



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217

PALMERSTON NORTH

NEWSLETTER

September/October 1983

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Gear Custodian:	Philip Budding	ph 85-936
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## ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

Catherine Farquhar Home	87-799	Work 76-651
Damienne Eder	71-785	
Nigel Seebeck	89-043	79-129

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ALL TRIPS LEAVE SUPERSAVE CARPARK, FERGUSON STREET. IF YOU WISH TO GO ON A TRIP, YOU MUST ADVISE THE LEADER AT LEAST THREE DAYS IN ADVANCE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OR WEEKEND TRIP, CONTACT THE PERSON RUNNING THE SCHEDULED TRIP.

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## COMING EVENTS:

### 29 September – Club Night – Mt Aspiring National Park

Recently seven P.N.T.M.C. members visited the Mt Aspiring area and tonight they will be talking about their various activities which include some first winter ascents for the season. Between them they should have some excellent slides to show us.

7.45 p.m. Thursday  
227 College Street, Society of Friends Meeting Rooms.

### 1 - 2 October – Ngamoko Range – Pohangina River

Have you been to the Leon Kinvig Hut in the Ruahines? If not come and see its great location.

Leader: Daryl Rowan (health permitting), ph 70217  
Grading: Fit  
Departs: 6 a.m. Saturday

Names also to Daryl if interested in an easy trip.

### 6 October – Committee Meeting

To be held at Catherine's, 28 Ashford Avenue, 7.45 p.m.

### 8 - 9 October – Skiing at Turoa

There are a few places left for this trip but get your name in quickly if interested. Those with ski touring gear are advised to bring it as this option will be available.

Leader: Nigel Seebeck, ph 89043  
Grading: Medium - Fit  
Departs: Friday, 6.30 p.m.

### **9 October – Mangaweka, Ruahines**

More in the day trip department.

Names to: Catherine Farquhar, ph 87799  
Grading: Fit, but will cater for others if there is enough demand.  
Departs: Sunday 6 a.m.

### **13 October – Informal Club Night**

Navigation exercises are being organised. Bring a compass if you have one. An ideal opportunity for those unfamiliar with this important aspect of tramping. Any queries contact Daryl Rowan, phone 70217

### **15 - 16 October – Pinus Contorta**

Definitely a fun weekend and the bigger the group the better it will be. For more details see Notices section.

Leader: Peter Clough, phone 61271  
Grading: All welcome  
Departs: Friday 6.30 p.m.  
Cost: Food only.

### **22 - 24 October – Labour Weekend – Snow caving**

This is a traditional Club activity for this weekend. Bring skis and skins if you have them, also ice axes and foam mat.

Leader: Kevin Pearce, phone 70217  
Grading: Fit  
Departs: Saturday, 6 a.m.

Also for Labour Weekend, some interest has been expressed in a Kaweka trip. Phone Catherine, 87799 soon if you are interested in this or if you have any other ideas.

### **27 October – Club Night – Fiordland**

Christine Scott will be talking to us and showing slides on tramping in Fiordland.

### **FUTURE TRIPS:**

November 5- 6 Work weekend at Rangī (track and bridge need some attention.)

November 20

November 27 - Kapiti trips, See notices or contact Peter Clough 61271.

### **NOTICES:**

#### **1. 15 - 16 October ABORTA CONTORTA IN TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK**

Tongariro National Park Board has been trying to eradicate Pinus contorta from the southern boundary of the Park since the early 1960s, relying heavily on voluntary assistance of tramping clubs and other interested groups. Our chance to contribute to this continuing conservation programme this year will be on the weekend of 15 - 16 October when a work party from the Club will travel up to Ohakune.

The party will leave the Supersave Car Park 6.30 p.m. Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and spend the night at Mangawhero Lodge on the Ohakune Mountain Road (which has all facilities except beds). Park Rangers will supervise the practical work on Saturday and Sunday (until about 3 p.m.) which will be in the Kariori Forest and the eastern flanks of Mount Ruapehu. Work involves slashing, cutting lopping and grubbing out Pinus contorta (good for working off pent-up aggression!) and all tools are provided by the Park Board, so all that is required is normal overnight tramping gear, food and clothes suitable for working in.

