



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER

May/June 1988

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ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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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.

COMING EVENTS:

26th May - Club night

Two Club trips went to the northern South Island region this Easter – a climbing trip to Nelson Lakes National Park and a tramping trip to 1000 Acre Plateau and Matiri Valley. Tonight you can see an illustrated talk of the climbing trip to Mt Hopeless in Nelson Lakes National Park.

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

29th May - Cycle trip

Tired of walking? Oil the chain, pump up the tyres and join Graham for a day's cycling. He guarantees no muddy tracks this time.

Leader:	Graham Peters Ph.65581
Grade:	Medium
Departs:	Sunday 8am

28th - 29th May – Mid Ruahines

A weekend trip in the bush and along the tops. The trip heads up the Oroua River to Triangle Hut, over Whanahua Range and out past Rangiwahia Hut.

Leader:	Phil Clerke Ph.82041
Grade:	Fit
Departs:	Saturday 7am

28th May - Working bee – Club gear

Club members are invited to help repair Club gear i.e. taping up ice-axes, scrubbing billies and waterproofing tent flies. Here is your chance to repay the Club for the free use of gear. Afternoon tea will be provided.

Venue: 110 Manawatu St, P.N.
Time: 1pm

4-6th June (Queen's Birthday Weekend) - Mahoenui Caving

Urs is taking another tramping trip underground. If you enjoy tight holes, muddy passages, excitement and adventure then this is the trip for you.

Leader: Urs Schupbach Ph.80245
Grade: Medium
Departs: Friday, 6pm

4-5th June - Mitre Peak, Tararuas

A traditional trip to the Tararuas, with the possibility of an easy or fit trip depending on enthusiasm.

Leader: Catherine Farquhar Ph.86739
Grade: Medium
Departs: Saturday 6.30am

June 9th - Committee Meeting

Venue: 51 Lyndhurst St, P.N.
Time: 7.45pm

11-12th June - Hikurangi Range, Ruahines

Beech forest and open tops feature in this trip. You will be treated to great views of the ranges in the Ruahine Forest Park and (weather permitting) views all the way north to Tongariro National Park.

Leader: Catherine Farquhar Ph.86739
Grade: Medium - fit
Departs: Saturday, 7am

12th June - Atene Walkway - Whanganui National Park

A walk in the hills above the Wanganui River, with views of the river and the new National Park.

Leader: John Barkla (contact Urs for more information, Ph.80245)
Grade: Medium
Departs: Sunday, 7am

June 16th Club night - Photo Competition

Time to get those photos developed and entered into the annual competition.

Categories - Landscape - natural features, distance photos
- Topical - typical tramping scenes usually featuring club members
- Natural history - close-ups of flora and fauna, no man-made features visible

Rules - Black and white or colour photos, colour slides may be submitted. These must not have been entered in any previous competition. Competitors are limited to 3 entries in anyone class and may like to give a title to their entries. Please place a large dot on the bottom left hand corner of slides to ease the arrangement of slides in the projector cartridge. Don't forget to put your name on your slides (they may be pilfered for the next Alpine Calendar).

18-19th June - Waitewaewae - Otaki

A trip to the western Tararuas in the Otaki catchment area. Come and see an old bush tram route and the possibility of sighting deer and goats.

Leader: Alan Mountfort Ph.69715
Grade: Medium
Departs: Saturday, 6am

25-26th June - Mangahao Dam - Herepai Hut, Tararuas

A trip from the Dam up to the tops of the Dundas Ridge.

Leader: John Thompson
Grade: Medium - fit
Departs: Saturday, 6am.

25th June - Ngapuketurua, Tararuas

A day trip, also starting from the Mangahao Dam, up Baber Creek and onto the Dundas Range and Ngapuketurua Peak. Come along and see a cross section of the Tararuas from 450-1000 feet.

Leader: Phil Clerke, Ph. 82041
Grade: Medium
Departs: Saturday, 7am

June 30th Club night

Mark Bown will be entertaining us with his slides on caving in Spain. Come and find out where the rain really does fall in Spain from this talk entitled "Picos de Europa".

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

COMING UP

June 14th Club night - Angela Clay will be talking about her experiences in Antarctica.

Snowcraft courses - This year as in previous years the Club will run a series of snowcraft courses. If you have never walked on snow with crampons and ice-axe or just want to brush up on skills you've learnt in past years then keep these dates free.

9-10th July - Snowcraft 1

23-24th July - Snowcraft 2

6-7th July - Snowcraft 3

Venues are yet to be finalised but will be advertised in the following newsletter.

