



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

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

Secretary:	Trevor Bissell	ph 73-543
Membership Enquiries:	Nanette Clough	ph 61-271
Gear Custodian:	Philip Budding	ph RON 780
Newsletter Editor:	Peter Clough	ph 61-271

ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

Nigel Seebeck	Home	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

ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE NO FRILLS/FOODTOWN CAR PARK, CORNER OF FERGUSON STREET AND FITZHERBERT AVENUE. 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.

(Members are reminded that a charge for transport will be collected on the day of the trip. Leaders should be able to give a rough estimate in advance, if requested, but the actual amount, which depends on the distance traveled and vehicles used, will not normally be known until the day of the trip.)

COMING EVENTS:

27 March Club Night

This is the Thursday before Easter, so how about bringing along a few slides of your Christmas exploits and other recent trips and sharing them with other Club members? Also a chance to make final arrangements for trips over the Easter break.

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

28 March - 31 March Easter

This is being arranged into the Kawekas, and others may still eventuate. If you are interested or have any ideas for trips, contact Damienne Eder on 71785 for further details of what's on offer.

3 April P.N.T.M.C. SAREX EXERCISE

A chance for new members and the not-so-new to be introduced to the intricacies of a search and rescue exercise. For further details, see the Notices section of the February/March newsletter, or ring Kevin Pearce on 70217.

Time: 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.
Venue: 7 Tern Place, off Galway Avenue, Palmerston North.

3 April Committee Meeting

An important committee meeting at which new committee members will receive their portfolios for the year. All Club members are welcome to participate.

Time: 7.45 p.m.
Venue: 10 Union Street, Palmerston North

Saturday 5 April Kahuterawa Road SAREX

This is the practical follow-up to the Thursday SAREX meeting. Bring day tramping gear, lunch, compass, pen, notebook and metric map NZMS 260 Sheet T24 Palmerston N.

Leader: Kevin Pearce ph 70217

Sunday 6 April Maharahara Day Trip, Ruahines.

An easy day trip to this prominent peak overlooking the southern Pohangina Valley.

Leader: Damien Eder ph 71785
Grade: Easy
Depart: 8 a.m.

Thursday 10 April Club Night

Although they are lower in altitude than the Tararuas, the Paparoas on the West Coast of the South Island are more rugged and seem to attract more rain. On a recent trip to the headwaters of the Fox River a party from our Club took a full day to traverse only 4 kilometres of the range. The party member who draws the short straw will give an account of the difficulties along with photographic evidence.

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

12-13 April Halley-Watching from Howletts

This is possibly your last chance to see Halley's Comet for another 76 years. We'll be heading into the Ruahines up the Tukituki River and thence up Daphne Ridge to Howletts Hut. Even if the weather clouds over, it's a pretty spot for a hut. Bring your own telescope.

Leader: Peter Clough ph 61271
Grade: Easy/Medium
Departs: 8 a.m. Saturday

Saturday 19 April Day Trip, Northern Tararuas

A gentle ramble up the Mangahao Stream to Burns Hut. Remember to bring a treat for the leader – he especially likes "chookies, bikkies & liquorice allsorts (the big ones)".

Leader: John Barkla ph 73543
Grade: Easy/Medium
Departs: 7 a.m. Saturday

19-20 April Central Ruahines

A chance to visit some classic tramping country in the local ranges - Oroua River, Iron Gates Hut and the Ngamoko Range. If weather permits an attempt may be made to reach Pohangina Saddle and Long View Hut.

Leader: Urs Schupbach ph 80245
Grade: Medium/Fit
Departs: 7 a.m. Saturday

24 April Club Night

Sally Hewson and Peter Darragh both recently returned after 2½ years abroad, during which they spent much time travelling with other members of our Club. Tonight we will see slides from Sally's "truck-trip" to Morocco and walks in Scotland and the Lake District of Great Britain.

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

25-26-27 April ANZAC Weekend

We'll be using the long weekend to make a trip to Mount Egmont National Park, travelling to Dawson Falls on Thursday night and circumnavigating the mountain on the following days. If some people are keen to do something fitter in the same area, transport can be shared.

Leader: Trevor Bissell ph 73543
Grade: Medium

Departs: 6.30 p.m. Thursday

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NOTICES:

1 At the Club's Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 13 March the following were elected or appointed onto the Committee for the next year:

President:	Philip Budding	Other Committee Members:
Secretary:	Trevor Bissell	Lorraine Bray
Treasurer:	Peter Wiles	Nanette Clough
Vice-		Peter Clough
President:	John Barkla	Patricia Eder
		Darren Scott
		Nigel Seebeck
		Philippa Somerville
		Roger Redmayne

The incoming committee recorded its thanks to the outgoing committee, especially to those members unable to continue on the committee this year. Thanks are also due to Linda Herdman, who for years has done a valuable 'but largely unrecognised job of typing the newsletter and who now, as Linda Budding, is resigning from this position.

