



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217  
PALMERSTON NORTH  
NEWSLETTER

November/December/January 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.

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## COMING EVENTS:

### 24<sup>th</sup> November - A club night with a difference.

As the shops fill up with Christmas goodies, PNTMC beats the rush. So join us for an early Christmas Dinner at the Coachman Restaurant. The menu sounds great, the company guaranteed and the cost is approx. \$33.

Venue: Coachman Restaurant  
Contact: Trish ph 70122 to book for dinner

### 27<sup>th</sup> November - Porewa Stream - Pohangina Valley

A day walk up a side stream to the Pohangina River, with good views out across the valley. This walkway has been open for just over a year.

Leader: Margaret Riorden ph 67460  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: Sunday 9am

### 1<sup>st</sup> December - Committee Meeting

The last committee meeting of the year.

Venue: 28 Carroll St  
Time: 7:45pm

### 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> December - Work Party Oroua River - Ruahines

PNTMC has offered it's person power to help the Department of Conservation with the maintenance of tracks and huts in our local area. DOC have asked us to provide a group of enthusiasts to help in the Oroua Catchment up to Iron Gate Hut with general track maintenance. They provide the tools we provide the team. This trip (originally planned for November) has been rescheduled - but don't let that put you off!

Contact: Linda ph 64655  
Grade: All hands welcome  
Departs: Saturday 7am

### **3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> December - Central Tararuas**

Aokaporangi Biv is located near one of the most remote and inaccessible peaks of the central Tararua Range. I hope to reach there by Saturday evening and meet friends travelling by a variety of routes. None are easy. We can then retreat on Sunday by the easiest route, which is probably down the Otaki River.

Leader: Tony Gates ph (0652)-48854  
Grade: Fit  
Departs: Friday afternoon/evening

### **10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> December - Cape Kidnappers - East Cape**

Claimed as the world's most famous gannet colony, Cape Kidnappers is a rugged promontory jutting into the Pacific. The colony is unique by the fact that it can be approached by land, all other colonies are on islands. At low tide we will be able to walk along the beach to the colony and camp in the vicinity on Saturday night. We will return along the beach, or the inland route on Sunday.

Leader: John Wright ph 82041  
Grade: Easy-Medium  
Departs: Saturday 8am

### **11<sup>th</sup> December - Ruahines**

Ever wondered where the Manawatu comes from? Here's your chance to find out. Alan is going to lead a trip to trace the source of the river back into the Western Ruahines.

Leader: Alan Mountford ph (0650)-48390 - home  
Grade: Medium (0650)-48549 - work  
Departs: Sunday 8am

### **15<sup>th</sup> December - Club Night**

John, Phil and Bruce had three days of kayaking down the Ngauroro River between the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Ranges in November. Tonight we get to see the slides and hear the stories. The last Club night of the year so don't miss it. Afterwards some time to head away and participate in some Christmas Cheer.

Venue: Society of Friend's Meeting Rooms  
227 College St, P.N.  
Time: 7:45 pm

### **18<sup>th</sup> December - Forest Hill**

Having obtained prior permission we will set out for Forest Hill, and go up through Carter-Holts Pine Plantation. After parking in front of the farmhouse, steadily climb up to the dam for lunch. Then across the tops and down completing a circle trip. Warm clothing essential.

Leader: Monica Cantwell ph 83834  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: Sunday 9am

### **21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> January - Sunny Northern Ruahines**

A long weekend and a chance to explore a bit further afield. Kevin will take a trip into the Northern Ruahines, details to be finalised closer to the date. For more information contact Kevin.

Leader: Kevin Pearce  
Grade: Medium-Fit  
Departs: Saturday 6am

### **26<sup>th</sup> January - Barbecue - 15 Ashford Ave**

A new year, a chance to catch up with friends, swap stories, etc. Come along to the first informal Club night of the year, bring something to BBQ, a salad, bread, etc.

