



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217  
PALMERSTON NORTH  
NEWSLETTER

October 1990

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## **ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS**

Brad Owen	: Ph. 83-467
Daryl & Linda Rowan	: Ph. 64-655
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.

**Nov 15<sup>th</sup>** "Mountaineering in Peru"  
Clive Jones will talk and show slides about his travels in Peru.

**Nov 29<sup>th</sup>** "Christmas Trips - past and future prospects"  
Tony Gates reviews past Club Christmas trips, and outlines plans for this year.

## Trip List

### 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.

### Nov 3-4<sup>th</sup>

Southern Tararua Range

Grade: Fit weekend

Leader: John Thompson (Phone 74-320)

### Nov 4<sup>th</sup>

Day Cycling Trip

Grade: Easy/medium day

Leader: Trish Eder (Phone 70-122)

Cycle round the Tiritea Block/Greens Road area.

### Nov 10-11

Sawtooth Ridge - Ruahine Range

Grade: Fit weekend

Leader: Tony Gates (Phone 70-990)

Trip along one of the rugged central ridges of the Ruahine Range.

### Nov 11<sup>th</sup>

Hinuera Hut - Ruahine Range

Grade: Medium day

Leader: Doug Strachan (Phone 75-735)

### Nov 17-18

Rangiateatua & Broken Ridge - Ruahine Range

Grade: Fit

Leader: Roger Redmayne (Phone 06-504-8376)

Enjoy the fine weather in the North-east Ruahines.

### Nov 17<sup>th</sup>

Gold Creek - Ruahine Range

Grade: Medium day

Leader: Mick Leyland (Phone 83-183)

### Nov 24<sup>th</sup>

Tararua Mountain Race

Grade: Fitness Essential

Contact: Tony Gates (Phone 70-990)

Race across the 'Southern Crossing' of the Tararua Range.

Entry fee \$25. See notice later in newsletter.

### Nov 24-25

SAREX (Search and Rescue Exercise)

Grade: Medium/fit

Contact: Trish Eder (Phone 70-122)

This weekend training exercise will be held in the Tararua range. Volunteers are required please.

### Nov 24<sup>th</sup>

Coppermine Creek/Wharite

Grade: Easy day

Leader: Dave Hunt (Phone 63-853)

Easy day trip to a scenic part of the Southern Ruahines

### Dec 1-2

Tararua Southern Crossing

Grade: Fit weekend

Leader: Marcel Hollenstein (Phone 80-245)

The normal route will be followed, but in the reverse direction.

**Dec 1-2**

Kime Hut  
Grade: Medium/easy  
Leader: Tony Cameron (Phone 65-461)  
A trip to one of the high huts in the Tararua Range - good views if it's fine.

**Dec 8-9**

Whanahuia Range - Ruahines  
Grade: Medium weekend  
Leader: Tony Gates (Phone 70-990)  
Nice tussock tops to stroll over, with no leatherwood. Planned to meet up with the following trip.

**Dec 8-9**

Gourmet Dinner at Rangiwahia Hut  
Grade: Overfed and slothful  
Contact: Jim Cooper (Phone 89-861)  
Christmas dinner at Rangiwahia Hut - an annual event not to be missed.

**Dec 9<sup>th</sup>**

Rangiwahia Hut  
Grade: Easy day  
Contact: Jim Cooper (Phone 89-861)  
Meet up with the revellers at the Club's favourite place in the hills.

**Forthcoming Events****Advance Notice of Club Christmas Social**

The PNTMC Christmas Function will be held on Thursday December 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 70-990). 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.

**Tararua Mountain Race**

On November 24<sup>th</sup> a one-day race will be run across the 'Southern Crossing' of the Tararua Range. Teams of two are required. A limit of 50 competitors has been set. The anticipated winners time is approximately 6 hours, the average time 8-9 hours.

The race starts at Otaki Forks at 7:00 am. The first checkpoint is at Kime Hut. The next checkpoints are False Spur and Alpha Hut. The finishing line is at the Kaitoke carpark.

If you wish to enter please contact Tony Gates immediately.

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

Not much to say this month - I have been keeping a low profile with exams looming and the age-old excuse of "too much work". Also, why do we so often get grotty weather every Saturday and Sunday while the sun shines during the week. However, we have had many successful tramps, and the ever popular Snowcraft courses. Future trips will be as varied, and hopefully as popular. Wouldn't want to miss out on all of those great trips to come – see you there someday.

