



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217

PALMERSTON NORTH

NEWSLETTER

August/September 1986

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ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE CAR PARK OUTSIDE FOODTOWN IN 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.

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.

COMING EVENTS:

28 August Club Night – Florida's Great Outdoors

Tonight Joanne Blakely will be showing slides of the landscape, flora and fauna of this fascinating, low-lying state in the south-east United States.

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

30-31 August - Snowcaving/Tenting at Mount Ruapehu

This is an excellent opportunity to experience camping on, in or under snow, and to consolidate snowcraft skills. Snowcaving or tenting depending on conditions.

Leader: Trevor Bissell ph 73543
Grade: Medium
Departs: Saturday 6 a.m. (or possibly Friday night)

30 August – Ruahine Day Trip

The exact location of this one hasn't been decided upon yet, but it's bound to involve some crashing around in the bush off the beaten track.

Leader: Dave Barker ph 78762
Grade: Fit
Departs: Saturday 7a.m.

4 September Committee Meeting

All members are welcome to attend and contribute their ideas to the running of the Club.

Time: 7.45 p.m.
Venue: 10 Union Street, Palmerston North.

6-7 September – Harris Creek Hut

An easy week-end trip up the picturesque Mangahao Valley. A chance to do very little (other than rest and relax) in the northern Tararua range.

Leader: Cheryl Peters ph 65581
Grade: Easy
Departs: Saturday 10 a.m.

6 September – Walkway Working Bee

For something slightly different – a whole new perspective on the expression "making tracks" – how about joining other volunteers in the creation of a new walkway? See NOTICES for details.

Contact: Peter Clough ph 61271
Departs: 9 a.m. Saturday

11 September Club Night - The Northern Alps

Club member Urs Schupbach will be giving an illustrated talk on the Swiss Alps, where much of the climbing techniques used today originated.

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

12-13-14 September – Snowcraft III

A change of venue to Mount Egmont or Mount Taranaki for the final chapter of this series of snowcraft courses. Kapuni Lodge will be the base.

Leader: Trevor Bissell ph 73543
Grade: Medium/Fit
Departs: 6.30 p.m. Friday night

14 September – Tararua Day Trip

A trip up the Waioata River from Otaki Forks should lead this tramp into an area with lots of historical interest.

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

20-21 September – Waikamaka Hut

A week-end trip to this well kept hut in the Ruahines, via Waipawa Saddle. Several variations for the route back exist.

Leader: John Barkla ph 73543
Grade: Medium
Departs: 7 a.m. Saturday

20 September – Walkway Working Bee

Yet another call for volunteers for the new Walkway up the Pohangina Valley.

Contact: Peter Clough ph 61271
Departs: 9 a.m. Saturday

25 September Club Night Chinese Crackers

Last year Lesley Warburton penetrated the 'bamboo curtain' on a trip to the People's Republic of China. She brought back some 'cracker' photos of the country which she will share with us tonight. (N.B. See NOTICES No.1 on p 4)

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

27-28 September – Mitre Flats

Urs will lead a trip over the tops from the hut at Mitre Flats, no doubt including an ascent of Mitre. But there is plenty of scope for anyone of more modest aspirations in this interesting area of the Tararuas.

Leader: Urs Schupbach
Grade: Fit
Departs: 6 p.m. Friday

28 September – Rangī Day Trip

Not just to the hut and back, but a tidy circuit utilising the newer track to the south. Snow is likely so don't forget a plastic bag.

Leader: John Barkla ph 73543
 Grade: Medium
 Departs: 7 a.m. Sunday

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NOTICES:**1/ WALKWAY CONSTRUCTION**

Members may have seen in the local press (and this newsletter) news of a new Walkway to be created on a farm property up the Pohangina valley. This will be only the second Walkway established under the 1975 Walkways Act in the Manawatu region, the other being the Beehive Creek Walkway near Pohangina.

The purpose of the Walkway legislation is to enable public rights of access to be negotiated over private land, thus enabling new walking opportunities to be created. This often means that new types of walking opportunity are created, for instance over farmland rather than through forest. Of the 100 or so Walkways already in existence, most (but not all) fall into the category of a 'Walk', suitable for all ages and fitness levels. They have tended therefore 'to provide a valuable 'intermediate' opportunity for walking, somewhere between the urban park and the bush tramping experience.

The bad news is that the government has not increased the funds allocated for Walkways for a number of years, despite the increase in the number and length of established Walkways. This means that such new Walkways will only be created in future if the local community is prepared to help itself in establishing the new tracks. The new Walkway up the Pohangina is in some respects a test case for such self-help schemes. Materials have been provided largely out of a grant from Palmerston North City Corporation, and installation of the track is dependent on volunteers, under the Supervision of Gerald Groenendijk of the Manawatu Walkway Promotion Society and Tom Rouse of the Department of Lands and Survey.

