



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

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

November 1991 Edition

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ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE FOODTOWN CAR PARK IN FERGUSSON 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

<u>NOVEMBER 14</u>	Club Evening: Peter Stockdale will be talking about the Canadian(?) Rockies.
<u>NOVEMBER 28</u> feed on the 28 th .	Club Xmas Dinner at the Coachman, \$32 per head so start starving yourself now for a big
<u>DECEMBER 12</u>	Club Evening: Dave Barker will be talking about Mountaineering in Ecuador.

TRIP LIS'I'

NOVEMBER

<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> 0124	SAREX - Coppermine Creek area leaving on Friday evening. Contact Tricia Eder Ph 357-0124		
<u>NOVEMBER 23/24</u>	BUSHCRAFT SKILLS (M&T)	Leader: Tony Gates	Ph 351 0990
<u>NOVEMBER 24</u>	RUAMAHANGA TARARUAS (E)	Leader: Greg Reid	Ph 05945878
<u>NOVEMBER 28</u>	Club Xmas Dinner at the Coachman. Drinks from 6.30pm.		
<u>NOVEMBER 30/1</u>	ROCK CLIMBING (E&T)	Leader: Jenni Madgwick	Ph 354 0536
<u>NOVEMBER 30/1</u>	Anyone interested in a day or weekend trip, contact Tony.		
<u>DECEMBER 8</u>	XMAS LUNCHEON I DINNER RANGI (E)	Organizer: Tony Gates	Ph 357-0990.
<u>DECEMBER 8</u>	RANGI HUT (E)	Leader Doug Strachan	Ph 3575734
<u>DECEMBER 12</u>	Club Evening		
<u>DECEMBER 14/15</u>	COLENZO CROSSING RUAHINES (M/F)	Leader: Mick Leyland	Ph 358 3183
<u>DECEMBER 15</u>	OTAKI FORKS TARARUAS (E)	Leader: Kevin Pearce	Ph 357 0217

LAKE WAIKAREMOANA (OPEN) Contact Tony Gates Ph 357 0990

Christmas Trip: Departure date depends on when people can get off work etc. We will probably camp beside the cars for the first night, then walk from the Hoporuahine (north east corner) around part of the lake. We will stick to the tracks, and hopefully explore some of the big bush up there. There are no open tops, but a few grassy river flats and clearings. It will not be a strenuous tramp; it is graded as EASY, but participants will require some equipment of their own and some experience (preferably also some "practice tramps" if necessary). Contact Tony.

EDITORIAL

When we wrote up the current Event Calendar, November was the most popular month for trip leaders. It's easy to see why with good spring weather (most of the time (sic) anyway, some of us have a habit of enduring freezing blizzards on the tops while others are sitting cosily in the hut - aye Paul). Anyway, we have many excellent pre-Christmas trips planned, then a Christmas extravaganza to the big bush up north. More on that later. As for next year, well, the committee is beginning to think about our next Event Calendar, and requests your input. Ideas thus far include many of the usual local trips, but also a Southern Crossing of the Tararua's, a doddle into the Kawekas, and hopefully a tramp to the legendary Brass Monkey Bivvy, at Lewis Pass. There will be something for everyone. If you can help, then write down the trip you hope to lead, and discuss it at our next meeting. Get in early!

Last month, Isabell and Ellis Udy presented to PNTMC an inspirational slide show on the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador - featuring bird life and natural history. It is purely coincidental that we have more slide shows on South America coming up. It's a fantastic place. Also, Linda Rowan gave a (hands on type of) lecture, on map and compass work.

Recently, two search and rescues involving club members have highlighted the need for doing the "right thing" in the hills. (More detailed reports of these incidents will be presented in forthcoming additions.) Both occasions ended happily, as those lost or delayed ensured their own survival by not persevering in what were atrocious conditions. We were reminded how insignificant people are in wild country and in poor weather. Always take a little extra food and warm clothing. For those that are unaware, PNTMC is active in the field of search and rescue not because we get a lot of practice, but because we are concerned for peoples' safety. We are an active club, and have a lot of bush and mountain skills to offer.

NOTICES

SAREX 91

We have two teams arranged at this stage. If there are any others who are interested in participating, they can probably be still accommodated - contact Tricia for details Ph 357-0122.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS DEPARTMENT?

