



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217  
PALMERSTON NORTH  
NEWSLETTER

July/August 1989

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## ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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Vaughan Crow:	Home Ph. 69-832	Work Ph. 74-129
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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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### JOHN NELSON WRIGHT 11/1/64 - 2/7/89

While descending from a climb in the Canadian Rockies John Wright, PNTMC Club President, was killed in a fall. Most of us will have talked with John of his plans to climb in the Rockies, given him our share of "travel hints", best wishes and looked forward to the prospect of seeing slides of his adventures presented in the true "John style".

We will miss John, his enthusiasm for the outdoor, his interest in what others are doing and most of all that great beaming smile which captured your immediate attention.

John's tendency to plan ahead whether it be a Club trip or a climbing or canoeing trip never marred his enthusiasm to hear what you had planned for the future. John was always looking ahead for an opportunity, considering all the options and preparing his thoughts "I could cycle a long way, I could cycle to Taupo, lie on the lakeside and read books, I could tramp around the National Parks - Now there's an idea. I haven't visited Urewera (or however it's spelt) National Park. I could hitch-hike or cycle there and do a little lazy tramping.... "

Each of us will have our special memory of John and perhaps his dedication to us (PNTMC) is best expressed in Phil's words:

"I think John's main outdoor love was for the mountains. What little time I did spend with John in the hills, I had grown to see his very deep respect and understanding for this environment. His ability can not be underrated – for those of us who knew John his achievements spoke for themselves.

The drive and direction John gave to PNTMC will be sadly missed. His own time sacrificed on numerous occasions to benefit others' enjoyment of the outdoors.

You are a missed friend of us all John, a friendship which will not be forgotten.

The world will hear one less happy laugh".

## **COMING EVENTS**

Where full details of the proposed trips are missing please ring the leader and ask the route they will be taking – but please ring early!

### **28-29-30<sup>th</sup> July - Tongariro National Park**

We have two weekend trips to this wonderful area. Alison will lead a hard medium (6-7+ hour day) trip from the Chateau to Waihohonu Hut – Oturere Hut - Red Crater – the saddle between Ngauruhoe and Tongariro – then back to the Chateau via the Mangatepopo Track. Meanwhile Liz will take an easy weekend trip from the Chateau to Waihohonu Hut and return the same way. Either trip should be a great weekend.

Leader: Medium - Alison McColl ph. 89326  
Easy - Liz Morrison ph. 76532  
Departs: Friday 6:00pm

### **3<sup>rd</sup> August - Committee Meeting**

At Brad's Place. Open to Committee members and interested Club members.

Venue: 436 College St  
Time: 7:45pm

### **5-6<sup>th</sup> August - Cattle Ridge Eastern Tararuas**

A weekend trip to Cattle Ridge in the Eastern Tararuas.

Leader: Graham Peters ph. 65581  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Saturday 7:00am

### **6<sup>th</sup> August - Manawatu Gorge Trip**

A day trip above the gorge. This track goes along the southern side the gorge providing views both east and west.

Leader: Monica Cantwell ph.83834  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: Sunday 9:00am

### **12-13<sup>th</sup> August - Colenso, Western Ruahines**

Jenni's trip will head out from Mokai Base past Iron Bark Hut and on to Lake Colenso returning on Sunday via Unknown Campsite. A great area to visit.

Leader: Jenni Madgwick ph. 590536  
Grade: Medium - Fit  
Departs: Saturday 6: 30am

### **13<sup>th</sup> August - Irongate, Ruahines Day trip**

Tricia will be taking this trip to Irongate Hut in the Oroua River. There is potential for easy and medium variations to the trip.

Leader: Tricia Eder ph. 70122  
Grade: Easy - Medium  
Departs: Sunday 7:00am

### **17<sup>th</sup> August - Club Night**

Tonight Noel Cantwell will tell us of the highlights and delights of running Marathons. Noel has run in a number of well known marathons in N.Z. and overseas. Tonight the New York Marathon will be the focus of his (and our) attention.

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

### **19-20<sup>th</sup> August - Tararua Exploration with Chris**

Plans are to tramp to Herepai Hut on the Eastern Tararuas and base the group there. From there access to the tops and Roaring Stag area is available and given the interests of the group exploration will be made.

Leader: Chris Morton ph. 77497  
Grade: Easy - Medium  
Departs: Saturday 7:00am

### **19<sup>th</sup> August - Western Ruahines Day Trip for the Fit**

A day trip in the Ruahines – in from Heritage Lodge up over Toka and back out via Irongate.

Leader: Phil Clerke ph. 82041  
Grade: Fit  
Departs: Saturday 6:00am

### **25-26-27<sup>th</sup> August – Basic Snowcraft Course**

Your opportunity to learn how to move about safely on snow - ice-axe work including self-arresting (i.e. stopping a fall or slip), cutting and plugging steps. Based at Blyth or Rangipo Huts – dependent on snow! Call early if you want to go and to arrange gear hire.