Venue: 15 Ashford Ave  
Time: 6:30pm Thursday

### **28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> January - Lake Colenso - Ruahines**

A chance to visit the only lake in the Ruahines(?) or maybe it should just be called an oversized tarn. This trip will pass through typical Ruahine forest and there is opportunity for a larger more energetic return trip for the enthusiastic.

Leader: John Wright  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Saturday 7am

### **Extra trips for the holiday period**

If there is anyone out there wanting to lead or go on a trip at places or times other than in the newsletter get in contact with Urs (ph 80245) or John (ph 82041), they will coordinate Club enthusiasm.

## NOTICES

**MERRY XMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE. HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY.**

### **Club Events and Future Trips**

A number of Club activities are being planned - keep your eye on the newsletter or come along to Club night to find out what is going on.

### **Coming Up:**

\* We will try another trip to Kapiti Island in the New Year probably about February and hopefully with more success (the October trip was cancelled due to high seas).

\* "Ever felt the urge to kill something...to ever take it and shake it by it's roots"? Well here is your chance! Join us on the Aborta Contorta Work Party weekend in March, to Tongariro National Park, to aid in the eradication of Pinus Contorta. PNTMC will be meeting up with a team from Wanganui Tramping Club to aid D.O.C. in beating the pine.

### **Warning - Helicopter Hunting Operating in Ruahines**

DOC will be undertaking "search and destroy" animal control in the Ruahine Forest Park during mid-January/February 1989. The build up of the number of wild animals in the Park has an effect on the condition of the vegetation of the Park and animal control is necessary. So be careful when out in the hills particularly in the early dawn or dusk - and don't go imitating deer!!

### **PNTMC and the Hut Pass System**

Don't forget - on 1 December 1988 a new National Hut Pass System is being introduced by DOC.

At the last PNTMC committee meeting a motion was passed stating "Where huts are used on Club trips each member on the trip must purchase their own hut tickets in advance. The trip leader will ensure members have tickets and place tickets in hut receptacles."

Hut tickets will be available from a number of outlets and probably through the Club - keep an eye on the newsletter for further details.

### **New Members & Address Updates**

P.N.T.M.C. welcomes the following new members:

Preston Andrews and Anne Adams,  
Dept Hort Sci., Massey ph. 76549  
Bruce Barnes and Sally Richardson,  
Mangamaire, RD 7, Pahiatua ph. (0650)-67826

Add these addresses to your list:

Jenny Madgewick, 7 Carter Crescent, P.N. ph. 590-536  
Jeremy Cole, 4 Piper Place, P.N. (from 9 Dec.)  
Barry Scott, 71 Robinson Crescent, P.N. ph. 71731

(If your address has changed or is incorrect please let me know.)

### **Thank You**

Our thanks to Lyndon Badcoe, John Barkla and John Wright for presenting their travels and slides to us at the last few Club nights. We all enjoy the opportunity of sharing each others trips and gleaned a few ideas for our own travels. Thank You.

Also thank you Trish for all the effort put into organising the variety of speakers and entertainment for our Club nights this year. Thank You.

### **PNTMC Club T-Shirts**

Terry ph 63588 has a number of Club T-shirts (with the Club boot design and Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club on the front) FOR SALE. Sizes available: SM and M

Colours: Fawn, Blue, Red

Price: \$15 each

Stock available now, be in quick for summer.

### **Manawatu Crippled Children Society**

The Society is seeking people to collect during the appeal week - Tues 22 - Sat 26 November 1988. Anyone willing to collect in their own area or in Sheena's area please contact Sheena Taylor -76-665 (home) or 62311 (work). Thank you.

## Conservation Wairarapa

This is a new Tararua newsletter put out by DOC to bring users of the park up to date with happenings in the Park. Copies of the newsletter will be available at Club nights or from Trevor upon request.

## **Conduct on Tramping Trips**

Following a recent occasion, when a day party overnighted, the Auckland Tramping Club published the following in their Newsletter. We fully endorse the points made and ask YOU to please READ, REMEMBER and PUT INTO PRACTICE.

**1. Stay with the Party.** Do not get ahead of the party or take a different route. It is very difficult for the leader if she/he does not know where all the party members are and if the party decide to turn round or go by a different route it is not possible unless they are all together.

