



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER

July/August 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:

28th July Club Night

Come and hear all about night tramping, swamp hopping, floods and famine? from this epic tale of the Easter trip to the 1000 Acre Plateau. This will be preceded by a short (10 min) approval of final accounts.

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

30th-31st July - Mt Egmont National Park

A tramping-climbing trip to the park and a chance to head for the summit weather permitting.

Leader: Tony Gates ph (0652) 48854
Grade: Medium - fit
Departs: Early Saturday morning

31st July - Otaki

A day walk up to the sawmill in the Waitaruru river and a pleasant way to spend the Sunday.

Leader: Ian Kirker ph 88018
Grade: Easy
Departs: Sunday 8 am

4th August - Committee Meeting

Venue: 5 Ashford Place, P.N.
Time: 7.45 pm

6-7th August Snowcraft 3. Egmont National Park

The third and final snowcraft course. A chance to learn more rope work skills and put into practice these and other skills learnt on the previous two courses. Tahurangi Lodge on the eastern side of the mountain will be used as a base and weather permitting a summit attempt may be possible on the Sunday.

Leader: Peter Wiles Ph. 86894

Grade: Medium
Departs: Friday 6pm

7th August Ohau Shelter - Tararuas

A day walk up the Ohau Gorge to the Ohau Shelter inland from Levin.

Leader: Margaret Riordan Ph 71806
Grade: Easy
Departs: Sunday 6am

13-14th August Tama Lakes – Tongariro National Park

From the Chateau, on the north side of Ruapehu this trip will head up past the Tama Lakes to the Waihoohu Hut. Excellent views of Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe will be had, weather permitting.

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

20th -21st August South Ohau Valley – Tararuas

A trip starting from near Levin and entering the Tararuas up the Ohau Gorge. From there the trip heads south by the Waiopahu Track or South Ohau River with the intention of seeing Oriwa Lake, a small lake on the Oriwa Ridge.

Leader: John Thompson Ph 66900
Grade: Fit
Departs: Saturday 6am

21st August – Kahuterawa Valley near Palmerston North

This is a possible venue for an easy day walk. For further details phone Tricia nearer the date or find out about it at Club night.

Leader: Tricia Eder Ph 70122,
Grade: Easy
Departs: Sunday 9am

25th August – Club Night

Tony Gates will be giving an illustrated talk entitled "Mountaineering in the South Island"

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

27th-28th August – Cattle Ridge/Dundas Ridge - Tararuas

This trip will enter the Tararuas from the western side and will involve travel along Cattle Ridge and Dundas Ridge with lots of scope for variation depending on weather and enthusiasm.

Leader: Pat Janssen Ph 78762
Grade: Medium
Departs: Saturday 7am

27th August – Ngamoko Range, Ruahines

A day walk up through the beech forest to the tops with views out to the west and from the top down into the Pohangina Valley.

Leader: Jennifer Madgwick Ph.68610
Grade: Medium
Departs: Saturday 8am.

NOTICES

1) BLACK AND WHITE SPIRITS

Cathy Arlington of Mainly tramping, Wellington, has been concerned about the amount of trouble people are having with their stoves because of the wrong fuel. It appears that petrol stations don't always know what white spirits is. So you're quite likely to end up with a cleaning solvent. Alternatively, you may be sold kerosene or diesel. Either way your stove isn't going to like it.

Anyway Cathy had had enough and decided to find out the real oil. So she rang the BP labs and asked for "The Official Word On White Spirits. From Those Who Know". And here it is:

"White Spirits" as we know it is simply 71 Octane Lead-free Motor Spirit. The catch is that your local petrol station attendant might be dazzled by that stream of technical jargon, so you're better off using the brand name that each petrol station uses:

Mobil calls it "Pegasol AA"
Shell - "Shellite"
Caltex - "Calite"
BP – "Britolite"

Of course the MSR X-GK Multifuel doesn't care what sort of fuel it has to burn. Two other stoves, the MSR Internationale and Coleman Multi are happy (at the change of a jet) with either "white spirits" or kerosene. However, most other stoves are very particular that they get the "white stuff".

From "CMC News" June-July 1988.

2) We would like to thank John Cleland for judging the recent club photographic competition. The results were as follows:

Slides

Landscape

- 1st : Alan Mountfort - Cattle Ridge sunrise
- 2nd : Urs Schupbach - Mt Doris, Christmas trip
- 3rd : Sally Hewson - Ketetahi frozen snow grass

Natural History

- 1st : John Barkla - Fungi on beech trees
- 2nd : Sally Hewson - Alpine buttercups, Rabbit Pass
- 3rd : Lyndon Badcoe - Kea

Topical

- 1st : Urs Schupbach - Alan Mountfort, Taranaki Snowcraft 3
- 2nd : Tricia Eder - Wilkin campsite
- 3rd : Trevor Bissell - Snowcraft scene

Prints

Landscape

- 1st : John Wright - Sunset on Arrowsmith Range
- 2nd : Catherine Farquhar - Beech forest, Ruahines
- 3rd : Ruth Schupbach - Mystery moments on Gillespies Pass

Natural History

- 1st : John Barkla - Orchids
- 2nd : Marilyn Barnard - Penguins
- 3rd : Marilyn Barnard - Elephant seal

Topical

- 1st : Ruth Schupbach - Rest day in Jumboland
- 2nd : Tony Gates - Ice climber
- 3rd : Ruth Schupbach - Rural scene

TRIP REPORTS

12 June - Atene SkylineWalk

A convoy of five vehicles trailed each other up the winding Wanganui River Road to the northern end of the Atene Skyline Walk. A rather steep section up a fence line soon led us on to the easy gradient of a road originally built as a part of the Wanganui hydro-electricity investigation.

