



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217

PALMERSTON NORTH

NEWSLETTER

February/March 1983

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Secretary:	Catherine Farquhar	ph 63-588
Membership Enquiries:	Kathy Crow	ph 86-569
Gear Custodian:	Philip Budding	ph 85-936
Newsletter Editor:	Lorraine Tremain	ph 80-971

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## ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

Terry Crippen	Home	63-588	Work	67-154
Mike Freeman		71-785		69-099 ex 674
Kathy Crow		86-569		69-099 ex 2422

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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.

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## DAY TRIPS AND ALTERNATIVES

If you are interested in an alternative day or weekend trip, contact the person running the scheduled trip.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the A.G.M. of the P.N.T.M.C. will be held on Thursday 24 March, 1983, commencing at 7.45 p.m. in the Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street, Palmerston North.

Nominations for the positions of Patron, President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Auditor and not less than five committee members are required.

## 24 February – Club Night – Slide evening

Now that everyone has returned from their summer holidays, bring along some slides of your tramps, climbs and other activities to share with the rest of us.

7.45 p.m. Thursday

227 College Street, Society of Friends Meeting Rooms

Super Duties: Leonie Coenders, Heather Crabb, Terry Crippen.

## 26 – 27 Middle Stream/Waipawa N.E. Ruahines

More classic countryside, this time in the Ruahines. A great opportunity to visit some of the upper tops.

Leader: Peter Wiles 86894

Grading: Fit

Cost: Approx \$6

Departs: Saturday 6.30 a.m.

### **3 March – Committee Meeting**

To be held at Philip Budding's place, 7 MacDonald Place at 7.45 p.m. Any Club member is welcome to attend any committee meeting.

### **5 - 6 March – Mangatepopo Valley / Tongariro**

1. Make the best of the late summer and journey to the unique lakes and volcanic scenery.
2. Explore the uncharted rock of the valley. (Scope for the sharpest rock gun and for others not yet tired of life.)  
Leader: Philip Budding 85936  
Grading: Easy, medium (and assorted rock climbers)  
Cost: Approx \$13  
Departs: Friday 6.30 p.m.

### **10 March – Informal Club Night**

Details to be advised.

### **12 - 13 March – Mangahao Catchment Circumnavigation**

For those folk in need of a little high tempo tramp join the lightweight high speed brigade. Plenty of scope for easy/medium day/weekend trips.

- Leader: Kevin Pearce 70217  
Grading: Easy - F.E.  
Cost: Approx \$4  
Departs: Saturday 6.00 a.m.

### **19 - 20 March – Mystery Trip**

This is it, do you have the spirit and resources to venture boldly out into the unknown!? Come prepared for anything!!!

- Leader: Damien Eder 71785  
Grading: Easy and medium  
Cost: That would be telling  
Departs: Friday 6.30 p.m.

### **24 March – Club Night – Annual General Meeting**

Come along and have your say in the running of the Club's affairs. Nomination forms for the new committee are provided in this newsletter and available from Committee members.

### **Future Trips**

26 - 27 March Totara Flats – Tararua

- Contact: Daryl Rowan 70217

1 - 4 April Easter Weekend

- Contact: Catherine Farquhar 63588  
Possible Trips: 1. Nelson Lakes  
2. Richmond Range (near No. 1 above.)  
3. East Cape

### **Notices:**

1. Hi to everyone in P.N.T.M.C. from Chrissie and Colin Elliott, who are presently skiing in Austria. They intend returning to N.Z. on 29 March 1983 and Colin starts work at Anikiwa on 20 April. They expect to be passing through Palmerston North 10 - 12 April.
2. **F.M.C. Taranaki Wanganui Regional Seminar**, 26 - 27 March 1983, at the Hawera Community Centre. A variety of topics will be discussed in informal panel sessions e.g. "What F.M.C. does and why?", the Wanganui National Park proposal, Skiing and Mountain Safety on Egmont and Ruapehu, Search and Rescue etc." For more information ring, Lorraine, 80971.
3. **For Sale:** New large Alp Sports parka \$55; Yukon semi-rigid boots, \$100; Chouinard North Wall hammer \$65; N.Z. Alpine Journals 1969 – plus older volumes, Plus other climbing books, snowstakes, pitons, hexentric nuts, ice screws and dubecks etc. Phone Terry 63588.
4. **For Sale:** 70 cm ice axe and pair of puttees. Phone Sharon, 63588.

5. Approximately 25 people enjoyed our barbecue on 27 January. Thanks to Kathy and Vaughan for providing such a superb setting and arranging the weather to suit. It must have been the calmest and most pleasant evening of the summer so far.

