



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

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

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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

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## ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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

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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.

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## COMING EVENTS:

### 27 - 28 October – Ruahiries

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

Leader: Peter Wiles ph 86894  
Grade: Fit  
Departs: Saturday 6.00 a.m.

### 1 November – Committee Meeting

To be held at Peter Wiles place, 12 Jensen Street, beginning at 7.45 p.m. Any member is welcome.

### 3 - 4 November – Ruahines

A weekend in the vicinity of the wide open tops of the Mokai Patea Range.

Leader: Eric Van Toor ph 70332  
Grade: Medium/Fit  
Departs: 6 a.m. Saturday

### 10 - 11 November – Egmont National Park

A trip to the Pouakai Range, a lesser visited area of the park. The range has open tops and a well appointed hut. Also there may be an opportunity for independent climbers to be dropped off at North Egmont.

Leader: Peter and Nanette Clough, ph 61271  
Grade: Medium  
Depart: Friday night.

### **15 November – Christmas Dinner**

This year's formal Christmas function will be held at "Harrods" Restaurant, Margaret Street on the 15<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 p.m. There are only 30 places booked for this event so it's first in, first serve for these tickets.

Cost: \$16.50 single

Meal is a Christmas Smorg and the restaurant has a B.Y.O. licence. Tickets from Nigel Seebeck ph 89043 or at club nights.

BE IN EARLY – COLLECTING MONIES AT CLUB NIGHT.

### **17 - 18 November – Eastern Tararuas**

There are a number of ways to get to and from McGregor Biv all in prime tramping country.

Names to: John Barkla ph 73543

Grade: Fit

Departs: Saturday 6.00 a.m.

### **18 November – Cycling**

What better way to see the Pohangina Valley than on a cycle.

Leader: Damien Eder ph 71785

Grade: All

Departs: Sunday 8.00 a.m.

### **24 - 25 November – Caving at Waitomo**

A weekend underground to see stalactites and stalagmites and lots of other lovelies. A squeezing and grovelling fun weekend. All gear provided and a guide for the trip has been arranged.

Names to: Nigel Seebeck 89043 h, 79129 w.

Grade: Good knees

Departs: Friday night

### **24 November – Ruahines day trip**

A pleasant wander in the north-western Ruahines to Purity Hut and the Hikurangi Range.

Leader: Linda Russ ph 80363

Grade: Medium

Departs: Saturday 6.30 a.m.

### **29 November – Formal Club Night**

The August Godley team will enlighten us on the virtues or otherwise of tramping, skiing and climbing in this dramatic part of the Southern Alps.

7.45 p.m. Thursday

227 College Street, Society of Friends Meeting Rooms.

### **COMING TRIPS:**

1 - 2 December – Otaki Gorge

8 - 9 December – Pinus Contorta

13 December – A night at Skateworld

16 December – Christmas at Rangī.

### **NOTICES:**

#### **1. New Members**

A warm welcome to:

Dave Barker

Inge Kampman

P.O. Box 11 Bunnythorpe

50 Brightwater Terrace

61403

73895

#### **2. Additions to Membership List**

Arthur and Liz Todd

Ross Fletcher

Owen Family

Louise Atkinson

2 Heayns Place, Feilding

16 Weston Avenue

394 Albert Street

25 Beatty Street, Feilding

36246

87735

83467

35796

3. **Can you help?**

I am tracing the history of our RANGI HUT and seek anyone in the club who can give me information and photographs (slides). The end result should be a published article and a picture board mounted behind perspex to be affixed in the hut itself. I seek to cover from the first hut and site to present day.

Contact Nigel Seebeck, Home 89043, Work 79129

4. **Vandalism at Roadends**

F.M.C. are concerned over this growing problem and wish the club to fill out a questionnaire relating to any incidents our members may have had. Phone details to John Barkla 73543

5. **Flatmate wanted**

Early November – phone Damienne 71785

6. **Club Patron** Lawson Pither unfortunately broke his leg while skiing on Mount Ruapehu. We wish Lawson a speedy recovery and return to the hills.

**TRIP REPORTS:**

**Where has all the snow gone .....**

Loading their well laden packs into the four wheel drive at Lily Bank Station they travelled up the Godley Valley and were dropped at Red Stag Hut. Strange, that the driver smiled as 5 pairs of ski-mountaineering skis were unloaded, and he commented that there was usually 60 cm of snow around the hut at this time of the year. The thoughts of 'The lake... will it be frozen?' lingered in their minds. They would know soon enough.

Spending the night in the cramped four bunk hut, the pre-breakfast visitors of the feathered variety seemed overly interested in mountaineering. Travelling by foot towards the head of the valley with backs straining under the weight they arrived at Godley Hut for lunch. Already the lack of snow in the valley had taken its toll, and bashed feet were tenderly cared for.

The afternoon jaunt to look at the lake which they planned to ski across was daunting – a rubber raft would be more useful than skis!!

With a reasonable weather forecast from Mountain Radio Service that evening they geared up for the next morning – a reacy for the climb on D 'Archaic. Climbing to approx. 7000ft they returned to the hut confident the steps would hold for use the following morning. A lousy forecast, high winds and rain dampened the plans (as it continued to do so for the whole trip). The morning start found slushy snow and small point release avalanches had obliterated the tracks and eventually travel upward was aborted and the safety of the hut sought.

