



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER
January/February 1984

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ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE SUPERSAVE CARPARK, FERGUSSON 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:

21-23 January – Anniversary Weekend – Kawekas

The route will probably be Ballards, Venison Tops, Rocks Ahead, Kiwi Mouth, Black Ridge and out.

Leader: Perry Hicks, 39042
Grade: Medium
Departs: Friday evening

26 January – Club night – Barbecue

The first Club night of 1984 will be a barbecue at Philip Budding's place, 7 McDonald Place, P.N. Bring your own eats, and drinks and swimming togs.

28-29 January

Nothing arranged as yet. Suggestions for a destination and interested people contact Lorraine, 61769.

2 February – Committee Meeting

To be held at Phillip Budding's residence, 7 McDonald Place. Any club member is welcome to attend Committee meetings and find out what goes on.

4-5 February – Full Waiohine, Tararuas

A good summer trip to Don's old stamping ground.

Leader: Don French
Grade: Fitness Essential
Departs: 6 p.m. Friday night.

February – Informal Club Night

Most people will have returned from their summer tramping, climbing, cycling etc. excursions, so bring along some of your slides to share with the rest of us.

7.45 p.m. Thursday
227 College Street, Society of Friends Meeting Rooms.

11 - 12 February – Ruahines

Waipawa River, Waikamaka, Rangī Saddle, Waterfall Hut Rangioteatua and maybe Middle Stream.

Leader: John Barkla
Grade: Fit
Departs: 6 a.m. Saturday morning

18 - 19 February – Tararuas

From Holdsworth Lodge to Totara Flats

Leader: Catherine Farquhar
Grade: Easy – medium
Departs: 7 a.m. Saturday morning

23 February – Club night

Details next newsletter.

NOTICES:

1. **Congratulations** and best wishes to Peter and Muriel Hanratty following their marriage on 10 December.
2. **Club Dinner**. Another enjoyable evening at the Chalet. Many thanks to Damienne, Daryl and Barry for their successful organisation.
3. **Cycling Trips** are popular this Christmas!
Cycling companions sought for 10 day Northland trip starting after Christmas. Phone Michelle, 78473.

Anyone interested in a cycle-tramp trip in the Nelson/Marlborough area starting 28 December phone Andrea, ???9.

4. **“Tongariro Experience”** Details of the Tongariro Park Boards’ holiday nature programme available in the above newsletter. Trips consist of Ranger guided trips of varying grades and lengths. For more details contact Peter Clough, 61721.
5. **Call for submissions** – Tasman Wilderness
A large area centred on Lake Aorere in North-West Nelson is being considered for gazetting as a wilderness area. It would be the forest wilderness area within a Forest Park and has the support of the Forest Service and the federated Mountain Clubs of N.Z. If you have been to this area (or even if you haven’t) do write a submission supporting the Tasman Wilderness proposal. Submissions need not be long but must reach the Conservator of Forests, N.Z. Forest Service, Box 140 Nelson by 31 January 1984. If you want further details contact Lorraine, phone 61769.

TRIP REPORTS:

Labour Weekend - Egmont

As “Spunks” put it: “the guys study, the girls go climbing.” That was indeed the way it was as we four ladies departed early Saturday morning for a two-day trip to North Egmont.

Leaving the car at the East Egmont road end we walked around to Tahurangi Lodge and enjoyed a leisurely lunch before heading up the north ridge with light packs. The snow level was well above the lodge and the snow loose and granular.

Some way up we looked over to the left and saw a very straight line of at least 20 people suddenly just appear high on the east ridge. These people turned out to be from the Manawatru Tramping and Skiing Club and also inhabited the lodge that evening.

The weather rapidly (and thoroughly) deteriorated as we neared the crater entrance, so we were forced to beat a hasty – and very wet – retreat. Sunday brought no improvement in the weather so we left early and after a short diversion to pick up Cass from another road end, headed back to Palmerston North.

The four? Sharon Patterson, Jane Binnie, Kirsten Simonsen, Catherine Farquhar.

26 October – Ruahines

With post exam pressure to blow away what could be better than a long mid week day trip. Robbo and I reached the end of Umutoi North road at 6.30 a.m. and began the haul up Knights track, reaching Toka trig in blustery conditions. We dropped off towards the Pohangina River but instead of taking the cut track, we battled down a leatherwood ridge which put us further upriver. The Pohangina was very pleasant travel with occasional deep pools to sidle and the long easy gorge section towards the upper reaches. After a quick stop at Top Gorge Hut we continued up into the headwaters and finally climbed up out of the river through steep scrub. On one particularly steep section my daypack worked its way open and most of the contents fell out (some of which could not be retrieved). We finally thrashed up a spur back to the Ngamoko Range and on familiar ground once again traversed several bumps including Tunupo, more bumps, until we were back at Toka. A quick descent we were back at the car by 6.00 p.m. after 11½ hours of tramping. We were Robbo Sweet and John Barkla.

