



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER
September/October 1984

Secretary:	Damienne Eder,	ph 71-785
Membership Enquiries:	Nanette and Peter Clough	ph 61-271
Gear Custodian:	Philip Budding	ph 85-936
Newsletter Editor:	John Barkla	ph 73-543

ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

Catherine Farquhar Home	80-363	
Damienne Eder	71-785	
Nigel Seebeck	89-043	Work 79-129

ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE NO FRILLS 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 LEADER OF THE SCHEDULED TRIP.

COMING EVENTS:

27 September – Formal Club Night

Well known Taranaki Mountaineer, Walter Fowlie, will be giving us an illustrated talk on various NZ Mountains and related botany. An evening not to be missed.

7.45 pm Thursday

227 College Street, Society of Friends Meeting Rooms

29 - 30 September – Snowcraft 2

This course aims to continue on from Snowcraft 2 and provides an opportunity for learning useful rope and belaying techniques. Also an introduction to the use of crampons. Attendance will be required at a pre course lecture on a weekday night. Please contact Nigel by Monday (Sept 24) if intending to go on the course or if you have any queries about the course.

Leader: Nigel Seebeck, ph 89043

Grade: Medium (but a good level of fitness will aid enjoyment and safety)

Departs: Friday Night

30 September – Ruahines

A day trip to the Pohangina area of the Ruahine Range. A nice loop bush walk to pass a quiet Sunday.

Leader: Daryl Rowan, ph 64655

Grade: Easy

Departs: 8.00 am Sunday

4 October – Committee Meeting

To be held at Daryl Rowans place, 110 Manawatu Street, beginning at 7.45 pm. Any member is welcome.

6 - 7 October – Kaweka Range

We will spend Friday night at Gentle Annie by the Ngaruroro River on the Napier Taihape road. On Saturday we will traverse the Kaweka Range to Kiwi Saddle and then descend the spur to Kiwi Mouth Hut. On Sunday we wander down river to the road end. (Plenty of scope for alternative fit trip too).

Leader: Trevor Bissell, ph 73543
 Grade: Medium
 Departs: Friday, 6.30 pm

11 October – Informal Club Night

Some films are being organised from M.S.C. and we may get 'Free Climb' or 'Solo'. Come along and find out.

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

13 – 14 October – Dundas Ridge – Cattle Ridge Circuit

Lots of tops travel over this northern part of the Tararua Range. Probably into Herepai Hut on the Friday night.

Leader: John Barkla, ph 73543
 Grade: Fitness Essential
 Departs: Friday, 6.30 pm

13 October – Ruahine Day Trip

Back tip to the club's favourite area around Rangī Hut in the Ruahines. Maybe explore the new track on to the range.

Leader: Kirsten Simonsen, ph 73543
 Grade: Easy/Medium
 Depart: Sunday, 7.00 a.m.

14 October – Sunday Day Trip

Contact Perry Hicks, ph 61178.

20-21-22 October - Advanced Snowcraft

To be held at Whakapapa on Mt Ruapehu.

Leader: Nigel Seebeck, ph 89043
 Grade: Fit
 Departs: Friday Night

20 October - Day Trip

Names to: Catherine, ph 8036
 Grade: Easy
 A Departs: 7.00 a.m.

25 October – Formal Club Night

The two Johns will give an illustrated talk on recent winter trips to the Wanganui and Whataroa Valleys of South Westland.

7.45 pm Thursday
 227 College Street, Society of Friends Meeting Rooms

27-28 October – Ruahines

In to the Waterfall Creek area....."by some devious means".

Leader: Peter Wiles
 Grade: Fit
 Departs: Saturday 6.00 a.m.

NOTICES**1. New Members**

A warm welcome to:

Alan Montgomery
 Mark Woodruffe

10 Droylsden Place
 3 RD, Palmerston North

74815
 Ron 455

2. **Addition to Membership List**

Julian Dalefield

28 Carroll Street

73543

3. **F.M.C. Regional Get Together – 6-7 October 1984**

This will be held at Camp Rangī Woods in the Pohangina Valley and will be run along the lines of previous seminars, with formal and informal discussions on the Saturday, followed by dinner and a social on Saturday evening and a tramp on Sunday. Accommodation will be provided on Friday and Saturday nights. A number of FMC Executive members will attend and it is hoped all FMC Parks and Walkways nominees and persons involved in SAR and Mountain Safety in the region will also attend. The tentative programme includes topics of the role of FMC, Forest Parks and State Forests, Search and Rescue, Wilderness, Walkways, Rivers, Skiing, Mountain Safety, National Parks and Reserves, Mountain Recreation and Conservation. The registration fee is \$20 for the whole weekend or \$8 for Saturday only, including dinner. This fee includes accommodation for nights Friday, 5 October and Saturday, 6 October plus light supper Friday.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner, supper, morning & afternoon teas Saturday
Breakfast and cut lunch Sunday

