



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217  
PALMERSTON NORTH  
NEWSLETTER

April/May 1986

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Secretary:	Trevor Bissell	73-543
Membership Enquiries:	Lorraine Bray	86-966
Gear Custodian:	Dave Barker	78-762
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## ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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Trevor Bissell:	73-543		74-129
Peter Clough	61-271		69-099 Ex 7563
Tricia Eder	71-785		

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ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE NO FRILLS/FOODTOWN CAR PARK, CORNER OF FERGUSON STREET AND FITZHERBERT AVENUE. 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.

Members are reminded that a charge for transport will be collected on the day of the trip, the amount depending on the distance traveled and vehicles used. Leaders should be able to give a rough estimate in advance, if requested.

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## COMING EVENTS:

### 24 April – Club Night

Sally Hewson and Peter Darragh both recently returned after 2½ years abroad, during which time they spent much time travelling with other members of our Club. Tonight we will see slides from Sally's "truck-trip" to Morocco and walks in Scotland and the Lake District of England.

Time: 7.4.5 p.m.

Venue: Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street, P.N.

### 25-26-27 April – ANZAC Week-end

We'll be using the long week-end to make a trip to Mount Egmont National Park, travelling to Dawson Falls on Thursday night and circumnavigating the mountain on the following days. If some people are keen to do something fitter in the same area, transport can be shared.

Leader: Trevor Bissell ph 73.543

Grade: Medium

Departs: 6.30 p.m. Thursday

### 1 May – Committee Meeting

Time for the Club's new officers to earn their stripes and plan the forthcoming programme of events. All members are welcome to attend and take part.

Time: 7.45 p.m.  
Venue: 73 Long Melford Road, Palmerston North

### **3 May – Waiopahu Hut, Tararuas**

A pleasant wander in the western Tararua Range from the Ohau Road end. Also a chance to go further to the bushline for those with the urge.

Leader: Damien Eder ph 71785  
Grade: Easy.  
Departs: 7 a.m. Saturday

### **11 May – Oroua River**

An explorative trip from the end of Gorge Road off Provincial Highway 54. A deeply incised side stream of the Oroua should prove interesting. More details from Doug.

Leader: Doug Strachan ph 75732  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: 8 a.m. Sunday

### **15 May – Club Night Insight into S.A.R.EX**

A chance for new members and the not-so-new to learn more about the ins and outs of Search and Rescue. The Club maintains a list of members willing to assist S.A.R. when persons are missing or in distress. But what does this actually involve? Come along tonight to find out and see how you fit in. And don't think it can't happen to you - see the Notices section in this Newsletter. Be prepared!

Principal speaker will be Kevin Pearce, PNTMC and former Palmerston SAR

Time: 7.45 p.m.  
Venue: Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street, P.N.

### **17-18 May – Main Range Tararuas**

A classic Tararua trip. On Friday night into Fields Hut with Saturday evening spent at Mangahuka Hut. Back to Otaki Forks on Sunday via Waitewaewae.

Leader: Urs Schubach ph 80245  
Grade: Fit  
Departs: 6 p.m. Friday night

### **18 May – Manawatu Gorge Scenic Reserve**

Join Terry on this very local wander and see the Manawatu Gorge from a new perspective – safely above the falling stones!

Leader: Terry Crippen ph 63588  
Grade: Easy/medium  
Departs: 8 a.m. Sunday

### **24-25 May – Penn Creek, Tararuas**

A round trip from Otaki Forks which can be shortened or lengthened as required.

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

### **25 May – Ngamoko Range, Ruahines**

A circular ramble around the Shorts and Knights tracks, involving a mixture of bush and open tops. The leader really intends to make it to the top of Toka this time, having been thwarted by weather on previous attempts.

Leader: Peter Clough ph 61271  
Grade: Easy/medium  
Departs: 7 a.m. Sunday

### **29 May – Club Night – Annual Photographic Contest**

Tonight is the night for all budding photographers to pullout 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.

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ENTER, subject only to the rule that photos must not previously have been entered in any PNTMC competition. Even those without photos in the contest will learn a lot as John analyses the good points and bad points in this year's offerings.

There will be three sections: 1/ colour slides  
2/ colour prints  
3/ monochrome prints

Within each of these there will be 3 classes:  
a) landscape  
b) topical (action, humour etc.)  
c) natural history

Time: 7.45 p.m.