The unique "Cut off meander", otherwise known as an old dry river course prompted much discussion concerning its formation. This prominent feature dominates the first half of the walk. Light rain obscured the usual view of the Ahu Ahu valley and Mt. Ruapehu but enthusiasm remained high. At 11:30am we reached the shelter at the half way point and the only source of water (other than that falling from the sky), during the entire trip.

From here the track winds along a narrow ridgeline beneath black beech forest in the driest sections and rata/kamahi along the rest. The two "trigs" turned out to be signs only but a good excuse for a rest just the same. From the second trig we descended steeply down innumerable wooden steps to complete the semicircle back to the road. Although only about six hours walking the 18km trip gives a good introduction to the Whanganui National Park, this being the southern most sector of the Park. Even better trips await the Club's next foray into this neglected region.

The party were: Urs and Ruth Schupbach, Andy; Margaret Riordan, Marion and Vicky, the McColl family of five, Monica Cantwell, Linda and Darryl Rowan, Marilyn Barnard and John Barkla.

18-19 June Waitewaewae, Tararuas

Wet, wet, wet. It looked like rain when we set off, it looked like rain when we returned, it looked like rain every minute in between - it was rain, Tararua rain. We took the wet weather track to Waitewaewae Hut - and what a hut - best described as grotty - translation - El grotto (Spain), Grot city Arizona (USA), Frightfully bourgeois (England), velly, velly glotty (China),

La grotte (France), fair dinkum dive (Australia), rough as guts (NZ Nth Island), not too bad (NZ Sth Island). Because Mark is a South Islander he persuaded us to give it a crack, so as it was we survived a night in Waitewaewae Hut. The plan was to get up at 6.00am on Sunday and head to the tops for a look - what actually happened was slightly different. The alarm sounded only slightly louder than the rain on the roof, we rolled over - said "stuff that" and went back to sleep. At 9.30 we checked out of Waitewaewae Hut and headed home along the wet weather track.

We were - Gordon Winchcombe, Sarah Fyfe, Mark Townsend and Alan Mountfort.

Snowcraft 1 - 2nd - 3rd July

The weather report on Friday didn't bode well for the weekend and by Friday evening it was obvious we wouldn't be making our way up to the Massey Hut that night - the Ohakune Mountain Road was closed due to snow!

Not letting the weather get the better of us we postponed our departure date to the following morning. 12 of us gathered at 94 Wood St at 8am on Saturday but the road to the Massey Hut was still closed, so we headed for the Ruahines and Rangi Hut.

The track to the hut was heavy with snow as were the trees about us. The sky had an ominous look about it and there didn't seem to be much prospect of fine weather. We arrived at Rangi Hut in time for lunch and successfully managed to scare off all the other members of the hut and take over their bunks.

We headed out that afternoon with the intention of practising snowcraft skills but cold windy sky soon turned to sleet and the only successful skill practiced was snowball throwing. Back at the hut determined not to let the entire day go to waste we ventured into some theory, including knots and ice axe handling.

That evening, following tea, the time passed with various skills and tricks presented by members of the group. The most significant being the broomcraft skill (in fact the title for this trip report is probably more aptly called Broomcraft I). The skill, performed most successfully by flexible Phil, involved twisting arms and legs about a broom held between both hands and undoing the convolution without letting go either end of the broom. Like most of the others it's a skill I'll have to brush up on!

A lazy start to Sunday, outside the snow had turned to sleet and we slushed our way down the track. Redbands were the most appropriate and popular footwear for the conditions.

The following people are indebted to Huey for the first (and only?) snowfall of the season: Kerry Ford, John Drewry, Urs and Ruth Schupbach, Phil Clerke, Ian Kirker, Lance Broad, Jennifer Madgewick, Mark Townsend, Sarah Fyfe, Catherine Farquhar, Ross Wallace, John Wright.

11th July – Wheelchair basketball

About 12 of us took up the challenge from the Manawatu Paraplegic and Physically Disabled Association for a game of indoor basketball of the wheelchair variety at the 7th Day Adventist Hall in Ferguson St. A bit of preliminary practice was needed to get the hang of the new type of mobility. With a quick rotation of people in the teams, and lots of spills we managed to come out winning by one goal. Perhaps if the opposition had entered their top players things would not have been so easy.

An enjoyable afternoon was had by Chris Morton, Lynlee Emerson, Catherine Farquhar, Urs and Ruth Schupbach, John Wright, John Thompson, Margaret Thompson, Terry Crippen, Dave Newstead, Sheena Taylor, Phil Clerke.