



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER

May/June 1986

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ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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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. Leaders should be able to give a rough estimate in advance, if requested, but the actual amount, which depends on the distance traveled and vehicles used, will not normally be known until the day of the trip.)

COMING EVENTS:

29 May Club Night – Annual Photographic Contest

Tonight is the night to bring along your best efforts from the past year and enter the annual photographic competition. The contest will be judged by John Cleland, who will also analyse the good points (and the not so good) in this year's offerings.

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ENTER, subject only to the rule that photos must not have been previously entered in any PNTMC competition. Each contestant is restricted to 3 entries in any one class.

There will be 3 sections

- 1/ colour slides
- 2/ colour prints
- 3/ monochrome prints

Within each of which 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 St., P.N.

31 May – 2 June Queen’s Birthday Weekend in the Northern Ruahines

There’s still time to put your name down for this tramp to a seldom visited part of the local ranges, in the vicinity of such exotic places is Dead Dog Hut, Diane’s Hut and No Man’s Hut.

Names to: John Barkla ph 73543
 Grade: Medium
 Departs: 6 a.m. Saturday

5-6 June Committee Meeting

A chance for everyone to take part in the running of the Club and its activities. ALL members are welcome to attend.

Venue: 57 Fairs Road, Palmerston North
 Time: 7.45 p.m.

7-8 June – North East Ruahines

A wander up to Makororo Hut on Saturday night via Colenso Spur and the main range. On Sunday back to the road end via Parks Peak. Excellent tops travel.

Leader: Mary Rowland ph 86765
 Grade: Fit
 Departs: Friday, 6 p.m.

8 June – West Tamaki River

Not to be confused with the electorate of the former PM – this one is far prettier! A pleasant wander into the south east Ruahines, visiting Stanfield Hut and, weather permitting, Takapari and the tops.

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

12 June – Club Night, Games Evening

A Club night with a difference. Come along and take part in a variety of games to engender co-operation and teamwork with your companions qualities requires on tramps. Everyone’s guaranteed to win!

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

14-15 June – Eastern Tararuas

A mixture of tops and river travel on this Cattle Ridge, Cow Creek Hut and Ruamahanga River trip.

Names to: John Barkla ph 73543
 Grade: Medium
 Departs: Saturday 6 a.m.

15 June – Waipawa River

A day trip to one of Peter’s favourite Ruahine stamping grounds. A variety of options available.

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

21-22 June – Tongariro National Park

Join Philippa on this pleasant tramp to Mangaturuturu Hut, nestled on the bush edge within easy reach of Lake Surprise and numerous cascades.

Leader: Philippa Somerville ph 64065
 Grade: Easy/Medium
 Departs: Saturday 7 a.m.

21 June – Harris Creek, Tararuas

A pleasant wander up the Mangahao River.

Leader: Trisha Eder ph 71785
 Grade: Easy
 Departs: Saturday 8 a.m.

26 June – Club Night, Wandering in the Local Ranges

John Barkla will be showing a variety of slides of trips he has done in the Tararuas and Ruahines. But even he hasn’t seen them all, so we’re leaving some time for you to bring slides of some of your favourite spots in the local ranges.

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

28-29 June – Rangī-Howletts Crossing of the Ruahines

A classic, not-too-difficult crossing of the Ruahine Range from Rangī Hut to the Tukituki River.

Leader: Trevor Bissell ph 73543
Grade: Fit
Departs: Saturday 6 a.m.

5-6 July – Midwinter at Rangī Hut

Prior notice is given of this celebration, one of the high level gastronomic events of the year. This year fancy dress for dinner is a MUST. Details next Newsletter.

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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.

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

MEMBERS FROM LAST YEAR ARE REMINDED THAT THIS IS THE LAST NEWSLETTER YOU WILL RECEIVE IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.

2/ SEARCH AND RESCUE CALL UP LIST

Following the mid-May Club night and the Club's involvement in a real search last Easter, the Club's call-out list is currently being updated. Anyone interested in putting his/her name forward for the list, or any existing members on call who want to change or confirm their status on the list are urged to contact Philip Budding on Rongatea 780.

The list has different categories to cater for different types of search, so even if you're not confident of your usefulness on a midwinter, open tops search, you would still be useful in a lowland search, for instance along river banks. The more tramping skills you have, like navigation, stream crossing experience and so on, the more help you could give to a search. But Philip is wanting to hear from anyone of whatever ability who would be prepared to be called out if need be.

Searches are a feature of the New Zealand bush. Any of us who go tramping could be the object of a search one day, but the success of search and rescue depends on volunteers from clubs such as ours. Besides which, just taking part in a search is a fascinating and rewarding exercise, when bush craft takes on a broader meaning than just a recreational past-time.

