



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER

May/June 1983

Secretary:	Nigel Seebeck,	ph 89-043
Membership Enquiries:	Nanette and Peter Clough	ph 61-271
Gear Custodian:	Philip Budding	ph 85-936
Newsletter Editor:	Lorraine Tremain	ph 61-769

ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

Catherine Farquhar Home	87-799	Work 76-651
Damienne Eder	71-785	
Nigel Seebeck	89-143	79-129

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. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OR WEEKEND TRIP, CONTACT THE PERSON RUNNING THE SCHEDULED TRIP.

COMING EVENTS:

26 May – Club Night – An Evening of Reminiscences

Tonight we are giving two Club Members, Terry Crippen and Trevor Bissell, the opportunity to reminisce and show slides of their favourite tramping areas in N.Z. before they depart for overseas.

Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street

7.45 p.m. Thursday

Supper Duties: Roddy Henderson, Sally Hewson, Debbie Hunt.

28 - 29 May – SAREX at Sixtus Lodge

Four Club members will be attending this course. Others interested in a day trip this weekend contact Lorraine with names and suggested destination. Phone 61769.

4 - 5 June – Main Range Traverse

One of the classic Tararua tramps, this time heading from North to South.

Leader: Daryl Rowan, 76217

Grading: Fit

Departs: 5 p.m. Friday 3 June

Cost: Approx \$5.00

9 June – Committee Meeting

This month's meeting will be at Lorraine's place, 22 Savage Crescent. Any non-committee Club member welcome to attend.

11 - 12 June – Bushcraft Instruction

This course will be based on the Blue Range, Kiriwhakapapa portion of the Tararuas. New and prospective Club members are urged to attend to learn some of the basic skills of tramping.

Names to: Peter Wiles, ph 86894
Grading: Open to all
Departs: 6 a.m. Saturday
Cost: Approx \$4.00

16 June – Informal Club Night

Following the success of our recent evening at Superbowl, we are having another Games Evening, this time to be held at the West End School Hall, corner of Botanical Road and College Street. All welcome for volleyball, table tennis etc, 7.4-5 p.m.

18 - 19 June – Mid-winter Gourmet at Rangī

This is your chance to take a high class meal into the Ruahines and see them how you've never seen them before!

Contact: Sharon Patterson, ph 63588
Grading: Anyone with plenty of class
Departs: 7 a.m. Saturday
Cost: Depends on how much you drink

25 - 26 June

To be advised. Any suggestions for a weekend trip contact Sharon Patterson, ph 63588.

30 June - Club Night – Photo Competition

Our annual photographic competition will again be judged by Mr John Cleland. This year we are restricting entries to 3 photos in any class and all photos must not have been previously entered in a P.N.T.M.C. competition.

There will be 3 sections: a) monochrome prints
b) colour prints
c) colour slides

and within each section there will be 3 classes:

1. Landscape
2. Topical – people and action shots
3. Natural history – plants, animals, birds, geology etc.

FUTURE TRIPS:

2 - 3 July

Snowcraft 1. Based at M.U.A.C. Hut.
Course will be limited to 20- 25 persons.
Names to Barry Scott, ph 71731

NOTICES:

1. New Members

Jane Binnie	c/- Nurses Hostel, P.N., Hospital	71161
Neil Kendrick	3 Ascot Street, P.N.	79308
Laurie Kennedy	6 Dittmer Drive, P.N.	74-360
Catherine Lord	16 Kauri Street, P.N.	-
Brad Owen and Family	394 Albert Street, P.N.	83467
Phil Robinson	RD 54 Kimbolton	KIM 892
Michael Scheyvens	22 Anglesey Place, P.N.	74138
Sheena Taylor	26 Sutherland Cresc, P.N.	76665
Shane Turner	92 Derby Street, Feilding	36414

2. **Best wishes** are extended to all those Club members heading overseas in the next few weeks. Ex-President Peter Darragh leaves on 20 May, followed by Trevor Bissell, Sally Hevlson and Jo Eder in June. Finally Terry Crippen departs early July. Happy Travelling!

All are welcome to Trev, Sally and Jo's farewell party, 27th May, 8 p.m. at P.N. Hospital Social Club Rooms, Tremaine Ave, (in front of Manawaroa) B.Y.O. Good music supplied.

Best wishes also to Keith Pollock and Dot Brown who will be moving to Christchurch shortly.

3. N.Z. Mountain Safety Council Technical Committee is organising a weekend Instructors' course at Mount Egmont 17 - 19 June. The course is for competent mountaineers who have the skills in climbing, but who wish to learn more of the techniques of instruction. Participants will be encouraged to use the experience gained to assist local and club instruction later. For further information contact Catherine 63588 or Lorraine 61769.

4. **Current gear hire charges**

	Weekend (\$)	Weekly (\$)
Ice axe	.50	1.00
Crampons	.50	1.00
Rope, mountaineering	1.00	2.00
Tent	1.00	2.00
Billy	.50	1.00
Stove and Fuel bottle (fuel extra)	.50	1.00
Pressure cooker	.50	1.00
Pack	.50	1.00
Rope, river crossing	.50	1.00
First aid kit	Free	Free
Bivvy bag	1.00	2.00

Enquiries to gear custodian, Philip Budding, ph 85936.