This year we'll be combining with a group from Taupo Tramping Club, so there'll be plenty of scope for socialising during and after work. And lastly but not the least, the Park Board will meet travel expenses, so the only cost to those taking part is the food they eat.

Contact: Peter Clough, Phone 61271

#### **2. Visits to Kapiti Island Nature Reserve - 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November**

This year the Club is organising two trips to Kapiti Island on consecutive weekends, in order to try to avoid the experience of previous years of trips being cancelled at the last moment with no possibility of another trip for

months ahead. This year we hope that at least some (hopefully all) club members who'd like to go will get there! Party size is limited to 8 for each day, because of the availability of boats and quota restrictions on visitors to the island. The cost of the trip is likely to be \$12.00 per head for the return boat trip, PLUS cost of transport by car to Paraparaumu. There are still spaces on both trips, but because of the likely popularity of these trips please note:

- priority will be given to paid up Club members over non-members
- a deposit in advance may be required to secure a place in a party
- if interest is strong enough, another trip in the near future may be organised, probably next year.

Contact: Peter or Nanette Clough, phone 61271

### 3. **Resignation from Club**

Older members of P.N.T.M.C. may be interested to hear of the resignation of Ian and Kathy Hoare. Ian has been a member of our Club for 15 years and Kathy for 5 years. However, as they have now lived in the Wairarapa for 5 years their association with us has virtually ceased. They wish to extend kind regards and best wishes for future Club activities.

### 4. **Christmas trips**

Now is the time to start planning your summer holidays. If you have any ideas for possible destination pass them on to any committee member.

### 5. **For sale**

Philip Budding will take orders for maps of Tongariro National Park which originated with the Hallmark Mountain Marathon. They are of very good quality, waterproof, large scale with fantastic detail. Phone Philip, 85936.

Damienne still has a few Tee-shirts left;

- 2 red, size medium
- 2 fawn, size medium
- 2 fawn, size OS

### 6. **Rules for Drivers**

In the interests of the travelling tramper, it has become necessary to establish some rules for drivers transporting their fellows to the hills.

1. Thou shall have thy car in 100% running order
2. Thou shall have thy car's fuel tank filled prior to any trip.
3. Thy car shall have a boot capacity of infinite size.
4. Thou shall transport thy wards as close as is physically possible to the bush (or snow) edge.
5. If thy handbrake does not work, and thy brake fluid line is severed on a steep mountain road, thou shall not leap out of the car leaving thy doomed occupants.
6. After the trip, thy car will start at the first attempt, despite two days of continual rain.
7. Thou shall have a knowledge of all reputable eating establishments on the return route, and the trip will be scheduled to enable only the best and most sanitary to be patronised.
8. Upon returning to our fair city, thou shall transport everyone to their respective doorsteps.

M.C.F.

7. The Editor has received the following letter which is reprinted in its entirety:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to express my concern about the disappearance of Don French, and his mobile gear display unit. This P.N.T.M.C. mutant has not been visible for some time – have wildlife been notified? I regret that his enthusiasm and book-fiddling abilities have been quenched by old age. Donald wherever you are, whose ever's chalk bag you are dabbling your paws in, there are some useful years after twenty-five. Come back to P.N.T.M.C. and make the most of them.

Yours in agony  
S. Toat

## **ACCOUNTS OF PAST TRIPS:**

### **Aspiring Area - August 7- 18**

Frantic searching at Wanaka was fruitless. We had lost them. We couldn't find our sherpas. We arrived at Raspberry Flat in the West Matukituki Valley just before dark and Aspiring Hut long after dark. For the next two

days it rained and thundered and rained some more, the only consolation being that food was being eaten. Wednesday at last brought an improvement and we wandered up easy grassy flats to the foot of the track to Liverpool Biv. A very exhausting one or two hours later and we were settled in.

While the absence of the sherpa's was distressing for our party we decided we simply couldn't sit back and wait for their arrival. Our sights turned to the peak of Barff (2243 m) whose corniced summit could just be seen from the biv. Next morning at first light we headed up a spur in good cramponing conditions and eventually reached the south east ridge, having avoided the time consuming rock steps on the lower part of this ridge. We were met by a very strong wind which threatened to dislodge us and reluctantly had to retrace our steps amidst a cloud of spindrift.

