



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217

PALMERSTON NORTH

NEWSLETTER

September/October 1986

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Secretary:	Trevor Bissell	73-543
Gear Custodian:	Dave Barker	78-762
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## ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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Trevor Bissell:	73-543		74-129
Peter Clough	61-271		69-099
Tricia Eder	71-785		

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ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE CAR PARK OUTSIDE FOODTOWN IN 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.

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 a rough estimate in advance, if requested.

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## COMING EVENTS:

### 23 September (Tuesday) ANNUAL DEBATE: P.N.T.M.C. vs. MASSEY ALPINE CLUB

This is the night when trampers test their minds (rather than their bodies) and powers of articulation in vigorous debate for the coveted cup and boot trophies. This year's topic to be debated is:

"A woman's place is in the hut"

P.N.T.M.C.'s team is Cheryl Peters, Debbie Hughes and Dave Barker, who have gamely opted to take the affirmative. It should be a provocative and entertaining night, but your team needs your support to ensure the trophies stay in our club. So be there with your interjections and cheers.

Time: 7.45 p.m.

Venue: Theatre 7, Social Science Lecture Block, Massey Campus

PLEASE NOTE: There is no Club night on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>. Lesley Warburton's talk on China has been postponed until a later meeting.

### 27-28 September - Mitre Flats

Urs will lead a trip over the tops from the hut at Mitre Flats, no doubt including an ascent of Mitre. But there is plenty of scope for anyone of more modest aspirations in this interesting area of the Tararuas.

Leader: Urs Schupbach ph 80245

Grade: Fit

Departs: 6 p.m. Friday

### **28 September - Rangi Hut Round Trip**

Not just to the hut and back, but a tidy circuit utilising the newer track via the tops to the south. Snow is likely so don't forget a plastic bag.

Leader: John Barkla ph 73543  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: 7 a.m. Sunday

### **2 October – Committee Meeting**

All members are welcome to attend to contribute their ideas to the running of Club. Tonight's meeting is out of town, but contact a committee member if you want to go, so as to find out how to get there.

Time: 7.45 p.m.  
Venue: The Buddings. S.H.1. Rongotea

### **4-5 October – Ski Touring**

If you have touring skis or don't mind carrying your downhill skis, experience some "off-the-field" skiing at Ruapehu.

Leader: John Barkla ph 73543  
Grade: Medium-Fit  
Departs: Saturday 6 a.m.

### **5 October - Eastern Ruahines**

A pleasant ramble in the Ruahines is planned, in the vicinity of the Ngamoko Road end and Mangatowainui River.

Leader: Peter Clough ph 61271  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Sunday 7.30 a.m.

### **7 October (Tuesday) – Combined Club's Evening**

Tonight P.N.T.M.C. has got together with Massey Alpine Club and the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club to present a talk by Hugh van Noorden from the Outdoor Pursuits Centre, who will give an illustrated account of the recent New Zealand expedition to Everest. All Club members are welcome to attend.

Time: 8 p.m.  
Venue: Jaycees' Hall, Lombard Street, Palmerston North.

### **11-12 October – Week-end Cycling**

Cheryl Peters has planned an interesting and enterprising trip to Makiri in the Hawke's Bay. Vehicular transport will lighten the load of panniers to be carried on the bikes, and accommodation is provided.

Leader: Cheryl Peters  
Grade: Medium-Fit  
Departs: Saturday 8.30a.m.

### **12 October – North-Eastern Tararuas**

A round trip to view Ruapae Falls at the head of the Mangatainoka River. Some rocky scrambling in the river bed at first, with a good track to come back on.

Leader: John Barkla ph 73543  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Sunday 7 a.m.

### **16 October – Club Night**

Tonight John Barkla and Urs Schupbach will be getting together to present slides of their recent trip to Mount Cook.

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

### **18-19 October – Egmont Open Week-end**

A good chance to climb Mount Egmont (or Taranaki if you prefer). Alternatively, try some easier tramping at lower altitudes.

Leader: Trevor Bissell ph 73543  
Grade: Many and Various  
Departs: Friday 6 p.m.

**19 October – South-Eastern Ruahines**

A day trip closer to home, ideal for clearing the head after a hectic Saturday night (oh yes?!); or stretching muscles after a sedentary week.

Leader: Tricia Eder ph 71785  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: Sunday 7 a.m.

**25-27 October – Labour Week-end**

The first long week-end after the winter month's is worth devoting to something a little different, and this week-end is no exception. A tramping trip is planned to the north-eastern sector of Tongariro National Park. Tents will probably be used, and huts and tracks avoided as far as possible.

Leader: Peter Wiles ph 86894  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Saturday 7 a.m.

If you're interested in a day trip over this week-end, contact Peter who will put you in touch with like-minded souls.

**30 October – Club Night**

Tonight Trevor Bissell will be presenting a pictorial tour of the South Island. However, he's conscious that he hasn't seen it all, so if you've got slides of South Island tramps you'd like to present to the Club, contact Trevor on 73543 so he can co-ordinate your slides with others and make it a really memorable collection of pictures from the south.

