

PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER

October 1992 Edition

President	: Tony Gates	357-0990
Membership Enquiries	: Mick Leyland	358-3183
	: or Mike Johns	355-2162
Gear Custodian	: Mick Leyland	358-3183
Newsletter Editor & Newsletter Distribution	: Peter Wiles	358-6894

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.

TRIP LIST

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 31-1 RUAHINES Sawtooth Ridge Fit Jenni Madgwick 354-0536

NOVEMBER 1 Local Easy Greg Reid 06-372-5878

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 7-8 "The Styx" Mt Conspicuous V Easy Marcel or Mary 357-0990

NOVEMBER 8 Ngamoko Range Easy Chris Saunders 358-4899

NOVEMBER 14-12 Mahoenui (caving) Steve Glasgow 06-376-8838

NOVEMBER 14 Ruahines Rangī Easy Sue and Lawson Pither 357-3033

NOVEMBER 21-22 SAREX (to be confirmed) Team of 4 required for Friday evening through to Saturday afternoon.

<u>NOVEMBER 21-22</u>	Tararuas Main Range	Fit	Jenni Madgwick354-0536
<u>NOVEMBER 28-29</u>	Ruahines Pohangina	Easy	Paul Scheyvens357-4138
<u>NOVEMBER 28-29</u>	Ruapehu Pinus Contorta	pulling	Perry Hicks 355-1393

Club Nights

<u>NOVEMBER 12</u>	SAR and radio practice (SAREX to follow)
<u>NOVEMBER 26</u>	CHRISTMAS DINNER Venue to be arranged

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAMME

OCTOBER 29 CAVING, BY STEVE GLASGOW, GREG REID, AND BRUCE HARDING.

These gentlemen are experts at their game. Their's is one of those games that PNTMC has been involved in for a number of years. It is an amazing sport crawling underground and getting very dirty, and goes to places no one else ever does.

Bruce has many fine photos of the underground beauty. They all know the good caving spots around, and Steve will be leading this Club's annual expedition to the underground in a couple of weeks after this talk.

NOVEMBER 12. SAR Exercise, radio practice, and organising for the forthcoming SAREX

NOVEMBER 26. Christmas Dinner. Venue to be arranged.

DECEMBER 10. PNTMC club activities. This is a sort of "BYO", an opportunity for you the club to show your own photos and slides, and to tell the club of your recent trips. Details in next newsletter.

And there will be many more interesting Thursday evenings put on by PNTMC and friends. We hope to arrange another talk by DOC for early next year, on the "Conservation Management Strategy". They want to keep us (the users) informed, and they want feedback on how they perform. Stay tuned.

PINUS CONTORTA WEEKEND

We have a confirmed booking for a Pinus Contorta pulling weekend 21-22 November. The essence of this caper is a group environmental interaction effort. It is planned to leave on Saturday morning and to camp out on Saturday night, so you have a bit of time till then to air your tent or fly and get around to checking the seams for leaks. This is an event we have not participated in for a few years, so keep this weekend free and start to get your hands into condition for the big pull. Give your name to Perry Hicks ASP.

EDITORIAL

The debate against MUAC was not much of an affair last month, no interest from both sides. It is a tradition that provides a lot of fun for the participants and audience, and an excellent trophy. It will be a shame if we cannot resurrect this auspicious occasion.

Steve Boulton, from D.O.C. base, Pohangina, gave an extremely interesting and informative slide show regarding his activities in the Ruahines. There were also tales of goat control on Raoul Island. Being the D.O.C. Officer at Pohangina, he told us of many activities associated with the Ruahines that concern us. Perhaps the single most important issue is access to the D.O.C. estate, especially into the Poronagaki Valley and up onto the Mokai Patea Range. D.O.C. staff are continually working on maintaining tracks all over the Ruahines. There is some work to be done at Rangī Hut, and we may be able to help. Rangī Hut will be getting gas shortly, a paint job, and I hope a new toilet. PNTMC will be arranging with Steve and D.O.C, to purchase some annual hut passes at the new price of \$44. Contact a committee member promptly please if you are interested.

There is more snow now (during early October) than I can ever remember at Rangī. The skiing is great up there, but watch out for avalanches on the steep tussock slopes. Enjoy your tramping.

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS TRIP KAIMANAWA - KAWEKA CROSSING

Just getting in early here. There has been quite a bit of interest in his proposal, to cross the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Ranges.