Safely back at the hut our spirits rose as we spotted the sherpas approaching. In their attempt to catch up they had resorted to a grey metal bird but even this was having difficulty in the wind. Finally it was blown right off course and forced to roost at French Ridge across the valley. With tear filled eyes we sadly returned to our pits.

The next morning again started fine and we quickly reached the high point of the previous day. This time there was but a gentle breeze although soft powder snow slowed us down. Across the valley we could just discern tiny figures searching vainly for any sign of us. We soon climbed the easy snow slopes to the summit ridge and left the final few metres untrdden as a mark of respect (well perhaps that large cornice had something to do with it). The descent was marked only by an urgency to escape the wind which was rapidly reaching yesterday's proportions.

At last, the weekend, and what better time to try and unite ourselves. After the day packs of the previous two days it was a rude shock to don full packs once again and move down the steep snow slopes, keeping crampons on until well in to the bush. The knee jarring descent to the river was hardly broken by Pearl Flat before an even more strenuous climb up French Ridge. It was a relief to leave the final scrub behind and climb up past the frozen tarns en route to Lucas Trotter Hut. Above us we could see the sherpas gesticulating wildly, obviously overjoyed at our appearance. At last we reached the hut which was thoughtfully being aired to dispel the odour of rancid yak butter. That night we sat and listened to repeated excuses for their lateness. It was obvious that these people of mixed origins were experiencing language difficulties probably compounded by the rarefied air.

At last being reunited we hoped to get our monies worth and accordingly sent them off next morning to prepare and mark a route on to the ramp of Aspiring. Being such a fine day we couldn't resist the temptation of a walk ourselves and with full packs again we trudged to the top of the Quaterdeck and down the long sweep of the Bonar Glacier to Colin Todd Hut. This tiny hut perched on the Shipowner Ridge took two hours to enter due to accumulation of snow and ice inside the hut effectively jamming the door shut. Finally we forced our way in and spent a further one or two hour's removing snow from the bunks, floor and cooking benches.

The following morning brought the first tell tale wisps of bad weather cloud and red sky and rather than risk confinement here for the duration of a storm we quickly packed up and scuttled back to French Ridge. We stopped briefly for a brew about mid Bonar and also to perform bodily functions on the summit of Mount French.

On our arrival we listened to tales of attempted and successful summit bids and felt it unsporting to reprimand them at this stage. Andrew and John decided to have a crack at it on Tuesday and accordingly prepared breakfast at 4 a.m. We left at 4.45 a.m. and made the base of the ramp at the foot of the NW ridge on Aspiring at daybreak. A fine staircase lead to the top of the ramp and from here were incredible views of the Waitoto Valley and the lake at its head surrounded by great blocks of ice. A further hour and we stood on the summit this time spying Cook in the north and Tutoko to the south. We descended the same way and sped back across the Bonar before its softening snow became too tiring. We returned to French Ridge at 1 p.m. and discussed the route with Catherine and Cass in preparation for their climb the following day.

Wednesday started early for them with a true alpine start while Andrew and I along with the sherpas rested. With no further use for them we were forced to send them on their way. For the rest of the day we occupied ourselves with eating and drinking and discovering what happens when one colourful balloon and one inquisitive Kea are left alone. Catherine and Cass returned successful mid afternoon with north-westerly crud chasing them across the Bonar.

It was obvious on Thursday that a storm really was on its way so we left the hut for good and returned to Aspiring Hut for lunch. Then it was out to Wanaka in time to catch the Post Office and a long shower at the motorcamp.

Sahibs were: Andrew Hollings, Heather Clay, Catherine Farquhar and John Barkla.

### **Sawtooth Ridge – Ruahines - August 27 - 28**

The team assembled at the end of Mill Road all fired up after catching occasional glimpses of a snow clad Sawtooth Ridge. After getting the feet sufficiently cold and wet with numerous crossings of the Tukutuki River we began the long haul up Government Spur. It was decided that this name probably originated from the fact that only a government employee would put a track there. Near the bush edge recent snow melting from the trees above fell constantly down the neck, refreshing tired bodies and accentuating Daryl's cold.