Congratulations and best wishes to Urs and Ruth for their recent addition to their family with the birth of Moana Veronica.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS ETC.

Jane Davies is now at 516 Wellington Street, Marton, Ph (06) 352-8840.
Marcel is at Aranui Rd., No 5 R.D. Ph 329-0749.
Brian Lawrence's phone number is 324-8552.

The Wellington region has changed to 7-digit numbers. I think John Thomson's new number is 04386-2609.

NEW MEMBERS:

The club would like to welcome and introduce two new members to the fold:

Ruth and Donald Kerr
93 Marne Street
Palmerston North
Phone 359-1065

CLIMBING WALL

Steady progress is being made with the climbing wall. If you feel handy with a hammer at some stage give Mike Johns a ring - Ph 355-2162.

NEXT TRIP CALENDAR

We plan to try to get a new trip calendar out for the December newsletter. Have you thought of a place you haven't been to (recently or ever?), now is the time to consider leading a trip to your dream spot. We plan to hold a trip organising workshop at Tricia's place November 21st, any time after 7.00pm. Please call in or give Tricia a ring.

BUY, SELL OR SWAP

These are hard times folks - so got anything you have in the buy, sell or swap department? We will be happy to hear about it.

For sale: Asolo Super Scout tramping boots
Size 10 and in excellent condition
\$100.00 ono. Ph Mlike 355-2162 for a try on.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

NOVEMBER 28 is the date, and the Coachman is the place. For \$32 you get all you can eat and more. Get out your dancing shoes. Don't miss out on this annual event. Names and money to Tony or Peter.

TRIP REPORTS

Maropea Forks October 19 & 20 by Perry Hicks

Well we scored the best Saturday of the month. Arriving at North Block road end at 9 am, we left Jackie and Ruth on their own while we made good time up the bench track to Sunrise. Here we enjoyed views of the Waipawa Saddle and Te Atuaoparapara before heading up to Armstrong Saddle for a glimpse of a cloudy Ruapehu. Then it was a short hop up the range before dropping down to Top Marapea Hut for lunch. The track from here got a bit rough while dropping into the Marapea River – but this is made up for with the easy travel in the river bed itself. The sun made the walk all the more pleasant and we made Marapea Forks by 3.15. Here we found 3 hunters in residence who made us very at home. They had not shot any deer in the week there.

Sunday didn't look such a good day. Donald had heard the Blue Duck peep up the river past the hut in the night, so we went down stream to investigate. Sure enough, only 200 metres down stream of the forks there they were feeding in the clear water - oblivious to us standing only 7 or 8 metres away. The trip back to Sunrise was uneventful except for the cold wind and scuddy showers across the tops.

A quick lunch stop had us on our way to Waipawa Forks (via Triplex Saddle) to find Ruth and Jackie, who had spent a windy night at Sunrise Hut. At the Forks Hut, we met a hunter who had shot 2 deer the previous week, just up stream. He didn't have to spend \$540 on helicopters (there must - be a moral there somewhere.)

The trip down the Waipawa was enjoyable after the hills of earlier in the day and we were back at the car park by 2-30 pm.

We were: Ruth and Donald Kerr, Jackie Pillet, Perry Hicks.

GREAT UNSOLVED MYSTERIES by Tony Gates

The Tararua Ranges are full of mysteries. Route finding on the 'tussock tops in the murk can certainly be a mystery (ask Derek), and route finding in the big bush can be just as difficult. You simply must read the map

carefully, trust your compass, and have faith in your ability. That was all we could do during Labour Weekend 1991 when the weather packed in on us. We somehow made it home O.K., however, it remains a mystery to me how and where we got lost. It all looked so simple in clear weather.

