



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217  
PALMERSTON NORTH  
NEWSLETTER

May/June 1989

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Membership Enquiries	: Tricia Eder	Ph.	70-122
President:	: John Wright		82-041
Gear Custodian	: Daryl Rowan		64-655
Newsletter Editor	: Linda Rowan		64-655

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## ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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Vaughan Crow:	Home Ph. 69-832	Work Ph. 74-129
Daryl & Linda Rowan	: Ph. 64-655	68-019
Sue & Lawson Pither	: Ph. 73-033	

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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

### 25<sup>th</sup> May - Club Night

Tonight Anna Wallace will speak to us of her journeys through Israel and Egypt. Last year Cherne Rockman talked to us of the area, its history and what we could expect to see. Come and hear Anna's story.

Venue: Society of Friend's Meeting Rooms  
227 College St, Palmerston North  
Time: 7:45pm

### 27<sup>th</sup> May - Tararua Tramping

How about a medium day trip on the western side of the Tararuas? Travel up the Ohau River, take the Waiopahu Track to the hut and head back out down the Blackwater Stream. John is even prepared to guide you!

Leader: John Thomson ph. 74320  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Saturday 7am

### 28<sup>th</sup> May - More Tararua Tramping

The Mangaone Stream Track lies on the western Tararuas in from Waikanae. The track goes in behind Waikanae and comes out a little further north. Should be some great views of Kapiti Island and maybe the South Island from the top.

Leader: Margaret Riordan ph. 67460  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: Sunday 7:30am

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

The first Thursday of the month is the night on which the committee meets. For the rest of the year the committee meetings will be held at Brad's place. Club members are always welcome to attend.

Venue: 436 College St  
Time: 7:45pm

### 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> June Queens Birthday Weekend - Cycling

A long weekend and you even get paid for Monday! Sally tried to take a cycling trip a couple of weekends ago but the weather got the better of her. Knowing Queens Birthday Weekend is usually fine she has decided to risk all and take a cycling trip up the Pohangina on either Sunday or Monday (the sunniest day). So get out the ten-speeds, mountain bikes, etc and join her.

Leader: Sally Hewson ph. 73543  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: Sunday 9: 00 am

### **3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> June - Queens Birthday Weekend - Tararua Traverse**

The Club's traverse in the Ruahines in May was so well supported Lyndon couldn't resist the temptation to try a traverse in the Tararuas for this long weekend. Start at Otaki Forks and get onto the tops via Fields Hut. Take the Main Range heading north east to Mt Crawford and Mitre and come out at Holdsworth. Should be a great weekend.

Leader: Lyndon Badcoe ph. 66553  
Grade: Fit  
Departs: Friday pm

### **11<sup>th</sup> June - Middle Ruahines - A Weekend on the Tops**

Phil wants to spend the weekend on the tops based around the Pouranaki Catchment, probably going in via Purity and Iron Peg. If the weather's indifferent there are plenty of options for river travel, otherwise it is the tops!

Leader: Phil Clerke ph. 82041  
Grade: Fit  
Departs: Friday 6pm

### **11<sup>th</sup> June - Southern Ruahine Crossing - Day Trip**

Terry is set to take this easy day crossing of the Ruahines to Maharahara. Good views of the East Coast Plains and the Pohangina can be expected.

Leader: Terry Crippen ph. 63588  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: Sunday 9:00am

### **15<sup>th</sup> June - Club Night - Annual Photo Competition**

Right folks this is it! For all aspiring photographers the great hunt is on for the Club's best slides and photographs. John Cleland will be judging the competition. This year we have three sections:

- Landscape - just that, a photo where capturing the New Zealand tramping or climbing landscape is the main aim.
- Nature - your best shots of insects, birds, ferns, toadstools, fungi, etc that abound in our forests, mountain areas, etc.
- Open Topical - this year we are looking for "Tramping Personalities", i.e. people associated with the Club who have been or are seen out tramping. The locality is not important for this category.

Please mark your slides and have them ready for viewing by 7:45pm.

Venue: Society of Friends Meeting Rooms  
227 College St, Palmerston North  
Time: 7:45pm

### **18<sup>th</sup> June - Day Trip To Rangī Hut**

Have you been to Rangī since the new bridge went in last year? Now is your opportunity to go. This trip makes a great family trip giving everyone the opportunity to get up onto the tops. Who knows there may even be some snow about!

Leader: Gavin Rogerson ph. 34702  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: Sunday 7:30am

### **18<sup>th</sup> June - Day Trip to Mid Pohangina**

If you want to get up a bit early in the day, Dave is taking a trip up to Mid-Pohangina Hut.

