



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER

March 1991 Edition

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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.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAMME

Please sign your name in the visitors book. There is a door fee of 30c which includes supper.

The PNTMC committee meets on the first Thursday of each month, at 436 College Street. Meetings are held for all Club (and intending) members on the last Thursday of each month and the Thursday two weeks prior to that evening. The venue is the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North, at 7:45 pm.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAMME

March 14 Travers Moffitt

March 28 AGM is postponed due to Easter (i.e. There will be no Club night at the Society of Friends Hall.)

April 4 The committee meeting scheduled for this date will be postponed because of the extended trip some of the members are under taking over Easter.

April 8 Committee meeting at 7.45 at Brad's place unless otherwise advised.

April AGM

Please note the revised date. Nomination forms will be available prior to the meeting. Forms must be signed by the prospective candidates prior to the election of officers. All nominees and nominators must be financial members of the Club.

April 25 Phil Cawley, of 'Ration Packs', Marton, will be talking about his style of tramping food. There is the possibly of free food samples available. These packs are ideal for outdoor activities and Civil Defence emergencies etc. 'Ration Packs' might just be the greatest thing since sliced bread.

Coming up Club members will be talking about their exploits and the annual photographic competition. Rules will be published next newsletter. Watch this space and get snapping!

TRIP LIST

March 23-24 RUAHINES Fit Diggers Hut – and environment.
Leader: Marcel Hollenstein 80-245
Rumour has it that Marcel may even hunt a deer, to provide fresh venison to eat with his schnapps and red wine.

March 23-24 Easy Diggers Hut, Leader: Mary Craw 290-749
Mary's group will meet up with Marcel's mob at Diggers Hut, or where they choose to camp.

March 28 Note there is no Club evening.

March 29-30-31--?? (EASTER) Rock Climbing Whanganui Bay (technical),
Leader: Jenni Madgwick 590-536
The centre of the North Island's rock climbing is Jenni's destination. This place has to be seen to be believed.

A visit to the Waitaha Valley south of Hokatika is on. Keep in touch for more details.

Any other ideas for local or riot so local trips – contact Tony Gates 70-990 or Tricia Eder, who will try to coordinate your requirements.

EDITORIAL

P.N.T.M.C. has been as active as ever over the summer months. Even with the chilly autumn days now upon us, there will be no slowing down, because there is just so much good tramping country out there. Don't you just love the cool weather of March, the crystal-clear skies, and the sound of a stag roaring. The keen hunters will be chasing those elusive deer, and the skiers will be eagerly awaiting the heavy snowfalls. Trampers of course will also be out in force, enjoying the many trips we have advertised here.

The current Trip Card expires during Winter, so a new one will be produced. A meeting to discuss this is planned to be held on the evening of Wednesday 18 April, at 57 Fairs Road, and all prospective trip leaders should attend (or at least speak to Tony beforehand). I, for one, am planning an active Winter and Spring of tramping and climbing. Highlights will include the annual snowcraft course, a proposed bushcraft course (both graded to cater for all) and of course the ever popular Mid Winter gourmet dinner. There will be a few maniac fit trips, but most will be leisurely and relaxed.

P.N.T.M.C. Club evenings have been particularly good recently. The annual barbecue, Don French's slide show about mountaineering in India, and the one about P.N.T.M.C. Christmas activities in the South Island were all very well patronised. Lots more to come, even if some are somewhat commercially orientated. As for the A.G.M., it won't be all that boring, and committee work is necessary for the Club's operation. If you are so inclined, then being on the committee can be rewarding, and it might even make you feel important.

NOTICES

Congratulations to John and Marilyn on the occasion of their recent wedding.

Subscriptions are due and are still the bargain value of \$20 ordinary members and \$25 for family members. Payments at these rates may be paid to the treasurer any time up to the AGM.

New Trip card It is proposed to hold a trip programme organisation session at Tricia's place on 18th April starting at 7.00 pm. Think of some places you might be interested in going to over the winter and spring. Let us know – or come along and we might be able to sort something out.