9-14 November – Arthurs Pass

The great feature about Arthurs Pass is the absence of access problems. Arriving at midday we stepped off the bus and had only to walk 100m to the start of the track, leading to Avalancho Peak. With a week's food and climbing equipment the immediate steepness of the track through bush had us gasping for breath. Once out into the tussock, easy snow slopes led to the top and from here the deteriorating weather urged a speedy descent down into the Crew Valley via a rock gully (not the usual route). Comfortably ensconced in the N.Z.A.C. Crow Hut the evening brought rain. The following two days likewise brought rain, hail and finally snow and were idly passed with Listener crosswords and a determined effort to reduce the quantity of food we had. An unexpected clearance in the weather on our fourth day caught us by surprise and our late start together with frosh snow cancelled any attempt on the Crow face of Mt Rolleston. We instead climbed up the east Crow glacier to Rome gap and continued along a mixed rock and snow Rome Ridge to the summit of the low peak. From here a very airy ridge leads to the high peak so we instead dropped down on to the main Crow glacier neve. After crossing the bergschrund a steep snow and ice couloir provided a route almost directly on to the high peak. We descended via the side of the Crow icefall made tricky by soft loose slopes and the danger of unseen crevasses.

That night in the hut was spent with eleven others fresh from Christchurch for the weekend. The following day we leisurely tramped down to the Waimakiriri and continued up to another N.Z.A.C. hut - Greenlaw. From here we had plans of sampling the firm rock of the Speight buttress. However the next morning brought with it another bad spell of weather so with a day still to go we wandered out down the Waimak to the road end and hitched back to Arthurs Pass to collect gear left and collect the bus. (The afternoon saw snow well down into the bush above the village). We were Andrew Hollings and John Barkla.

19-20 November – Holdsworth – Jumbo

A very ominous weather forecast prompted the change from a Dorset Ridge trip. The climb up from Holdsworth Lodge to Mountain House was notable for the several Kakas seen and an extensive boardwalk over some of the muddier sections of this popular track. At Powell Hut the wind had become much stronger and by the time we reached the summit of Holdsworth, the tops towards Jumbo were periodically obscured by cloud. About an hours buffeting in the wind saw us on Jumbo and a quick walk down the spur to the new hut. This hut just above the bushline was built in 1982 to replace the Angle knob hut blown away in 1980. It is well anchored and we found out that night just how windy the area was. After a late start on Sunday we dropped into the Atiawhakatu Stream and followed the saddle track to the hut. The remainder of the trip out was spent wandering down and in the river with a few deep pools to negotiate. In the shelter of the valley it was warm and sunny and a good alternative to the track. We were Donald McKellar, Catherine Farquhar and John Barkla.

26 November – Day trip to Rangī

A brilliantly fine day in congenial company we meandered up to Rangī Hut and on to Mangahaia for lunch. We were Laurie Kennedy, Damienne and Moana Eder, John Barkla, Catherine Farquhar, Tricia Eder.

27 November – Kapiti Island

Yes! The trip to Kapiti Island was definitely on and so we raced down to Paraparaumu to meet the boat to take us over. There we were met by the Assistant Ranger who gave us a brief talk on the history, bird life and things in general on the island. The rest of the day was ours, so we ambled up to the top through the delightful chirpy bush.

At the summit we had our lunch overlooking a shear drop of some 1500' straight down to the sea on the western side of the island, and we could easily see both the South Island and Taranaki. We took longer going down via another track so that we could actually enjoy a close encounter of the bird kind – of course, we saw untold wekas who were quite content grabbing whole biscuits, as well as Tuis, Wood pigeons, very cheeky but cute Kakas and others. The highlight had to be seeing one of the 22 pairs of saddlebacks on the island – very impressive. Back down on the beach again we thought we had ample time to suss out the lagoon on the northern tip of Kapiti, alas we didn't quite make it over the rocks and beaches to there – an excellent excuse for going back again! After another calm crossing it was back to P.N. It certainly was a successful day. Thanks to Pete for arranging the permit and ferry trips. We were Roger Redmayne, Damienne Eder, Catherine Farquahr, John Barkla, Peter and Nanette Clough, Michelle Hobday, Kathryn Newland.

A Urewera Wander

The morning after the Club Dinner (!), John Barkla and myself set off for Gisborne to meet up with Trevor Lupton (ex P.N.T.M.C.) for a 3 day Urewera trip. After much discussion, we decided on looking at Lake Waikareiti (N.E. of Waikaremoana), then continuing on to a saddle near Puketaro and dropping in to the Waipoa Stream. We intended tramping up the second branch on the true right of this stream and then to head back towards the Ranger Station. (The Ranger was later telling us that the 1st branch is much easier travel and has some amazing features in it.)

Saturday we drove to the road end and eventually – it was a nice road end – we walked around Lake Waikareiti to Sandy Bay Hut where we stayed the night. Sunday we continued on along the track, passing several smaller lakes before leaving the track to drop into the Waipoa Stream.

This stream provided very interesting travel. An extremely smooth sloping slippery stream bed with interesting rock features, lush blush and a constant misty drizzle as background. Apparently this is quite typical of many Urewera streams.

Several kilometres down the stream Trev slipped on a log and received a fairly large cut to his head. Numerous metres of bandage later we found that, fortunately, Trev could walk unaided so we slowly retraced our steps to Sandy Bay Hut. From here John ran out to ask for assistance. A few hours later we heard the faint sound of an approaching boat although I have to admit that for a while there, mosquitoes, flies, wind waves – everything – sounded like a distant outboard motor.

Actually, the night trip across the lake was (for me) quite pleasant. There are about 4 islands in the lake and one of these, Rahui Island, has a lake of its own. Negotiating these at night was no problem. I have decided that gently sunset-timed cruises around this type of lake would be a pretty idyllic and relaxing way of seeing the surrounds.

..... Anyway, to get back to the story – we arrived at Wairoa hospital during the early hours of Monday morning and here Trev stayed for the week.

Although the Ureweras do not provide open tops travel there are many beautiful lakes and rivers within the park which I think are well worth visiting.

Catherine Farquahr.