NOTICES

1) Change of address

Alison MacColl - 23 Redwood Grove, P.N. Ph.89326

Catherine Farquhar - 107, Wood St, P.N. Ph.86739

2) New members - we would like to welcome the following new members to the club.

Gordon Derricott - 408 College St, P.N. Ph.69242

Lyndon Badcoe - Vet Dept, Massey University Ph.69099 x 8392

Home 66553

Jim Cooper - 92 Geraldine Cres, P.N. Ph.89861

David Orbell - 26 Montgomery St, Feilding Ph.35145

Gavin Rogerson - 9 Cheviot Pl, Feilding Ph.34702

3) June 3rd – Arbour Day 1988

People who are willing to supervise children, who will be participating in a practical conservation campaign on the 3rd June to control Clematis vitalba organised by the Department of Conservation may contact Trevor Bissell (Ph. 73543) who is liaising with DOC.

4) Saturday 28th May – Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club Ski swap

Freyberg School - commencing at noon.

5) Tuesday 14th June - Bob McKerrow, former director of Anakiwa Outward Bound School will be speaking to the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club on - Life in the Arctic Circle, Eskimo Culture and his part in a North Pole expedition. Club members are invited to attend.

Venue: Rangitane Pavilion, Civic Centre

Time: 8pm

6) We would like to congratulate ex-Club member Colin Hoare whose engagement to Ruth Ward was announced recently in the Tribune.

TRIP REPORTS

Tongariro National Park - 25-27th March

Five of us set off from Palmerston North on Friday evening to the Chateau via the Taihape fish and chip shop. A two hour walk by moonlight took us to a small valley near lower Tama Lake where we deviated to a spot out of view of the track to set up our base camp.

We woke the next morning to find our camp in full view of about 200m of track. We put it down to experience and set off towards Ruapehu. Being some 8km and 1400m below Te Heu heiu (Ruapehu's northern peak) it took us until midday to reach the summit. After lunch and a photo session we set off to Tahurangi (Ruapehu's southern and highest peak). With

time running out and our leader low on energy we opted to spend our two more energetic party members to attempt Taurangi while the rest of us waited at the northern end of the crater. Time eventually won with Trevor and Lyndon turning back close to the summit. While we waited for them to return we witnessed a large bubble of gas and steam being thrust from the crater lake. Any further activity would have seen a 5 PNTMC members set a record descent from Ruapehu. As it was we descended as fast as possible to reach base camp just on dark to complete a well rounded 12 hour day.

Sunday dawned fine calm and sunny and we set off past Tama Lakes towards Ngauruhoe. We climbed directly up the southern slopes which consisted of piles of volcanic rocks - a bit like climbing a large pile of potatoes. The view from the top was "choice" with Mt Egmont, Lake Taupo, the Kaimanawas, the Ruahines and everything else in between all visible. After a quick look down the crater we headed down the mountain to pack up the tents and depart.

The following people would like to thank the weather office for turning on two good days in a row: Trevor Bissell, Brad Owen, Lyndon Badcoe, Reint and Alan Mountfort.

Easter Trip to Nelson Lakes National Park - Mts Cupola and Hopeless

I'd always wondered, albeit doubtfully, whether NZ Rail Corp ferry captains could possibly have any appreciation of the plight of south-bound alpinists who find themselves travelling in Newmans buses which are running 45 minutes late. Well, according to the crusty old guard who hurriedly ushered us up the ramp that Easter Thursday night, no, they don't. Fortunately for us the boat was running just as late.

Waiting at Picton with the rental vehicle she had organised was an enthusiastic Helen so the next stop for Ruth, Urs, Lyndon, Alan and myself was the Nelson Lakes public shelter. This was largely occupied by NZAC bods, including Phil and Roger who were also headed for Cupola Basin.

I seem to remember waking up to the soothing but uninspiring sound of rain. Yet despite a decidedly off-putting weather forecast it can't have lasted long because I also remember a semi-sunny lunch break en route to John Tait Hut. ... a lunch break which included an enjoyable sprint down what must have been half the length of the Travers River (slight exaggeration) in a successful bid to rescue a Karrimat. (Well what better way to spend a lunch break? No good just slothing around!).

Next day after dropping off most of our gear at Cupola Basin Hut we proceeded up Mt Cupola by a quite "interesting" route on the east side (can I call it a face guys?). So it was summit pictures in the wind and then back down to the hut to add an extension to it in the form of our bright orange fly. (Clearly visible from Mt Hopeless the following day ... no chance of getting lost!)