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

**NOTICES:****1/ NEW MEMBER:**

The Club extends a warm its newest member:

Jenny Dymock 7 Milverton Avenue  
Palmerston North ph 71921

We look forward to seeing her out on future Club activities.

**2/ S.A.R.E.X.:**

Notice is hereby given that the next Search and Rescue Exercise is to be held on November 7, 8, & 9. P.N.T.M.C. has been asked to provide a team of four to take part, plus a more experienced member to act as umpire in the exercise. Anyone interested in joining the team and learning a little more about this valuable service to mountain users, should contact Philip Budding (telephone Rongotea 780) for further details.

**3/ CHRISTMAS DINNER**

The Club's Christmas Dinner this year is to be held on Thursday 27 November, at the Chalet, Centennial Drive, Palmerston North. A lively evening's entertainment is assured, with Chris Morton's Discotheque providing the "vibes" for celebrating the occasion in the appropriate manner. Cost will be in the region of \$20 per head, but see the next newsletter for further details.

**4/ CHRISTMAS TRAMPS**

While on the subject of Christmas, ideas of a Club trip in the period immediately after Christmas are now taking shape. The likely area is in the region of Nelson Lakes, Lewis Pass and the Spenser Mountains in the South Island.

A medium-fit trekking party is planned to explore this area, avoiding as far as possible the busiest holiday "honey-pot" spots. But there is also a possibility of an easy-medium party, setting up a base camp somewhere in the area and making day excursions from this base. Anyone interested in either of these possibilities is urged to contact Trevor Bissell on 73543 – the sooner the better so that transport can be arranged.

**5/ ALPINE CALANDERS**

So far three orders have flooded in! Peter Clough will be taking further orders at the debate at Massey, prior to sending in an order in advance of the dreaded G.S.T., but if demand is insufficient no Club discount will apply.

Alpine Calendar and Antarctic Calendar  
Normal Retail Price in shops \$10.95  
Individual Mail Order Price \$ 9.50  
Bulk Discount (less 10%) \$ 8.55 per item

**6/ THUNDERSTRUCK**

Lightning strikes are fortunately quite rare in the New Zealand mountains, but with summer on its way and the prospect of some of us spending summer nights in exposed places under canvas (sorry, nylon), some thought should be given as to what to do if an electrical storm approaches your camp.

The British Camping and Outdoor Leisure Association recently issued the following guidelines:

"Protection for small tents can be achieved by the use of two sectional metal poles arranged in an inverted 'V' over the tent. The foot of each pole should be connected to a wire running away from the tent with the ends of the wires secured by a metal tent peg pushed into moist earth.

Campers who have front poles or two angle poles as part of the tent structure need only connect the wires from the bottom of the poles to earth some feet away. Further protection can be gained from laying a wire around the tent connected to the earthing wires.

For unprotected tents, such as those with wooden or fibre-glass poles, the risk of lightning strike can be reduced by sitting on the ground with the knees drawn up to the chest. Physical contact with the tent and other occupants should be avoided."

If on the move, during an electrical storm, avoid high points and pinnacles, and choose a route over snow in preference to rock ridges. Do not discard metallic equipment, but do not carry an ice axe above your head. If you choose to sit out the storm, choose an open shelf away from vertical walls and high points; sit on an insulator, such as snow foam or your pack, with knees drawn up. Better still, get off high and exposed places before the storm hits.

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### **TRIP REPORTS**

There's been a dearth of trip reports coming in over the past few weeks. So, trip leaders, make sure that someone on each trip is assigned the function of scribe, and practise the gentle art of delegation if need be! Keep those reports rolling in!

#### **14 September – Waiotauru River, Tararua Range**

A party of 10 assembled at the unearthly hour of 7 a.m. to travel down to Otaki Forks for this trip. We set off from the road end around 8.45, and very soon found ourselves scrambling down a bluff of loose, crumbly rock. The reason being that we'd come off the track! But we soon regained it, and there was little chance of getting 'lost' again, since someone had trailed several kilometres of cotton thread along the track, providing us with additional aerobic exercise as we stepped over, trod on, ducked under or simply broke the confounded stuff on our way up the Waiotauru River we passed the rusting remains of a steam engine and boiler, used to power a sawmill and winch at Arthur Seed's mill, back in the days when indigenous forest was for exploiting rather than exploring. After some relatively easy travel along a mostly wide benched track (also used for log extraction), we crossed the river above Waiotauru Forks, and then dropped down to the Eastern Waiotauru Stream, where a single log bridge, some 20 feet above the stream, provided some excitement while crossing. After lunch rain set in, making the log even more interesting to negotiate. We then retraced our steps along the 'Cotton Trail', removing this nuisance wherever possible. An interesting area, with plenty of evidence of human activity in the past, and with a maze of old clearings and logging tracks which could be explored by the adventurous.

We were: John Barkla, Christine Cheyne, Nanette and Peter Clough, Chris Morton, Julie Plummer, Margaret Riordan, Lesley Warburton, Judith Wittemar and Marilyn-of-the-Milford!

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