



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER

August 1990

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ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

Brad Owen	: Ph. 83-467
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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 to cover hall and supper expenses.

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.

AUGUST 30 Club Night - At ALP SPORTS (186 The Square)

This time an equipment buy at ALP SPORTS. A minimum discount of 15% is arranged, with some items discounted up to 25%. There is no obligation to buy, though it will be a good opportunity for a spend up. Videos, and a climbing wall for entertainment. Bring something for supper.

SEPT 13th The Annual Trevor Bissell Memorial Quiz

This evening is to be held at the MTSC club rooms, the Pavilion, The Square, City Corporation building, starting at 8 pm. It is the annual quiz for the Trevor Bissell Memorial Trophy between PNTMC, MTSC, MUAC and

RTC. The trophy is a battered billy, which rightfully belongs to PNTMC. Your Club requires support, whether as a team member or as a "heckler". Please contact Tony Gates if you can assist with either activity.

SEPT 27th

The Great Annual Mountaineering and Skiing Debate

Topic: "That mountaineers are as 'yuppie' as skiers".

The annual PNTMC versus MUAC debate is to be held at their meeting at Massey University. Good entertainment is guaranteed, but member support is essential. It is an excellent opportunity to brush up on your arguing skills. Please contact Tony Gates if you wish to assist.

Please consider supporting your Club at both these events. Besides being a great deal of fun, with your support the trophies for both these events will be returned to their rightful holders.

Vacancies For Evening Program

Wanted:- interesting Club night shows. If any Club member wishes to give an evening slide show, please contact a committee member.

Trip List

Aug 18-19

SNOWCRAFT 1 - based at Rangipo Hut, Mt Ruapehu.

Grade: Medium weekend.

Leader: Peter Wiles (Phone 86-894).

Note: More details given later in this newsletter. You should attend the Club night on August 16th for initial instruction.

Aug 18th

Atene Skyline Walkway

Grade: Medium day trip.

Leader: Doug Strachan (Phone 75-732)

This is an interesting day trip, with good views over the Wanganui River, on a formed round track. The loop track finishes about 2km along the road from the carpark.

Aug 19th

Coppermine Creek

Grade: Easy / family day trip.

Leader: Terry Coburn (Phone 86-391)

Visit an area with historic mining remains, widespread erosion, and nice coloured boulders in the river.

Aug 25-26

Otaki Forks

Grade: Fit overnight.

Leader: Tony Gates (Phone 70-990)

This is currently a mystery tour - ask Tony for the destination if you dare !

Aug 25/26

Kime Hut - from Otaki Forks

Grade: Medium day - either Saturday or Sunday

Leader: Tony Cameron (Phone 65-461)

A trip to the Tararua tops - make sure you have warm windproof gear - you should see some snow as well.

Aug 26th

Fields Hut - from Otaki Forks

Grade: Easy weekend

Leader: Alison McColl (Phone 89-326)

An easy trip to a historic hut.

Sept 1-2

Kuripapango to Makahu Saddle - Kaweka Range

Grade: Fit weekend

Leader: John Thompson (Phone 74-320)

A fit trip along the Kaweka tops from Kuripapango to Makahu Saddle, then returning via the valleys. Departing Friday night for a campsite at Kuripapango. Transport will be combined with the medium trip below.

Sept 1-2

Kaweka / Macintosh walkabout - Kaweka Range

Grade: Medium weekend

Leaders: Lis & Arthur Todd
See the wonders of the Tutaekuri Gorge, and possibly the tops of the Kaweka Range if the weather clears. Departing Friday night for Kuripapango. Transport co-ordinated with above fit trip to same area.

Sept 8-9 SNOW CRAFT 2 (Mount Egmont)
Grade: Fit / medium weekend
Leader: Tony Gates
The second snowcraft course. Prerequisite is attendance at the first snowcraft course. See snowcraft notes later in this newsletter for full details.

Sept 8th Opawe / Maharahara - Ruahine Range
Grade: Easy day
Leader: Alison McColl (Phone 89-326)
Easy tramp to the top of the Ruahines, with good views when the weather is fine.

Sept 15th Stanfield Hut - Tamaki River
Grade: Easy day
Leader: Liz Morrison (Phone 76-532)
Easy walk up the scenic Tamaki valley, to the west of Dannevirke.