Leader: Dave Hunt ph. 63853  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Sunday 6:00am

### **24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> June - Dundas Ridge Tararuas**

Can you be tempted by a mystery trip to Dundas Ridge in the Tararuas? Urs has a route in mind but I haven't been able to catch up with him to find out what it is! This part of the Tararuas is always worth the effort of getting out of the bush.

Leader: Urs Schupbach ph. 80245  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Saturday early?

### **24<sup>th</sup> June - Day Trip in the Tararuas**

John's liking for Tararua tracks takes this day trip to Harris Creek Hut via Dick Creek, Baber Saddle and the Puketarua Track. Sounds good.

Leader: John Thomson ph. 74320  
Grade: Medium

Departs: Saturday 7am

### **29<sup>th</sup> June - Club Night**

Tonight Moe Turoa will talk about efforts being made in the conservation of two endangered coastal plants. The newly formed Conservation Corps have been working on a project aimed at identification and conservation of plants along the coastal Manawatu. Come along and hear what efforts are being made and why this work is important.

Venue: Society of Friend's Meeting Rooms  
227 College St, Palmerston North  
Time: 7:45pm

### **30<sup>th</sup> June - 2nd July - West – East Crossing of the Ruahines**

PNTMC's mid-winter dinner will be held at Sunrise Hut on the Eastern Ruahines on Saturday night 1<sup>st</sup> July, so Phil has decided to take the longer route to get his meal! This trip will go from the west, past Purity Hut - Waterfall Hut and come out at Sunrise in time for dinner.

Leader: Phil Clerke ph. 82041  
Grade: Fit  
Departs: Friday 6pm

### **1<sup>st</sup> June -2<sup>nd</sup> July – Sunrise Hut, Mid Winter Dinner**

This is the day to celebrate mid-winter, so bring out the steamed puddings and good hearty food and make your way to Sunrise Hut. A great opportunity to bring the family. Tricia needs to know EARLY if you plan to be there so she can coordinate transport. Please call her as soon as you know what you will be going. Tricia will also put you in contact with the person who is food organiser.

Leader: Tricia Eder ph. 70122  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: Saturday 7:00am

## **NOTICES**

### **New PNTMC Club Secretary**

Brad Owen is the new Club Secretary. Thank you Brad.

A motion was passed at last Committee Meeting "to accept the addition of Brad Owen and Gordon Derricott to the PNTMC Committee". Gordon will take up general committee duties.

### **Transportation Costs**

To avoid confusion on transport costs the following is a recommendation PNTMC makes to those providing transport. Costs should be calculated at \$0.10/km. The final sum should be divided between all the passengers in the car (i.e. the driver is excluded). This assumes a full car (driver and say 3 passengers). Where there are less passengers the costs should be adjusted to ensure the full costs are covered. As an estimate the trip to/from Sunrise Hut will be \$10/person.

We all appreciate the generous provision of transport by those who own cars and certainly don't want to leave anyone "short of pocket".

Please give me feedback as to whether the suggested rates works for your trip (Linda ph. 64655).

### **Coming Events:**

\* Snowcraft courses. The Club provides the opportunity for interested members to participate in one or all of three courses - Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Snowcraft. These courses are aimed to instruct people how to climb safely in our mountains. Brad Owen (ph. 83467) is the coordinator of the courses - phone him for more details. Remember - you must be currently active in the hills to attend the courses as a medium fitness is required.

\* Annual debate against Massey University Alpine. Held in the winter months - can you think of a suitable topic for debate or would you be interested in joining PNTMC's team for some wit and repartee? Give your name to any of the Committee members.

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

Don't forget - especially with the chance that DOC may do some more "flying" visits to check that you have paid for your accommodation! You can purchase Hut Pass tickets on Club nights from Peter Wiles. The price to Club members is 80% of what would normally be paid.

### **Address Updates**

Please make these additions, alterations to the 1989 PNTMC address list:

Nanette & Peter Clough, 70 Chamberlain St, Wellington

Helen Dakin, 72 New Renwick Road, Blenheim

Tony Cameron,

Catherine Farquhar, messages can be left at

Garth Harmsworth, 479 Albert St, Palmerston North

Ph. WN 766314

Ph. BN 85429

Ph. PN 65461

Ph. PN 83984

Ph. PN 70193

Laurie Kennedy, 6 Dittmer Drive, Palmerston North  
Brad Owen, 436 College St, Palmerston North  
Nigel Seebeck, 32 Raneleigh St, Karori, Wellington

Ph. PN 74360  
Ph. PN 83467  
Ph. WN 767151

### **PNTMC Gear Hire**

If you are interested in attending the snowcraft courses you may want to hire crampons and ice-axe from the Club supply. The gear can be hired from Daryl Rowan ph. 64655 and picked up at a pre-arranged time. Please remember to book early for gear and to take care of it while in your possession. For crampon hire you will need to bring the boots you plan to wear on the course to ensure a correct fit of the crampons.