**2. Wait at all Track Junctions** and on longer tracks or in stream beds, stop every half hour to allow slower members to catch up.

**3. Show some group responsibility** Leadership of any tramp is collective and everybody helping the leader to keep the group together, on the correct route and helping new members.

**4. Carry a Map and Compass on all tramps** and know how to use them, get out the map periodically and take an interest in where you are and where you are going. If you are not sure where you are or how to use the map and compass ask the leader or another experienced person to show you. It is only frequent practice that gives you the necessary map skills.

**5. Know who the Leader is** and where you are going - don't follow like a sheep. If you get separated from the group, you need to know where the group is headed and how to get out.

**6. Take adequate equipment** for the trip. Do you take parka, overtrousers, first aid kit, torch, warm shirt and jersey, food and drink, map and compass? It is tempting to travel light and leave gear at home but if there is an accident, the party delayed, the trip longer than planned or if you get lost, then you need all these things and more.

**7. If you wish to go to the toilet** get somebody to wait on the track or leave your pack on the track so that the last person knows where you are and will wait for you.

**8. If a driver knows who is in your car** and wait until everybody is out of the bush before you leave. The leader will want to ensure that you are out of the bush and your assistance may be needed if there has been an accident or a person is missing.

If we use a bit of common sense and follow these simple guidelines, our tramping will be safe and enjoyable.

(Acknowledgements to the Auckland Tramping Club via Napier Tramping Club Newsletter.)

## **TRIP REPORTS**

### **I CAN SEE FOR MILES AND MILES AND MILES....(1)**

It was the first day after the storm and a clear cold morning greeted us. It was cold alright, the condensation on the inside of the hut had frozen to the wall and outside the remains of the southerly wind still blew up the valley. The occasional cloud still headed north, but these were nothing significant, they had been left behind by the storm and were struggling to catch up. By the time we left the hut even these clouds had vanished from the sky.

On with the skis and away, running smooth, but slowly, over the new powder slopes. Down the glacier we headed, making easy work of what would be very hard going on foot. The skis guided themselves on this part of the glacier, the gradient just being sufficient to keep our speed at a fast jog. We followed each others' tracks, the skis running more smoothly when they didn't have to break the trail. The rear person was always the fastest, gaining speed on the leader and finally overtaking them, but then their speed slowed as they had to break the trail and so the cycle repeated itself.

Not long later our downhill travel ceased and we stopped, put the skins on the skis and clipped the skis into touring mode. Many hours of strenuous travel awaited us, but our minds were on the present and the joy to be had at that moment, not the future. We all quickly found our pace and rhythm, ski and leg forward, body up and forward, weight change, ski and leg forward, body up and forward....Each person and set of skis had their own style and characteristics. Some skis creaked at every step forward, perhaps complaining at the work they were forced to do, or maybe just in need of some maintenance. Some of us had long slow galloping strides, but covered the distance at the same speed, and with the same amount of effort, as those with short fast snappy strides. We all had the same goal however, it was onwards and upwards for us, zig-zagging when the gradient became too steep and the more energetic changing lead, sharing the task of breaking the trail.

Nearing the summit the slope became very steep, and the dangers if we slipped outweighed the convenience of continuing on skis. We plugged our way up the steep soft snow slope, and then walked along the icy 300 meters to the summit. What