Here's a note about a recent high-altitude trip to Mt Ruapehu that I was leader of which encountered some problems, and deserves analysis. Firstly, we were a strong, well equipped and well fed party. Next of kin knew our whereabouts, and I had signed in at the Ohakune Ranger Station. We sat in our igloos on the top of Mt Ruapehu for two extra evenings watching a mega-blizzard as our friends below fretted. The Police, who are the SAR organisers, appreciated the conditions but were concerned because of the recent Army tragedy.

The Police did sort out who we were, and possible scenarios, but were confused because of the high number of telephone calls from concerned friends and relatives (isn't nice to know when you are missed!) If the Police had access to all the necessary details about the trip as early as possible then their job would have been much easier. Leaders of trips should

consider advising the PNTMC SAR contacts (Linda and Daryl Rowan, Brad Owen, or Sue and Lawson Plither) before departing and after returning from each trip. This could help prevent unnecessary confusion. But all ended well, and we felt that we had learnt a good lesson – always travel prepared!

I recently read in the newspaper a summary of the inquiry into the Army Training Group tragedy. The series of poor decisions that culminated in the tragedy were attributed principally to poor leadership. We should never forget, what conditions on our mountains can be like in adverse weather, and how easy it is for serious problems to arise. The best advice is to travel prepared.

### **Vacancies For Evening Program**

Wanted: - interesting Club night shows for 1991. If any Club member is willing to give an evening slide show, please contact any committee member.

### **PNTMC Trip Grading**

Grades of trips can depend on many factors, particularly the terrain and the weather conditions. As a guide, a fit trumper would be expected, to cover the graded trips in the following number of hours per day:

Easy:	3 - 4 hours
Medium:	5 - 6 hours
Fit:	about 8 hours
Fitness Essential (FE):	over 8 hours

### **Gear for General Trips**

It is important that people attending Club trips are well equipped, and have sufficient food, warm clothing, waterproof clothing, and sound footwear.

For day trips, each person should have boots, small pack, lunch and suitable snack material, water bottle, parka, over trousers, gloves. There must be at least one, torch, first aid kit, map and compass amongst the group, plus an adequate supply of toilet paper, sun cream. On snow, dark glasses or goggles are essential.

For weekends or longer trips a large pack, with sleeping bag and cover, carry-mat, parka, over-trousers, mittens, balaclava, longjohns, change of warm, cloths, torch with spare bulb, map, compass, eating utensils, first aid kit, sun cream, candle, matches, toilet paper, and food for one evening dinner (usually communal), breakfast, and 2 lunches and snacks. Hut passes may be required depending on location and plans.

### **Gear Hire**

The Club has gear available for hire at very reasonable rates. This includes: ice axes, crampons, snow stakes, ropes, tent flies, and billies. For major trips and instruction courses, some gear might be in short supply and early bookings are desirable. Phone Daryl Rowan (64-655) between 5 & 6 pm.

### **John Wright Memorial**

There will be a tree planting session in memory of John Wright on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October in the Hinewai Reserve. The Hinewai Reserve is a 109 hectare block in the southeast corner of Banks Peninsular, bought by the Maurice White Conservation Trust in September 1987 and managed for the protection and restoration of native vegetation and wildlife. About 7km of walking track wend through the reserve, linked to Akaroa by a walkway over Purple Peak Saddle. Anyone wishing to partake in the tree planting or send a donation for trees can contact John's folks in Christchurch at the following address:

Tony & Faith Wright  
57 Champion St.  
Christchurch  
(Ph 799-854)

### **TRIP REPORTS**

**Snowcraft III 22/23 September – by Peter Wiles**

The weather had been fine in Palmerston North for the previous 4 days so could it last? Alternatively, almost any weather conditions would be an improvement on Snowcrafts I and II. The scene at the Turoa carpark was leaning more towards unorganized chaos rather than any obvious state of order. Cars were already parked halfway down to MUAC Hut. By some very good luck we both found spots in the main carpark out on the very extremity.

By 10.30 we were organized and ready to head off into misty but calm conditions. Above the second chairlift we emerged into clear hot sunshine. After lunch, we dropped over the ridge over-looking the glacier and selected our camp spot. The next few hours were spent digging our snow caves. After digging through a shell of ice, very good snow was available for shovelling. (Would have been good for igloo building as well.) Arthur and Lis's was judged the best cave.

In the evening, the cloud tended to rise up and sweep around us. After dinner, and at the rather early hour of about 7.30, it was time for bed. Derek could not keep his eyes open during dinner. During the night a breeze came up, but tended to die away towards morning. In the morning, a considerable quantity of powder snow filled the cave entrances. After digging this out, we were able to emerge into a clear cold morning.

