



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217  
PALMERSTON NORTH  
NEWSLETTER  
March/April 1987

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Membership Enquiries:	Lorraine Bray	Tel.	86-966
Secretary:	Trevor Bissell		73-543
Gear Custodian:	Dave Barker		78-762
Newsletter Editor:	Peter Clough		61-271

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## ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

John Barkla:	Tel. Home 65-844	Wk	89-003
Trevor Bissell:		73-543	74-129
Peter Clough		61-271	69-099
Tricia Eder		70-122	79-946

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ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE FOODTOWN CAR PARK IN FERGUSON STREET. IF YOU WANT TO GO ON A TRIP, PLEASE 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 an estimate in advance.

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## COMING EVENTS:

### THURSDAY 26 MARCH – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Items on the Agenda include reports from the President and Treasurer for the year just gone, and the election of officers for the year ahead. Any other items of business which members may want to raise at the meeting should be brought to the attention of the Secretary before the start of the meeting.

Nominations for the positions of Patron, President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Auditor and not less than five committee members are required and must be in the hands of the Secretary before the start of the meeting. A nomination form is provided in this newsletter, and others are available from the Secretary.

Any financial member may be nominated. Those contemplating standing for the committee can find out more of what it entails from any member of the current committee.

Time: 7.45 p.m.

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

### 28-29 March - BUSHCRAFT

This is your chance to learn and/or practise many of those secret skills which are essential for enjoying the ranges in safety and comfort: cooking over an open fire, crossing rivers, pitching and striking a fly camp, navigating with map and compass. These and many more secrets will be revealed at this year's bushcraft course in the Ruahines by the Oroua River.

Leader: John Barkla tel 65844

Grade: All

Departs: 7 a.m. Saturday.

**28 March – Walkway Working Bee**

Once again volunteers are sought to help with some track construction on the new walkway up the Pohangina Valley, which should be opening to the public later this year. Bring your lunch and gear suitable for working outside e.g. woollens, boots, gardening gloves etc. Tools provided.

Contact: Peter Clough tel 61271  
 Grade: All  
 Departs: 9 a.m. Saturday Returns 4 p.m. Saturday.

**2 April – Committee Meeting**

The first meeting for the newly elected committee. Venue will be arranged with committee members at the Annual General Meeting.

Time: 7.45 p.m.

**4-5 April – Ngamoko Range**

A variety of bush and tops travel on this full circuit of the Ngamoko Range, to Longview Hut and back via the Oroua River.

Leader: Cheryl Peters tel 65581  
 Grade: Medium/Fit  
 Departs: Negotiable - Friday night or Saturday morning.

**5 April – Maharahara Crossing**

A chance to traverse the southern Ruahine Range in a day crossing between Opawe and Kumeti Road ends. Hopefully a swap of keys on the crest of the range will simplify transport arrangements.

Leader: Damienne Eder tel 71785  
 Grade: Easy/Medium (but steep in places)  
 Departs: 7.30 a.m. Sunday

**Thursday 9 April – Club Night**

Tonight Peter Wiles will be giving his account of his trip to the Arrowsmith Range which was postponed last month because of lack of slides. Note this Club Night is a week earlier than usual, so as not to clash with the Thursday before Easter.

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

**12 April – Mangaone Walkway**

Find out for yourselves what Walkways are all about on this well-established track in the Tararua foothills behind Waikanae.

Leader: Peter Clough tel 61211  
 Grade: Easy  
 Departs: 8 a.m. Sunday

**12 April – Mystery Trip**

Anyone wishing to do a fit day trip on either the Saturday or the Sunday of this weekend please contact John Barkla on 65844.

**17-20 April – Easter Weekend – South Island**

As announced in the last newsletter a trip is being organised to the Raglan Range in Marlborough. If you wish to go on this trip it is essential that this is confirmed with Trevor Bissell on 73543 by Friday 3 April at the latest. This is a great opportunity for an inexpensive trip to a new and relatively little explored area.

**Alternative Easter Trip**

Anyone wishing to do a trip closer to home over Easter please contact John Barkla (tel 65844), especially if you would like to lead one:

**25-26 April - Putangirua Pinnacles**

A camping weekend on Wellington's south coast, featuring a trip to the amazing Putangirua Pinnacles on Saturday, and probably a trip into the Haurangi Forest Park on Sunday.

Leader: Dave Barker tel 78762  
 Grade: All  
 Departs: Saturday 8 a.m.

**Thursday 30 April – Club Night**

Tonight Linda and Darryl Rowan, recently returned from the USA, will give a talk entitled "Azaleas, Alligators and Appalachians -The Georgian Way". Come find out for yourself what connections lie behind this intriguing title.

Time: 7.45 p.m.

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

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**NOTICES:**

1/ Change of Address: Philippa Somerville  
5 Hughes Avenue,  
Palmerston North.  
Tel. 72205

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**P.N.T.M.C. NOMINATION FORM**

I, (print name) ..... HEREBY ACCEPT  
NOMINATION FOR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT/VICE-PRESIDENT/TREASURER/SECRETARY/COMMITTEE  
MEMBER (delete those not applicable).

Signature ..... Proposed by .....

Seconded by.....

Note: Nominee, proposer and seconder must all be Club members.