## **ACCOUNTS OF PAST TRIPS**

### **5 December – Botanising Session**

A party of ten braved the standard Taranaki drizzle to do a bit of botanising on the tracks to Herepai. Mike Greenwood of the Royal Forest and Bird Society gave us some fascinating insights into the complexities of our native bush. (See the latest F.M.C. bulletin for information on field guides for our N.Z. flora.)

Many thanks to Mike Greenwood for sharing some of his knowledge with us.

### **27 December - 6 January – Kaimanawa – Kaweka**

Terry Crippen and Trev Lupton spent 8 days in the Kaimanawa – Kaweka Ranges enjoying both fine weather and blizzard conditions. Heading west from Makahu Saddle they reached the Mangamaire via Rocks Ahead, Manson, Otutu Bush, the Taruarau, the old Kaimanawa (Te Apunga) Hut. Spending New Years Eve at Boyds Hut, they headed back via the Harkness, Te Puke and Venison, Tops.

### **23, 27, 28 November 82 – Kiriwhakapapa Bushcraft**

After aligning compass needles with steel chain legs and drawing the contour lines of rubbish tins on the Tuesday, (all this in the relative comfort of a Massey lecture room!), it came time to try in practice 'Kevin's Navigation Philosophy' at the weekend.

A party of nine headed out to the Kiriwhakapapa area just south of Mt Bruce in warm, overcast conditions. We spent the morning taking turns at navigating up ridges, down into valleys, up stream beds and through jungles of supplejack. A few bearings taken at judicious points revealed we were where we thought we were!

A lunchtime yarn on bushcraft by Kevin was followed by setting up camp in the upper reaches of the Mikimiki Stream. About mid afternoon Kevin headed off to drive to Wellington to compete in an orienteering meeting while Daryl returned to P.N.

Soon after Huey pressed the rain button and the mercury volume plummeted. Sheltered under two flies, we kept dry and managed to solve all the world's problems apart from how to stop the tide rising above Robyn's head!

The next morning saw us head up the Mikimiki Stream, climb some 2,500 ft up a ridge to Te Mara and descend in cold, wet, windy conditions to Blue Range Hut for a midday brew. Following a steep descent on a marked track to Kiriwhakapapa Stream, we reached the car park mid afternoon to end a wet, but enjoyable and instructive weekend.

We were: Kevin Pearce, Patricia and Damienne Eder, Andrea Forster, Colin Hoare, Daryl Rowan, Robyn Smith, Douglas Strachan, David Timmins.

### **NORTHWEST NELSON 27 DECEMBER TO 2 JANUARY**

"Ignore the silly old bugger and get back in the van or I will be late for work". Poor Trev was red with embarrassment as he tried to ignore the Ranger's incessant chatter long enough to enter our names in the Whangapeka log book. That done, Trev's brother Ivor drove us another mile up valley before he raced off to his day's work. Ivor and his wife would deliver the van to the Flora Saddle car park in the Graham Valley for our use in 7 days time.

We numbered 8 in all being Sally Hewson, Damienne and Patricia Eder, Ross Goodman, Neil Kendrick, Colin Leory, Peter and Trevor Bissell.

Our route lay up the Whangapeka River, down the Karamea River, up the Leslie River, up the track to Baton Saddle, and north along the range to Mt Arthur and down to the Flora Saddle car park.

Air temperatures were cold on the first day following an unseasonal heavy snowfall and patches of snow persisted on the range 7 days later. However apart from 2 days overcast to light drizzle and an afternoon's heavy rain in the river system the weather was very good.

Our hope of a nice warm hut in the evening were dashed for three nights in succession due to the presence of a canoe expedition and two fishing parties, the latter occupying 'their' huts for several days. Hence it was nice to grab the Leslie Hut to ourselves and return for an afternoon. An all over wash in the Leslie was a frigid experience.

The climb to Baton Saddle and traverse north along the Arthur Range proved a little too exhausting for some. The fly was pitched for New Year's Eve in a hollow on the ridge top where we finally collapsed about 2000 yards south of the turn of our choice. However we found water 200' down the hillside so all was well.

Next day's walk was straight forward to the first of the Twins. The top of the ridge north of here was too precipitous for us and our route took a long descending sidle on the east side of the range above a series of small limestone bluffs. After that the map promised a long gentle bench to the Ellis basin and hut, but we had judged limestone country by Tararua standards. The travel was very slow through successive sinkholes and small rock outcrops, some of which adopted weird shapes.

Fortunately the troublesome limestone ended on the south rim of the Ellis Basin so the last day's exit over the Winter Peak of Mt Arthur was relatively painless.

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### **A PEAK A DAY – THE ARTHURS PASS WAY**

Terry and I had committed ourselves to a fixed date half price return airfare to Christchurch with the intension of spending 8 or 9 days at Mt Cook. The weather had been so consistently bad for so long, and with an expectation of more of the same, we abandoned the venture. We settled instead for a visit to Arthurs Pass where, at least if the weather was poor/bad our ambitions could degenerate into a tramping trip.