3/ JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP SCHEME

The Club this year has 3 junior memberships sponsored, which means that three new junior members will be able to join the Club free of charge to themselves. The scheme is open to any prospective junior member who makes two trips with the Club within three months of first contacting the Club. Names of those eligible will go into a draw for the free membership around August/September.

This is a good opportunity for young people to be introduced to tramping and all the Club has to offer. So anyone who knows someone of junior age who might be interested is encouraged to draw their attention to the scheme. It might be their lucky year, and the start of a lifetime tramping.

4/ MOUNTAIN INSTRUCTORS COURSE

The Mountain Safety council is running this course on 7-8 June this year, aiming at anyone who intends to instruct on snowcraft course etc. Names should have been in by the middle of May, but if you're interested and quick you may still get in.

Phone Nigel Seebeck (89043) for details.

5/ WANDERING THOUGHTS FOR WINTER WALKERS

Now that the nights are closing in and the weather's getting cooler it's especially important that we take all the gear necessary to survive in the hills. New and prospective members are urged to read the Club's introductory leaflet or better still get hold of a copy of the Bushcraft Manual or similar book. For those who can't, here are a few points to ponder

Clothing: Everyday clothing can be used if it fulfils the functions of keeping you dry, warm and cool when necessary. Ventilation of the body is made easier with garments with zips, buttons etc. for adjustment. Separate layers of clothing are also effective in controlling air movement around the body, and two thin jerseys are preferable to one thick one of the same weight. Wool and synthetic fibre-pile or polypropylene are the warmest materials which retain most of their insulating properties when wet. Cotton and acrylite garments are NOT recommended. Around 20% of body heat is lost through the head, so a close fitting hat is advisable. Other extremities should also be protected with mittens for the hands and longjohns or other woollen trousers for the legs. Nylon shorts have the useful property of drying quickly.

At this time of year it is especially important to have a full set of waterproof garments, both parka and overtrousers. Those going onto the tops in the snow will also find gaiters will save a lot of wear and tear on their shins. No garments are totally waterproof in use on the hills, but they serve an important function in cutting out wind-chill.

Food: Food of on the move should be light, tasty, quick and easy to prepare. On overnight trips, the major food intake is the evening meal, plus a moderate breakfast, light lunch and nibbles such as scroggin along the way. Although dehydrated foods have their uses, many of the branded dehy meals are small and would need to be supplemented when out tramping. Normal food is more nutritious and tasty and easily carried on short trips, preferably pre-cooked so as to conserve fuel carried on the tramp.

Don't Forget: Sunglasses whenever snow is encountered (to avoid snow-blindness). A torch, even on day trips (to avoid being benighted in bush).

6/ **WALKWAYS**

The New Zealand Walkway Commission and the Wellington District Walkway Committee recently held a joint meeting in Wanganui. The good news is that two new Walkways will shortly be created, one up the Wanganui River and one up the Pohangina Valley. The not so good news is that current government directives will make it increasingly difficult to create and maintain new walkways, because of financial stringency. The new walkway up the Pohangina will be using volunteers and funds raised by the Manawatu Walkway Promotion society, and possibly volunteers from other clubs as well. Any offers ... ?

The Commission is now distinguishing in its literature between 'walks' (easy), 'tracks' (moderate fitness required) and 'routes' (experienced trampers only). Contrary to the opinions expressed by some hard-line trampers, the Commission is not out to turn every track into a Routeburn-style highway. The big advantage of the Walkway Commission is that it is legally empowered to negotiate rights of access over private land, and as such it can be very useful to the tramping community. Trampers are represented on both the Walkway Commission and the 12 regional advisory committees through nominees from Federated Mountain Clubs. Peter Clough is their nominee for the Wellington District Committee, covering Wairarapa, Manawatu and up to Turangi.

The new Pohangina walkway will be graded a 'track', and is rather longer than the existing Beehive Creek Walkway. It crosses a farm property, takes 2-3 hours and involves stream crossing and sections through both native and pine forest, with views of the Ruahines and over the Pohangina. Interestingly, standards of walkways vary around the country; in South Canterbury, locals are less disposed towards wet feet and stream crossing than around here, so walkways are developed with bridges and steps – and as a result suffered heavy damage in the recent floods.

