder, Joan O'Neil, Tony Cameron

Tony has been here before, Monica has been here 3 times before but neither of them had seen a view from Kapakapanui. Unfortunately Monica was unable to come and this was THE day when, apart from some haze, there were great views from the tops.

We three left P.N. at 7am. The Rickiorangi Rd turn off is at the town traffic lights in Waikanae. Leaving the road end at 8:50 and with no evidence of other trampers about, we followed marker posts along a paddock, crossed a creek a couple of times and went through some very large puddles. Then at the forks we took the narrow ridge between the two rivers. Two and a half hours of steady climbing, not difficult, saw us up at the trig 1102 m. The views were great and the sun hot. We lazed about for an extended lunch, then continued on round the track making our way down to the hut

where I climbed the tree ladder to get an excellent view of Kapiti and Waikanae. 4 pm saw us back at the road end. Walking time all up was approx four and a half hours.

TO THE TOP OF THE RUAHINE'S - 16 December 1989 by Jeremy Cole

With the forecast proclaiming a wet and windy day, 4 of us left town looking forward to an easy day's tramp in the western Ruahines. The drive to the end of Mangakokeke Road took one and three-quarter hours and we only travelled 94 km.

With rain in the air, we headed off across farmland following the poles until they suddenly disappeared up a slope along a fence line. This we followed until we reached the bushline. An hour later and in pouring rain and a fearsome wind, we arrived for a welcome break at Purity Hut.

The rain left off after awhile and onto the tops we went. We duly arrived at Wooden Peg amidst clouds, over onto Iron Peg and a shot over to the summit of Mangaweka. We were offered glorious views but the wind was troublesome.

Even though it was summer, it was bitterly cold at the top, so after a quick lunch in a hidden gully, we nipped off back to the hut in stinging rain. After another tea-break, we ambled slowly back through the glorious forest to reach the car at 4:30pm, all a little weary. It was good to see the hut clean and tidy and the track maintained with no litter about. A thoroughly enjoyable day. We were: Jeremy Cole, Simon McCracken, George Costa and Joan O'Neill.

TRIP TO PARINGA VALLEY SOUTH WESTLAND by Peter Wiles

I met Lance at Westport airport, where we got going without delay. This was the start of a 5 hour journey down the Coast to a valley about 30 km north of Haast. While walking in the late evening has many attractions, when we arrived at the river shortly before 5 pm, the weather was hot, sunny and very still. After about 2 hours walking, we arrived at the junction with the Otoko River and headed into the Paringa branch of the valley. We stopped briefly for a dose of fuel (after a rather poorly judged fording of the river where we went in rather deeper than expected / desirable). We arrived at the hut just on darkness at 9.45pm. We were so tired we did not bother with a proper dinner that evening. Shortly after light rain fell briefly.

Next morning, we crossed the river and headed onto the upper flats, initially missing the track to take us to the bushline and wasting about half an hour of effort. The first 200m of the 1,000m climb was steep, wet, rather overgrown and slippery. We tackled the climb in 100m intervals, before stepping out onto the tussock at midday. The bivy rock which was to be our home for the next few days was 1 or 2 minutes away. Shortly after arriving, light rain and cloud moved in.

After hunting around for a water supply, we made ourselves at home. Late next morning the weather showed some signs of improvement. In the afternoon, we felt inclined to carryout some reconnaissance. We headed up about 300m towards The Buttress - a huge schist slab outcrop directly above the bivy. We decided to investigate the north side of this barrier above Tunnel creek. Before long we found progress to be hindered by deeply cut in side streams which are a feature of the area because the schist strata are tilted almost vertical in this part of the country. After crossing 3 or 4 of these side streams we found we could go no further because the ground generally became excessively vertical. We headed around the base of The Buttress to the southern side where we noted a route up a ridge from the saddle at the head of the valley and part of a possible route across the slabs below the rock towers which forms The Buttress. The intention of this was to find a route to Mt McCullaugh (7, 500 ft). From this peak, we thought it might be possible to gain access to Mt Hooker by heading off the back of McCullaugh to the top of Jack Stream which forms one of the known routes to Hooker. (This would require spending at least one night out on the tops.)

By evening, it was clear the weather going to be fine, so at 5am and in a light frost we headed up to the saddle. The ridge was steeper than we thought and the rock tended to be ground smooth on the apex of the ridge so we made use of the tussock / snow grass / vegetation on the sides. By the time we reached about half way up this thing we began to have major doubts at the wisdom of climbing on such steep and exposed ground (frosty / wet) with practically no possibility of protection. About 30 m from the shoulder, a thar appeared and had a good look at us before disappearing.