For my part, while sitting in the bus travelling alongside the Waimakariri River, I could only see problems. The river was a great discoloured uncrossable mass, which meant we would have to get off at the Bealy Bridge and walk the extra mile compared with the usual Klondyke corner start. We would be forced to walk up the true right for the rest of the day. A tedious task. It was raining up the valley and the brisk wind was against us. My pack had just about destroyed the airport scales at 28 kg the previous day. (Terry's was believed to be a little lighter.) A new pair of boots and a couple of blisters (from a walk of a couple of miles along Riccarton Road) wasn't going to help. We duly arrived at our first destination – Greenlaw Hut. The plan was to get up Greenlaw Stream and set up a camp site on about the one and only level spot in the valley (on the bush edge at 4000 ft). The Greenlaw is probably the roughest and least visited eastern valley in the Park. The success of day 2 depended on getting through the lower gorge of Greenlaw Stream, followed by getting onto the track (of sorts) which is the only viable way through the Gerard Falls. The stream had about double the flow I had encountered before – due to the huge volumes of snow melting everywhere. In about half an hour we came to the critical crossing which I knew could present problems. There was no way it was going to go. A quick look around showed no better alternatives. Next the valley sides were inspected in some detail – same result. Back to the water – my idea – we get the rope out and give this channel a go. At least the immediate runoff is not fatal. Your idea, you go first. Total immersion but success. With direct assistance from the rope Terry made it with moisture reaching close to the 4 ft level. At midday we reached the campsite, having dried out and by now feeling hot and a little fragile. After a good rest we did a reconnaissance trip to Speight's Basin and once there, had the crazy impulse to climb Mt Speight (6950) – so we did. The third day was committed to attempt Mt Greenlaw – second highest peak in the district (7525). This finally went after using every bit of gear we had. The descent was by a slightly different route in a blizzard.

Day 4: Rest day. Weather calm with light rain.

Day 5: Climbed up to Speight's Basin and continued towards the ridge top near Mt Harper at about 7000 ft. We had a comfortable lunch stop on the summit of Harper (7350). We spent the night at Barker Hut. This hut was rebuilt using modern materials about 3 years ago by the Canterbury Mountaineering Club. While it is fully insulated, double glazed and should be able to withstand winds to at least 300 km/h, it leaks, making it damp and rather mouldy – the rather magnificent outlook notwithstanding.

Next morning an early start for 'the big one' Murchison (7875 ft). Once we got to Kahu-tea Col we avoided the standard route by traversing around to the south and climbing a gully which turned out to take us directly to the summit. Weather perfect and view to match. Back to Barker for morning tea. At midday we left for Waimak Falls Hut (with a brief halfway stop at Carrington Hut). The final sustained 800 - 900 ft climb to the hut had us both very depleted in energy. We climbed Carrington Peak (6650) next morning in what appeared to be rapidly deteriorating weather. Some good rock scrambling but mostly snow plugging and poor visibility. Next day was reasonably fine again so we headed off to Mt Lancelot (6910). This was the first peak which did involve snow plugging but instead required

sustained scrambling on generally good rock which just avoided the need for the rope. After admiring the view of the Crow neve and having morning tea, we just wandered on along the ridge knowing that we would probably end up on Mt Rolleston (7450). The ups and downs of Rolleston engaged us in more careful but free scrambling with several cheval sections. After lunch on top, we descended down a snow gully near the Philistine Ridge. We were back at the hut for afternoon tea.

The most direct way back to Arthurs Pass is to traverse the Crow neve, and descend down the Bealey Valley. However our traverse had established that this idea was impracticable for a packing route unless one was prepared to traverse the summit of Rolleston. Instead, the next day we walked out to Otira over Waimakariri Col (5750) and down the Rolleston River. Lunch was had on the West Coast road in light drizzle. Sunday afternoon refreshments, relaxation and entertainment were found in the Otira licensed premises.

Party: Peter Wiles and Terry Crippen.

**STOP PRESS:**

**MOUNTAIN FIRST AID COURSE:** This course will be held on 26 and 27 March but numbers must be in by 28 February, if interested contact Catherine 63588.

**KAPITI ISLAND TRIP:** May 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday. There is room for 24 people. Names to Roddy Henderson early 25511.

**P.N.T.M.C. Nomination Form**

I wish to nominate (print name) \_\_\_\_\_

for the position of PRESIDENT / SECRETARY / TREASURER / COMMITTEE MEMBER,  
(Delete those not applicable)

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator, seconder and nominee must be financial members of the Club and this form must be signed by all three.)