A quick romp up through the leatherwood and the first of the obstacles. An exposed knife edge ridge consisting of crumbling greywacke and iced with powder snow soon sorted out the climbers from the trampers! After merging into Black Ridge it was pleasant tramping along the tops even if visibility was somewhat reduced at times. The final steepish plod on the Ohuinga (5530') could have been anywhere in the Alps with cloud obscuring the valleys leaving only isolated snowy peaks in view.

A plea for lunch rang out so we found a sheltered spot just off the ridge and helped Urs demolish his thermos of tea. Sawtooth Ridge was over in 2½ hours and the scrambling over mixed rock and snow knobs was punctuated only by the roar of a passing Strikemaster jet. Another steep climb on to Tiraha (5472') coincided with a lifting of the clouds and revealed quite a panorama. The lure of Howletts Hut spurred us on and before we knew it that friendly hut nestled in a depression among the stunted beech came into view.

Steaming hot bowls of tea and full stomachs brought contentment and sleep to the sound of classical music? With all the hard work done there was little pressure on Sunday and after a lazy breakfast we descended Daphne Ridge to the north branch of the Tukutuki River. A couple of hours of quiet river strolling and we were back at the vehicles (or most of us were - a few deviants took an hour longer). The notorious killer magpie finally gave up its assault on the two Johns and left us to return home by mid afternoon.

We were: Sharon Patterson, Daryl Rowan, Roger Redmayne, Brenton Sheppard, John McCallum, Urs Schupbach, Catherine Farquhar and John Barkla.

### **Ruahine Ramblings**

With the days work done, we stepped into Waikamaka Hut at 11 o'clock. This hut has been completely rebuilt in the last year or so. The afternoon was very comfortably spent in the pit catching up by some reading. During the evening rain showers became more frequent and generally heavier (with the wind to match). By morning, the two streams the hut sits at the junction of, had roughly doubled their flows. We decided to rearrange our intentions from continuing on to Rangi Saddle, along the ridge and back via Middle Stream, to, back to Waipawa Saddle and up to the ridge beside Three Johns prior to dropping into Middle Stream.

This route in spite of having a Karrimat lost to the elements, and certain unknowns, is entirely feasible for both day and weekend trips. Middle Stream Hut has become a bit more popular in recent months but is still a haven for rats.

It would appear that, from notes in the Waikamaka Hut logbook, the Forest Service have built a new hut at Buttercup Hollow on the way up to Armstrong Saddle. This could well increase the daytrip potential of this area and could be useful for members considering extensive ridge traverses in the region.

Party: John Barkla, Peter Wiles.

### **4 September – Day trip to Mitre, Tararuas.**

Six of us; Urs Schupbach, Heather Clay, Malcolm McArthur, Perry Hicks, John Barkla and Catherine Farquhar, enjoyed a day excursion to Mitre via the Barra Track. We chanced a fine day (an improvement on the previous attempt), and the trip took about 9 hours.

### **4 September – Day trip to the Ruahines**

As an easier alternative to the assault on Mitre, four of us went out for a gentle tramp in the Ruahines behind Dannevirke, up the Kumeti Stream and then by track to the top of Maharahara. We were blessed by sunshine most of the way) apart from some cloud and cold winds near the top. Mainly dry-shod, though a little muddy in places, this is a route we'd recommend for easy tramping and getting a' close look at the bush and leatherwood.

We were: Peter and Nanette Clough, Michelle Hobday, Marianne Styger.

### **Up the creek in the Tararuas – 14 August**

A party of 10 drove down to Waikanai on a cold morning, after a night time covering of snow had been deposited on the Tararua tops. Things got off to a bad start when we discovered that public access had been withdrawn from the track we originally intended to use (Terrace Road: NZMS 1 N157 653680). Resorting to our second plan, we spent the day boulder-hopping and splashing up the Ngatiawa River looking for a route up to the tops. Persistent rain rather dampened our resolve and we turned back after lunch - finding the track up on the way out! An area well worth a return visit, particularly in summer when the numerous attractive swimming holes would be more appealing .

We were: Nanette and Peter Clough, Andrea Forster, Ashley Gould, Michelle Hobday, Ann Murray, Richard Seddon, Michael Stevens, Dough Strachan, and David Timmins.