The next hurdle was reaching the snowline. Once reached, this was straight into very hard snow with patches of green ice. (Last winter's snow had already long melted at 1800 -2000 m level.) Progress became further slowed by having to cross a series of bands of rock and snow each requiring the crampons on and off. We became rather concerned about the weather at this stage because it was clear a frontal system was moving in. We were still not sure where the summit of McCullaugh was. We decided to reach a ridge crest so that we could view the ground to the north, where we

believed the summit most likely lay. This proved to be a gamble that paid large dividends, but even so we still were not sure where the summit was. Before long the cloud engulfed us making route finding not any easier. We gained further height by sidling a snow slope for at least a kilometre, before gaining a ridge crest at a point which proved to be a little north of the summit. Shortly after 1pm we reached a summit with a cairn on top and had lunch. We were denied any view and it was clear that such a place was not conducive for camping out. We headed back down. Instead of the ridge route back to the saddle, we decided to try the high level sidle route over the slabs. This proved to be slow going (on a compass bearing) but eventually we emerged from the cloud at the western base of The Buttress. We reached our base at 6.45pm. Shortly afterwards, light rain fell, but to our surprise by 9pm the sky was cloudless. We felt rather frustrated after putting in so much effort.

The next day was spent rehydrating and generally doing very little, however, we decided for the next few days to try a trip over the tops along the southern part of the valley. We could view about 90% of the route from our bivy. We could not see any major route problems although water might present some difficulty. We expected the journey to take 2 to 3 days.

Next morning we were away again at 5am, heading back up to the saddle at the head of the valley as before, but with all our gear. Here we almost immediately met our first difficulty. We were forced to descend at least 100m down into the Clark side to get around steep slabs. Tussock and snow grass came to the rescue again. Once back on the ridge we had some 300m to climb. We came across a large set of antlers which were partly buried in the ground. We could not pull them out, and Lance did something not recommended to his ice axe which severely limited its further usefulness. We reached the top behind Douglas Spur (about 1700m) at about 8.30am. Here we had our best views of the trip. The McCullaugh / Hooker complex were superb. We were impressed by the route we had followed 2 days before. All the major Landsborough peaks stood out sharply - particularly Mt Hopkins/Black Tower. To the south the huge Haast-Landsborough flats spread out with Mt Brewster beyond. To the west we could see low cloud sitting over the sea. After food and some photos, we moved on. Soon we came to a step in the ridge which we were unable to climb. The only option was a steep and very narrow gut dropping down into the Clark. The gradient obviously increased about 2/3 of the way down making it impossible to tell what we were getting involved with. In the steeper places we managed to bridge across with our hands and feet. After dropping 300m we emerged from the bottom back into the sun to contemplate how we were going to re-climb at least 100m up to Clark Pass. At one point we chimneyed up about 4m between two slightly overhanging schist slabs, before crawling out over the top. Once we reached the pass our next problem became evident - the rock structure dramatically changed from wheatbix to something extremely weather resistant. We dropped our packs for a little reconnaissance. We used the rope to pull the packs up another small chimney section, and very soon after Lance belayed me up some slabs.

Time was rapidly moving by and the rocks were getting very warm. The next couple of kilometres were very easy going on solid rock. Fortunately, there were many shallow depressions eroded in the rock - some containing water. Energy was draining out of us rather fast at this stage so we had lunch at 11.30. After a sidle over scree, we had the next major effort to contend with - a 300m climb over about 2 kilometres to Rough Ridge (1800m). Travel was very good except for the heat and lack of energy. Near the top we found patches of snow on the southern side which we managed to get some water from. We had a rest for half an hour before travelling down towards what was obviously going to be a very rough section of the ridge around Mt Zeilian. After descending about 150m we came to a grassy section where the slope increased progressively until it became vertical and we could make no further progress. It was time to assess the situation. It was evident that we would have to re-traverse to the start of the ridge leading to Rough Ridge. It was clear that there was no great problem in bypassing beneath the impassable section by heading back to the start of the ridge and crossing the basins below. However, we could see one or two problems further on that may make the task of finding a way down off the tops rather difficult the next day. The weather again showed signs of a front approaching from the west which if we got into cloud could make route finding very difficult. We arrived back at the start of the ridge at 5pm, and with a very good camp site complete with tarn, we called it a day. We put up a very crude fly and fully expecting it to rain in the night and were surprised to find it still fine by morning with too little wind to drive the cloud up out of the valley.

We got going by 7am down to a ridge which offered a good escape route. After entering the bush we found a marked route which provided good travelling for a further 300m of descent. Then the route suddenly veered off the side of the spur into very steep and tangled bush. We managed to sidle across from spur to spur until we finally reached the river flats and then by chance the hut. After a brief rest for refuelling, we started on the track out. All the cloud had practically vanished again leaving another hot day. This time we got our river crossings sorted out and reached the car at 4pm. We reached Hokatika shortly after 7pm, where we had excellent fish and chips. Afterwards we called in to see Trevor's father. He was, in having been playing bowls earlier in the day. Bill Bissell showed us the various albums of Trevor's memorabilia. After several cups of tea, we departed for Cape Foulwind which we reached at about 11pm.

How Lance managed to keep awake I can't imagine. We spent a very relaxing day at Cape Foulwind before driving eastwards to catch the ferry the following morning.
Team: Peter Wiles and Lance Broad.