It will take approximately one week of reasonably medium-ish tramping (with two or three complete rest days). We would most likely start off from the Desert Road, aiming for Boyd Lodge area, crossing the Rangitikei River en-route.

The route would then dawdle (sweat?) up to Te Puke, and on to the high Kaweka tops, then end at Makahu base. The Mohaka River, with hot and cold pools, is at the end of the tramp.

Wild horses to look at on the way, large areas of wilderness, and some great country. Contact Tony Gates (06-357-0990) if you are interested.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The next committee meeting will be held at Tony's place at Ihle Street on November 5th. If any member wishes to attend or has any (explosive) issues that they would like to air at the committee meeting feel free to come along and set the meeting alight.

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome Maria Cunningham, 14 Norwich Place, PN. phone 355-3817 as a new member to the Club.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Trevor Meyle's new address is: 1 MST, Linton Camp, PN. I assume the phone number is unchanged?

ANNUAL HUT PASSES

Rather than have a lot of individual hassles, we propose to put in a bulk order for season's hut passes with DOC. We can get the maximum discount this way. Price is \$44 or \$45, I understand. If interested give your name to Tony or Peter.

TRIP REPORTS

WHANGANUI ATENE SKYLINE WALKWAY (August 16) by Richard Lockett

Tricia and I made our way towards Whanganui under threatening skies and on reaching the river discovered it to be very high with a yellowish brown colour to it. Obviously it had been raining hard up country so a muddy tramp was in store.

We arrived at the northern end of the track along with the rain so after donning wet weather gear we set off into the bush. After a hard 15 seconds or so of tramping we came upon a large slip. "Not a worry" says Tricia, "just scramble across - no problem". With two steps taken and with thick mud up to the bottom of her pack; no problem becomes a big problem. A brief discussion about the slip, the weather, and we decided to start at the other entrance 2 km down the river road and to let the weather decide how far we walked.

With two hours of walking on the clock, the rain getting progressively worse; the wind colder, a bite to eat and a pathetic attempt to heat up some soup, we turned around and headed out.

The Atene Skyline walk can await another day.

THE ELUSIVE MITRE

This was to be my third attempt at climbing Mitre and well it is still unbagged by me. The tramp started, however, in a very positive manner...

Leaving P.N. at 5 am to reach the Barra Track, the heavy rain forecast was looking as though it would eventuate as we pulled up at the car park. Last time I went to Mitre Flats the bridge was washed out and I was concerned that we would not be able to cross the swollen Waingawa River.

However as we set off patches of blue sky increased until it was just a cloudy day with no immediate prospect of rain. Good time was made along the Barra Track until we met with a little set-back: we reached the site of the old bridge and there was no other to be seen, hence a search followed looking for a suitable crossing point. After grovelling past the big slip opposite the hut and bashing along the river bed sacrificing our dry feet the new bridge was found. We reached Mitre Flats, 1 hour after getting to the old bridge. After a quick bite and our intentions left at the hut, we began the climb of this elusive peak. The weather was holding but time was against us. Our planned trip was to cross to Bocket and go over Table Ridge to drop down to Cow Creek. This plan had to be changed. We would now climb Mitre and then turn back to the Flats. We threw off our packs (figuratively speaking) and headed towards the snow. Mitre was under cloud but Peggys Peak was looking great. Great views of Adkin, Blue Range and the Waingawa Valley were seen - but one view that wasn't so great was the approaching grey snow bearing cloud. We reached the peak before Peggys (1330 m) before the snow and strong wind came. Mitre was off but we were determined to make use of the surrounding snow and a bit of self arresting practice was suggested. This turned out to be a bum slide to a sheltered spot where we could consume some uneaten lunch. Given this short lived luxury (as the temperature dropped quickly), we headed back to Mitre Flats which was now full of people.

A restful nights sleep was had by all. The next day manifested itself with a sleep-in, a bit of a look around South Mitre Stream and a lazy relaxed stroll back to the car.

Those of us were: Michael Curson, David Hodges, Adrienne Ross and Nigel Barrett.

