



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217

PALMERSTON NORTH

NEWSLETTER

May/June 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.

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## COMING EVENTS:

### May 30 Formal Club Night

Tonight is the night for all budding photographers to pull out their best efforts from the past year for the annual photographic competition. The contest will be judged by John Cleland, and each contestant is restricted to 3 entries in anyone class. There will be 3 sections

- a) monochrome prints ,
- b) colour prints
- c) colour slides

and within each of which there will be 3 classes

- 1) Landscape
- 2) Topical (action, humour etc.)
- 3) Natural History

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ENTER, subject only to the rule that photos must not previously have been entered in a P.N.T.M.C. Competition.

Time: 7.45 p.m.  
Location: 227 College Street

### June 1,2,3 Queens Birthday Weekend

Snowcaving on Paretetaitonga and/or snowcaving on the Plateau, Ruapehu. Crampon and ice axe experience essential (as are sunglasses!)

Leader: Mike Freeman  
Grade: Medium-Fit  
Departs: Saturday 5 a.m.

### June 3 Tararuas

A day trip to any of these locations is possible: Herepai Hut, Roaring Stag, Cattle Ridge.

Contact: Damien Eder, ph 71785  
Grades: A variety  
Departs: 7 a.m.

### June 6 Committee Meeting

All members are welcome to participate.

Time: 7.45  
Venue: Sue Patterson's place at 59 Manawatu Street.

### June 8 - 9 Otaki Forks - Mangahuka

Leader: Roger Redmayne, ph Halcombe 746  
Grade: Medium - Fit  
Departs: Saturday 7 a.m.

### June 13 Informal Club Night

"Flying along on a wing and a prayer "  
I never dreamt I could feel so free..."

Andy Petrie from the Palmerston North Hang Gliding Club flies free with more control than the All American Hero. Andy will describe the art of hang-gliding and will show a promotional movie on this thrilling sport.

Time: 7.45 p.m.  
Venue: 227 College Street

### June 14, 15, 16 Golden Crown Ridge, Rockslide Biv

The far north western Ruahines consists of wide flat tops incised by steep valleys. We will access the tops from Golden Crown station ridge and visit Rockslide Bivvy in the Ikawatea catchment.

Leader: Trevor Bissell, ph 73543  
Grade: Fit  
Departs: Friday 6.30 p.m.

### June 16 Pohangina River, Piripiri Stream

Leader: Terry Crippen  
Grade: Easy - medium  
Departs: Sunday 7 a.m.

### June 22 - 23 Pohangina Saddle – Ruahine Main Range

An exploration of this area and the area to the south.

Leader: Peter Wiles, ph 86894  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Saturday 7 a.m.

### June 22 - 23 Eastern Ruahines

A ramble up the Waipawa River to Buttercup Hut.

Leaders: Daryl and Linda Rowan, ph 64655  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: 8 a.m.

### June 27 Formal Club Night

Eric van Toor will present a slide session and talk on aspects of canoeing (slalom, river running, sea and lake, racing etc.). Canoeing has long been a popular sport in New Zealand with a strong appeal to outdoors' people.

Time: 7.45 p.m.  
Venue: 227 College Street

### June 29 - 30 Mid-winter at Rangī

Time once again for some fine dining in the hills. A three course dinner is being organised for Sunday (cost a few \$\$s). B.Y.O. – preferably red for a brew of mulled wine. Also bring your own utensils for soup, main, dessert and wine.

Names to: Damien ph 71785

Grades: All  
Departs: Whenever

## **NOTICES:**

### 1. **Subscriptions**

After lengthy discussion, the A.G.M. resolved that subscriptions for this year should remain unchanged, with the proviso that they may be reviewed later in the year if our subscription to Federated Mountain Clubs (Inc) is revised. For those of you who have forgotten, our subscriptions are:

Family	\$15.00
Senior	\$12.00
Junior	\$ 7.00

ALL MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1985/86 ARE NOW DUE AND MAY BE PAID TO THE TRFASURER AT THE NEXT CLUB NIGHT.

