



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217  
PALMERSTON NORTH  
NEWSLETTER

September 1990

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## **ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS**

Brad Owen : Ph. 83-467  
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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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## **THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAMME**

Please sign your name in the visitors book. There is a door fee of 30c to cover hall and supper expenses.

The PNTMC committee meets on the first Thursday of each month, at 436 College Street. Meetings are held for all club (and intending) members on the last Thursday of each month and the Thursday two weeks prior to that evening. The venue is the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North, at 7:45 pm.

### **SEPT 27<sup>th</sup>**

The Great Annual Mountaineering and Skiing Debate

Topic: "That mountaineers are as 'yuppie' as skiers"

Venue: Ag-Hort Lecture Block, Massey University, at 8pm. (turn left off Massey ring road just after the Vet Tower - 2<sup>nd</sup> side-road on left after turning right onto the Massey Ring Road at the top Massey entrance).

The annual PNTMC versus MUAC debate is to be held at MUAC's meeting at Massey University. Good entertainment is guaranteed, but member support for the team is essential.

**Oct 11<sup>th</sup>** "Rock Climbing New Zealand Style"  
Roger Redmayne and Jenni Madgwick will talk about NZ rock climbing, illustrated with slides.

**Oct 25<sup>th</sup>** "Medical work in Nepal"  
Sharon English will talk about her experiences in Nepal, which include gazing at the mountains.

### **Trip List**

**Sept 22-23** SNOWCRAFT 3 (Mt Ruapehu)  
Grade: Fit/Medium weekend  
Leader: Peter Wiles (Phone 86-894)  
Previous snowcraft experience essential – should be familiar with crampons, ice-axe and belay techniques.

**Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>** Kumeti Hut South - East Ruahines  
Grade: Medium day trip  
Leader: Tricia Eder (Phone 70-122)  
Somewhere in the Kumeti Valley ??

**Sept 29-30** Ski Mountaineering on Ruapehu  
Grade: Fit  
Leader: Tony Gates (Phone 70-990)  
A ski-mountaineering and igloo-building trip onto Ruapehu's summit plateau. Warm clothes essential.

**Sept 29-30** Keretaki Hut South-East Ruahines  
Grade: Medium weekend  
Leader: Mick Leyland (Phone 83-183)  
Visit the heart of the Southern Ruahines, the home of the tall 'old-man' leatherwood, and a hut with all mod-cons.

**Sep 30<sup>th</sup>** Saddle Road to Manawatu Gorge  
Grade: Medium day trip  
Leader: Roger Redmayne (Phone 06-504-8376)  
Explore a rugged, but scenic area near Palmerston North.

**Oct 6-7<sup>th</sup>** Ngamoko Range & Toka Biv  
Grade: Medium day (or weekend if enough interest)  
Leader: Mary Craw (Phone 290-749)  
Access to this area via Shorts or Deerford tracks.

**Oct 7<sup>th</sup>** Manawatu Gorge Walkway  
Grade: Easy day trip  
Leader: Daryl Rowan  
Look down on all those motorists driving through the Manawatu Gorge, and missing the best scenic views.

**Oct 13-14** Digger's Creek & Forks Hut  
Grade: Medium weekend  
Leader: Mick Leyland (Phone 83-183)  
A stroll into the heart of the southern Ruahines.

**Oct 14<sup>th</sup>** Mt Bruce  
Grade: Easy/family day trip  
Leader: Gavin Rogerson (Phone 34-702)

**Oct 20-22** Waipakihi Valley - Kaimanawa Range  
Grade: Medium long weekend  
Leader: Jim Cooper (Phone 89-861)  
Trip to the headwaters of the Rangitikei River. Stroll along beautiful river flats and through beech forest.

**Oct 27-28** Hikurangi Range  
Grade: Fit  
Leader: Leader required  
A trip into Tony's favourite stamping ground in the north-west Ruahines.