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3/ **A LETTER TO THE EDITOR** (If there were more trip reports, I wouldn't have to fill out this news sheet with anonymous letters – Hint)  
Sir,

Re the report in your newsletter of November/December/January of a trip on 26 October last to the Holdsworth area of the Tararuas. I note with a great deal of concern that the party of 4, rather than remaining as such, split into two parties, each of 1 male and 1 female. Such groupings in the environment of sun-dappled glades, heady rich musky smells of decaying vegetation – the primal base of life's reproductive forces – must lead to a breakdown in the standards of propriety that we as a tramping Club should wish to promote. If the fabric of society is not to be rent asunder, we must take a stand!

Yours, A concerned parent from the moral majority.

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**TRIP REPORTS:**

**14-15 March – Kiriwhakapapa Day Trip**

Our large group of 13 enjoyed an easy tramp up an old tramline track to the Mikimiki road end and back. The track has been benched and well graded. In many places the tramline rails are still in evidence, along with the sleepers now well covered in mosses and lichens. The Mikimiki stream is particularly attractive with numerous small rocky gorges overhung by stately beech trees (red beech). The showers that passed over in the afternoon did not even penetrate the forest but provided an ideal walking atmosphere.

We were: Janet Baird, John Barkla, Bob Barrell, Monica Cantwell, Jenny Dymock, Ben Harding, Gayle Hogan, Anne Jaggard, Liz Morrison, Cathy Morton, Nico Middelkoop, Helen Perry, Pam Warnock.

**7-8 March - Abort-a-Contorta**

Those of you who didn't pullout Pinus contorta from the flanks of Ruapehu missed two days of fine sunny weather and a comfortable camp amongst the Pinus radiata with a scrumptious meal at night by candle-light. See you next year? Team of 87 was: Nanette and Peter Clough, Ben Harding Pat Janssen, Nico Middelkoop, Julie Plummer, Roger Redmayne, the Todds, Peter Wiles.

**24-25 January Totara Flats**

Arriving at the Mount Holdsworth Road end around 9.30a.m., a party of four of us soon found out what the prevailing conditions of drizzle and occasional showers had done to the eastern side of the Tararuas, while Palmerston North bathed in sunshine. The tracks were wet, and where they were not muddy, they often resembled streams, complete with mini-rapids, meanders and occasional dammed up 'lakes'. Nevertheless, off we went up the Gentle Annie track, passing Rocky Lookout where we glimpsed a view of the mist-shrouded tops, and on to the track junction near Pig Flat, where one sign-post points optimistically Upwards -"Sky 1 Hour". After lunch at this spot we descended the track to Totara Creek, finding the stream rather high and coloured but not impassable. The same applied to the Waiohine about 2 hours later, which made the likelihood of fishing totally unrealistic, so after letting ourselves across the wire cage we headed onto Totara Lodge. Three hunters on leave from the army were already there, and they obligingly kept the fire well stoked all evening.

The following day dawned a good deal drier, which gave us rather better conditions for retracing our steps. No sign of deer, but the Totara Flats themselves had plenty of bird life, including the brightly-coloured, parrot-like eastern Rosellas. After some 5½ hours tramping and a very leisurely lunch, we emerged back at the road end around 4 p.m..

We were: Nanette and Peter Clough, Ursula Ramon, Amanda Smith.

### **14/15 February – Watery Vinegar Hill Trip**

Eight people: - three in canoes fishing and paddling from Ohingaiti, four from Palmy, one from Ohakune. Two bodies lost party, but found us again from the opposite end of the Domain some time later.

Explored the very local area, met whacky Wangers (Wanganui Tramping Club trampers) and Rowdy Rangitikeis (Rangitikei Tramping Club). Inspected various species of tents and grubs. Cooked grub, ate grub.

The three canoeist-fishermen arrived with no fish, wet bodies but no dunking – so they say.

Feasted on John's birthday cake: mandarin segments, cream and chocolate hearts (it was St Valentine's Day). Talked, went to bed. Awoke to light rain which got heavier leading to relentless downpour. Cup of tea in bed from early morning fisherman – no fish, more sleep. Then cooked breakfast in rain.

Packed up. Went home. Communal lunch at Terry's drying in front of warm fire.

Altogether – perhaps a longish way (45 minutes from P.N.) to go to get a lot of things, plus oneself, very wet in a short space of time – but still it was good to get out of the city to a nice place, relax and return home rather refreshed.

Team: Julian, Terry, Stewart (canoeists), John, Marilyn, Pip, Ron, Dorothy.

### **1<sup>st</sup> March - Search and Rescue, Tararuas**

The police call came on a weekend when a surprisingly large group were away on a weekend trip to the Kaimanawas, but we nevertheless managed to raise a team of four to be taken to Eketahuna early on Sunday morning. A deerstalker had been overdue three days, and it was thought he was probably injured. As it happened, our team had little constructive to do on the search, but in such cases it is being there and available that counts.

We were taken by air force Iroquois to a knob on the northern flank of Ruapae, not far from the last sighting of the missing hunter. We set up the radio and reported our position, and were told of fresh developments and told to stand by. We were still there nearly two hours later when the helicopter found the missing hunter, but by then the mist had covered the tops. So it was a case of navigating through the cloud back to Herepai, and to a flattish bump under the cloud which served as airport for our return flight. But while we may have had little part in the successful outcome of the search, we all learnt a lot about such operations: like not relying on the search organisers to provide items like rope and first aid kit, or about tracing developments from grid references relayed on radio.

The reason for the search is also instructive, since the lone hunter had become separated from two companions, then spent 3 days without food, only hours from the road end, and not thinking any overdue alarm would be raised. The moral is, communicate intentions clearly with companions.

Team: Peter Clough, Damienne Eder, Linda Rowan, Peter Wiles.