As trampers we have more to gain than most from the establishment of new walking routes in our region, so members should think about volunteering on the Walkway Working Bees which will be taking place over the next few months. The work itself varies from the laborious (track benching, step construction) to the relatively light (vegetation clearance) so all levels of strength, ability and experience can be utilised in the working groups. Apart from helping to create a new recreation resource, the work can be quite satisfying in itself, for instance the erection of stiles or marker posts which will be a lasting memorial to the efforts of their builders.

REMEMBER – In today's climate of 'user pays' and budget cuts some new resources will only be created if we help ourselves. If each of us volunteered only one day the progress on this Walkway would be incredible. So consider joining a Walkway Working Bee next time you want to 'make tracks' for the hills!

2/ CONGRATULATIONS

To Dave Crawford and Antoinette for having sealed the matrimonial knot (bowline, fisherman's or Prussik?). We look forward to seeing them at future Club activities.

3/ BON VOYAGE

To Nigel Seebeck, shortly to depart these shores on a trip which will take him through the mountains of Australia, Europe and who knows from there? Nigel has been active on the Club's Committee for a number of years, an active representative in the Mountain Safety Council, and an instructor on many a Club snowcraft course. Most recently he has been researching the history of Rangī Hut for the commemorative board to be installed there soon. Many thanks for your efforts to the Club, Nigel, and good luck in your travels.

4/ FOR SALE

One sleeping bag cover, waterproof plastic bottom and oily japara top. Sleeps two good friends. Good conditions and a bargain at only \$25.00.

Contact John Barkla on 73543 if interested.

5/ SUBMISSIONS FOR MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR CROWN LANDS

The Club is now in possession of the draft management plans for two areas of Crown Land of interest to trampers – Tongariro State Forest and the Manawatu Gorge Scenic Reserve. Submissions and comments on these draft plans are

being sought from the public, so any Club member with a desire to get involved with the preparation of a submission is encouraged to do so.

The Tongariro State Forest lies in the quadrant formed to the north and east of Highways 47 and 4, just to the north of Tongariro National Park. The State Forest is currently administered by the Forest Service. Recently the Club made a submission on the review of the Tongariro National Park management plan, in which a greater co-ordination of management of the National Park and the surrounding State Forests is advocated. At present Tongariro State Forest is relatively underused, but it has potential for much more recreational use by trampers and kindred spirits.

The Manawatu Gorge Scenic Reserve is much closer to home, and consists of about 600 hectares of relatively unmodified native forest, most of it along the southern crest of the Gorge above the road. The value of the reserve for recreation given its proximity to Palmerston North and Woodville is not in question, but there remains a problem as to how to reconcile access and the preservation of the natural vegetation. The reserve is administered by the Department of Lands and Survey, and at present access into the reserve is limited.

Anyone interested in contributing towards the preparation of submissions should contact Philippa Somerville (64065), John Barkla (73543) or Peter Clough (61271)

6/ **ALPINE CALENDARS**

Anyone who thought that August is a long way from Christmas should think again – the 1987 New Zealand Alpine Calendars have now been prepared and orders are being sought. As in previous years, these calendars contain 13 colour plates of alpine scenes. Reductions on the cover price are available to the Club as follows:

Normal retail Price in shops	\$10.95	
Individual mail order price	\$ 9.50	(includes postage in NZ)
Bulk discount on 5+ orders (-10%)	\$ 8.55	per item.

Similar rates are available for the 1987 Antarctic calendar. There is also a deal whereby these calendars will be sent to overseas addresses for \$10.50 each including surface postage.

In the past, the Club has taken advantage of bulk discounts by putting in a joint order. If there is sufficient interest in the Club this year we will do so again. Unfortunately we haven't got a copy of the calendar to inspect, but members who are or may be interested in ordering in the dark should contact Peter Clough at the next Club night.

7/ *****STOP PRESS*****

It's a bit late for a date for the debate, but the decision can no longer wait.

The annual PNTMC vs MUAC debate will PROBABLY be held on Tuesday 23 September, at Massey, in the Social Science Lecture Block, Theatre 7, at 7.45 p.m.

THIS MEANS THAT: Volunteers will be needed to form a team to outwit the Massey team and ensure the coveted boot and cup trophies remain in their rightful home - with PNTMC. Nanette will be scouting for talent at the next Club night, but if you want to give yourself up quietly contact her on 61271.

ALSO: Lesley Warburton's Club night presentation on China may be postponed until a later date.

--- CONFIRMATION OF DETAILS SURROUNDING THE DEBATE WILL BE IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.

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TRIP REPORTS

5-6 July – Midwinter at Rangī

They came in dresses short and long, heels high and low, lipstick and nail polish - and that was only the guys! A sumptuous banquet catering for the most discerning tastes adorned the tables. Wines from the farthest corners of the earth excited the palate and festive music permeated the air. Midwinter at Rangī 1986 had begun.