### **Honorary Rangers - DOC Rangitikei District - Ruahine Forest Park**

The Club has received a letter from DOC inviting interested Club members to apply for positions as honorary rangers within the Ruahine State Forest Park. The holder of the warrant would be primarily required to aid DOC in informing the general public of the Hut Pass System, but expected to become involved in public liaison and law enforcement activities as the need arises.

If you are interested talk, to a committee member before the June 1<sup>st</sup> Committee Meeting.

### **Newsletter Distribution**

Is your newsletter making its way to you correctly or is it getting diverted along the way to an old address? Sally Hewson (ph. 73543) is the distributor for PNTMC's newsletter - please let her know if you have any hassles, duplicates or whatever.

### **DEET -EXTRA**

Scared off by last newsletters article on DEET - insect repellent. Laurie Kennedy has a solution (sic):

"I was interested to read the comments on insect repellent in the last Newsletter. As a method of putting less on but still keeping the predators at bay, here's a recipe learned in Florida and successfully used against the Everglades mosquitoes. Buy a bottle of cheap skin lotion (250 ml or so) and add a small bottle (say 50 ml) of bug stuff, mix and apply liberally as needed."

Thanks Laurie!

### **The Sleepy Heads Awards**

Our beloved leaders are letting us down! Have you recently been left waiting in the dark for your sleepy-eyed leader to arrive for a trip that was going to depart EARLY?

\* John Wright was awakened by his alarm at 4:50am for a trip to the mountain leaving at 5:00am! !

### **NOT TO BE OUTDONE!**

\* Tony Gates' traverse of the Ruahines - departure time 4:45am. The following phone call took place at 5:15am!

Mark: Tony?

Tony: Julian?

Mark: No, Mark. (pause) I'm at Carroll St.

Tony: Oh \*#%@+ ! I missed my alarm. I'll be there in an hour.

### **TRIP REPORTS**

#### **29<sup>th</sup> April**

Ok, so it was only April and Winter snows were still far away, but there was the prospect of finding some open crevasses on Ruapehu's slopes, so on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> 4 keen individuals toiled upwards on the southern side of the mountain. The intention all along had been to make it a weekend trip, but brooding clouds over Ruapehu was an indication of the weather to come. We decided to play a statistics game, dump our weekend gear and head up to the glacier in the hope that the weather would postpone its fury, for Saturday at least.

The crevasses and seracs were there, just as I'd hoped and we were fortunate in being able to shelter from the westerly now screaming over the summit of Ruapehu. The day's activities revolved around two exercises, the first crevasse rescue techniques and the second ice bouldering on the 30 foot serac wall. The biggest adrenalin rush was climbing an overhanging serac, feeling as though one was about to fall off at any moment, the top rope did little to reduce the fear factor.

We achieved everything that we set out to do and descended back down to the car park around 5 in the afternoon, Ruapehu's weather following us down. By the time we reached the van the rain had set in well and truly and we headed home happy that we accomplished everything and beaten the weather for a change.

We were: John Wright, Mark Bown, Lyndon Badcoe, Chris Morton.

#### **7<sup>th</sup> May - Day Trip to Sunrise Hut**

After the rain of the last week we hoped for a fine day for our easy day trip up to Sunrise Hut on the Eastern Ruahines. Twelve of us met at Foodtown car park and organised transport (we had to have space for a further seven Club members returning from the Ruahine crossing). Our convoy set off (at 7:00am) picking up a carload at Whakarongo and another at Dannevirke to swell our final numbers to eighteen. Making our way through thick fog on the plains we were greeted with brilliant sunshine and great view of the Ruahines just a few kilometres from the road-end.

We set off leaving the faster to go ahead and made out way up the benched track to meet at Sunrise Hut all arriving within 2 hours from the car park. The hut was full with Tararua Tramping Club folks and after an early lunch we headed off to Armstrong Saddle where Mts Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe were seen in the distance. After lots of "ohs and ahs" at the view we then scampered up the highpoint for views of the Northern Ruahines.

Having made our rendez-vous with the people on the crossing trip – all twenty-five and Fred (Tony's escort for the weekend) were back at the car park to re-organise for the journey back to P.N..  
A fine day outing and really good to see such a large group of keen people.

Day Trippers: Dave Hunt, Margaret Riordan-, Stuart Boyd, Liz Morrison, Monica Cantwell, Ann Young, Jackie P., Perry Hicks, Joan O'Neill, Tricia Eder, Melana Jenkins (10yrs), Gerrard Eder (9yrs), Phillip Eder (11yrs), Tony Cameron, Rachel Beaver, Adrienne Foote, Dennis Windfield and Linda: Rowan (Leader).

