



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217  
PALMERSTON NORTH  
NEWSLETTER  
February/March 1986

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## ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

Damienne Eder	Home	71-785	
Nigel Seebeck		89-043	Work 79-129
Peter Clough		61-271	69-099 Ex 7802
John Barkla:		73-543	89-109
Trevor Bissell:		73-543	74-129

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ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE NO FRILLS 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 LEADER OF THE SCHEDULED TRIP.

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## COMING EVENTS:

### 27 February Formal Club Night

Phillippa Somerville will be showing slides on tramping, or its equivalent 'hiking' in the United States.

Time: 7.45 p.m.  
Venue: Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street, P.N.

### 1 - 2 March Ruahines

This varied trip will take you into the head of the Pohangina River.

Leader: Julian Dalefield, ph 73543  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: 7.30 a.m. Saturday

### 2 March Ruahines

A day trip to Tunupo peak in the Ngamoko Range – a great place to view the Manawatu.

Leader: Damienne Eder, ph 71785  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: 7.15 a.m. Sunday.

Also remember TWALK, the 24 hour orienteering event being run by MTSC is on this weekend. Details in last newsletter.

**6 March Committee Meeting**

The last meeting before the A.G.M. Any Club member is welcome to attend.

Time: 7.45 p.m.  
Venue: 12 Jensen Street, P.N.

**8 - 9 March Aborta Contorta**

It's the time of year again to don your boots, pick up a slasher and give vent to all pent-up frustrations by hacking down trees – legally. The culprit is Pinus contorta, a useless tree which has been declared a noxious weed because of its habit of growing in places set aside for other things - particularly the slopes of Mt Ruapehu in Tongariro National Park. The Club is looking for volunteers to spend a weekend weeding the mountain to help keep the park an area of native vegetation for all to enjoy. As in previous years the park management will pay an allowance for travel expenses, so all we need is your energy and enthusiasm.

Names to: Peter Clough, ph 61271 or John Barkla, ph 73543.

Grade: All  
Departs: Friday night.

**13 March Annual General Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that the A.G.M. of the P.N.T.M.C. will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1986 commencing at 7.45 p.m. in the Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street, P.N.

Nominations for the positions of Patron, President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Auditor and not less than five committee members are required and nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary before the commencement of the meeting. Nomination forms are provided with this newsletter.

**Agenda:** Apologies  
Confirmation of minutes of last AGM and matters arising  
Presidents Report  
Treasurer's report  
Election of Officers  
General Business.

**15 – 16 March Tararua Range**

Otaki Forks – Field Hut – Penn Creek via Kime and Bridge Peak.

Leader: Darren Scott, ph 65484  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: (check with Darren)

A day trip to this area will be run in conjunction with the above trip if there is sufficient interest. Contact Darren.

**22 - 23 March Rockclimbing at Egmont**

Jaunts on Warwick's Castle and the Organ Pipes - the focus of rockclimbers of all grades.

Leader: Nigel Seebeck, ph 89043  
Grade: All  
Departs: 6.30 p.m. Friday.

**27 March Club Night**

Although the Thursday before Easter, how about bringing along a few slides of your Xmas exploits or other recent trips. Also a chance to finalise Easter trips.

Time: 7.45 p.m.  
Venue: Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street, P.N.

**28 March - 31 March Easter**

If enough interest can be stirred and LEADERS found, we hope to get some P.N.T.M.C trampers into the Kawekas this Easter. If you have suggestions of possible routes, would like to go on a trip, or would like to lead trips, contact Damien Eder, 71785.

**COMING TRIPS**

### **Club Search and Rescue Exercise**

The Club maintains a list of members willing and able to assist SAR and persons in distress. Although official training is given each year to a few Club members it is desirable that we organise our own training to supplement this. To this end Kevin Pearce has organised a programme consisting of one night during the week when most aspects of SAR will be covered and one day during the following weekend when there will be practice with radio, map and compass and a small search exercise. Active members are urged to take this opportunity to become more effective and valuable members of the SAR organisation. See the next newsletter for dates and final arrangements or ring Kevin Pearce, ph 70217.