Basically we all had a great time. A beautiful day on Saturday made even the grind up to the hut seem pleasant (even in those heels?) It also gave the skiers their first run of the season. Costume photographs were taken as the sun dropped below the horizon. Sunday's weather was more conducive to a late rising but eventually many wandered up

into the snowy basins above the hut for a spot of glissading. Falling snow turned to rain as the last left in the mid afternoon. We were – about 25 club members.

13 July – Skiing at Rangī

A last minute decision on Saturday night led to frantic packing and checking of skis and body. Fresh snow at the Rangī car park boded well for the day's skiing, and from the hut we skinned quickly onto Mangahūia and had a superb view of the inner Ruahine range. The Tararua range and Kapiti Island were clear to the south. Conditions were ideal as we alternately skied and skinned through to Mangamahūie. A look into the Pourangaki Valley convinced us that it was not a feasible skiing route, so returning, a steep icy start off the top of Mangamahūie turned into a long run through compacted dry snow. In two hours we were back at Rangī, skiing to the hut door, and another trip was being planned for the not too distant future.

We were: John Barkla, Terry Crippen, Urs Schupbach and friend Eric.

19-20 July – Snowcraft I at Rangipo. Mount Ruapehu

Conditions were perfect when we arrived at the bottom carpark on the Tukino road. We were able to step almost directly onto firm snow. From the car park we elected to head across country to meet up with the round-the-mountain track. The steep but short climb out of the Whangaehu Gorge saw the first application of snowcraft/ice axe skills. Shortly afterwards, and in very good time for lunch, we arrived at Rangipo Hut.

The afternoon's programme saw us climb upwards 200-300 metres above the hut to several snow basins. The going was extremely variable at times, forcing an on-the-job lesson in step cutting – learning by doing. Next on the agenda was self-arrest practice. An icy slope with few rocks to avoid fitted the bill nicely, with a steep powdery head-wall available for the overt thrill-seekers. After the sun had set behind the mountain, we climbed up a bit further to where the ridge on Mitre begins to narrow, from whence an extensive and worthwhile view was obtained.

Back at the hut an attempt to get the wood stove going was finally abandoned in favour of the more controllable and less smoky power of white spirits. Trevor's dinner composition was a complete change from his traditional stew 'fresh from the can because, in his words, "people had been getting at me".

Next day was again fine and frosty. We set forth at about 9 a.m. across country to the south this time, descending into the Wahianoa Gorge. During this stage various interpretations of pigeon holing were practised. We plodded up the stream for a few hundred metres before taking a long sidle up onto the rim again, on which the leaders had to kick and chop steps in places. When the ground got steeper and there were bluffs beneath us, some in the group began to feel less than fully secure. Once we were all at the top and had refreshed ourselves on a drink and something to eat, we very quickly rejoined our tracks from the previous day back to the hut. After lunch we headed for home. Frozen up cars and related problems failed to materialise so it was downhill all the way to the usual stop at Taihape.

Team: Trevor Bissell, Mary Davies, Glen Erskine, Chris Moreton, Darren Scott, Peter Wiles.

3 August – Kapakapanui, Tararuas

Once again John switched on reasonably fine weather for a superb day of tramping, even though it was dark when we left Palmerston for the drive down to Waikanae. We stopped at the Ngatiawa road end and then went down to the river, following it upstream for a few hundred yards until the junction with the first major tributary on the true right bank, where the two tracks for the Kapakapanui round trip start.

Straight up from the river to the trig of Kapakapanui is a climb of about 3000 feet, most of it through the bush. There was plenty of snow sprinkled through the bush and leatherwood. It was very pretty indeed, especially where the pure whiteness of the snow was in stark contrast with the lush green of the foliage, and where frozen cobwebs and moss frozen into icicles glistened in the sunshine. As we climbed up, in places where the bush opened out, we had views over the 'sunshine coast' and out to Kapiti Island as well, but we could also see misty clouds rolling across the scene towards us, and they closed in as we reached the top.

After wandering along the tops for a while we descended to Kapakapanui Hut for lunch. As we ate inside the hut, (which has recently had an extension added) large flakes of snow began falling all around. Suitably refreshed, we went out and back under the shelter of the bush canopy, for a tramp of a further 2 hours or so back to the car park. The entire circuit took us around 6 hours of walking.

We were: John Barkla, Nanette and Peter Clough, Roger Scott.

17 August – Pohangina Valley

Trevor Bissell, Nanette and Peter Clough tramped up what appeared to be a relatively new sidle track along the upper reaches of the Pohangina Valley, in the general direction of Mid-Pohangina Hut. Despite our best endeavours, we did not make it to the hut. Not only did the track have a lot of ups and downs and windy bits where it cut in to cross a side stream, it also varied in quality from a wide benched track in parts to a faintly discernible hunters track in others, with plenty of obstacles to clamber over, under or around. Every now and then we had great vantage points of the river way below with its innumerable rock gorges, waterfalls and deep pools. It was a very attractive area seen at its best in fine sunny weather, and while we underestimated the time needed to reach the hut, it'll be there for a target for another trip.

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