### **A STORY FOR LINDA - From "a maniac trumper", "the maniac trumper"!**

#### **ADDICTED TO TRAMPING** by a Ruahine Trumper

Love it. Just can't get enough of this tramping game. I'm beginning to feel addicted, as if it's a sort of drug. Not sure if it's like "Runner's High" but it sure feels good, whether it's merely using those leg muscles for what they are made, or just the healthy feeling of well being, I for one avidly pursue the "enjoyment" of tramping.

There must be other reasons, though, why I consistently insist on putting my body through what others may dislike (too many dislikes to list here!). I mean, adrenalin does something to me, like the feeling of exposure whilst sidling a steep dangerous gully, the adrenalin pumping whilst chasing a stag, the competition, the battling with nature. There's beauty in the hills too, during good weather and bad. I even like to add to my "red line" map, and to visit huts merely to read the log book. Great to read familiar names stretching back over the years. Some friends go to the point of listing all the huts they visit with 100 being quite a score. (My personal score is 284 but they say I cheat). I usually fulfil my carnivorous desires, and fill the freezer, whilst tramping with a rifle and I'll always try to get a bigger stag than Bruce can. Tramping is a great way to give the dog a run too, but I guess it's the social aspect and camaraderie that we all enjoy the most. This is the story of a recent PNTMC trip about that.

We had all the ingredients for a memorable trip. Seven of us planned to complete an overnight crossing of the Ruahine Ranges, to meet up with seventeen (plus one half) day trippers. Firstly though some introductions. I willingly agreed to lead the trip, so Linda volunteered Daryl to be my porter. We then needed a guide, so Mick came along, and a cook, so Mark was employed. Tom wanted to learn about bush-bashing (stressing the word "bash"), Lyndon didn't want to miss out (we used his car anyway), and Derek was the apprentice. No trip would be complete without Fred-dog (he's addicted to tramping too). Julian and Linda kindly assisted with transport. So, the trip began (only one hour late, 'cos someone missed the alarm clock - weak excuse). We steamed past Kauwhatau Base (DOC) and were soon slipping and sliding about on the muddy track. Even built up some sweat, now that's a good feeling. We sort of "popped" out of the bush onto a tussocky knob, and needed some map and compass discussion due to the inclement weather. Our destination, the Mokai Patea Range tops, was misty, so we had to follow a compass bearing until landmarks could be recognised. Finally sunshine and rewarding views, and with a happy stomach, what more could a trumper ask for? Good times.

The knee jarring descent to Wakelings Hut gave us good reason for a brew up and lunch, and to re-appraise our original destination of Sunrise Hut. Considered we could only make it over the ridge, north to the Maropea River, so I had to "encourage" the others on. Tom obviously was not impressed with our choice of routes, into head high pampas grass intertwined with lawyer and windfalls (and a few human falls as well!). It was a relieved mob of trampers that emerged somewhat worse for wear onto the grassy river flats. The easy river travel, however, continued nearly right up to Top Maropea Hut, more than compensating for our frustrations in the scrub. We camped the evening there, and I for one had my stomach restored to (almost) normal, care of Mark's cooking. The stew was so large that even Fred-dog got some. Bit better than dry biscuits - eh. Fred-dog may have been envious of us snuggled into our sleeping bags on such a fine, frosty evening, but that just tough luck. It's a dog's life. (Fred-dog did in fact snuggle up to me, then Daryl, then Mark - we all pushed him away, but I must admit his persistence was rather annoying). Mark was not impressed with the dog sitting on his head!

Sunday dawned crispy - clear and cold. Fred-dog and I went for an early morning hunt, but the deer all ran away. The views were worth it though. All of us dawdled up to Armstrong Saddle, enjoying the magnificent sunrise. We deposited our packs, and with some TTC's (from Wellington), wandered up to Te Atuoparapara (otherwise known as Tutenkahmen). A great summit. Of course there was some "leatherwood massage", as Derek learnt the meaning of the word "grovel". That's supposed to be enjoyment too!

It was downhill all the way from there, with a three hour lunch break at Sunrise Hut, endless cups of tea and scrounging leftovers from the TTC party. (Told you tramping was enjoyable). Linda and her day trippers unfortunately missed the fine weather (No we didn't! - ed), with the mist rolling in from the East, but I'm sure they enjoyed the walk. Fred-dog enjoyed their company, I think it make him feel important being "guardian" for us all. So the trip ended with an easy stroll on a fine example of a DOC "A" grade track.