Organiser: Brad Owen ph. 83467  
Grade: Medium - Fit  
Departs: Friday 6:00pm

### **27<sup>th</sup> August - Day trip Tamaki River**

Is it fishing weather already? Terry will lead this easy trip to the Eastern Ruahines going up the river as far as Stanfield Hut.

Leader: Terry Crippen ph.63588  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: Sunday 8:00am

### **31<sup>st</sup> August – Annual Debate with MUAC**

This is it! The opportunity to win back the Debate trophies (the boot and the cup) from Massey University Alpine Club who took it from us last year. The topic of debate will be something like "That all trampers should be obliged to enforce payment of hut fees" or perhaps "That wet wool is still warmer than dry poly-propylene". If you're keen to debate please phone Tricia now - we need three eager, if not slightly eccentric, people for the team!

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

### **2-3rd September – Tony is back fit and read to go!**

Yes Tony has yet another West – East crossing of the Ruahines in mind – so for those of you with a tendency towards punishment the opportunity is here again!

Leader: Tony Gates ph. (0652) 48854  
Grade: Fit  
Departs: Early

### **3<sup>rd</sup> September - Day Trip to Tunipo**

Spring-time and also time to get out the shorts and expose the legs to some soft sunlight before the summer.

Leader: Vaughan Crow ph. 86569  
Grade: Easy - Medium  
Departs: 7:30am

### **7<sup>th</sup> September – Committee Meeting**

At Brad's Place. Open to Committee members and interested club members.

Venue: 436 College St  
Time: 7:45pm

### **8-10<sup>th</sup> September - Snowcraft Intermediate**

So you think the skills you learnt in the first course will help you in your travels - now is the time to extend them. Rope work - belays and use of crampons will be taught. Based at MUAC Hut Turoa - side of Ruapehu.

Organiser: Brad Owen ph. 83467  
Grade: Medium - Fit  
Departs: Friday 6:00pm

### **10<sup>th</sup> September - Alternative trip closer to home**

Leader: Graham Peters ph.65581  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: To be arranged

### **14th September - Club Night**

Anna Wallace has all her slides ready to talk on her trip to Israel. Many of you may have heard Cheime Rockman's talk last year on the trips he takes. Anna has now "been there, done that". Come and hear her tales.

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

### **16-17<sup>th</sup> September - Northern Crossing Tararuas**

Leader: Bruce Barnes ph. (065) 67826  
Grade: Fit  
Departs: To be arranged

### **16-17<sup>th</sup> September - Te Matawai Hut – Tararua Weekend**

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

### **22-24<sup>th</sup> September - Advanced Snowcraft**

Even more skills to learn. This time up on the top of Ruapehu – based either at Whangaehu Hut or camping out on top.

Organiser: Brad Owen ph. 83467  
Grade: Medium - Fit  
Departs: Friday 6:00pm

### **24<sup>th</sup> September - Southern Ruahines**

Mick will take a trip to Forks Hut in from Pohangina Valley.

Leader: Mick Leyland ph. 83183  
Grade: Medium - Easy  
Departs: Sunday 7:00am

### **26<sup>th</sup> September Tuesday – Alternative Club Night**

Please note the change of day and venue. Tonight we will be the guests of Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club night for a Quiz Night between MT&SC, MUAC and PNTMC. So if you can play Trivial Pursuits you'll be a great asset to our team. Let Tricia know if you want to go on the team. Should be heaps of fun!

Venue: Rangitane Pavilion  
Time: 7:45pm

### **30<sup>th</sup> September – Never heard of it! Must be worth trying**

Komako to Teekaou Hut up to Forks Hut and out via Diggers and Bibbies Huts. A day trip in from the Pohangina.

Leader: John Thomson ph. 74320  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Saturday 7:00 am

### **1<sup>st</sup> October - Harris Creek, Tararuas**

Leader: Ann Young ph. 70153  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Sunday 7:00 ?

## **NOTICES**

### **Newsletter**

The newsletter may be a little late arriving for August and September due to major disruptions in the editor's schedule. If you want to know what trips are happening beyond those in this newsletter please call the trips conveners - John ph.74320 or Tricia ph. 70122.

### **Thank You**

To MUAC, Ruahine Tramping Club, MT&SC and other Clubs for their letter of condolences at the deaths of both Trevor and John. Yes our number of skilled leaders has diminished, and we thank you for offers of help in our training courses.

### **Can You help?**

Derek Sharp (ph 268178) lives in Ashhurst and would like to get to Club nights as often as possible. Unfortunately he doesn't have transport. If you pass by Ashhurst either to/from Club night and can help Derek with transport please call him.

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

Don't forget if you want to use huts and associated facilities then you require hut passes. 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. Please remember to put the tickets in the box at the hut.

### **PNTMC Gear Hire**

Don't forget if you want to hire gear for winter trips and snowcraft courses get organised now and call Daryl ph. 64655 to book gear and arrange pickup times. The demand for gear is high and gear is being booked weeks in advance. (Also the gear custodian is expecting a few disruptions to his schedule too!)

