



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER

November/December/January 1984

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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.

THE COMMITTEE OF P.N.T.M.C. WISHES YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE RETURN FROM YOUR CHOSEN HOLIDAY ACTIVITY. ****

COMING EVENTS:

29 November – Formal Club Night

Club members from two recent trips, one to the Godley region and the other to the Rakaia area, will provide the entertainment tonight.

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

1-2 December – Otaki Gorge

A classic gorge trip. In to Waitewaewae to begin on Saturday, camping near the Penn Creek confluence for Saturday night. The rest of the gorge on Sunday. Possibilities for day trips here too.

Leader: Daryl Rowan, ph 64655
Grading: Fit (and capable of repeated river crossings)
Departs: Saturday 6 a.m.

6 December – Committee Meeting

To be held at Damienne Eder's place, 155 Heretaunga Street, beginning at 7.45 p.m. Any member is welcome.

8-9 December – Contorta Aborta

This is our opportunity to help in the eradication of Pinus contorta in Tongariro National Park. A transport subsidy will be paid so a cheap trip for all.

Names to: Peter and Nanette Clough ph 61271

Grading: All
Departs: Friday 6.30 p.m.

13 December – Informal Club Night

The last one for the year so for something completely different try skating at Skateworld. Don't forget the cushions and band-aids.

7.30 p.m. Thursday
'Skateworld' Church Street.

15 - 16 December – Xmas at Rangī

A traditional social weekend in the hills at Rangī Hut. Sunday will be party day but why not make a weekend of it. Contact Damienne if you're going so that food and transport can be coordinated.

Names to: Damienne Eder ph 71785
Grading: All (hearty appetite)
Departs: By arrangement

22 - 23 December

Getting close to Xmas but if anyone has finished their shopping and is interested in a day or weekend trip, contact John Barkla ph 73543

19 - 20 - 21 January – Kaimanawa Ranges

Our club's annual pilgrimage to this fine area. Easy tops, no scrub belt and superb trout fishing in several large rivers.

Names to: Peter and Nanette Clough ph 61271
Grading: Various
Departs: 6.00 a.m. Saturday

NOTICES:

1. **Additions to Membership List**

Eric Van Toor	59 Manawatu Street	70332
Allan Dunn	21 Coventry Street	80249

2. **Tramping for the Intellectually Handicapped**

The Club was recently approached by the New Zealand Society for the Intellectually Handicapped with a view to introducing some of the young adults in the Society's care to tramping in the bush. This would probably best be achieved through organising special trips (with carefully selected routes, briefing sessions beforehand etc.) so we would like to hear from other club members who might be prepared to lead or assist on such trips.

Peter Clough (ph 61271) is compiling a list of those interested in helping and when they might be available. Final arrangements for particular trips (probably in the new year) will be made through Denelle Coombes of the N.Z.S.I.H. on 67372 (day) or 61591 (evenings).

3. **Congratulations** to Linda Russ and Daryl Rowan who announced their engagement recently.

4. **News from Don French**

It seems Don has a few Himalayan peaks to add to his climbing record. While in India with John Roberts he climbed Ahgolū Rī (19530') and Ohamsura (211481). Later in the Gangotri Valley in conjunction with a British Expedition he climbed the East Face of Kedor Dome (6800m). He is now in the United Kingdom.

5. **For Sale**

1 Pair Super R D climbing boots. Uppers in good condition, soles not so good. \$60.00

1 Mountain Mule style pack. Excellent condition. Would suit person with big frame. \$80.00

Ring Steven Moore ph 61976

TRIP REPORTS:

A Week of it in the Rakaia

We arrived at Glenfalloch Station some 50 Km up the south bank of the Rakaia from the Gorge turn off at about 5.30 in the evening. The owner told us that the Forest Service hut near the homestead now no longer existed but most obligingly offered us the musterers' quarters for the night. Next morning we started off just before first light on the 25 km march up to the Lyell Hut. The day was perfectly fine and both Lake Stream and the main river were low. The painful vastness of the Rakaia river bed was for the most part compensated by fine views of the surrounding Arrowsmith and main divide peaks. We crossed the Lyell River to round Mein's Knob and finally reached the hut in time for afternoon tea.

During the night rain started and continued (lightly but with some snow) for about 30 hours. When it eased we headed initially up to the lake at the terminal of the Lyell Glacier (between 1000 - 1500m long and about half frozen), then to the ice cliffs and the lower end of the glacier itself. By this time it was snowing lightly. The views, though limited, seemed none the less vast, impressive and almost monochrome. Lunch was had back at the hut. The snowfall was continuous for about 36 hours. Beatrice complained that she had left her knitting at home. It was found that with care and lack of effort, a Listener could be made to occupy two days.