New Members: None this month.

Note: There is no club night at the end of this month - (March)

TRIP REPORTS

22 – 23 – 24 FEB 1991, POHANGINA VALLEY FIT TRAMP

The southern Ruahines are beautiful in their own special way. This area provides the closest tramping to P.N. so is well known to many of us. It is easily accessible by car, and has tramps to suit all grades. This is the story of an "easy-fit" tramp into the mighty Pohangina Valley.

The weather was perfect. The men were fit, the packs were light, and the food plentiful (thanks Paul). The accommodation, as ever, was excellent (thanks D.O.C.), and the country was amongst the finest tramping country in New Zealand. This is the story of one P.N.T.M.C. trip into the Pohangina Valley, one of many the Club runs into the Ruahine Ranges.

We fair sprinted up past Stanfields, resting only briefly to squizz at some deer way yonder. We wanted to reach Cattle Creek Hut by nightfall, so we had to leave them for another day. It is an excellent base from which one can explore the central Pohangina Valley, which was our intention.

Saturday was windy, but we had lots of good bush to shelter us. There is lovely forest all over the area, with Podocarps, Beeches, Kamahi, and of course scrub and Leatherwood. Also, there are large open grassy areas and river flats. We tramped north to "Hollenstein Gully", always looking for those wary deer that are supposed to be plentiful there. After splitting up so to cover more country, one of these deer was not quite so wary, and he paid the price. Well, these deer-hunters need a silly deer every now and then. He wasn't too heavy to carry out either, a nice tender piece of venison he was too. We loved the walk down the Pohangina Valley, scenic and easy. Paul went for an evening hunt to "meat-safe creek", while Tony and Andrew enjoyed a well deserved rest.

Sunday brought an autumn chill, so we remained in our pits for ages. It wasn't really a bad day, but the hut is just so nice, and we are really quite lazy. The sun shone, the track was easy, and the men were happy. Home by lunchtime.

Team: T. GATES, P. SCHEYVENS, A. KEALL

FOUR DAYS ENJOYING THE TARARUAS

Anniversary weekend 1991 saw Derek, Tony, Doug, Dave, and Jane enjoying the Tararuas the way they so often are, in the mist, rain, drizzle

We began the tramp by getting lost! (but that was O.K. because we were still in the car!) Herepai Hut was reached just before dark, and was the destination of many other trampers, arriving at all hours of the evening.

Doug's comments on breakfast; "looks like rat droppings in the porridge".

The weather along Dundas Ridge was inclement, but we had some patches of clear sky, and the track was not difficult to follow with Derek's knowledge of the ridge. The long distance of Dundas Ridge was masked by the mist. Arete biv was certainly a welcome sight, so we could crawl into our "scratchers" or rather pits. The jokes started to come out then, jokes that must be reserved strictly for grotty trampers and grotty tramps, and NOT a respectable newsletter such as this.

The Sunday stroll along the ridge to the south was an interesting exercise in route finding, as we searched fruitlessly in the mist for Tarn Ridge biv. We walked up Lancaster Peak presuming ourselves to be further on. As the track petered out, our maps and compasses came out, and so did our pessimism. Upon turning back, we discovered we were about 180 degrees out, and were tramping south rather than north! Kind of eerie. Heated discussions, and some rational route finding, and we returned to the biv somewhat the wiser.

Monday, our big day, at last gave us some clear weather. Bannister Ridge is a Tararua classic that traverses probably the most rugged tops and leatherwood in the entire Tararuas. It lay before us in fine form. No dehydration problems after all the wet weather, so we could really enjoy tramping as it should be. Despite the aching, tired legs, it was a happy team that lunched at Cattle Ridge, then sweated out to the car.

COMMENTS ...

"I'M BUGGERED.

"THAT HAS GOT TO BE THE MOST RUGGED TRAMP I'VE EVER BEEN ON"

"NO BLISTERS ON MY FEET AYE"

"WERE ARE THE DEER?"