2. ALL TRIP LEADERS ARE REMINDED THAT FOR EVERY TRIP THEY SHOULD LEAVE AN INTENTIONS LIST WITH EITHER ONE OF THE CLUB CONTACTS FOR OVERDUE TRIPS OR WITH PALMERSTON NORTH POLICE STATION, DETAILING WHO IS ON THE TRIP, WHERE IT IS GOING, AND WHEN IT IS EXPECTED TO RETURN. LEADERS MUST ALSO NOTIFY THE CONTACT CONCERNED OF THE SAFE ARRIVAL BACK IN PALMERSTON OF THEIR PARTY. Any leaders unsure of these procedures can obtain details of leaders' responsibilities from Philip Budding.

### 3. **CONGRATULATIONS**

To Lorraine Tremaine and Ashley Kells who were married on April 27th.

### 4. **NEW MEMBER**

We welcome to our Club,  
Lorraine Bray 73 Long Melford Road, P.N.

### 5. **SNOW CRAFT COURSES**

These are now being arranged for July, August and September. It is intended to run four courses; Introduction to Snow, Basic (Snowcraft 1), Intermediate (Snowcraft 2) and Advanced (Snowcraft 3). More details next newsletter.

## **PAST TRIPS**

### **Kaimanawa – Easter Weekend**

Now that the underground Rangipo power station has been completed, some doubt existed as to where the start of the Umukarikari track was to be found. A short walk up the Waihaha Stream beyond the electrical switchyard located the old Umukarikari track. Good progress was made but 1-2 kilometres of fallen trees had to be negotiated. Once above the bushline good progress was once again made in rather cool easterly conditions, until the main Umukarikari Range was reached. After lunch, 4 kilometres of bush along the ridge towards Urchin was slowly negotiated. Any semblance of a track had completely disappeared in a tangle of fallen trees. Once the Urchin track was reached, a rapid descent was made to the flats of the Waipakihi Rivers. An excellent pre-prepared campsite was found adjacent to the river on a wide grassy flat, after a short walk upstream. After a cloudy afternoon, the night spent under the fly turned out to be rather cold – frozen boots and a generous plug of ice in water bottle. As we walked through the frozen grass at the end of the flat next morning, we almost strode into 3 deer lurking in the manuka. We made very good progress up onto Middle Range via the Thunderbolt track. We made steady progress along the open tops. Several stops were made to admire the extensive views as well as for refreshments. Once we reached Junction Top we took the track down to the Waipakihi Hut. There were an indeterminate number of tents erected around the hut so accommodation had to be found elsewhere. After a scout around, an excellent spot was found in a clump of scrub near the river forks. The night, this time though frosty, was somewhat warmer. An early start was made next morning. Very soon we had climbed above the patches of valley fog into another brilliant day. By 9 a.m. we were sitting on Umukarikari. We completed the loop by descending down the old track the way we had come. The car was reached shortly after midday.

Team: Peter Wiles, Beatrice Paul, Peter Schupbach

### **Westland – Easter Weekend**

The ten day Easter trip to Westland will be remembered with satisfaction. Favourable weather helped us maintain our schedule and achieve our goals.

Admittedly, the fine distinction between a sidle and a spur spent much energy on day one, but generally route finding was not a problem. Day two saw us at the bivvy rock about two km below County Glacier. Habitable but not comfortable, Trevor decided and proceeded to re-arrange the furniture much to the disgust of the resident kea. Day three and the weather deteriorated. Huge lumps of ice which came sliding gracefully down the glacier as we reached the base of Mt Evans influenced our choice of tent site as did far flung debris from exposed rock faces. A reconnaissance trip next day failed to establish a feasible route from Red Lion onto Evans and a more direct route was planned during brief periods of visibility. Thursday was all cramponing, front pointing, step cutting, rock climbing, abseiling and rock dodging. This is definitely hard hat territory but Evans was in the bag.

Two days later we climbed onto the Bloomfield Range and Artists Dome from County Hut for rewarding views of Westland and the Southern Alps. Good one Trevor! A nice balance of tramping and climbing, great food and smooth organisation. This trip was enjoyed by Roger Redmayne, Brendon Sheppard and Trevor Bissell

### **Beehive Creek Track Walkway Family Tramp – Sunday 14 April**

Fourteen people met in the No Frills car park to travel through the drizzle by motor vehicle to the track, while one very energetic person – John Barkla – bicycled there and back! Fortunately the drizzle had stopped before we arrived.