a view hit us! At first every direction our eyes looked they were only struck with range upon range of snow and ice covered mountains, but slowly they saw more than just mountains. The valleys were filled with sombre glaciers and there were even glimpses of high country tussock valleys to the south, the warm brown providing a pleasant contrast to the starkness of the ice and rock of the mountains. Below us 3 beautiful grey-green moraine lakes marked the terminals of their retreating glaciers, the colour deep and moody, reflecting the feeling of their glaciers. The lakes guarded their glaciers, making access to them difficult, but one lake had frozen, its surface pitted with rocks from the lateral moraine and littered with blocks of un-melted snow and ice. Even so the colour of the lake was strong and still penetrated up through the translucent ice. Away to the northwest, between the arms of two mountains, the Tasman Sea glimmered golden in the afternoon sun, its orange colour out of place between two cold peaks of ice. It stretched to the limit of our sight, clear, warm and unconcerned. To the south west the view was interrupted by the high mountain peaks, beautiful, harsh and unforgiving. Glaciers flowed off their flanks, rock pierced through on their ridges and their summits stood silently, challenging, almost daring. I gazed at them the most, for of all the views we had seen they were the key. A sea glimmering gold isn't magical unless framed by mountains, tussock valleys aren't valleys unless they have shoulders at their sides, a moraine lake isn't possible without glaciers and glaciers don't exist without mountains to reach up and collect the snow. There was a reluctance to leave this throne of beauty, each second there was precious, but finally, like a child releasing another's toy, we turned our backs on the summit and descended.

Snap, clip, thump. Tighten the boots and lock the skis into downhill mode. Below us, 3000 feet of untracked powder snow, the uphill effort seemed suddenly all worth while. It was light snow so light that my skis ran on snow somewhere underneath the surface out of sight. I knew the intention would be to put 5 parallel snaking tracks down the slopes, but I also knew my skills weren't up to this. I began slowly, doing several wide turns, each ski seemingly having a mind of its own and then.....THUMP. Ah so much for aesthetics! Our Swiss companions showed their style in these conditions, effortlessly they seemed to turn, making sharp quick turns, and leaving flawless tracks down the slope. My tracks in contrast were irregular and dotted with frequent craters. Our descent passed so quickly, despite the many stops to extract ourselves, dust off the snow and clip back into the bindings. Every moment was savoured, there was no tow at the bottom to drag us up for another run, but all too soon it finished and all that remained to do that day was the long skin back to the hut, our minds buzzing with memories and our cameras holding precious reminders of a fantastic day.

A ski touring week in the Murchison Valley and a ski ascent of Mt Ackland. We were John Wright, Glen Banks, John Barkla, Urs and Ruth Schupbach, Phil Clerke.

(1) Line from a song, by The Who, "I Can See for Miles."

### **Open Snow Weekend - 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> October**

It was a large group that assembled at the ludicrous hour of 6am at the Foottown carpark. After we had resolved the usual "can we fit everyone in the available cars?" - hassles we headed away.

Turoa was fine, about time too, after the endless weekends of bad weather at the mountain. People arrived more or less together at the Massey Hut and then departed, in groups of various sizes. Some went for walks along the lower slopes, some skied on the field and a large contingent headed for the top, some walking and the rest on skies. I was amongst the group that made it to the crater lake for lunch and felt privileged to stand there and take in such an exhilarating view. To the west Mt Egmont stood out, its winter snow fast receding, forest covered rolling hills stretched south and east to the Tararua and Ruahine Ranges. Northwards Taupo glimmered in the afternoon sun and beneath us was the crater lake, its aqua colour streaked with yellow sulphurous bands and the smell reminding us of its acidic nature and unusual origin.

There were two objectives for those who made it to the Crater Lake, that being the summits of Ruapehu. First to fall was Paretaitonga and an hour or so latter seven of us stood on Tahurangi, Ruapehu's highest summit. It was the first time many of us had been there and we appreciated the panorama that lay beneath us. Back at the hut that evening the red faces and arms were testimony to the good day that was had by all. Talking, eating and drinking and kicking that cursed hackey sack were the main events of the day.

Sunday brought very unfavourable weather and a good portion of the group headed home to Palmerston, however a group of about 8 braved the changeable conditions and walked around to Lake Surprise, a walk of about 5 hours return from the Massey Hut.

We were the considerable group of: John Wright, Ann Young, Karen Marshall, Greg Reid, Ian Kirker, Trevor Bissell, Terry Coburn, Mark Bown, Ross Wallace, Tricia Eder, Phil Clerke, Alison McColl, Bruce Barnes, Sally Richardson, Roger Redmayne, Terry Crippen, (Karen and Ron), Christine Cheyne, Alan Mountford (and friend) - apologies if I've missed anyone, whew!