



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

**P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER**

October 1991 Edition

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ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

Brad Owen	: Ph. 358-3467
Daryl & Linda Rowan	: Ph. 356-4655
Sue & Lawson Pither	: Ph. 357-3033

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.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAMME

Please sign your name in the visitors book. There is a door fee of 30c which includes supper.

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.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAMME

OCTOBER 17

OCTOBER 31

Map & Compass instruction

NOVEMBER 14

Club Evening

NOVEMBER 28

Club Xmas Dinner ?

TRIP LIST **OCTOBER**

OCTOBER 17

Club Evening

OCTOBER 19/20

MAROPEA FORKS RUAHINES (F)

Leader: Perry Hicks Ph 3551393

OCTOBER 20

NORTH RANGE RD CYCLE TRIP

Leader: Stuart Boyd Ph 356-6235

OCTOBER 26-28

MT HIKURANGI EAST CAPE (M)

Leader: Peter Wiles Ph 358-6894

<u>OCTOBER 26</u>	CYCLING	Leader: Sally Hewson	Ph 357-0990
<u>OCTOBER 26</u>	A week or so SKI MOUNTAINEERING SOUTHERN ALPS	Leader: Tony Gates	Ph 357-0990
<u>OCTOBER 31</u>	Club Evening Map and Compass Skills		
<u>NOVEMBER</u>			
<u>NOVEMBER 2/3</u>	NAVIGATION SKILLS (E)	Leader: Linda Rowan	Ph 356-4655
<u>NOVEMBER 2/3</u>	TARANAKI OPEN CLIMBING TAHURANGI LODGE (E, M, F&T)	Leader: Mike Johns	Ph 355-2162
<u>NOVEMBER 9/10</u>	WATERFALL CREEK HUT RUAHINES (F)	Leader: Marcel Hollenstein	Ph 358-0245
<u>NOVEMBER 10</u>	KIRIWHAKAPAPA TARARUAS (E/M)	Leader: Perry Hicks	Ph 355-1393
<u>NOVEMBER 14</u>	Club Evening		
<u>NOVEMBER 16/17</u>	SAWTOOTH RIDGE RUAHINES (F)	Leader: Tony Gates	Ph 357-0990
<u>NOVEMBER 17</u>	DAPHNE HUT (E/M)	Leader: Arthur & Lis Todd	Ph 323-6246
<u>NOVEMBER 23/24</u>	BUSHCRAFT SKILIJS (M&T) SAREX	Leader: Tony Gates Contact Tricia Eder	Ph 357-0990 Ph 357-0122
<u>NOVEMBER 24</u>	RUAMAHANGA TARARUAS (E) then 06 372-5878	Leader: Greg Reid	Ph 0592-5878
<u>NOVEMBER 28</u>	Club Xmas Dinner ?		
<u>NOVEMBER 30/1</u>	ROCK CLIMBING (E&T)	Leader: Jenni Madgwick	Ph 354-0536
<u>NOVEMBER 30</u>	Location to be advised (M)	Leader: Brad Owen	Ph 358-3467

EDITORIAL

Since Tony is still overseas, at the time this newsletter is assembled, there is no editorial available this month. About a month ago I attended a public meeting held by DOC in town regarding the 10 year Ruahine management plan currently being drafted. At least 30 or 40 people were present - representing almost every conceivable lobby group having some interest in the Ruahines. While most present were content to say nothing, a number of issues did eventually emerge. Although many of the points were covered in some of the comments I and others made at the meeting, I think it is beneficial to do a little more research on the subject and put in a written submission. I include our presentation regarding the draft Ruahine Forest Management Plan. Below is a slightly abbreviated copy of the submission:

The Chairman
Rangitikei / Hawke's Bay Conservation Board
C/o Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 644
Napier

Dear Sir

Submission
Re: Ruahine Forest Park
Draft Conservation Management Plan

We request that the following submission on your draft conservation management plan for the Ruahine Forest Park be tabled and made available to your committee.

We generally support the content of the Draft Conservation Plan but wish to bring to your attention a number of points for consideration and perhaps a change of emphasis.

We submit that the document is rather wordy and repetitious.

Access

Our members are concerned about access to the Park. It is our opinion that this is a major issue and needs more consideration in the plan than given on pages 67/68 in the draft document. We contend that DOC has to put much greater emphasis into securing permanent rights of access into the Park. We submit that access into the park which depends on approval by the intervening landowner is "conditional" or "negotiated" access and cannot be considered as "public" access. Access to the north of the Mokai Patea Range (on the west) and Golden Crown Ridge (in the east) is very limited. The proposed Ikawatea remote experience area is primarily "remote experience" because there is very limited right of access to this valuable tramping area.

We suggest that each road end which offers access to the Park should have a suitable vandal proof sign clearly stating the terms of access and other relevant aspects of policy. Where access is conditional, the name and premises of the landowner should be clearly displayed.

Huts

We submit that huts should be at least 2 hours walk from the nearest road end. Otherwise, basic shelters should be provided at road ends and up to two hours walk in. Huts close to the road ends mainly cater for day trippers and can never generate much revenue from hut fees.