5. The present stock of **Club Tee-shirts** is almost exhausted but a new order will be placed early in June. Give details of required size and colour to Damienne, ph 71785 by the end of May at the latest. If we order more than 30 shirts the price may come down to \$9.50 each.

6. **For Sale**

Light Brown Ski jacket	\$25
Bush shirt (hardly used)	\$10
Bissell-type balaclava (hardly used)	\$3
Wet suit, size 2	\$45

Contact Sally Hewson, 517 Featherston Street, ph 83984.

7. The Club wishes to express its sympathy to Julian Dalefield and his family following the recent death of Julian's father.

Tip for your next trip:

Now that the days are shorter don't be caught in the dark as some Club members were recently -

REMEMBER TO TAKE A TORCH!

ACCOUNTS OF PAST TRIPS:

Mangahao 12 - 13 March

"It won't be too hard, will it?" enquired one trip member over the phone. "It is an EASY trip?" asked another. The leader decided to take no risks. He led an easy trip and threw in perfect weather as well.

We started at the Number One dam, skirted the over flowing lake and travelled by river bed and sidle track to Harris Creek. Here we lunched, pitched camp and sunbathed. Next day it was a gentle wander up valley for an hour and a bit, a return to our camp for lunch and then down the gorge. Two members pack floated one of the pools. We were back in Palmy in time for an early tea.

Those taking part were the lovely ladies; Sheena Taylor, Jenny Dimock and Lucy Hobbs and leader Kevin Pearce.

Easter expedition to Aorangi – The Lost World.

The road took us to the Forest Service carpark at Mokal Station. After studying the Forest Service 'map' on the fence, and noting that it was upside down, but learning nothing further, we followed a frustrating poled route to the north western end of the Mokai Patea Range – until we observed that our intended route and the poled access weren't the same. After a short climb and sidle we found the track to Iron Bark Hut sited on the Maroepa River.

About mid-afternoon we reached Lake Colenso Hut. We set the fly up over on the other side of the (Mangatera) River (very low) and in the evening took a look at the lake. (Rather unimpressive.) Light rain set in during the night. While breakfasting, the shooters from the hut came over to announce one of their party was missing. We got off to a good start to Ruahine Corner via the summit of Potae. (The lost shooter walked out of the gorge as we approached the turn-off to Potae.) Ruahine Corner Hut has been rebuilt to quite a spacious 6 bunk establishment. The nearby airstrip sees lots of parties flying in for periods of up to 2 weeks - (with the whole works). Still you have to give some credit to these shooters - the fire was damn good to warm us up before the wilderness stretch westwards across the featureless tussock land towards Aorangi. The going was tedious (on a compass bearing) across to the Ohutu escarpment via several deeply cut gullies. Once on the escarpment we continued in cloud, becoming steadily less certain where we were. A series of low hills kept appearing out of the mist and were traversed but were not anticipated from the map. Gradually the cloud lifted and confidence increased with the assistance of a good cattle track. The shooters at Ruahine Corner talked about the Paradise Valley Hut. We naively thought it would be a good place to check out and that the cattle track would take us directly to the front door. The track (of course) eventually petered out in a grassy clearing, where again we became uncertain as to our height or position relative to Aorangi. We camped under a sizable limestone overhang. The morning was fine so we quickly found we were higher and not as far west as expected - about 150 - 200 m below and north of the bluffs encircling Aorangi.

Once at the base of the bluffs we examined to the east of our starting point and found a route where the bluffs dropped to about 10 m and some flax bushes were favourably placed. Once on top we immediately entered a world of dense tangled scrub in which bush-lawyer was one of the dominant species. Trevor was in his element here, so after about 2 hours (and 1000 m) of pushing, clambering and crawling we arrived at the southern end. We examined several possible ways down on both the east and west sides but in all cases they eventually became vertical. About a further 3 hours and at least a million scratches later we reached our starting point well satisfied with our stupidity. We had at this stage not in any way solved the problem of how to get to the lower Ohutu Stream. We decided to try the sheep tracks travelling under the bluffs around the eastern side of Aorangi. We reached the southern tip in an hour with good travel and interesting views of the limestone bluffs. Then we took a ridge system leading down to the junction of Ohutu Stream and an unnamed tributary. The first third or more was almost as bad as the vegetation on top. Eventually we again became confused as to our precise location, but were amazed (and saved) to stumble onto a cut track leading down to Ohutu Stream about 200 m north of the campsite. (Which is marked about 1000m too far east on the 1977 edition Wakarara.) The campsite has an adequate Forest Service Hut with earth floor and sack bunks. We correctly figured that with no more than two hours of daylight remaining we would stay and move into the overdue category. First thing next morning we got stuck into the cut track down Ohutu Stream to the Whakaurekau River. We again had vegetative problems - this time infestations of bush nettles up to tree size which one just had to hope one wasn't particularly allergic to. As we started the drop into the river valley a new problem became evident - first audibly and then visually - the river was in flood. As the track steepened and became almost precipitous we noticed the river was cutting into the bank where the track met the riverbed. That was overcome by wading around a short bluff. We examined the river down to the junction with the Rangitikei, (which appeared to be low and was about 400 m away). However the Whakaurekau had to be crossed to get out. We selected a point just above where it split into two channels and merges into the Rangitikei. Using the pole technique, the 15 - 20 m stretch was just manageable. Then came the 150 m climb up to the farmland. A track wasn't obvious so maximum use was made of the grass and scrub for hand and foot holds. We used the farm roads for most of the 7 km plod back to the Mokai Patea and the car. A further unexpected hold-up came a few km down the road when we faced the back of a mob of more than 500 sheep. The next few km used up a further couple of hours. Some of this was put to use, however, by getting out and inspecting the amazing cliffs of the Rangitikei at several points.