### **Address Updates**

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

Derek Sharp	144 Oxford St, Ashhurst	Ph. PN 268-178
Daniel Schupbach	94 Wood St, P.N.	Ph. PN 80245
Graham & Mary Lund	Weber Road, Dannevirke	Ph. (0653) 47811
	P O Box 47 811	
Dennis Winfield	188 Grey St, P.N.	Ph. PN 88760

## **SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) – Information List**

Remember the form that arrived in the last newsletter requesting contact numbers from you and also information on your tramping experience? Can you please fill out a copy and return the form to Linda Rowan as soon as possible. The information is required by us in the event that a search for you is necessary, or if you are overdue on a trip and your employer needs to be informed. Thank you to those who have already forwarded their forms.

## **DON'T FORGETS!**

- \* Ring Early to put your name down for a trip and to guarantee a position. Anyone calling after the Thursday before the trip may miss out as transport, etc. is generally coordinated by Thursday night.
- \* Publicity – Monica Cantwell has been very busy advertising the Club's activities around notice boards, on the radio and community papers. If you have any ideas of where we can post an information sheet please let her know.
- \* Thank you to all those people who helped with the Memorial Service for John Wright.
- \* Coming up - snow-caving on Ruapehu at Labour Weekend. An opportunity to put your new snowcraft skills to work.

## **NINE HUNDRED KIWIS AND A DOG – Jared M. Diamond**

Introduced predators are thought to be the leading cause of the extinction of island species. Yet the evidence for this is inferential in many cases, with few or no direct observations of predation. It remains baffling how victim species can disappear so quickly, and how a predator species can eradicate a victim species completely before its own numbers collapse. Thus, the recently documented collision between one dog and a population of 900 kiwis is likely to become cited as a classic study in conservation biology (Taborsky, M. Notornis 35,197-202,1988).

Until recently, the 11-square-mile Waitangi State Forest supported the largest known and counted population of brown kiwis (*Apteryx australis*). Between June and October 1987, biologists marked some individuals of this population and followed them using radio transmitters. On 24 August 1987, a large female kiwi was found freshly dead. Over the next 6 weeks more fresh carcasses were located usually buried under leaves and soil. Of the 23 marked birds, 13 died during this period... 10 carcasses of unmarked individuals were also discovered. By the end of September many fewer kiwi calls were being heard, and a dog trained to locate kiwis (not to kill them) could find none.

Tooth marks and footprints showed that all the dead kiwis had been killed by a dog, which had buried but not eaten them. All parts of Waitangi Forest that were searched yielded dead kiwis, dead possums, dog footprints, or dog faeces containing kiwi feathers or possum remains. The footprints and faeces all appeared to be from the same dog....  
- Excerpts from NATURE Vol 338, 13 April 1989.

## **TRIP REPORTS**

### **Atene Skyline Walkway - 9<sup>th</sup> July**

After leaving a car at each end of the track we set off at 9am at an eager steady pace following an old road line for about 3 kms then following the ridgeline to the shelter and halfway point 2½ hrs later for a brief lunch. Unfortunately Mts Ruapehu and Taranaki were clouded over but we were able to see out to the sea, the Wanganui River with good views of the surrounding area and where the river once flowed around Puketapu. Apart from the many fallen trees on the track we had a great day, good weather and company and arrived back at the cars some 5½ hours after starting.

We were: Collin Allan, Mick Leyland, Marion Smith, Len Smith, Tricia Eder, Tony Cameron, Monica Cantwell and Ann Young (Leader).

### **Rangi Hut - 18<sup>th</sup> June**

Three of us set off from Palmy with a forecast for afternoon rain. Len lead off at a steady pace and on the way we were lucky enough to have good views of Ruapehu and surrounding areas. Three-quarters of the way up we came to ice slush underfoot with patches of snow around us. Mist closed in on reaching the hut about 1 hour later. We had a quick lunch as it was too cold to hang around. Had sunshine on the way down and found that Palmy had bad weather all day.

We were: Marion Smith, Len Smith and stand-in leader Ann Young.

### **Ngamoko Biv Ruahines Day Trip – 8<sup>th</sup> July.**

It wasn't quite raining when we left the carpark and the low cloud around the hills didn't really give us much hope of seeing too much of a view but being optimistic we started off on a steady climb up to the ridgeline. The track to Toka from the west is steep but interesting and the first section was completed, the faster in the group waiting at the track junction for the slower of us. A plod on upwards into the mist and later rain and wind had us stopping to pile on more clothes just below the bushline. Daryl, Tom and Ollie then carried on up onto the ridge top to complete the loop, coming down the other ridge. The remainder took their time walking back down the track to the car – arriving only a few minutes before the rest of the team!

We were: Tom Jackson, Liz Morrison, Tracy Hunt, Ollie Cliffman, Daryl and Linda Rowan.