Now I am not exactly sure when Caterpillar-Alan's affinity for stripes first came to my notice but a truly remarkable metamorphosis would appear to take place whenever Alan donned his longjohns. It brightened up our evening camps no end! So too did the hearty meals Ruth had organised for us all.

Anyway to get back to the story. The next day we trundled off up the South Ridge of Hopeless but as the team as a whole took longer than we anticipated we decided in the early afternoon to send Ruth and Urs off to complete the summit bid on their own. (On reaching the summit they were greeted by "Rambo" Bruce Anderson who had climbed the North face).

Now if you would like to know more about the actual details of climbing Cupola and Hopeless (which is what this trip report is supposed to be about. ...) and/or you would like to see the Team's selection of slides, make sure you come along to the May 26th Club night.

Catherine Farquhar.

Meanders to Mitre Motel - 16-17th April

Leaving Palmerston North at first light we dived into thick Wairarapa fog, emerging over Mt Bruce into a weekend of brilliant sunlight. Why were there so many cars at the road end, troops of people pounding past and the recurring rumble of a helicopter? Having prepared ourselves for a chilly night between four tin walls we found the old hut, a wisp of smoke and splendid new four star accommodation further up the flats. We had arrived in time to attend the opening of the new Mitre Flats Hut complete with speeches, cutting the loo paper ribbon, two barbeques (lunch and dinner) and constant hot water for the leader's addiction to countless cuppas. An elderly trumper entertained us with historic tales of the first two huts. His poem composed for the occasion and what almost amounted to a hut war over a barking Alsatian inspired the following

Two thirty (am) tantrums

A perfect day amongst the bush,
Tired, warm, well fed at evening's hush,
Underneath a starry sky
All settled down 'neath roof and fly.

WOOF WOOF

Someone shoot that dog,
Go tie him to a distant log.

WOOF WOOF

Go quieten that hound,
He never should be left around.

WOOF WOOF

Anyone got a torch to lend,
How far do you want mans' best friend.

CRASH BANG

As well the door of Mitres Hut
Is strong enough to stand this lot.....
Sleeping bags rustle, a muttered word,
Soulful distant whine is heard,
Dry crackles from glowing embers,
The joys of tramping one remembers.

Liz, Jamie, Kim, Sarah and Christine enjoyed an action-packed weekend

14-15th May - Lake Dive

Egmont again - so soon?

Though it was just three weeks from the last Club trip to Egmont considerable enthusiasm was shown by the 11 people who headed for Lake Dive. The emphasis of the trip was twofold - firstly to visit Lake Dive which the majority had not been to and secondly to use the opportunity as an "introduction to medium weekend trips".

On our arrival at Dawson Falls on Saturday morning the previous day's snow was still obvious in patches in the bush. The track up to Kapuni Lodge was covered in good time with Alan and John vying for the best photo of the Sharkstooth as it appeared between the clouds. The upper side track was no problem - just a little muddy! Arrival at Lake Dive Hut in early afternoon left time for venturing or just relaxing.

The christening of the Club's new billies at dinner proved successful although Alan's lack of enthusiasm for curry was obvious. Table traverses left a few with bruises and the hut possum managed to drain the last of the fruit salad from Alan's bowl.

Back to the van via the lower track with Viv and Marion pleased to find a medium trip worth the effort.

The group: John Barkla, Marilyn Barnard, Keren Cardno, Terry Coburn, Viv Harris, Jenny Madgwick, Alan Mountford, Daryl and Linda Rowan, Marion Smith and Tom Stevenson.

TIPS FOR NOVICE TRAMPERS

(or: the optimists guide to happiness tramping)

1) Leaders: do not trust your leader; they do not know what they are doing. Leaders are skilled in the art of imaginative, encouraging lying.

2) Corners: nothing is ever just around the corner
(a) especially if it is a hut
(b) also if it is the top of a climb

3) Attitudes to cultivate: pain is bliss
exhaustion is exhilaration
suicidal madness is commitment

4) Time: this has a fluid quality
i) stands still while tramping
ii) stands particularly still if there is only half an hour to the hut
iii) has a telescopic quality, i.e. it stretches out at the start and compacts into nothing on the last day.

4a) Infinity is equal to a one week trip

5) Myths: huts

pit
pit days
good weather forecasts

6) Motto: tomorrow is another day (gulp)
From V.U.W.T.C. "Heels '87"