This track is situated about 3 kms north of Pohangina, the beginning of which cannot be missed as there is a large sign on the right and a carpark on the left – just over the bridge. The first part of the track follows the Creek (involving 41 crossings so I'm told) through the bush where an amazing number of fantails flitted closely around us. After this, the track climbed up onto the farmland where) despite some low cloud, we had a fairly good view of the Pohangina Valley and the many trees in their autumn splendour.

After an early lunch and a brew for some, we returned back along the track as this was preferable to walking along the hard dusty road back to the cars. The round trip was approximately 2 hours walking time.

Our group consisted of: Anne Jaggard, Greer Davies, Lorraine Bray, Wayne Forman, Sonja Bell, Anne, Glen & Julie Richards, Trevor Gleave, John Barkla, Alistair Levy, Des, Phillip & Susanne Kennedy, and Sheena Taylor (Leader).

### **Sunday 21 April – Tramping with the I.H.C.**

Five Club members helped to take a party of 8 I.H.C. trainees and 3 supervisors on a short tramp in the Ruahines, over the ridge track to Coppermine Hut and then back down the Coppermine Stream. Fine weather was experienced at times, but the trip ended with a badly-timed downpour, just as the tea was brewing! Nevertheless most of the trainees seemed to enjoy the experience and look forward to future trips into the bush.

We were: Trevor Bissell, Nanette and Peter Clough, Damienne and Patricia Eder.

### **27 - 28 April – N.W. Ruahines**

A rather slow haul up from Kawhatau Base on to Colenso Peak saw Don McKellar and I blaming lack of sleep, lack of fitness and lack of breakfast. It sure was good to be in the hills again though. We wandered on to a marshy Mokai Patea Range in cold windy conditions. Lunch among the tarns was a cold affair and we flagged away the idea of tenting out on the tops. On to Rongotea and down through the beech forest to Wakelings Hut by mid afternoon.

We left early on Sunday and 3¼ hours of pleasant rock hopping had us further down the Waikamaka River at Otukota Hut. It was a good excuse to warm the toes after the icy water and have yet another brew. We gained the Mokai Patea Range again via Bruce Ridge with rain and mist as dubious companions. An enjoyable weekend marred only by a night suffering from food poisoning on Sunday.

John Barkla.

### **27 – 28 April Holdsworth Voyage**

We turtled our way along the Gentle Annie track (sic) and through Pig Flat where there was much mud. We were so busy avoiding the worst of this mud that we failed to notice any flat pigs. A short while later Mountain House appeared through the trees like the Gingerbread House in Hansel & Gretel. We entered and put on the cauldron. The inside of the house was unusually tidy and the walls have been newly lined. There was no sign of the familiar rat. After a feed we made our exit and set sail for Powell Hut, stopping along the way to take in the panoramic view which included Totara and Donnelly Flats. However, we were in pirate waters and the longer we stayed still, the more Captain Coldness advanced on us, so we pulled anchor and sailed 'till, but ahoy, we arrived at Powell, berthing there for the night. The remainder of the day was filled with activities ranging from a conversation with the other occupants of the hut covering the latest in fibre optic communication developments thru to reading Mickey Mouse comics, checking out the telephone

someones affixed to the wall, and looking for faces in the knotted wood panelling of the hut. Come dinner time we made one of those chundrous sounding concoctions where absolutely everything is flung into the billy and heated 'till it transforms into a delicious nosh. The next morning we struck out full sail for Mt. Holdsworth besieged by bags of mist and lashings of rain.

We reached the top and got into an eddy, visiting the trig several times. Three members of the group persuaded us to go back to Powell and take a more leisurely way out. So we ditched the ark and dived back down to Powell and then back to the Gingerbread House. On the way a clearing beside the track where no trees grew led us to speculating as to why this area, and for that matter Donelly and Totara Flats also, were not treeful. We considered soil type and other remote possibilities but soon discarded these foolish theories as the true cosmological explanation became apparent. It transpired that these clearings, or at least the clearing we stood on, was used primarily as a U.F.O. landing pad although ceremonial rituals were held here by the forest fairies from time to time, and the area was even subject to affliction with negative ions. Satisfied with solving the question we continued on our way. Rather than going back thru Pig Flats and down Gentle Annie we opted to take the Atiwhakatu River track. It was very pleasant as we all hoofed our way among the tall buttressed tenants of the river terraces back to the whells.

The Crew: Garvin Filby, Peter Quilty, Doug Strachan.