**Oct 28<sup>th</sup>** Ngamoko Range  
Grade: Easy/medium day trip  
Leader: Dave Hunt (Phone 63-853)  
Another trip to the north-west Ruahines.

**Oct 27-28** SAREX (Search & Rescue Exercise)  
Grade: All club members  
Contact: Tricia Eder (Phone 70-122)  
Volunteers are the mainstay of land search and rescue in New Zealand. Exercises help keep Club members well trained and ready for any emergency.

### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **Chris Bonnington Lecture** (Oct 8th)

As part of the '1990 Living Treasure' series, Chris Bonnington will present a lecture in the Wellington Town Hall on Monday October 8th. Tickets cost \$17.50 from BASS. (See Tony Gates for more details and co-ordination of transport)

#### **Advance Notice of Club Christmas Social**

The PNTMC Christmas Function will be held on Thursday December 13th, at the Coachman, Fitzherbert Ave, Palmerston North. Tickets will be \$30, and can be ordered from Tony Gates. Book early for a great dine & dance evening.

#### **Advance Notice of Club Christmas Trip**

A Christmas trip, designed to cater for all grades, is being planned. It will be going to the Lewis Pass region of the South Island. For further details contact Tony Gates (Phone 70990). Watch this space for further details. Tell Tony if you are interested in attending so that planning can be completed before ferry bookings are full.

#### **President's Editorial** (by Tony Gates)

... and I thought that the warm weather had arrived with spring! Not yet, as I see the local hills plastered with snow, and Mt Ruapehu enjoying the best snow cover for many years. There's probably some fine ice too. The cold weather is not all that bad – it will make you enjoy tramping during summer even more.

The recent tragedy involving members of the Army Training Group on Mt Ruapehu emphasises what mountains can be like under adverse conditions. It also demonstrates how some factors can make the difference between life and death. The Japanese civilian survivor showed how experience, commonsense and luck affect the outcome.

Results of the enquiry will hopefully allow us to learn from the mistakes of others. Equipment, leadership, preparation, determination and appreciation of the mountain environment are all important factors for survival in adverse conditions. PNTMC's snowcraft courses are designed to give club members instruction on such matters.

Politics are seldom mentioned in this newsletter, but the recently shelved Resource Management Bill deserves a note here. FMC supported the bill, and pushed for many changes. But it cannot now become law until 1991 at the earliest, and may be extensively modified if there is a change of government.

#### **New Members**

We welcome Michael Johns, 17 Guy Ave, Palmerston North (Phone 552-162).

#### **Annual Quiz Results**

After a hard-fought competition, before a rather small audience, the Trevor Bissell Memorial Trophy was awarded to the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club. The scores were:

MTSC 34.5  
MUAC 30.5  
PNTMC 30.0

### **New Trip Card**

A trip card for the next six months is being prepared. If you want to offer to lead a trip please contact Tony Gates (Phone 70-990) as soon as possible.

### **Vacancies For Evening Program**

Wanted: - interesting Club night shows. If any Club member wishes to give an evening slide show, please contact any committee member.

### **Election Issues**

### **"How Green are our candidates and their parties"**

A panel of candidates from the Manawatu and Palmerston North electorates will present their policies on environmental issues at a meeting organised by the Maruia Society. The meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers, at 7:30 on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Merv Hancock will chair the meeting.

### **Alpine / Antarctic Calendars**

Good bulk buying discounts are available. These are excellent value for money, so contact Jenni Madgwick if interested (ph 590-536).

### **Details of Snowcraft 3 & 4** by Peter Wiles

Snowcraft III will be at Ruapehu, and probably involve snowcaving or camping out. We will be covering the use of snowstakes, and various types of anchors and belay systems. The use of standard climbing instructions, front pointing and abseiling. Participants will require the following gear: crampons, harness or tape, carabineers (2), snowstake, ice-axe, and one rope per pair attending. A hard hat would be desirable (e.g. a cycling helmet if you don't have a climbing helmet).