Sept 15th "Iron Gates Marathon" Run to Irongates Hut.
Grade: As fast as possible!
Leader: Daryl Rowan (Phone 64-655)
Route: - From the car-park to Iron Gates Hut via the sidle track above the Oroua River.
Time: - last time it took 90- 97 minutes to the hut including stops on the way.
The return is via the track along the river - (the river is probably a summer option only.) "Run" means a slow jogging pace as first part to Tunipo Stream has lots of ups and downs. This part takes approximately 1 hour including rests and walks. The second section to the hut has some nice flat forest sections - very scenic and pleasant. Time would be about 30 minutes. The return will be at any forward moving speed achievable.

Sept 15th Iron Gates Hut
Grade: Easy day trip
Leader: Daryl Rowan (Phone 64-655)
This trip will accompany the runners to Iron Gates Hut and return with them (not carry them!).

Sept 22-23 SNOW CRAFT 3 (Mt Ruapehu)
Grade: Fit / Medium weekend
Leader: Peter Wiles (Phone 86-894)
Refer to the snowcraft course description later in this newsletter for more details.

Sept 23rd Kumeti Hut South-East Ruahines
Grade: Medium day trip
Leader: Tricia Eder (Phone 70-122)
Somewhere in the Kumeti Valley ??

Sept 29-30 Keretaki Hut South-East Ruahines
Grade: Medium weekend
Leader: Mick Leyland (Phone 83-183)
Visit the heart of the Southern Ruahines, the home of the tall leatherwood.

Sept 30th Saddle Road - Manawatu Gorge
Grade: Medium day
Leader: Rodger Redmayne
An interesting visit to some rather rough country close to town.

PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL by Tony Gates

PNTMC members participate in many different activities. To be sure, tramping is the most popular, and many of us try mountaineering, but we should not forget other outdoor pursuits. It is winter now, so some of us think of skiing. We at Palmerston North are lucky living so close to good ski areas. Maybe, just maybe, when the weather gets a bit warmer,

PNTMC members will be seen doing such diverse activities as caving, orienteering, botanising, hunting, geologising, cycling and even socializing. It would appear that most activities are more popular during the summer months, so PNTMC will offer plenty of trips - good trips they are, so contact the leader or president if you are interested.

During July, PNTMC enjoyed two excellent slide shows. Kevin Pearce spoke of travels and caving in Thailand last year. Ian Henderson, scientist from Massey University, delivered a most interesting talk about the Blue Duck (or was it greywacke coloured?). He discussed their diet of insects, and such effects on their population as the presence of trout (also insectivores) and man's influence. The Blue Duck is a rare species - nearly to the point of being endangered. It is an attractive bird. Ian emphasized that people who sight these birds should try to make an effort to fill in a bird survey form and send it off to DOC.

Alpine / Antarctic Calendars

Good bulk buying discounts are available. Excellent value for money, so contact Jenni Madgewick if interested (ph 590-536).

New Members

The Club welcomes Robyn Scott, 9 Ngaio St. P.N., and Malcolm Parker, 64 Pahiatua St. ph 75-203 as new members.

Snowcraft 1990 by Peter Wiles & Brad Owen

It is proposed to hold a minimum of 4 events concerned with snowcraft this year. The first will be a presentation at Club night 16 August, with snowcraft I the following weekend. Events II and III will be more hands on instruction on the slopes over the next few weekends.

It cannot be over emphasized that the more homework participants do beforehand the more they are likely to get from the events. All pupils should have copies of the mountaincraft manual. (We have a few copies (free) of the old edition which would be adequate for snowcraft I and II. However, for more advanced techniques, only the latest edition can be considered appropriate (about \$12, I believe).)

At Club night, we propose to talk and show slides which highlight the mountain environment, weather, travel, accommodation and specific techniques in operation.

Participants for snowcraft I (which will be held at Rangipo, on the eastern side of Ruapehu), must have storm gear (two parkas would be advantageous) and a reliable torch or headlamp.

On snowcraft I, we intend to introduce people to walking on different types of snow, using the ice axe for balance and support, cutting steps and self arresting. If the snow is satisfactory we can try glissading.