Venue: Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street, P.N.

### **31 May - 2 June – Queen's Birthday Weekend Northern Ruahines**

A chance to visit a seldom visited part of the Ruahines, rather different from the rest. The tramp will be in the vicinity of such exotic places as Dead Dog Hut, Diane's Hut and No Mans Hut (women only?). See for yourself.

Names to: John Barkla ph 73543

Grade: Medium

Departs: 6 a.m. Saturday

### **NOTICES:**

#### **1/ SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**ALL MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1986/87 ARE NOW DUE AND MAY BE PAID TO THE TREASURER AT THE NEXT CLUB NIGHT.**

Subscription rates for the current year are:

Senior:	\$16
Junior:	\$ 8 (applies to those of school age)
Family:	\$20

#### **2/ CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES**

At the last committee meeting new portfolios were assigned to the committee members. They are:

Philip Budding	President, S.A.R. rep.	ph RON 780
Trevor Bissell	Secretary	ph 73543
Peter Wiles	Treasurer, Newsletter Printer	ph 86894
John Barkla	Vice-President, Trips Convenor	ph 73543
Lorraine Bray	Membership Enquiries, Newsletter Distribution	ph 86966
Nanette Clough	Social Convenor	ph 61271
Peter Clough	Newsletter Editor	ph 61271
Tricia Eder	Social Convenor, Supper Supplier	ph 71785
Darren Scott		ph 71675
Nigel Seebeck	Social Convenor	ph 89043
Philippa Sommerville	Conservation, Publicity	ph 64065
Roger Redmayne	S.A.R. representative	ph(0650)8991

Any members with ideas or matters of concern to them or the Club are encouraged to approach the appropriate committee member. A Club's committee is supposed to reflect the wishes of its Club members, not vice versa!

#### **3/ CLUB GEAR**

End of an era? After many years as gear custodian, Philip Budding has moved onto bigger and better things and has handed over the Club gear to

Dave Barker  
113 College Street, Palmerston North ph 78-762

Don't forget the Club has a vast range of tents, flysheets, billies, primus stoves, packs, ice axes etc. for hire to members at dirt cheap rates!

Gear will be available on the same basis as previously. Please don't call for gear at the last moment – Dave will probably be leaving on Friday nights for trips as well!!!!

#### 4/ **NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome to our Club:

Terry Coburn	PO Box 258 Palmerston North	ph 86391
Leslie Haines	157 Cook Street, Palmerston Nth	ph 61305
Chris Moreton	PO Box 1725, Palmerston North (551 Ruahine Street)	ph 77497
Margaret Riordan	54 Burns Avenue, Palmerston Nth	ph 61514
Philippa Somerville	Flat 2/95 Ferguson Street, P Nth	ph 64065
Ross Wallace	17 Mudgway Place, Palmerston Nth	ph 64516

#### 5/ **SEARCH AND RESCUE**

How did you spend your Easter? Four of our Club members thought they were in for a quiet weekend at home until Philip Budding started phoning round close to midnight on Good Friday for a team to help with a search for a young hunter overdue in the Waiopahu area of the Tararuas. To the credit of the Club we did raise a team, despite many people being away on trips, and we were the only organisation in Palmerston North to do so.

Our team assembled with gear and food for four days at the Palmerston North police station on Saturday morning, and were taken to the search base at Levin. After being briefed and given some extra ballast for our packs – radio, rope and first aid kit, we were helicoptered into the upper Otaki valley. Already there had been sightings of the missing hunter, and shortly after we landed we discovered that he had been found. The credit for finding him went to a team from Levin, but the essence of such searches is co-operation and co-ordination of all the teams. We returned as we had come, by helicopter, and were back in Palmerston in time for about two whole days of the weekend, but it was still a useful exercise in giving first hand experience of how a search works – and also a timely reminder to stock up on our food supplies for similar occasions in future.

Our team was: Peter Clough, Julian Dalefield, Peter Darragh, Urs Schupbach, and thanks are also due to Daniel Schupbach for driving us back from Levin.