A chilly breeze was still blowing gusts of spin drift about. Shortly after the sun reached us we headed off up and across the glacier to the ridge crest between Girdlestone and Tahurangi. A party of Hutt Valley TMC's had dug in there as well as built an igloo. Meanwhile, Greg headed over to the skifield to try his hand at some skiing. Once at the ridge, we tagged along behind the Hutt Valley's up the ridge to Girdlestone. The masses of sastrugi ice were a bit of a problem. The top presented an impressive view across to Taranaki. Kevin and Mike left us, while Arthur and Lis were heading up the glacier as we then decided that there was sufficient time to take advantage of the good conditions to head for Tahurangi. We had to decide whether to take the cold and windy south side of the ridge with hard snow or the warm (hot) north side with soft snow. We took the latter, by heading onto the upper part of the Waihianoa Glacier.

At midday, Derek, Steve and I reached the summit to rejoin the Hutt Valley group. After a snack for lunch, we descended back to our snow cave to meet up with Arthur and Lis. We packed our gear up and descended into the cloud. The carpark was below the cloud layer, but it had been raining on and off.

Team: Kevin Pearce, Steve Glasgow, Greg Reid, Derrick Sharp, Mike Johns, Arthur and Lis Todd and Peter Wiles.

### **Trip. Report 30/9/90, - Deep Ravine Off Left Saddle Road** (Caves without tops)

Leader: Roger Redmayne

Well it didn't start out too good for the writer after two days trying to reach Roger by phone to tell him myself and a few others were coming back for more (having in the back of my mind the previous year Roger asking for ropes and a harness), only to be told the phone was off the receiver. I thought perhaps he doesn't want this tramper after last year tripping and getting hung by the Steeple Jacks etc. and not liking sharp drops of several metres.

However we were greeted with a warm welcome at Ballantrae Farm and offered tea and coffee before we set out at 9.30 am. This year we were minus the Bush Tramping Club members. We crossed the Saddle to the Ashhurst side and parked on the left side of the road.

I was amazed that this huge ravine was not visible from the road, only a few trees showing. This proved a good choice as it was freezing cold (snow on Wharite). We descended quickly, sliding down a steep bank and hanging onto what we could and then onto one straight drop down clinging to a Steeple Jack and finding footholds as we descended. This was a remarkable area, the most different natives I have seen in one place.

Even more remarkable were the shells embedded in the rocks of the streams, big and small. Part of the way through we took a left turn into a wide cave which narrowed as we went on. We found several large partly buried logs which we estimated to be several thousand years old. Back again to the main area and further down to another ledge and with Roger's guidance and some reluctance on our part, we all made it over the top (Roger not telling us that 50m down we would come to a V and thus could walk back to this same ledge.

After lunch, we carried on down to a huge scooped out overhang where we took some photos. We then had a choice of up, up and across paddocks and down again or back the way we had come. The latter route was taken since we found it much easier to ascend than descend.

Footnote: On a more serious note. Although some of us are fit trampers, it does us good to be under such an experienced leader, such as ways of tackling big drops (not loose hand holds, foot holds and the general terrain of the country for safe climbing of getting up and down several metres of cliff face.

Thank you Roger – we will be back again. We had a lovely day.

The team were: Mick Leyland, Stuart Boyd, Trish Eder, Anne Orme, Cantwell (Reporter) and Roger Redmayne our leader.

### **North American Indian Poem (West Coast)**

Do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there, I do not sleep  
I am a thousand winds that blow  
I am the diamond glint in snow  
I am the sunlight in ripened grain  
I am the gentle autumn rain  
When you wake in the morning hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
of quiet birds in circling flight  
I am the soft starlight at night  
Do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there, I do not sleep

This poem was sent to the Wright family by Bob Enagonio, climbing partner on Mt Andromeda.

### **Aunt Edna's Latest Secret** (Anon)

Well my sweet little tulips, this newsletter is the bearer of the most wonderful secret ... darlings, we all know that Fish & Chips are very close to the heart, it's a great favourite of mine. And Taihape, being the metropolis it is, is an often frequented place by nightlife treasures, yes I'm often there.

So my sweet hearts it is crucial that we know where to invest in these gourmet delights. Well it just happens, my little possums, that I can let you into a wee secret ... don't tell me you already knew! ... anyway there is the most delightful fish & chipperly on Tui St., Taihape. As you are heading north (yes ... towards Ruapehu) Tui St. is on the right hand side ... it has the BNZ on the corner (no robbing the bank now cherubs).

There are tables and chairs so you can sit and enjoy the cuisine, drink in culture from fabulous paintings hanging on the walls and drool at the local talent (control your selves now honeys !). All this before or after a week end of total disregard of those luscious hands, nails, eyelashes ... in the harsh NZ outback (don't forget your face packs and cucumber slices now).