An early morning tip-toe across the Godley River was made heading for Classen Saddle but thwarted by deteriorating weather and a stop at Classen Biv planned. Only ..... there is no Biv there now .... so onwards to the National Park's hut across the Classen River (not as cold as the Godley).

Some concern over the snow conditions on Classen Saddle was expressed and Armadillo Saddle settled on as an alternative. The morning brought a change of plans and Nigel headed to Red Stag where Linda was due to arrive during the day. Upon meeting a decision was made to head for the more pleasant surrounds at Weka Hut further down the Godley River.

Meanwhile Mike, Daryl and Cass disgarded surplus gear (including skis!) at a drop in the Godley and headed for Armadillo. A wet bivy brought all the group together again in the relative luxury at Weka Hut.

A long slog back to Lily Bank Station and across the McCauley to the cars.

Although it had rained all day Daryl, Nigel and Linda still took a dip in the river before heading to Tekapo and Unwin Hut for a shower.

A pleasant trip – not a lot of snow – not a lot of climbing – not a lot of good weather, .... but plenty of fun.

The group: Mike Freeman, Heather (Cass) Clay, Daryl Rowan, Linda Russ, Nigel Seebeck.

### **A week in the Saddle**

Timing is of critical importance to the success of any expedition (i.e. being in the right place at the right time). Club member Kevin Pearce, former members Nic Bishop (Christchurch) and Chrissie Williams (Hamnen) and non-member Nigel King (Timaru) were at Tasman Saddle Hut, Mount Cook National Park, for the week of 15 -22 September. The weather was fine for the whole of this week and skiing conditions were excellent. Aylmer, Hochstetter Dome and Walter were climbed and a visit was made to the Murchison Valley. An attempt on Elie de Beaumont was curtailed because of slow progress in variable snow. Nic took 5 rolls of slides including a panorama using a tripod from the summit of Walter. Chrissie damaged her knee while turning at low speed on a gentle slope having previously safely negotiated much more exciting slopes.

### **22 -23 September – No Peaks Trips**

Well we did climb Te Heu Heu but this was not one of the accepted three peaks referred to in the classic 'Three Peaks Trip' in the Tongariro National Park. One is meant to climb the main peak of Ruapehu; Taurangi, as well as Ngauruhoe and Tongariro over the course of the weekend.

What went wrong? (1 mark)

- (a) Old age i.e. lack of fitness
- or ( b ) Lack of commitment
- or (c) White out conditions.

Congratulations, you guessed it; it was (c) 'White out conditions'. Having ascended the Whakapapa Glacier to the Glacier Shelter and continued to the slopes of Dome we very nearly stepped over a drop of some feet without seeing it!

Thereafter we proceeded much more cautiously to the new Dome Shelter and awaited for an improvement in the visibility; we awaited this improvement in our sleeping bags. On emerging mid morning Sunday (with the intention of returning to the 'Top of the Bruce') we found that we could actually distinguish between snow and sky for up to 30 metres. In fact an Auckland climbing School group were out and about so we plugged across the Plateaux and ascended Te Heu Heu.

Thoughts of a round trip via the Tama Lakes were abandoned due to the Possibility of: (1 mark)

- (a) Old age
- or (b) Lack of commitment
- or (c) Avalanche risk

Congratulations to those who answered (c). We then retraced our steps to the Top Of the Bruce

Those partaking: John Barkla, Daryl Rowan, Trevor Bissell and Nigel Seebeck.

### **29 - 20 September – Snowcraft 2**

#### **One Axe or Two**

"What's the Story?"

"No Story, straight to bed", so it was after a brisk walk and a brew.

The morning brought a wet white-out with a little wind. With a brew and breakfast behind us it was time to brave the elements and do what we were there for. Out on the slopes it was a morning of walking, chopping and sliding about bumping into the odd skier or three.

Whilst out Huey turned the snow to rain and sent it at us horizontally which made a hot brew seem and inviting change to conditions. So it was back to the hut for lunch. With Huey outside doing his best, we did our best inside and practised rope work, belays, anchors and prusiking interwoven by eating.

Morning brought a clear day and it was crampons on, we were off to the Pinnacles for a day of climbing and instruction. Pairing up the group spent a few hours climbing the gullies and ridges of the Pinnacles. As always it was too good to be true, the higher the group climbed the lower the cloud came bringing on white-out conditions once more.

It was back to the Hut for late lunch and down to the cars for a short journey to the hot pools for a soak, and then back to Palmerston North.

Those there: Kirsten Simonsen, Darren Scott, Andrew Firth, Eric Van Toor, Daryl Rowan, Nigel Seebeck.

**29 September – Day trippers**

An enthusiastic group of six left for a day trip up to Opawa Hut and Maharahara Peak only to be thwarted by an 'access closed' sign across the gate. So a quick turn and off up to Sixtus Lodge, up Shorts Track to the Ngamoko Range. The weather remained reasonable but a biting wind on the tops encouraged us to merely stop and look, at the sunshine on the East Coast and the rain squalls on the Manawatu Plains, for a few minutes.

Back down the track to the cars arriving just ahead of the rain.

We were: Trish Eder, Alan Good, Nicky Helmes, Garth Harmsworth, Nicky Rae, Linda Russ.