The draft document appears to leave the door open for the establishment of semi-permanent tent camps in the Park. We doubt whether this is DOC's intention.

The policy regarding private huts in the Park needs further clarification. What is the basis for establishing ground rentals? Where private huts are available for public use, is it DOC's intention to incorporate these into the hut pass payment system? Is it DOC's intention to facilitate the continued existence of private huts and to support the construction of new huts?

Hut facilities

We generally support the "pack it in pack it out" concept but experience suggests that the removal of rubbish containers, refuse pits and the elimination of open fires is more motivated by short term cost savings rather than offering a more practical solution to the rubbish problem. To have any chance of being effective, these policy proposals will require a concerted consumer education programme. We are sceptical that this will be effectively instigated. We would like to see further specific details regarding user education.

We would like clarification of the intent and meaning of the statement: "The Department will also *promote*" (our italics) "the use of portable stoves for park users in order to limit the amount of wood and/or coal used by park users". We are sceptical as to the practical intent of this statement in the draft.

Giardia

We have some concerns regarding the risk of giardia to our members. We submit that using signs such as those used in Tongariro National Park stating "Giardia may be present in this area" will not do. This is too vague to be of any real value to us. Does it mean that surface waters are likely to be contaminated to an extent that presents a health risk? Does it mean that the hut tank supply is also unsafe? DOC has to be more specific in the information supplied. Since the organism is prevalent worldwide, a great deal must be known about the pathogenicity of this protozoa. In any event, the statement that all water should be boiled is at variance with the policy to discourage open fires. We are concerned that our members will needlessly have to take substantially more fuel with them, purchase and carry filter systems, or use sterilising chemicals.

Dogs

We submit dogs are a considerably greater problem than the draft appears to treat them. We believe that as Park usage increases, dogs will become an increasing problem. As far as we are aware, the Hydatids Act still restricts the movement of dogs between control districts to those with a valid dosing certificate. We suspect that most of the dogs taken into the Park are from the Palmerston North control district and the vast majority of such animals would not have a valid certificate to enter the rural area let alone the Park.

It is our members' experience that many dogs at a time can be in the Rangiwahia track area. Poor dog control is the norm.

We propose a much tougher dog control regime is necessary. All dog owners should require a permit (to be issued after producing a valid hydatids dosing certificate).

Research Plots

We assume that there are Forestry Research Institute (FRI) - N Z Forest Service research / survey plots within the Park. These do not appear to be mentioned in the plan. While the future control of these plots may not be clear until the Crown research institutes are fully organised, we believe that DOC has an obligation to preserve

their status and to facilitate the future research value of these study areas. We believe that these regions should be specifically recognised in the plan.

Horses and vehicles

We submit that horses should be given access by permit or restricted to defined and controlled areas. Similarly mountain bikes should be controlled or allowed in restricted areas only. In the case of horses, we believe that track damage and the spread of seeds through the Park are real eventualities. Motor bikes should be restricted to formed roads. We object to the noise and exhaust emissions from these vehicles. Experience suggests that trail bike riders find the challenge irresistible to get into the roughest possible area and surmount the most challenging obstacles. This almost always results in damage – most especially to banks of waterways. These vehicles are generally restricted from national parks, we see no inherent reason why lower standards can be condoned in forest parks – the environment is just as fragile in both types of parks.

Aircraft

We are concerned that the draft document's definition of aircraft may not be consistent with the definition in the civil aviation legislation. Any disparity has the potential to cause unnecessary difficulties in their control within the Park.

We believe that the statements in the draft regarding the future of the Ruahine Corner airstrip are more concerned with cost cutting while leaving the option open to gather revenue (by means not defined), rather than by any convincing analysis of the future logistical needs for this strip. With the collapse of the feral deer market and little chance of it becoming profitable again, deer numbers in the north of the Park are likely to increase substantially - especially since access is at best problematical. DOC may need to facilitate the removal of deer from this area by a number of measures - not least by maintaining access to this strip.

Park wardens / honorary rangers

We believe that our club is one of the more active official bodies that use the Park. We are of the opinion that the park warden / honorary ranger positions are almost extinct. With the ever increasing public use of the Park, we submit that these personnel must be substantially increased in number and significant resources allocated towards their development and training etc,

Base facilities

The Forest Service had a considerable investment in "base" facilities at a number of major access points to the Park. Presumably DOC now controls the use of these facilities. No mention of these resources are made in the draft document. It needs to be made clear what function DOC intends to use these facilities for. What is the fate of base facilities which are deemed to be surplus to DOC's projected requirements? Are they to be left to decay; or perhaps leased to private concessionaires? We submit that the management plan needs to define the role of these facilities.

Should the committee (or the Department) require any clarification or have any questions relating to any of the matters raised in this submission, we would be very happy to address these matters in writing.

NOTICES

ROGER REDMAYNE

I was appalled when my phone rang at work on Friday morning a few weeks ago to here Philip Budding inform me that word had come through that Roger had had an accident while on the NZAC Centennial expedition to northern India. It was not clear until the following day that Roger had somehow fallen to his death near the summit of one of the trips objectives.