2 Subscriptions

At the A.G.M. it was decided that annual subscriptions for the coming year should be raised, in order to accommodate expected inflationary cost increases and other increases, such as the raising of F.M.C. subscriptions. The new subscription rates are:

Senior:	\$16
Family:	\$20
Junior:	\$8

The Junior rate applies to all those still at school or of normal school age, i.e. those engaged in secondary education. After some discussion at the A.G.M. it was decided not to extend it to tertiary level students.

3 Congratulations

To the Club's team of Trevor Bissell, Urs Schupbach and Mary Rowland, who won the TWALK orienteering event on 1-2 March. First Prize was a cake, which Trevor assures us was very good. For more details see the Trip Reports.

4 **Many thanks** - to this years Abort-a-Contortionists for their efforts for nature conservation. They were: Trevor Bissell, Angela Clay; the Cloughs, Mary Davies, Jenny Dymock, Sally Hewson, Darren Scott, the Todds, Ross Wallace and Peter Wiles.

TRIP REPORTS:

29 December 1985 – 4 January 1986 Paparoas Impressions

Towering limestone bluffs of the Fox River
 Linking arms for a difficult river crossing
 The last rays of sunlight on the Ballroom Overhang
 Welsh Creek – a disappearing stream
 Easy beech-fringed flats in the Fox valley
 Steep boulder-choked river systems higher up
 The first camp on the tops - bouldering until dusk and inquisitive goats
 Mist, arguments, tantalising glimpses of rocky gendarmes
 Hauling packs over huge scrub covered boulders
 Sunny lunch, brew with a view
 Gunsight Pass – aptly named
 Circling keas
 Tents among tarns below Mount Lodge
 Wind, rain, urgent tent repairs, shifting tents, endless games of 'famous people'
 Frustrating searches for whistling frogs
 Time to make a break – a long endless scrub-bash

Lunch in a wet dripping forest
 Waist-deep in the upper Dilemma Gorge
 A short swim while Trevor sought alternatives
 Watching the river rise before our eyes at Fossil Creek
 The final day through the gigantic Lower Dilemma Gorge
 New Faces, wet gear in the sun. Smiles.

The team was Bruce Anderson, John Barkla, Trevor Bissell, Dave Crawford and Catherine Farquhar.

1-2 March TWALK (pronounced Tw-ork)

A team of three from our Club (Urs Schupbach, Mary Rowland and Trevor Bissell) won the first prize for the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club's "Twalk", a cake. The teams had a 24 hour period in which to locate a series of permalat markers, called controls, which were defined by grid references on the metric 1:50,000 map (or by bearings and distances from another known point). The event was run on steep farm land east of Mangatainoka and a woolshed was used to provide hot food, shelter and instruction as required over the 24 hours from midday Saturday to midday Sunday (25 hours due to daylight saving change!) The controls were divided into a number of courses of varying difficulty and all bearing exotic names such as "Moonlight Meanders" and "The Electric Fence Circuit".

Between each course a compulsory rest period was observed at the woolshed to ensure that all participants had time to eat: The army boys were the only people to walk for the whole 24 hours, other people indulged themselves with at least three or four hours sleep at the woolshed.

The event could be tackled at a pretty relaxed pace since most of the time was spent in the close proximity of the controls while trying to find them. Accurate use of the map and compass was required to position a team within 50 to 100 metres of each control which was not always placed on or within the most obvious land feature close by.

The event proved to be a very good means of learning navigation skills, being suited to people of all levels of skill and fitness. Hopefully the event will be run again next year and will attract a number of teams from our club.

8-9 March Abort-a-Contorta

A party of twelve from the Club went up to Tongariro National Park this year to take part in the seemingly endless eradication programme for Pinus contorta. After staying in Mangawhero Lodge on Friday night, we went on Saturday to a site on Maori land just north of the Karioi State Forest to establish a base camp there. For the next two days we were working with a party of around 25 from the Wellington T&M Club, making broad sweeps of some of the rocky gullies and ridges bordering on the Park nearby. Since most of the pines were only a few inches high, it was a case of 'weeding the mountain' rather than slashing or application of strength. A worthwhile trip, with a bonus sighting of Halley's Comet.