We camped the first night on Arete bench in absolutely perfect weather. Wondered where all my P.N.T.M.C. friends were - missing out on such memorable views of the central and northern Tararuas. Just a few friends from Wellington to share the place with. Many dreams of past tramps there, and many schemes of future tramps. The tramp down Carkeek Ridge was about as simple as last, time, i.e. bloody difficult. Unfortunately, we couldn't solve the mystery of our previous route finding problems due to the mist. The bearing averaged due south, but as is typical of such ridges, there were several dog-legs and lots of ups and downs. 5 or 10 degrees either side of the correct route put us in the proverbial (leatherwood) twice. Two words of advice, always, ALWAYS check your map and compass when in doubt, and NEVER blunder away from the track if you are unsure of the correct route, you just get more lost, (or in our case, deeper into the leatherwood). It is easier to backtrack, to locate the track, and to stick to it. Also, it may be a good idea to wait for clear weather (how patient are you?). How many readers have been lost, and agree with me?

Anyway, we had a lovely stroll through the Park Valley, and into the delightful Upper Otaki when the mist cleared. These areas are well worth a visit. It is a bit of a mystery to me why it has been so long for me to pay a return visit since tramping in these lovely places, and why not more people visit the area. A definite for a Club trip this summer. If any river was perfect, it would be the Upper Otaki. (Another mystery for Mick and Marcel to solve, where are all the deer?)

The lack of visitors possibly has something to do with the last great mystery, i.e. why do people ever bother tramping Gable End Track and the Ohau? Perhaps it was our state of mind or the state of the track, our tiredness, or perhaps the inclement weather, but we all agreed never to tramp that route again! I think the track from Otaki Forks would be preferable. Memories of blisters on my heels, sore shoulders, and general tiredness.

BIG SNOW Tales of skiing climbing and travelling in Argentina by Tony Gates

1991 has been a fantastic year for snow in New Zealand, and Team Telemark has skied all over the place. Ruapehu and Rangitikei were great, but I wanted to ski in South America for a bit more variety, to visit friends, and to travel for the sake of travelling. It wasn't really difficult or expensive, and I enjoyed some wonderful places.

Firstly, like most overseas trips, I began in a big city, and I recall Buenos Aires being crowded, polluted, and noisy. Other large towns were as well, providing extra incentive to get out into the hills.

"Valle Las Lenas" was my first stop in the Andes. It is a sprawling international ski resort about twice or three times the size of New Zealand's largest, and the lifts reach a height of 3500 metres. There are only 10 hotels there, the nearest town with alternative accommodation is over 2 hours drive away. All around is bleak mountain wilderness. It snowed non stop for 48 hours just after I arrived, one metre deep of true powder snow like nothing you would encounter ever in N.Z. When the blizzard blew away, the skiing was amazing. The ski area was restricted by avalanche danger, nevertheless it was vast and encrowded. Really hard work telemarking in the deep powder.

Queenstown look-alike "San Carlos de Bariloche" was then my base for two weeks. There is a very well organised and active alpine club there, and it's easy to see why. They have fantastic mountain terrain at their doorstep, with numerous mountain ranges about 2000 m alt, and one 3500 m peak, Tronador (Thunderer), dominating the area. The club has their own office downtown, and several huts within an easy days walk or ski from the road end.

I joined in on two weekend trips instructing ski mountaineering techniques. "Esqui de traversia" as they say, is very popular there, (using alpine touring equipment) as it is often the only way to get around. Myself and an Aussie lady were the only ones on telemark skis, a style unique for them, so we could assist with instruction. They also of course wanted to hear about and see photos of skiing in New Zealand. I enjoyed the local hospitality of my "amigo's", as I could live on the cheap in the mountains of Bariloche. I skied and climbed (easy mountains similar to Ruapehu) to my hearts content. The weather was great, skiing usually likewise, but I still had difficulty handling the "big snow". Waist deep powder is indescribable. And I loved skiing through deciduous Nothofagus forest.

The memories blur as I sit in front of the word processor, thinking that words, not even photographs would do my holiday justice. I only wish I can return some day.

I toured solo into the back blocks for a few days, then hit the principle tourist route for all of South America; the mighty Iguazu Falls. An amazing sensation being next to the Amazon jungle. Physically, it was of course dramatically different from the mountains, and culturally confusing after learning so well to speak Spanish. Portuguese is spoken in Brazil! In a chance in a million, no a billion, I met a friend from California there. Such things happen when you travel. I was well looked after by amigo's for my last few days, and certainly did not get skinny! As much as I enjoyed one month in South America, the nor-wester at P. N. airport sure felt good.