### **25 - 27 April Anzac Weekend**

Trevor Bissell is keen to get people into the Mount Egmont area this weekend. Once again we hope to have a range of grades. Give it some thought, contact Trevor ph 73543 with ideas and watch for details in the next newsletter.

### **NOTICES:**

1/ Terry Crippen is organising another printing of the Club T shirt. Cost will be \$13.00 and three colours (red, blue and beige) are available. Contact Terry, ph 63588 soon with your order.

#### 2/ **Change of Address**

Catherine Farquhar 38 Holdaway Street, Blenheim, ph 87168.  
Visitors are most welcome.

#### 3/ **For sale** (again)

One pair Super RD climbing boots, size 10, offers.  
One new Alp Sports nylon parka, large size, offers.

Phone Terry 63588 (maybe this time eh Terry).

#### 4/ **Flatmate(s) Wanted**

Semi vegetarian, Semi trampers and semi older. phone Terry 6.3588.

### **TRIP REPORTS:**

#### **7 - 8 December Xmas at Rangī**

A large enthusiastic group of about 31 made this a very enjoyable weekend. Gathering throughout the day at Rangī Hut, the last group brought the music machine. A fine meal gave strength to dance away a good part of the night, before retiring to one of the many tents that surrounded the hut.

On Sunday some even took the longer tops route back to the vehicles while others nursing sore heads, wandered back sedately in the afternoon. The consensus: Saturday night dinner was a good break from tradition.

#### **18 - 20 January Kaimanawa Range**

We wandered up the easy ridge to Ngapuketuru listening to numerous parakeets and admiring the track restoration through extensive windfall. The open tops provided superb views albeit in very hot conditions. We picked up an easy bush track to the north east and dropped steeply in the late afternoon to Cascade Hut, close to the Tauranga-Taupo River. A quick dip in the river soon washed away the day's grime.

On Sunday we followed a good track along stream terraces and up on to Waiatupurita Saddle where an impromptu press up competition was held. Dropping into the north branch of the Ngaruroro River we left the bush and wandered down a tussock valley crossing the meandering stream many times. Lunchtime gave an excuse for another swim. Easier going up the Mangamingi Stream to the saddle was followed by the final descent for the day into the Mangamaire Stream under the rocky tooth of Makorako. A fly camp near the first bush ended a good 10 hour day.

On Anniversary Monday while the rest of you were doing the lawns we tramped up to the Mangamaire headwaters and on to the tops, eventually to the rocky summit of Ngapuketuru. The rain conveniently waited until after lunch before coming down leaving us with a wet slog back to Kiko Road and the car.

We were: John Barkla, Damienne Eder, Catherine Farquhar, Kevin Pearce and Darren Scott.

### **25 January - 1 February Paringa - Otoko trip**

We reached the Paringa River at about 6 p.m. after flying out of P.N. that morning. The latter 220 km of the journey from Hokatika southwards were by rental car. We called in at the farmhouse to secure permission to cross the property and to fill out the intentions book. The real trip started about 7 p.m. with about 1½ hours of walking across farmland and along the river bank with a river crossing about halfway up. As we approached the junction of the Otoko-Paringa a direct crossing back to the true left of the Paringa did not look so promising. Instead we crossed the Otoko above the junction and then found ourselves in all sorts of bother. Firstly some dense secondary growth had to be pushed through, then we found we were caught on the top of a 15 - 20 m vertical river bank. Impending darkness, forced a drastic solution. We abseiled from a convenient tree. The weather was fine so we settled under the trees only to be attacked by squadrons of mosquitoes. We did not waste time next morning, crossed the Paringa and followed the cut track to Tunnel Creek Hut. (Several beautiful scenes of the river along the track.) After a short stop it was time to start the real work for the day - 1000 m of height to gain to get us to the bushline. A cut greatly simplified the problem. We had lunch at the amazing bivy rock at the bushline. The views from the bivy rock were equally as remarkable – gigantic schist slabs along the skyline. By mid afternoon it was time to move again and climb another 500 m to the pass that links the Paringa Valley with McCullaugh Stream (a tributary of the Clark River). We reached a good campsite, a little above the bushline in the stream and close to a series of 300 m waterfalls, at about 7 p.m.

