



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217

PALMERSTON NORTH

NEWSLETTER

March/April 1985

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ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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

COMING EVENTS:

28 March – Formal Club Night

Annual General Meeting. 7.45 p.m. in Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street. All Welcome. (Any Financial member may be nominated for the Committee.) N.B. Further nomination forms available at the Club Night or from the Secretary.

March 30 - 31

No weekend trip has been planned as yet. (Trevor's proposed trip to Sawtooth Ridge has been postponed until April 13 - 14 due to Easter arrangements.) However it is highly likely that something will be organised or advertised at the Formal Club Night. Contact Peter or Nanette Clough, ph 61271 for details, or Catherine Farquhar, ph 80363.

Easter, April 5,6,7,8

There are no formal Club trips organised for Easter but once again, it is likely that some will be. Especially 1 or 2 day trips. If you have any suggestions please let us know.

Contact Peter or Nanette Clough, ph 61271, or Catherine, ph 80363 for information or suggestions.

Committee Meeting – Date and venue has yet to be arranged.

April 11 – Informal Club Night

Tonight we will see Peter and Trevor's slides of their Christmas trip to the Lawrence/Lyle area including a climb of Mt Ramsey. All Welcome.

7.45 p.m. Thursday

227 College Street, Society of Friends Meeting Rooms.

April 13 – 14 – Ruahines: Sawtooth Ridge

A classic trip giving good views if fine weather prevails.

Leader: Trevor Bissell ph 73543
Grade: Fit
Departs: Saturday 7 a.m.

April 14

Beehive Creek Walkway. Pohangina Valley (near Y.M.C.A. camp)

Leader: Sheena Taylor, ph 76665
Grade: Easy
Departs: Sunday 9 a.m.

April 20 - 21 – Rockclimbing

Rockclimbing opportunity at Tinui near Masterton (Don French "stamping ground")

Leader: Nigel Seebeck, ph 89043
Grade: All grades. Sandshoes or the like are advised.
Departs: Probably Friday night, (yet to be confirmed).

April 25 - Anzac Day – Formal Club Night

Tonight we will have a film from the 'something ventured' series. Further details next newsletter.

April 27 - 28 – Holdsworth area: Tararuas

Lots of scope in this popular tramping area. (Note: this trip was postponed on 23 - 24 March due to Aborta Contorta efforts in Tongariro National Park.) So here is your chance to tramp in the Holdsworth area.

Leader: Doug Strachan
Grade: Medium
Departs: Saturday 7030 a.m.

NOTICES:

For Sale: 1 Aspiring Macpack \$80.00. Phone 70098 for further information.

TRIP REPORTS:

Feb 6 – Waitangi Day

The Club entered 2 teams in this competition which was run by the Rose City and P.N.J.C's at the Awapuni Racecourse.

The participants were: Trev, Urs, Peter, Damienne, Trish, Colin, Daryn, Michael and Julian. (Thanks go to Trev for many hours on the end of the telephone organising teams, and also to the participants.)

February 16 - 17 – Northern Crossing

Party: Heather Clay, Mike Freeman, Malcolm McArthur, Daryl and Linda Rowan.

After many years of training they were nearly ready for it; the apprenticeship was almost over. The ladies were prepared to attempt the arduous Northern Crossing and hence become eligible for the coveted token male awards.

The plan was to cross from East to West, starting at the Kiriwhakapapa Road end – over the Blue Range – down to Cow Creek – up to Table Ridge – along Tarn Ridge – over Arete and Pukematawai – out the Ohau River.

After the Bissell/Seebeck "tourmobile" (there will be a collection at the next Club meeting to raise funds to pay for plugging the holes in the Bissell van exhaust system!!) dropped us off we had a nice evening sauntering up an unusually dry track to Blue Range Hut. A quick inspection of the water supply revealed an extremely dead bird floating in a pool of 'extremely alive' maggots! The next drink was thoroughly boiled!

We got a reasonably early start from the hut and made our way along the winding track to Cow Creek. The long dry summer had caused the tracks to be extremely dry – a real pleasure especially for those of us in running shoes (tight budget this year).

Down at Cow Creek Hut the real work was about to begin! A couple of hours and many metres later it was over. Now it was on to the tops with views of Mitre and all the peaks to the North and South – or was it! As we climbed onto Table Ridge the mist descended to meet us and the visibility dropped to 10 metres. Those rolls of sweaty summer flab were quickly covered with wool and parkas. The Tararua Gods then decided to help us on our way with some cool easterly breezes – strange folk these guardians of the ranges – they must have thought we were going too slow – ‘cos they kept blowing harder and harder!

Daryl and I played at being navigators – juggling maps and compasses and pronouncing the route to be "that way" (which was fairly obvious anyway as the track went that way).

We reached Tarn Ridge Hut at about 3.30 p.m. and began to dry out. Enraged because we had stopped playing their game the gods howled and cried all night long.

Come morning we were having serious doubts about the ability of the meteorologists to accurately forecast the weather. We were all fairly certain that the Friday evening weather maps consisted of anti-cyclones. However, reality was quite different. We emerged from the cocoon of Tarn Ridge Hut in all our winter storm gear – so much for summer tramping.

Apart from a short pitch of crawling on all fours the trip to Pukematawai was uneventful. We finally emerged out of the mist on the ridge down to Te Matawai Hut. The bush gave some very welcome shelter from the wind and we quickly made our way down to the South Ohau Hut (presently being completely renovated by the Levin-Waiopahu Club).

Travel down the Ohau River was swift and before long we burst out onto the farmland. The farmhouse at the end of the road was empty, so we set off down the road. After five minutes, Perry Hicks arrived swiftly and carried us all back to Palmerston North.

Acknowledgements: Many thanks to the following for making the trip possible.

1. Trevor Bissell for the use of his van on Friday night.
2. Nigel Seebeck for taking us to the road end.
3. Perry Hicks for picking us up.