Snowcraft II will most likely be held at Mt Taranaki and based at Kapuni Lodge. On snowcraft II, we propose to get people used to walking with crampons and self arresting with crampons. The use of the rope for glacier travel will be taught together with crevasse extraction methods. The basic shaft belay method will be taught. Weather permitting we should be able to get to the top of something. People going on snowcraft II must have a pair of crampons which will fit their boots organized before leaving P.N. (It is essential that they have checked that not only do the crampons fit the soles, but that the straps are long enough.) It is hopeless trying to sort gear out late at night at some road end or holding everyone up on the snow slopes. Participants will also require a harness or a length of 25mm wide tape about 6m long (the Club has some). A karabiner will be required to tie onto the rope. A set of prussik loops would be desirable.

Snowcraft III will be at Ruapehu, and probably snowcaving or camping out. We will be covering the use of snowstakes, and various types of anchors and belay systems. The use of standard climbing instructions, front pointing and abseiling. Participants will require the above gear and a hard hat would be desirable.

It is proposed that all the snowcraft trips depart on Friday evenings.

An Up-date on Vehicle Running Costs by Peter Wiles

In the July issue of AA Motoring Today, the Automobile Association published the latest survey of vehicle running costs. Running costs include; petrol, oil, tyre wear and repairs and maintenance. For a car with an engine size in the range 1600

- 2000 cc, the costs are estimated to be about 15 cents / km. In addition, fixed costs of vehicle operation have to be met by the owner. If 15 000 km are covered per year, these costs amount to a further 42 cents / km! !

The table below provides an estimate of only the running costs for trips to various destinations which might be of interest to members.

Basis: AA June Survey 1990	One-way distance (miles)	One-way (km)	Round trip cost (\$ @ \$0.15/km)
DESTINATION	(miles)	(km)	(\$ @ \$0.15/km)
Coppermine Creek	26	42	12.48
Dawson Falls	135	216	64.80
Diggers Hut	26	42	12.48
Five Mile Track	97	155	46.56
Holdsworth Lodge	77	123	36.96
Kapakapanui	59	94	28.32
Kawhatau Base	59	94	28.32
Ketatahi	141	226	67.68
Kiriwhakapapa	56	90	26.88
Kuripapango (Kaweka's)	(Distance not known)		
Makaroro Base	82	131	39.36
Mangahao No 2 dam	28	45	13.44
Mangataihoka Rd.	49	78	23.52
Mangatapopo	140	224	67.20
Moorcock Base	68	109	32.64
Mt. Hikurangi (East Cape)	350	560	168
MUAC Hut	122	195	58.56
North Egmont	151	242	72.48
Oroua Valley Rd. end	49	78	23.52
Otaki Forks	55	88	26.40
Palliser Bay	94	150	45.12
Pipe Bridge (Ohau)	37	59	17.76
Pines	70	112	33.60
Pohangina Valley	31	50	14.88
Rangi Rd. end	52	83	24.96
Ruamahanga River	50	80	24
Stratford Plateau	133	213	63.84
Tamaki Stream	44	70	21.12
Titahi Bay	79	126	37.92
TOP-of-the-BRUCE	141	226	67.68
Tukino Rd. (depending on conditions)	120	192	57.60
Turoa	124	198	59.52
Tukituki River	68	109	32.64
Waipawa River / Sunrise	82	131	39.36
Waihohonu	118	189	56.64
Waipakahi	118	189	56.64
Walls Whare	85	136	40.80
And some of those big South Island trips:			
Christchurch	305	488	146.40
Fox Glacier	410	656	196.80
Mt Cook	515	824	247.20
Nelson	146	234	70.08
Queenstown	620	992	297.60
Saint Arnaud	165	264	79.20

The above costs are a guide only. Each group must decide themselves, the appropriate mileage costs. It is suggested that should be divided equally between the total number of occupants of the vehicle.

TRIP REPORTS

Toka Bivy Trip

(by Daryl Rowan)

The annual winter attempt on Toka Bivy was again unsuccessful! - although some northwards progress from Toka itself was made. To avoid a hostile farmer, we used the Sixtus Lodge road end which involves a slightly longer walk but may be kinder to your car. We reached the bush edge in mist and put on our parkas. The Ngamoko tops were in mist and wind so now it was time to add gloves, headgear and overtrou.

Toka was in a blizzard of mist and horizontal stinging stuff (probably mostly rain). The ridge north of Toka was superb with deep drifts of hard snow scalloped by the wind on the western side and a steeper eastern side. But, the cold was too much. (The storey of our lives - sorry ed.) This - despite more clothes in my backpack but too cold to strip off outer garments to get them on - a trap here for the occasional trumper). So it was uphill to generate some heat and back and down to the car in persisting rain. Time elapsed about 4 hours.