NOTE: We were issued with ration packs, supposedly enough for one day, to eke out the meagre supplies of rice and cans we had been able to gather at short notice. These contained:

2 Alliance freeze-dri meals	Assorted sachets of tea, coffee, sugar
2 Alliance freeze-dri apple	A tube of honey
2 sachets of soup-in-a-cup	2 bars of chocolate & tube of sparkles
2 foiled packets of crackers	A 40 g packet of raisins

The whole pack was contained in a plastic bag measuring 8"x6"x2½" and weighing about 1¾lbs. Trampers are generally advised to take a day or so's extra food, in case of delay, and the pack described above could provide you with ideas of what you need to stow in your pack - just in case.

#### 6/ **OF ABSENT FRIENDS**

Ex Club members John Goulstone and Kirsten Simonsen are two of a five member group in Nepal known as the NZ Langshisa Ri expedition 1986. The expedition will be for about 4-5 weeks and the major objective is a peak of just over 6000 metres. We wish them good luck:

#### 7/ **TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW**

The Tongariro National Park Management Plan is in process of review this year, and the Department of Lands and Survey is calling for submissions on the plan from the public, both clubs and individuals, to reach them by June of this year.

A booklet of 'planning issue statements' has been put out by the DL&S to assist this process of public participation. Anyone who thinks this is of no concern to trampers should read some of the options outlined in this document, including commercial development of the Tukino skifield, helicopter flights and landings on the summits, and the construction of a gondola to Top o' the Bruce with restrictions on use of the Bruce Road. None of these things will necessarily happen, but the pressures are there and growing daily as more and more commercial opportunities appear.

Anyone interested in seeing this document should contact Peter Clough. Alternatively, comment directly on the revision of the management plan by contacting: The Commissioner of Crown Lands  
Department of Lands and Survey  
PO Box 5014

## WELLINGTON

8/ **SCOOP**

Alp Sports has opened a shop in Palmerston at 55 Princess Street (ph 69951). They are now holding a Super Sale of tramping and outdoor gear with a tremendous range of discounted lines, particularly clothing. Rumour has it that the shop may not be around for long, so strike now before too late:

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**PAST TRIPS**

First, two from the archives (sorry for the delay, Trevor!)

**9-10 November 1985 – Ngamoko Range**

The Short's (or is it the Knight's) Track was accessed from the Umutoi North Road via Tunupo Road. This made a change from our usual route via Table Flat and Limestone Roads although I think the latter is more convenient. The track gave access to Toka Peak on the Ngamoko Range on a fine but quite windy day on the snow-grassed tops. Chris was introduced to the joys of scrambling on rock in the vicinity of Tunupo Peak but otherwise the walk north along the range to the Pohangina Saddle was without problem. The idea of fly-camping on the tops was abandoned in fear of being demolished by wind and we piled into Longview Hut for the night. Next day we set off along a superhighway cut through leatherwood along the Main Range to the South. When the track left the ridge crest to descend to the Makaretu Hut we followed an old route which was overgrown in places. A 50 yard leatherwood bash took up much time after we lost the track on the far side of a slip. Anyway, we followed the super highway after it appeared on the of range 1½ km to the south having ascended from the Makaretu Valley. It crosses the main range to Leon Kinvig Hut in the Pohangina Valley.

The day was very hot by this stage, so much liquid was consumed with lunch. Rejuvenated we climbed the 800 metres to Toka peak from the river and retraced our steps to the road end.

We were: John Barkla, Trevor Bissell, Terry Coburn, Tom Frenz, Chris Morton.

**16-17 November – Golden Crown Ridge Rock Slide Bivvy**

One can now drive across the Golden Crown Station to the "Masters' Shelter" on the eastern edge of the Ruahine State Forest Park. Several gates have to be opened and closed on the way. Soon after our arrival there on Friday evening John Barkla and Dave Barker departed for Aranga Hut on the first stage of their attempt to traverse the Ruahine Range from the north to Wharite peak. The rest of us opted to fly camp overnight, being in favour of daylight tramping.

The Golden Crown Ridge is a staircase affair, half of it dressed in low scrub and scree and the remainder in bush. The morning was hot, even at 7am, and we gladly entered the shade of the forest. It was then that we met the key problem of the whole week-end: significant portions of the track were buried under fallen trees. Some were whole, having uplifted their root-discs from the ground as they fell, while others were broken off as much as 6-8 feet above the ground. We had to go over, round, under (hands and knees) or through these obstacles and search, for the overgrown track on the other side. (Track cutting from Aranga to Golden Crown Ridge and No Mans Hut has begun so these tracks should be in good condition again soon).