Next morning we re-entered the bush and sidled until we were certain we were out of the side valley and directly above the Clarke. On reaching the river (Monro Flat) we had our first and perhaps most impressive views of Mt Hooker – with the icefields looming above bush covered slopes and the summit rock towers rearing above the glacier. To get from Monro Flat to Marks Flat we chose the Crippen (Direct) route. This required 700 m of climbing through bush on a compass bearing, being careful to not get tangled up in bluffs first on the west side and, than on the east side. It was very tempting to try to descend to Marks Flat too soon (parachutes being required), but eventually we found the way down, and before long we found the bivy rock, crossed the river and settled in. When the alarm went next morning it was rather cloudy with some signs of drizzle. We went back to bed to re-awake with sun shining. A rapid departure was made. There is only one practical route onto Hooker from the western end of Marks Flat and that is via the old lateral moraine spur which climbs about 600 m to just below the glacier. We got onto the glacier via a tangle of seracs and cravasses. It soon became clear the weather was closing in. At about 2100 m we turned around after being rewarded with some fine views. We found a rather better route off the glacier. Rain soon set in.

Next day; rain on and off all day. Trevor went for a reconnaissance up Marks Flat to the start of the climb to the Lower Otoko Pass (LOP).

Not wishing to get stuck, we decided to get moving next day even though it was raining more steadily and more heavily. Marks Flat was basically a swamp at this stage, except for the airstrip. The initial part of the climb to the LOP was over what seemed like a vertical swamp. Rather than over-climbing, we were able to get onto a bench system about 50-100 m below the pass. As Pascoe said 'ice has scarred the Otoko Pass'. It was strange to climb up out of the valley (Marks Flat) to find the pass was nothing but a moraine wall with a steep 100 m descent to the Otoko Glacier. A sizable lake has recently formed at the end of the glacier. We chose to descend via the true left side. We had to abandon this some distance down the valley when the thundering river conflicted with rock bluffs. We retraced our steps and closely examined the lake outlet for a crossing. Finally we walked right round the lake before descending to the more well known (lower) lake at the head of the Otoko Valley. During this, the rain stopped and the views once again became magnificent. This lower lake has in recent years been largely filled in by shingle from the glacier off Mt Dechen. It was evident that we would be able to climb around the true right side rather than try some rather dubious ground at the lake outlet as recommended by the sketchy route guide. We spent the rest of the afternoon examining various rocks for their bivy potential. One was selected. The various members of the party all at various stages did their best to rearrange and improve it. Urs and Daniel attempted to put their handywork to the test but in the late evening about 6 keas turned up to roost under it. They kept up a loud protest until about 11 p.m.

Next morning we did a lightning trip up to the Upper Otoko Pass. A wide panorama of the Landsborough and its peaks was obtained from this pass. We returned to camp, packed up and then headed down into the mysteries of the Otoko. That evening we camped on a island in the river a short distance above Stag Flat.

Once again it was a mixture of travel along the river bank over large boulders, in the bush which often was dense secondary growth, (sometimes amongst huge boulders), and through countless side streams. Everywhere the bush was saturated. At Reynolds Flat an old track was picked up. This ran out near Stew Creek (Reynolds Creek on the map) where the stream is deeply cut in and is further guarded by dense nettle trees. Daniel found a good way down and back up again. Soon it was the farmland and not long after we were back at the Otoko-Paringa junction. We re-crossed the Paringa at the same spot as before but this time taking the assistance of a pole. Without it, the extra flow would have been easily sufficient to send us floating downstream.

We stopped for a meal at Fox Glacier. Our thanks to Trevor's father for the most generous hospitality at Hokatika. Trevor Bissell, Peter Wiles, Urs and Daniel Schubach. (Apart from a Tararua trip, Daniel's first real NZ trip – a magnificent effort.)