With the weather now fine and 15cm of snow about the hut, Urs and I crossed the river to try the ridge opposite the hut leading to Mt Kinkel. After climbing about 300m and finding the snow now 60cm (of powder) on snow grass and scrub we abandoned the project as crazy. We returned to the hut with the idea of packing up and heading down river to Banfield Hut at the bottom of Jagged Stream. If the next day was fine, and if there was less snow further east of the Divide, then the Arrowsmith Range might have potential. We left Banfield Hut just after first light and started the scramble up the ridge opposite. After climbing nearly 1000m, the ridge suddenly stops, and a couple of large basins appear. Beyond rose Bastion Peak, a lot of snow, and nearly another 1000m to climb. Beatrice explored the basins to find a sunny spot protected from any wind or avalanche. Urs and I decided to try a large slope of avalanche debris. With great effort this was climbed and led to a large moderately steep gully system. The snow had avalanched out of this leaving rather hard snow. This was climbed for about 100m when it was decided it would be safer to climb the snow spur. The spur was found to be fairly narrow with waist deep powder snow. After gaining another 100m, the spur ended in a 40° snow slope about 60 - 70m high. This was tackled with considerable effort by keeping close to the rock margins. Lunch was no more than a refuelling stop. In misty conditions, the summit was located about 150m along a rather flat summit ridge. Views were limited to some tantalizing views of the Reischek Spires and some large cornices. The descent was via the main gully and the lower avalanche debris was by passed with a 400m bum slide. A short sidle rejoined us with Beatrice. An alternative route down further extensive snow slopes and avalanche debris dropped us into the upper part of Jagged Stream. The hut was reached by boulder hopping down the stream.

The next morning we walked out accompanied with some light showers and a brisk tail wind. More snow looked imminent as we packed everything into the car for the run down to Christchurch.

Team: Urs Schuepbach, Beatrice Paul, Peter Wiles.

5 - 6 October – Kawekas

Our club has been rather inactive recently. Most of the weekend trips have either enticed only the committee members and their friends into the hills or have not run at all. Perhaps a weekend trip to an unusual area graded only medium fitness would help the new membership make the jump from day trips to weekend ones? Sadly this trip achieved no such purpose.

Three old hands set out along the southern Kaweka range and covered the bulk of the walk planned for the first day by 10 a.m. It was one of those (rare) fine weekends and you could see for miles; Ruapehu, Ngaruhoe and Tongariro all stood plastered in fresh white snow and the main bulk of the Kaweka Range to the north was similarly covered. The attraction of these scenes drew us onward past Castle Camp to Studholme Saddle and down into the streams and Studholme Hut for the night.

We returned via one of the Tits and Kaweka Hut, passing within sight of Cooks Horn. (Terry Crippen was so obsessed by a desire to traverse Cooks' Horn and the Tits that he once made a special trip there!)

Philip Beech, Barry Scott and Trevor Bissell.

13 October – Day trip 'in the Rangī Hut area' (somewhere)

At about 7.15 a.m. the two car convoy left Feilding for the Rangī road end. Conditions were not ideal. Low cloud and rain persisted as we set off to explore the new track up to Rangī Hut.

We followed the well cut track up through the bush and onto the ridge above the bushline. Here the track vanished and it was time for the map and compass. Weather conditions had deteriorated – more rain and wind, with minimum visibility. After several tricky deviations we decided to retreat the way we had come. A quick lunch, chocolate and a hot drink before heading back down to the cars, and we were back in Palmy by 4 o' clock.

An unsuccessful exploration but we enjoyed ourselves anyway.

We were: Catherine Lord, Sue McAllister, Darren Scott, Michelle Hobday, Trish Eder, Nanette Clough, Perry Hicks, Guy Holdsworth, Kirsten Simonsen.

Absent: Don McKellar, who took the 'conventional' route, and as rumour has it, he found a hut at the end.

13 - 14 October – Dundas Ridge

Despite strong winds, continued low mist and occasional bursts of heavy rain we did traverse the Dundas Ridge from Herepai Peak to Arete. The only navigational bungle led to a ¾ hour search for the bivvy on the Arete Bench and this turned out to be exactly where it was marked on the map!

The floor of the bivvy was muddy; it seems that a party recently found the bivvy immersed in 3 feet of water, 2 of which were inside. Rude comments were made in the log book and the N.Z.F.S. later dug a ditch to drain the hollow in which the little hut was placed.

Sunday's weather was worse. We picked the wrong place to descend to the saddle connecting the Dundas Ridge to the ridge to Bannister and Waingawa Peaks. As a result we had to sidle back the way we had come and climb up to our elusive saddle!

The winds across the Cattle Ridge were fierce. One had to lean at 45° into the wind and struggle like hell to make progress along the flat. Trevor was blown over several times. It was a relief to reach the Cattle Ridge Hut and the sheltered bush tracks to Roaring Stag Lodge and the Mangatainoka road end.

John Goulstone and Trevor Bissell.

21 – 22 October – Wading the Waipawa

Looking for a shorter alternative trip at labour weekend we headed for the eastern Ruahines on Sunday. Heavy rain had swollen the Waipawa River making some of the early crossings quite difficult. 2½ hours later we were over Waipawa Saddle enjoying a hot brew in Waikamaka Hut. From here to Waterfall Hut was pleasantly short (and sharp due to innumerable speargrass plants on Rangi Saddle). The rest of the afternoon passed idly in sleeping bags listening to the rain and drinking copious brews. By late afternoon and throughout the night snow fell. Monday morning brought further wild weather and dampened our enthusiasm for a high level return. Instead we retraced steps over now snowy Rangi and Waipawa Saddles (nor forgetting the brew at Waikamaka Hut) and were back at the car in the rain by early afternoon. We were John Goulstone, Eric Van Toor and John Barkla.