"HEARD THE ONE ABOUT THE "

16 - 17 FEBRUARY POHANGINA: LONGVIEW – POHANGINA BASE

We left Tony slightly before Longview Hut and plunged down directly into the Pohangina River, avoiding the Leatherwood. Marcel said we would have a scratchy encounter with it if we followed the track. On the way to the hut, Marcel heard a deer ahead of us, but we were a few minutes too late to catch it. We had been delayed leaving Palmerston by Mick making emergency repairs to his house.

We arrived at the hut at 9.20 pm, not quite needing torches, and discovered a shortage of food as I had not realised I was supposed to bring pasta for dinner and Mick had also forgotten some food. A tin of green beans had been left in the hut for just such dire emergencies so we opened it. We had no worries about the rest of the tramp because we were sure the food shortage would soon be solved by Marcel shooting some venison.

The next day, after Marcel had gone hunting (unsuccessfully), we were shocked and amazed to hear Mick had climbed up to the fog-shrouded tops and I had finished breakfast. We left late for Ngamoko Hut, stopping at Leon Kinvig on the way for lunch. We saw a few blue ducks, which were better swimmers than we were – although Mick led me on some amphibious forays.

Ngamoko Hut had recently been impressively refurbished, with a large veranda; the most stylish fireplace I've ever seen. (I don't know why they didn't put in an oven though – as Mick pointed out – it would be much more energy efficient.)

With Marcel (the chief cook) out hunting, I was acting chef. As more and more rice, mushrooms, onions, garlic, capsicums appeared, it became evident that the food shortage was not as serious as it had seemed. After large helpings of stew, followed by apple and custard, all fears of imminent starvation were banished from our minds.

It rained much of the next day and after a short very easy one hour stroll down to cold, leaky dilapidated Mid-Pohangina Hut, we crossed a swing bridge and followed a track which rose above the river. We thrashed our way through nettles, both native and exotic, and thistles to meet Mary and Jenni. Then there were more nettles and thistles – some of the native ones so big the track went underneath them, and the final ordeal – huge masses of wet, slippery grey clay that we had to traverse and ascend in order to escape the valley and reach an abandoned house at the road end, where we dried off before returning home.

Participants: Mick Leyland, Marcel Hollenstein, David Hodges (scribe).

CREVASSE BLUES CRAIG STOBO 1985

Sun-drenched, aching, sick of bloody snow
I climb. Ferry this laden pack up the slope
This burden
To yet another camp, another step along the way
To the top
For what?
To come down again of course
And then to say
"Oh yes, I've been to the top of that one
Another rat race
Another vermin victim

Better to shed that pack
Relax and slide into a crevasse
Cool quiet place
No passionate struggle, no nine to five
No slashing of wrists or shotgun blasts
Just a bed of snow and a blanket of ice

AND SOMETHING FOR THOSE OF A TUNEFUL FRAME OF MIND ---

If you stand on Lambton Quay
On Friday night then you will see,
In rain and snow the trampers go,
To the Tararua Ranges.

Away, away with billy and pack
A rollicking down the mountain track,
We'll all get lost and never come back,
In the Tararua Ranges.

Hear them holler and hear them brawl,
As up the Marchant Ridge they crawl,
And all they see is nothing at all,
In the Tararua Ranges.

Into a hut we go to sup
A dirty plate, a greasy cup
The club will have to smarten up,
In the Tararua Ranges.

The Secretary can't read or write,
He sleeps all day and eats all night,
And if he could, he'd ride a bike,
In the Tararua Ranges.

The President is old and grey,
They say he's ninety-nine today,
He's reached the age by staying away,
From the Tararua Ranges.

The Treasurer went on the bash,
And drank up all the available cash,
And now she's got big rocks to smash,
In the Tararua Ranges.

The Chief Guide's getting old and grey,
He's lost the track three times today,
He'll never find it anyway,
In the Tararua Ranges.

So if you're under ninety-three,
And find your life a misery,
You'd better come along with me,
To the Tararua Ranges.

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