Party: Wiles and Bissell.

Easter April 1 - 3

Last minute complications resulted in a combined easy/medium trip to the north eastern Ruahines. After crossing the Makaroro River the team quickly dispensed with Yeomans track and slogged up the ridge top leading to Parks Peak. The track passes through stands of mixed forest before entering interesting short stands of dense regenerating Beech. Good views through to Waipara Saddle and beyond in the south and Gwavas Forest constantly to the east.

Parks Peak Hut was reached mid-afternoon and the fly pitched nearby. The weather certainly turned rough that night and by first light the only thing left holding the fly down was two people left grimly holding on. The four man hut quickly became a refuge for 10.

In cold misty weather we continued along the ridge on Saturday. Swampy conditions were encountered before a leisurely lunch at Aranga Hut. The track then passes through a large plateau area with excellent views of the region

around Ruahine Corner. Heaps of abuse was shouted out to Aorangi where Trevor Bissell and Peter Wiles were suspected to be lurking.

The gradual improvement in the weather prompted us to continue on to the main range and over Piopio, eventually sidling Trig U in blustery conditions. With impending darkness forcing haste we picked up an ill-defined track down Totara Spur and reached Upper Makaroro Hut just on nightfall. A few brave souls elected to sleep outside but returned in the early hours of Sunday morning coinciding with the first rain drops.

Steady rain greeted us at daylight and remained with us for most of the wander down the wide Makaroro River bed to the vehicles. Those who subjected themselves to a hard easy/medium trip were; Keir Zentveld, Rozanne Kidd, Dianne Miller, Trevor Brill, Janice Frain, Lisa, Sheena Taylor, Perry Hicks, Catherine Farquhar and John Barkla.

Kaimanawas – Anzac Weekend – Fit Trip Report

A fine mist welcomed the fit party (as we tripped over last year's windfall) en route to the Umukarikari Range. We raced along the tops, trying to maintain a respectful distance between ourselves and the second wave. The banks of the upper Rangitikei provided a pleasant camping spot, and three of us managed to have tea before the primus died.

Saturday saw us racing along the tops to Makarako in fine weather. We continued on south, past 'W saddle' and followed some reasonable deer trails along a major ridge until it dropped into Ecology Stream. After some of the disadvantages of the 'out of control' method of descent were illustrated for us by Linda, we resumed our journey to arrive at a picturesque camp spot on the Rangitikei River just before dark.

At first light on Monday morning we were already making our way upstream (no primus makes for fast getaways) to the start of the Thunderbolt Track. With excellent views of Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe we rapidly moved along to the Waipakahi River. When the home stretch was scented, the pace quickened as we wound our way down from Urchin to the carpark and the completion of a very satisfying trip.

We were: Trevor Brill, Mike Freeman, Chris Green, Linda Russ, and Brendon Sheppard.

M.C.F.

Kaimanawas – Anzac Weekend – The alternative trip

A prompt 5.30 a.m. start from Supersave carpark saw us at the Access 10 road end by 9 a.m. Walking along the Umukarikari Range we were provided with cold and windy conditions but no rain, so lunch was eaten in a sheltered spot near Umukarikari: 1592 m. As we neared Waipakihi Hut we were spurred on by the sight of 15 trampers advancing from behind. Also caught a glimpse of Mike and Co. leaving for Junction Top and the Rangitikei.

The 15 (Hamilton) trampers also camped at the hut and the following day pursued the seven of us up to Junction Top, over Te Raketuarigiangi, along Middle Range to the Thunderbolt Track and down this to the Waipakihi. Although the weather had looked threatening early on, it materialised warm and windless, allowing us superb views of the area, (and beyond!)

Back in the Waipakihi, after picking up a straggler from the Hamilton crowd we found an idyllic campsite not far from the Thunderbolt Track. Here we all enjoyed a sunny relaxed Monday morning before packing up and heading out over Urchin Track.

Definitely a successful weekend.

Catherine Lord, Mary Sullivan, Peter Clough, Nanette Clough, Michelle Hobday, Patricia Eder, Catherine Farquhar.