I never knew Roger anything like as well as I should have. Roger was a member of the club for a considerable number of years (about 10, I think) and was a committee member in about 1983. Roger resigned from the club earlier this year when he moved to his new property near Queenstown.

Regrettably, I did not do many trips with Roger, but I recall my first climb of Egmont was with him in the group. Roger was always calm, unruffled, purposeful and helpful. He was a tower of strength - you knew if he was on your trip that you were in good hands. He did all the trips I would have loved to have been able to do but doubtless will never be able to. I remember his humour when describing the strange looks he got while climbing the Matterhorn wearing shorts!

Roger did not only do big mountaineering trips. Many club members will long remember his local day trips in the Woodville - Gorge - Ballantrea area. He knew this local area very well and loved to show people around it. I regret I, for some reason, never got my act together to go on one of his local day trips.

Roger, you were a quintessential Kiwi guy and we will very sorely miss hearing of your exploits.

PGW

SAREX 91

We have been asked to submit our intentions -to field at least one team for this year's event for the weekend of October 25th. Could we manage two teams this year? Register your interest with Tricia.

New Members:

The club would like to welcome and introduce a new member to the fold:

Douglas (Doug) Lagerstedt
22 Marne Street
Palmerston North
Ph 357-0021

Debate

Yes we lost the debate again this year - by a very close margin - I might add. For those who did not witness the spectacle; the MUAG B & D act was one of the most memorable "presentations" which will linger for a long time in my mind.

TRIP REPORTS

Have people given up tramping in the past month? Hardly a flood of trip reports so I've got to write the only one myself. Hopefully, Tony can give us, an account of his trip and when Brad has recovered from his ordeal, he can give us an account as well. So keep watching this space.

Snowcraft III - by Peter Wiles

I decided to give away the snowcaving idea this year - although some members of the party seemed keen on the concept, while others felt more inclined to focus on mountaineering skills. Brad informed me at the last minute that an NZAC party were scheduled to go to Whangaehu Hut this weekend - so another change of plan was made. We went to Rangipo instead. This proved to be a wise choice as the weather was not inspiring. We managed to drive up to the repeater station on Saturday morning without too much difficulty even though there was about a centimetre of new snow on the last few kilometres of the Tukino road. We reached the hut for an early lunch without getting wet. Jenni M and her team were in residence.

After lunch we ventured forth into a blurry snow storm and headed up and over towards the edge at the Whangaehu Gorge where we hoped to find a suitable steepish snow slope. There was nothing with anything like enough snow or with an adequate run-out. Instead we wandered around a bit. Brad and Pauline made use of a reasonable slope while the others traversed over to inspect the edge of the Waiheanoa Gorge. This was full of cloud, so we gave up and headed back to the others. We ploughed our way back to the hut in a dense whiteout.

Next morning we left the hut about 5,30 am in rather misty conditions and headed back up towards Mitre. Soon we were in a dense whiteout again (but not snowing). Once we were above the freezing line, we gradually encountered deeper and deeper soft unconsolidated snow - even on the ridge crests. At 2,100 m. we sort of climbed out of the cloud layer. Mick and Trevor returned to base, as it were, at this stage. (Trevor had to be back at Linton before 4 pm.) Bruce and I continued to the second rock tower that marks the start of the East Ridge. Shortly before this, a fresh breeze suddenly came up. This, together with the unstable snow, and the party divided into three groups (Brad and Pauline further back along the ridge checking out the merits of balled up crampons), suggested that it might be wise to give away climbing Mitre for another day. Shortly after turning around, the wind died out as rapidly as it had risen - we wondered whether we had made the best decision. We ploughed our way back into the cloud and down to the hut after passing Jenni and team heading up the ridge.

We gradually packed up and headed out. Before reaching the car, the cloud gradually cleared from the eastern side of the mountain and then the wind quite suddenly returned with considerable force - we had to hold on to our loose gear at the car. As we drove off, it became clear, huge clouds were now being pushed over the plateau down onto the eastern side. The East Ridge would have been a real trap in the circumstances. (Jenni's group had turned around not long after us.)

Then we rolled back to PN.

Team: Brad Owen, Pauline Coy, Trevor Meyle, Mick Leyland, Bruce van Brunt and Peter Wiles.

More from the Poetry Department

It rained and rained and rained
The average fall was well maintained
And when the tracks were simply bogs
It started raining cats and dogs
After a drought of half an hour
We had a most refreshing shower

And then most curious thing of all
A gentle rain began to fall
Next day but one was fairly dry
Save for one deluge from the sky
Which wetted party to the skin
And then at last the rain set in.

(Another one from Mr / Ms Anon.)

(Reminds me of the last time I went to Stewart Island – ed.)

(About those perfect instant puddings again. I haven't forgotten, in fact I am still working on the process - should be ready by summer I think. Preliminary findings thus far unquestionably demonstrate that the preparation information on the packet is worthless and should be ignored and better still discarded (environmentally) without hesitation. Watch this space.)