Gear can be hired from the Club (contact Daryl Rowan)

### **Breathing Is Hazardous To Your Health** by Peter Wiles

Have you ever given much thought to the dangers you face while tramping? Probably not enough – but don't get too worried – for now any way. How dangerous is tramping as a sport / recreational pastime? The answer to this question presents many difficulties because of the lack of a universal definition of the term "dangerous".

However, some indication is given in a recent publication by the Accident Compensation Corporation – ACC Injury Statistics – SPORT Vol. 2 1990. Their surveys show in 89/90 there were 56,993 male and 73,462 female trampers in N.Z. (Female dominated - note.) ACC paid out on 91 and 80 claims for men and women respectively; total sums of \$153,507 and \$73,346 respectively. The first observation seems to suggest that men do themselves damage significantly more often than the women and more severely; to the extent of about 50% more in cost per accident.

Compare the number of claims for trampers with those playing rugby or rugby league. There were 157,796 male rugby players and 13,874 women rugby players (surprisingly popular with women). The injury rates were 52 and 10.5 per 1,000 participants, costing the ACC \$8,878,484 and \$128,101 for the men and women, respectively. The corresponding rates for league players were 129 and 19 per 1,000, respectively. For tramping the comparative rates were rather more 2.04 and 1.27 per 1000.

If you are still worried by all this perhaps you might like to consider a more sociable game like tennis where the frequency of injury claims are 2.14 and 1.69. Yes, tramping appears to be safer than tennis! If you are looking for something more sedate, then bowls or golf are possibly the way to go. The corresponding rates are 0.38 and 0.25 per thousand and 0.68 and 0.60, respectively.

For mountaineering, the ACC statistics are incomplete. They reveal that there were 19 and 15 claims paid out for men and women respectively. Compared with tramping, the cost relationship between the sexes was reversed, with claims by women about 50% more expensive per accident than for men.

What does all this prove? I don't know really, but it might instigate some heated arguments ..... !!!

## **TRIP REPORTS**

### **SNOWCRAFT I 17 - 19 August 1990** Rangipo Hut, Ruapehu by Neil Gravestock

We were lucky enough to have the vital ingredient for the weekend; snow in abundance. Neil thought the vital ingredient was food so we had that in abundance as well. The snow kept Tony and Mike happy, skiing on the slopes and posing for the cameras, it also gave Arthur a chance to learn to ski.

Rangipo Hut is in a great location, good views over the desert to the Kaimanawa Ranges. It's an ideal base for climbing, tramping and skiing (snow permitting); and it's only two hours walk from the road end. (Hmmmmm – only when it's daylight and no south-easterly or snow falling).

With the snow conditions being so good we didn't have to walk far to find a suitable gully for practising self arrest with an ice axe, glissading, snow caving and other snow craft type activities. Everyone threw themselves into it (literally) with great gusto.

One of the great successes of the weekend was Derek's snow cave which even the fussiest Japanese mountaineer would have been proud of. It had the bonus of being built on an angle so you could slide in one entrance, through the cave, out of the other entrance and the hurtle head first down' the gully; who needs Disneyland!

Tony told me that Mike practised some 4WD action and got stuck. I wasn't there to see it, but it sounds embarrassing so I had better mention it.

Peter Wiles, Tony Gates, Sharon English, Steve Glasgow, Derek Sharp, Mike Hewett, Karen Hewett (?), Neil Gravestock, Arthur Todd, Liz Todd.

### **A Dedicated Trumper** (by Tony Gates)

It rained – in fact it poured – as the south-easterly rolled up the Wairarapa and pounded the Tararuas. The leader couldn't come, no one else did, so I tramped solo. Fanaticism, or even stupidity some would say; but I call it dedication.

Holdsworth was the trip destination, an area with many trip possibilities for trips of all grades. The tramp was custom made for just me, no-one to slow me down or keep up with, but no one to talk to or enjoy the bush with. The bush was lovely that day in its own special way; wet, dark, forbidding, and protective from the storm.