This is a superb opportunity for you to air your views and also to find out what FMC is all about (and have a great time). Let's have a good club representation. See John Barkla, 73543 as soon as possible for further details and/or inclusion on registration form.

4. **For Sale**

Yukon size 10 semi-rigid boots \$70; Super RD size 10 climbing boots \$100; Alp Sports parka, large, nylon \$50; NZ Alpine Journals, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1970, 1971, 1978; odd pitons and carabiners. Phone Terry, 63588.

PAST TRIPS

4-10 August – Wanganui Valley, South Westland

Having flown to Hokitika, two friends of Don drove us to the roadend at the Wanganui River. Very heavy rain prompted us to spend the first night in a small building on the side of the road next to a weigh bridge. The following morning, by the time we started up the true right bank, the rain was torrential with sections of the track knee deep in water. Hendes Creek, two hours up the river, proved uncrossable so at midday we pitched the fly and waited for the weather to improve.

The weather was fine on Sunday and remained so for most of the trip. We continued up the easy lower reaches of the Wanganui for a further two and a half hours to Hunters Hut near the junction of two large tributaries, the Lambert and Adams Rivers. Carrying on up the Wanganui branch we were soon sidling Poker Bluff with its rusty wire ropes and old shaky ladders. The first three to four hours up this branch are relatively easy with travel mainly in the riverbed with short stretches of track in difficult areas. Higher up the river is choked with room sized boulders giving harder travel. Finally after one hour in the dark we collapsed into Smyth Hut at the junction of the Smyth River, with snow gently falling.

On Monday the two Johns continued up the Evans River (upper extension of the Wanganui River), through house sized boulders to the Vane Stream. From here we could see Full Moon Saddle – a route on to the Bracken Snowfield. Travel was easier up the Vane Stream and two kilometres up we stopped at a large flat under the Essex Icefall and spied the peaks of the Lord Range.

We left early the following morning for an attempt on Mt. Barry, a peak to the north-west on the Smyth Range. We chose Notch Ridge and gaining this required scrub bashing, but once out of the scrub good cramponing conditions prevailed. Notch Ridge is about three kilometres long and much of it was an exposed narrow snow arete. Progress was slow with having to belay many pitches but the view was tremendous with Mts. Whitcombe and Evans dominating the skyline. Climbing on to what we thought was the summit showed a further kilometre of ridge and it was obvious we could not manage it before night. Rather than descend the ridge we dropped steeply 800 metres into the Smyth River (very bouldery) and followed this back to the hut.

After a sleep in and clean up of the hut we returned down river to Hunters Hut, but this time we were able to cross the river to avoid the high sidles. On Thursday we climbed up to Blue Lookout on the Lord Range, the usual route for those sidling the gorge on their way up the Lambert River. The West Coast was showing the first sign of cloud build up. Dominating the view though were the peaks of Mt. Stoddart and Lambert with the Lambert Icefall between, spilling out from beneath the Garden of Allah. Five chamois were also seen on nearby rocks.

On Friday it was time to leave and in three and a half hours we were at the roadend but were then forced to walk another eight kilometres to Harihari.

We were John Goulstone, Don McKellar and John Barkla.

12-19 August – Whataroa Valley, South Westland

After the Wanganui trip John Barkla teamed up with Adrian Grierson from Auckland and Mark Rattenbury, Dunedin, for a week in the Whataroa Valley. After being dropped by the bus at midday we tramped up the valley for the remainder of the afternoon and camped near the end of Barrowman Flats. The track although well marked is typically West Coast and fairly strenuous. By lunchtime next day we had reached Butler Hut at the junction of the Butler and Whataoa Rivers. We travelled up the Butler past top Butler Hut at the junction of the north and south branches, on to an ice lake at the head of the north branch.