Waterfall Hut "The Easy Way?"

An early start saw us at the end of North Block road at about 8.30, the Hawkes Bay sun already doing its best to sap our energy.

We rapidly covered the Waipawa River between the car and Waipawa Chalet, then it was onward to Waipawa Saddle broken by a short rest at the bottom of the badly eroded track through the scrub.

The 3 Johns were inviting so we dumped our packs on the main range and made a quick check; extremely good views were beheld. Then it was back to the packs, around to 5475' across to Rangioateatua and 5575' where lunch was taken with awe inspiring views of the Mangaweka Range beyond.

Carrying on across 5150' and some rock scrambles before 5550' we reached Broken Ridge which was quickly descended by use of a shingle slide on its western slope. A short splash down Tussock Creek saw us at Waterfall Creek Hut by 4.00.

The next morning dawned fine and clear so an ambitious decision was made. Reaching the top of Pinnacle Creek left little doubt to some of us just how far we were from the car. So it was onward and forward to the main range at Ohuinga, via a series of sometimes tricky outcrops of rock. Ohuinga provided classic views of the Sawtooth and Central Hawkes Bay beyond, but there wasn't much time for that with Peter and his sore knee, we were going to need

all day to get out. A small saddle saw us at the top of Hinerua Ridge where we had lunch (at 11.30?) contemplating the country ahead.

20 minutes saw us off down Hinerua Ridge to Smiths Stream, up the side stream just below the hut (marked in the wrong place) over the saddle toward Middle Stream then "Whoops" (Bissell Country) a dirty grotty waterfally little stream that did eventually get us to Middle Stream. Some trouble was experienced finding the track back to the farmland but Peter had his nose to the ground and we made it back to the car a bit sunburnt, very tired and 11½ hours after leaving Waterfall Creek, 6.00 p.m. our time 7.00 p.m. to the rest of the world as the sun sank into the west.

We were Perry Hicks, Peter Wiles¹ Peter Schupback, Beatrice Paul.

10 - 11 November, 1984. A wander through the Pouakais

Four of us set off for Egmont National Park on a bright and sunny Saturday morning, but as we approached our destination the tops of both Egmont and the neighbouring Pouakai Range were shrouded in cloud. From the North Egmont Road we climbed up to Kaiarau Hut, a sunny spot for a short rest stop, then headed up above a deep gorge on the Kaiarau Stream. As the vegetation opened out into scrub, the weather closed in, obliterating any view we might have had whilst lunching on top of Henry Peak. After lunch, we were relieved to find the track sidled around rather than over, the sharp summit called Maude Peak (where do these names come from?!), and then proceeded through open, marshy tussock across the broad saddle known as the Plateau. Shortly after, we arrived at a junction and had to decide between pressing on to Holly Hut, or stopping at the new Pouakai Hut – we chose the latter in the hope of getting a view the following morning. The hut is new and well-appointed (complete with hot and cold taps on the water tanks!) and a party of boy scouts was already in residence, doing a demon job at stoking the fire.

On Sunday morning the cloud had cleared towards the north, but Egmont was even less visible than before. After following the ridge-top for a short way, we descended to and crossed the Ahukawakawa Swamp, negotiating the boardwalks to avoid sinking into the mire. Dropping our packs at Holly Hut, we took a short detour round to Bells Falls before returning to the hut for lunch. Then off again into lowering cloud and rain along the track towards North Egmont. Shortly before reaching the Razorback track the cloud lifted revealing North Egmont bathed in sunshine – which it had been most of the day – so we had some time to dry out before reaching the road end.

Well-marked tracks with steps, ladders and boardwalks much in evidence and plenty of routes into and out of the park make this an interesting and accessible "little" range, despite being overshadowed by the geologically younger Mount Egmont. Well worth a revisit, preferably in better weather.

Thanks for the lift Eric.

We were: Peter and Nanette Clough, Sue Patterson, Eric van Toor.

10 - 11 November – Sawtooth Ridge Circuit

Well by 11 a.m. Saturday we were at the Tukituki road end and from there we ambled up government spur towards Sawtooth Ridge. By 3 p.m. we were sitting next to a large tarn making the most of warm sunshine and debating whether or not to go for a swim. With the climb onto Ohuinga looming ahead I continued on along the ridge while Don had a leisurely, but rather cold swim. Several more hours of travel saw us well on the way to Howletts Hut, although by this stage it was no longer a "warm summers day". Strong winds brought in the mist and 'crud', and we were glad to retreat into Howletts Hut. The sunny, sheltered Tukituki River bed provided us with an idyllic wander back to the road end on Sunday morning. - Out in time for lunch at Waipukurau.

Participants: Catherine Farquhar , Don McKellar.