Anyway, we went to Rockslide Bivvy by a second best route. A spur to the west of Aranga Hut took us into a tributary of the river to the bivvy without problem but a waterfall in the stream cost an hour's hard effort to sidle. Although the bivvy is not often visited, someone had passed that way only hours before our visit. A fly-camp proved much more appealing than the smelly biv which had been heated by the sun all day.

On Sunday we climbed in bush at the edge of a very large slip, marked as 900 feet high on the map but probably considerably larger now. More than 3 hours were required to struggle to the grassy tablelands 2000 feet above the river. Now short of time, the rest of the day became a regimented forced march to complete the weekend's grand circle before nightfall. The weather and views had been tremendous: the injuries were sunburn, scratched legs and blistered feet.

We were: Alison Maccoll and Trevor Bissell.

T.B.

**28-31 March Easter Weekend**

While slogging up the Tasman Glacier I had time to ponder on the members of our party – 2 triathlon specialists, a Forest Service pro, a guy training for S.A.S. selection and me. Out gunned from the start! To add to my concern, only

one week earlier I had witnessed Bruce abseil(?) 10 metres into the Manawatu Gorge with no rope, and I was to trust my life with this guy!!! This had the makings of an interesting weekend.

Emotions were mixed, with excitement at meeting old friends, anxiety at the thought of Malte Brun and disillusionment with the weather.

First objective was a warm up climb on Aguilles Rouge: 6 a.m. start, light snow for the grunt up to Malte Pass, clear then cloud for the rest of the day. The North Ridge looked good, but easy rock at the start soon became steeper and exposed. The lads were having a play – who would be first to call for the rope? At one point I wouldn't have minded, but I had the rope and was at the back where it wasn't much use. Finally, when I was leading the rope became inevitable. Mumbles of "men and boys" were short lived after the loose rock covered with 2-3 cm of ice came into the view of the others below. The ice was short-lived and a snow route finally led us to the summit. The descent via the east ridge was very easy and the trip home routine.

Back at Beetham Hut news of schrunds on the Malte Brun Glacier and poor weather made Malte Brun itself out of the question. We decided to head out and use our last day rock climbing at Mount Pleasant (and a good decision it was too!) We did "Weathered Tomato"(14), "Womple Brothers"(16), "Neanderthal" (18) "Hometown Blues" (16) and "Flake"(14). It was a pity we didn't make the big one, but it was a great weekend to finish the summer season. Malte will wait for another day.

We were: Bruce Anderson, Dave Barker, John Barkla, Mike and Heather Freeman.

D.B.

### **12-13 April Howletts Hut, Ruahines**

We left Palmerston North about 7.20 a.m. and arrived at our destination, the Mill Road end by the Tukituki River around 9.30. After a quick change into tramping gear we set off up the river towards Daphne Hut. It took us about 3 hours to reach the hut, with lots of criss-crossing the river and stopping to admire the scenery. Once at Daphne we had lunch outside on the grass, in the sun but out of the breeze (well, most of it!) Daphne now has two huts, the new one an A-frame erected late last year, compliments of the Lions. Even though it looks comfortable and spacious, it has none of the character of the dilapidated corrugated iron affair (bright orange) a few yards away.

Next on the itinerary was a slog straight up the 700 metres or so of Daphne Ridge, the first third of which is very steep. The grunt was rewarded by views of equally steep ridges, and close ups of very pretty bush. It was a relief to finally reach the open tops, even if the track did disappear in several places in leatherwood, and the wind was gusting really strongly.

Howletts Hut is really idyllic, nestled in a little hollow and commanding a great view over the Hawkes Bay – not that we saw very much of it, since the cloud came down rather rapidly. Neither did we get a chance to look for Halley's Comet. Next time, perhaps!

On Sunday the weather was more or less the same – sunny and windy with threats of rain. We left our snug shelter at Howletts and descended Daphne Ridge in half the time it took us to climb, stopping for a brew at Daphne Hut, which was much more draughty and exposed than Howletts had been. Then we tramped out the way we had entered. A good weekend!

We were: Nanette and Peter Clough, Terry Coburn, Julian Dalefield, Alison Maccoll, Chris Morton, Andrew Pickford, Ross Wallace.

N.C.

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