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TRIP REPORTS:

Easter in the Kawekas

The road beyond Rissington was new to the three of us, and some of the final sections to Makahu Base were steeper than expected, requiring a second attempt to get up. It was nearly half past ten when we started to climb the spur leading to the Kaweka J trig. In the shelter of the scrub lower down the warmth of the sun made the effort required more difficult to find. We reached the top at noon and had lunch with two or three other groups, out of the westerly wind on the Hawkes Bay side. The air was rather hazy so the view was rather less extensive than might have been wished. The afternoon was spent negotiating spurs and ridges down to Rocks Ahead Hut at the junction of the Ngaruroro River

and the Rocks Ahead Stream. We shared the hut with a solo trumper who was spending one to two weeks in the Kaimanawa/Kaweka area and a shooter who regularly hunted in the area.

Next day we had to make up the height we had lost by climbing back up to Venison Top. Fairly thick mist made us check our route carefully over the open ground until we made the Lodge, where we had an extended morning tea and lunch stop. The mist had lifted when we left to resume the track back into the bush. About two hours later we climbed onto the open tops again before dropping down to Ballard Hut. During the night the temperature dropped and most of the cloud dispersed.

In the morning we climbed 200 metres back up to the ridge track, and by midmorning we were back at the top of Makahu Spur track. Stubborn high cloud kept the sun away from the frosty ground, so we were quite glad to descend to warmer parts. Travelling back, we spent an intriguing hour or so at the Puketiriri museum – well worth a visit if passing that way.

Team: Bill Frecklington, Darren Scott, Peter Wiles

19 April Burn Hut Tararuas

Botany and geology were popular topics of discussion during the stroll onto the leatherwood and tussock tops. Burn Hut, nestled near the forest edge, was reached just before midday. Trev soon had a brew going and Damienne even remembered the liquorice allsorts (the big ones).

To make the return a little different we used the riverbed rather than the sidle track and aside from the odd quicksand enjoyed the alternative.

We were: John Barkla, Trevor Bissell, Nanette Clough, Damienne and Moana Eder, Brian Fisher & Joanne Blakeley, Garth Harmsworth, Helen Perry.

Whirinaki Wombles ANZAC Weekend

This forest has been 'saved', but how many of you know where Whirinaki is? Whirinaki State Forest, part of the southern Urewera Ranges, covers an area of 61,000 hectares of which over 53,000 hectares is native forest. It is bordered on the west by the Kaianagora State Forest and on the east by the Urewera National Park.

After the considerable publicity Whirinaki has had through NFAC's battles for its protection it became an objective to visit this wondrous place at the earliest convenience (i.e. ANZAC weekend). This decided, the task of finding suitable maps/reference material was surprisingly difficult task. With the assistance of various people a rather haphazard guidance system was established – Xeroxes, a booklet and inaccurate maps. Four of us donned our most ostentatious tramping attire, hooned off into the sunset and several adventures later awoke next morning to the rare sight of a dense stand of majestic rimu soaring to over 30 metres above our bedside. Never before had I seen such a mass of these beautiful trees. We spent that day wandering up the Whirinaki River, oogling at such amazing sights as the Te Whaiti-nui-a-toi Canyon, huge Matai and Miro and the even more impressive Kahikatea laden with their orange and blue fruits and the flocks of jubilant tuis, bellbirds et al. singing praises of their tummies. Oh, a sight to be remembered.

The flora at Whirinaki is remarkably diverse, lush and there to be appreciated by all. An easy 7 hours walking found us at a hut in a clearing in the Upper Whirinaki. A pleasantly freezing swim invigorated 50% of the party, whilst other sloths ate and relaxed. Next day we visited a fairly mundane cave en route to ongaonga thickets and other nasties like muddy bits and rain. However, the sheer splendour of the place and more oogling at the fruiting Kahikatea made all the difference. Yet again we found comfortable lodgings, this time at Mangamate Hut. We saw significant pig sign up the Mangamate Stream and met a successful pig hunter recently of deer hunting extraction. The final day of our trip consisted of a meander out to our transport, fond farewells to a forest of magnificence and nobility, and a stop at the Tokaanu hot pools to ease our hedonistic consciences.

A thoroughly recommended area for wombles, wandering and contemplation.

We were: John Barkla, Cheryl Peters, Graham Peters, Mary Rowland.

17 May Northern Crossing of the Tararuas in a day – the Easy Way

For those who are not up to the traditional Tararua crossings this easier alternative offers good views of the Manawatu Gorge, the road and rail below. It's actually a proposed track above the south side of the gorge, starting at the Ashhurst end and emerging just before Ballance bridge after 4-6 hours easy walking through some quite 'reasonable' forest.

Some bad navigation by the leader gave us a detour onto farmland before the combined experience of Julian and Kevin sorted things out.

The eleven of us were. Terry Crippen, Julien Dalefield, Leslie Haines, Stuart Hubbard, Anne Jaggard, Lois Jones, Heather Meyer, Kevin Pearce, Helen Perry, Philippa Somerville, Leslie Warburton.

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