TIKI TOURING AT TUROA - September 27 by P Wiles

By the time we reached Waiouru the weather was looking progressively more like a washout - easterly wind low dark cloud and patches of rain. There was hope however. To the west of Ohakuhe the cloud parted to reveal clear sky. By the time we were no more than a third of the way up the Turoa road we drove out of the cloud into clear calm air. This was not the end of the good luck for the day. I have driven up to Turoa a fair number of times over the years mostly in winter / spring and have never required chains, as in the past I have not had a pair. This time, and in spite of the notice at the bottom saying "chains not required" the road around and above MUAC was extensively covered with a film of water ice. I figure it must have been raining prior to the freeze. This time with chains in the boot the ice was soon overcome. We found we were the first into the car park.

After changing we were away shortly after 7.30 am. Crampons were required almost from the outset. We headed up the skifield until about 50m below the top of the T-bar and then turned to the east to cross the Mangahuehue Glacier on good firm snow.

Once we were at the southern base of Girdlestone, we headed onto a sidle below some iced up bluffs before sidling up a gully with the intention of crossing the south eastern spur as high up as possible to minimize the distance required to travel round to the eastern slopes. Unfortunately my navigation was somewhat astray and we emerged back on the south west spur. After gaining another 30m we reached a small snow slope which we crossed which this time turned us onto the eastern face. After a further short sidle we reached the snow gully on the eastern face which reaches up to the ridge top close to the summit of Girdlestone. Once again we were in luck. The slope was not quite as steep as I thought it was - no more than 45° (having seen it from above and below during last Easter). The snow was firm and perfect for kicking good steps into. After climbing about 100 m we reached the ridgetop about 30m below and south of the summit. After finding our way around and over 2 or 3 ice mushrooms we were at the top. We elected to have an early lunch (or was it late after having breakfast at 4 am)? We sat out of the slight easterly breeze watching various people's activities above on Taurangi and below on the glacier.

We elected to head over to Taurangi. Once again the snow was excellent for step plodding - even on the steepish head wall at the top of the glacier. Shortly after 1 pm we were on Taurangi amongst quite a crowd. Initially the view was excellent but before long easterly cloud rose and blotted out much of the plateau. There was no wind on top and the blazing sun was starting to reveal its summer character. After another feed and drink we headed down and arrived at the car park shortly after 2.30. While we were changing the easterly wind suddenly rose and as we headed down the road the rain returned.

An excellent day had by Lance Broad, Pat Janssen and Peter Wiles.

PNTMC
Box 1217
Palmerston North

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MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT

What's new in the outdoors with Mountain Equipment?

At last the "new boot" is here. It is called the Explorer and it is available in mens and womens sizes.

The fit of the boot: The mens are wider than the traditional Asolo fit, resulting no more scrunched up little toes while the womens are narrower.

The mens also seem to be about 1/2 a size larger but that may be due to the extra width.

Mens sizes: 6 1/2 to 13

Womens sizes: 4 to 8.

Half sizes are available in either.

There is excellent arch support throughout the entire width of the boot and shock absorbing sorbothane in the sole makes it even more comfortable.

The Explorer is cut higher in the ankle than the traditional Asolo range. This gives even greater ankle support, and it is cutaway at the back so as not to dig into your Achilles tendon. The uppers are made of a very soft leather unlike the stiffer cordura uppers of the Horizon range. While still providing support, it is softer where your ankle needs to flex.

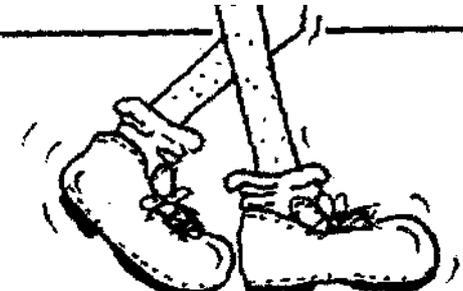
There is a rubber rand around the whole boot where the Vibram sole connects to the leather of the boot. This gives greater stability to the heel and protects the vulnerable base of the boot area – protecting it from rocks and making it better for wearing crampons. As it is sown into the leather base of the boot, it eliminates the old Asolo "de-solo" problem ... which reminds me - if you ever have problems with your Asolo boots, please bring them in

- if the sole comes off, it will be reglued at no cost;
- if the soles wear out -they can be resoled for approximately \$45.

[The new Vibram soles have excellent grip and wearing properties.]

Come in and try an Explorer - they are so comfortable.

Hillary



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We sell & hire packs, boots
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No 14 The Square	Mon - Thurs 9.00-5.30
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	Sat 9.30-12.30