All I did was to doddle up to Mountain House on a new DOC track, slurp a brew, then return. I really enjoyed the bush, and it's so easy on the new track. The new track deserves some mention because it is just so easy, even though not completed yet. There is a lot of mud, and some grovelling through the scrub, but it will be a real highway when finished.

Are such tracks really necessary? Will they simply lead people into areas beyond their capabilities? But it's a lovely tramping area, so let's hope for another tramp there during summer.

### **Kime Hut** (Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August) by Tony Cameron

Saturday's synoptic chart showed a low pressure area over central NZ. The forecast was for "a strong southeast airflow becoming established over New Zealand on Sunday". Beware anyone going up onto the infamous 'Southern Crossing' route.

We headed off for Otaki, keeping an eye on huge cumulus clouds forming to the West, and the cloud-shrouded range tops to the East. A heavy shower greeted our arrival at Otaki Forks, keeping us car-bound for a while. When the rain passed it was gear on, over the bridge, across soaking paddocks to the DOC highway, and up the hill. The upgraded track through, the bush was very easy, and after about 2 hours and more rain we trooped into Field Hut for refreshments.

By now the weather had become abominable; the prospect of reaching Kime dimmed. After a discussion we moved out to try for at least Table Top.

Progress was slower, large puddles were skirted, open tops appeared, and the track became braided where countless trampers have tried to keep their feet dry. As we climbed conditions worsened, and not much beyond the Penn Creek junction the tramp was given away.

Back at Field Hut a tribe of thousands of school kids had taken over, preventing our return to a comfortable lunch rest. Back to the carpark, and guess what – the weather improved as the day wore on – even the sun peeped out. (I've seen this one before.)

We were: Monica Cantwell, Joan O'Neill Ian Butcher, Tony Cameron, plus 7 from the MTSC led by Ken Mercer.

### **Snowcraft II** (Mt Egmont) by Steve Glasgow

Six of us set out on Friday night. We were Tony Gates, Peter Wiles, Sharon English, Darren Scott, Derek Sharp & myself. Lis & Arthur Todd had already travelled to Egmont and were to meet us at Kapuni Lodge.

We walked in under a clear sky – a taste of things to come – not likely! Saturday morning sort of crept through the murk and snow. Determined to make the best of things we kitted up and went out into the Kapuni Gorge. After walking about for a while to get used to crampons, a sheltered gully was found for practising self-arresting and glissading before heading back for lunch.

Back at the same gully after lunch we intended to practice rope work; some success until wind-driven snow sent us scurrying back to the hut again.

On Sunday morning the intended walk up Fantham's Peak became an exercise in rope work when the snow continued to fall as we walked up. After setting up several belays, with ice-axe, snow stakes and ice-screw, it was back to the hut for an early lunch. Enthusiasm dampened, we walked down to the cars and returned to Palmerston North early. (Those who stayed for the afternoon roamed over the tourist tracks between Dawson Falls and Stratford Mtn. House – and saw the cloud clearing at the end of the day).

Thanks to Peter and Tony for the instruction.

## **ALPINE INSTRUCTION TARARUA STYLE**

From the renowned 'Sam Grunt' (apologies to Sam Hunt)  
(recorded by Tony Gates on a TTC snowcraft trip)

### **Snowcraft II**

Ladies and gentlemen give me your due  
Putting up with rain and cold and Huey,  
Weak gluvein, old instructors,  
Slow vans and sausages for breakfast.  
You who have come from Wellington  
To scale old Ruey's back,  
Learning the art of climbing,  
(or following the instructor's tracks).

But will you remember your belay knots ?  
Your calls for 'tight rope' or 'slack',  
Your snow-stake angle and self-arrest,  
Or will you forget it when you go back.

Climb on, rope up for life!  
Never forget whatever you do  
In your lessons in the snow here  
At Tararua Hut on Snowcraft II.

PNTMC  
Box 1217  
Palmerston North

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