Daryl Rowfin and Peter Hardford.

Skiing at Rangī Hut (by Tony Gates)

Support from friends in Auckland and Wellington dwindled, so there were just the four of us: Michael Hewitt, Darren Scott, Terry Coburn, and myself. Living so close to the Ruahines we could see the snow.

We doddled up to the Club's favourite hut, nestled right on the edge of the tussock plateau. It was a brilliant day - we could see Egmont (where Jenni was sheltering from the wind!), Ruapehu, Kawekas, and the Tararuas. The Southern Ruahines, where Mick and Marcel were hopefully carrying out a large stag, looked good. What caught our eyes were the high snow-capped ridges of the Whanahuia Range – our destination for the day.

The familiar walk from Rangī Hut to the ridge top was only broken for a photo stop, as we zoomed up to catch the sunshine. The weather to the north looked ominous, with high storm cloud. Almost the entire snow capped Ruahine Range were laid out to view, with snow right down to the leatherwood, and some ice too.

After a few scratch turns, and a brew, we decided to ski / tramp off to the North at about 12:30. The bad weather never came to anything, in fact the weather became progressively better by the time we sat on the high hill, above the track to Triangle Hut. The ranges were bathed in brilliant sunshine, and our friendly video cameraman captured us and his crazy dog on film.

On the south-facing slopes things were pretty icy, but superb on the northern slopes. There was just enough melt to make the snow-filled gullies some of the best I've ever skied - easy to Telemark, fall down (ask Darren !), or just snow plough down.

The return trip was a grind - the blisters (common amongst Telemark skiers) grew. But the ridge down to Rangī was as lovely as ever. After a quick run to the car we were away home.

Syme Hut by Jenni Madgewick

Brad drove John, Mike and me to Dawson Falls on Friday night. The sky was clear, but there was an ominous halo around the moon, a warning of what was to come! We slept in the public shelter that night. In the morning the mountain was still clear and a beautiful pink with the sunrise. Ken, Ian, ? and Sharon joined us in the morning while we were still breakfasting. We set off in deteriorating weather. When we were well over half way (the keen ones were already at the hut and contemplating a dash for the top! ! !) the wind became very strong & it was hard to keep upright ... if it hadn't have been so hard on the knees I would have tried crawling to the hut! Once we came over the rise & on to gentler slopes the going was much easier. Fortunately the fast ones decided against the top & we joined them about an hour after they had arrived. During the day they weather got progressively worse and we went from being roped up to use the loo (the lee side of the hut) to a bucket in the entrance way ... it was the first trip I'd had to resort to that! ! !

Being confined to the hut means we could catch up on sleep, read or play cards. That night we had a yummy tea topped off with lots of howling, gurgling and not much sleep. In the morning we awoke to a flood & realised the gurgling was due to water being forced into the draining holes of the aluminium window frames. We thought at this stage we might be stuck in the hut for a few more days so put off breakfast for as long as possible. With 8 of us drinking copious cups of tea/coffee/etc our bucket was becoming dangerously full. Mike (our hero) braved the elements to empty it - I put on all my wet weather gear to pass it to him - just in case it was blown back at me! ! ! About lunch time (I still hadn't had breakfast!)

a team of madmen went to check out the possibilities of getting home. They decided that it was possible by pooling all our gear (8 snow stakes & 4 ropes) and using a running belay. As soon as escape was imminent I ate breakfast (& lunch!) and we all packed. Our hero (Mike) set off with the 8 snow stakes & John tied to the other end of his rope.

Once the steep slopes appeared (yes we could see!) he started putting the snowstakes in at rope length intervals. Apparently John & Mike had a great time communicating by waving arms etc etc ...unfortunately the rest of us didn't get it sorted out so well. It was lucky we were roped up - several of us got blown over by the wind! By the time snow stakes had run out we were low enough to solo. We made a sodden retreat to the public shelter where we could put on dry clothes for the drive home. Even though the weather was grotty, the people made the trip enjoyable.

We were: Jenni Madgewick, John Thompson, Brad Owen, Mike Johns , Sharon English, Ken Morrison, Peter.

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Palmerston North.

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