On Tuesday the weather looked to be deteriorating but we headed off to Grey Pass on the Main Divide. The Grey Glacier on the eastern side forms a tributary of the Godley. Crossing the divide on the slopes of Seymour Peak we traversed the Grey Neve and wandered up Mt. Frances from where we could see the Godley Lakes, Mts. Cook and Tasman, D'Archiac and to the north the Garden of Eden. Following the divide back we climbed Seymour Peak before dropping into a gully below Mt. Loughnan which was choked with avalanche debris. On reaching the tent the first drops of rain fell so we packed up and left for Top Butler Hut after a long day. Wednesday was spent resting and baking bread although in the afternoon we moved to Butler Hut.

On Thursday we spent four hours travelling up the Whataroa River to Whymper Hut, high on a moraine wall above the Whymper Glacier. Mt Elie de Beaumont dominates the head of the valley although for much of our time there it was obscured by cloud. The next day it was raining steadily so we made our way back to Butler Hut, deciding to stay another night hoping for an improvement in the weather. A brief clearance the following morning got us moving towards the junction of the Whataroa and Perth Rivers, but it was soon raining heavily. We continued up the Perth which has fast travel to Scone Creek Hut just on dusk. On Sunday with rain still heavy and rivers rising we gave away Seally Pass and the Godley and retreated down valley back to the road and Whataroa.

25 - 26 August – Tararua Main Range

We shared Field Hut on Friday night with about 15 WT & MC, one of whom snored incessantly. Trevor had a brew on the way early Saturday morning and by 6.40 am we were away, the second party to leave. Two hours later we stood on a frosty Bridge Peak before starting on the Main Range. A little snow remained on the shady side of the ridge and conditions were cold and misty. Maungahuka Hut was a welcome retreat for lunch. Conditions improved in the afternoon and we reached Andersons Hut at 5.30 pm.

Sunday morning was fine and clear with a heavy frost. Soon in the sun we sweltered in the heat on to Shoulder Knob with views as far south as both Kaikoura Ranges. To the north, Egmont and Ruapehu were also clear. Descending to the Otaki River we enjoyed an extended lunch in the riverbed before wandering back to Otaki Forks via the bush tramway.

We were: Trevor Bissell, Catherine Farquhar and John Barkla.

Sunday 2 September – Day Trip to Penn Creek, Tararuas

Four of us arrived at Otaki Forks on what turned out to be a mostly warm and sunny day. We made our way up Judd Ridge and reached Field Hut after about a couple of hours. After exchanging pleasantries with a few trampers from the Parawai Club, we continued along the track past Table Top before picking up the track to Penn Creek, which leaves the main track just below Dennen Peak. At this point the weather closed in and we waited till reaching the shelter of the bush before stopping for lunch. Fed and watered, we proceeded to Penn Creek Hut which was bathed in sunshine. Finding that the Parawai's hadn't got the billie ready for us, we set off on the track back down above the Gorge to Otaki Forks, which proved to be deceptively long and undulating.

We were: John Barkla, Trevor Bissell, Peter Clough and Terry Crippen.

8-9 September – Hikurangi Range

Fresh snow on Friday night had left a dusting right into the bush and we headed up the range with still some snow falling. Leaving packs at the turn off to McKinnon Hut we wandered through to Hikurangi, getting occasional views. Then back to the hut for a cold night which froze boots inside the hut. On Sunday we had a very chilly descent down the Kawhatao River through numerous small gorges back to the Base.

We were: Kirsten Simonsen and John Barkla.

9 September – Purity – Mangaweka – Kawhatau Base

Saturday dawned a little overcast but clear on the drive to Purity Hut road end. Piling out of the car it was observed that there was less snow than expected. But experience showing that it may have been an illusion, ice axes were grabbed and the Hikurangi Range assaulted. We were sweating by the end of the farmland but had found a good summer use for ice axes - "Walking Sticks" (very handy in the mud). Moving on it was obvious that it had been dry for at least a few days previously.

Purity Hut had a few entries but was definitely not overused. Charging onward we broke on to the tops at Wooden Peg, a little snow on our side provided fast travel, the reverse of the Hawkes Bay side where low cloud circulated all day. We were luckier, good views all day and reasonable temperatures. Over Iron Peg – Mangaweka, Hikurangi and the high point above the McKinnon Hut, then on to the bush line to drop down to Kawhatau Base, where the sun started shining and clothes were shed during the descent.

Thanks to John and Kirsten we were back at Purity road end by 3.30 and home to a good cup of tea.

Participants: Peter Wiles, Perry Hicks and Dave Barker.