



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER

August 1993 Edition

Gear Custodian

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ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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TRIPS OFTEN LEAVE FROM THE FOODTOWN CAR PARK IN FERGUSON STREET UNLESS THE LEADER ARRANGES OTHERWISE.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GOING 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.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A DAY TRIP MID-WEEK RING LAWSON AND SUE PITHER (357-3033).

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.

Club 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 unless otherwise notified in the newsletter.

The PNTMC committee meets on the first Thursday of each month.

SCHEDULED EVENT LIST

AUGUST

Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
AUGUST 14	Harris-Baber Creeks	M	Derek Sharp	326-8178
A medium day tramp up to Harris Creek hut area for lunch, then out to explore Dick and Baber Creek as we work our way back.				
AUGUST 14-15	Rangitau	Open	Sue/Lawson Pither	357-3033
Open weekend - A Do It Yourself Weekend: Make up your own group to go tramping, skiing, mountaineering or spend the weekend at the hot pools. Over to you.				
AUGUST 22	Sunrise-Sparrowhawk Biv	E&F	Daryl Rowan	356-4655
An easy day trip to Sunrise and the tops, and/or Waipawa catchment skyline for the more adventurous. Ice axes on the tops may be necessary. Depart 6.30 am.				

AUGUST 21-22 Tahurangi Lodge Tech Tricia Eder 357-0122
 Aim is to climb Mt Taranaki, hopefully the weather will turn on another brilliant weekend and the chefs another gastronomically interesting meal. Leader Mike Johns. Contact through Tricia. Depart Friday night.

AUGUST 28-29 Hikurangi Crossing F Derek Sharp 326-8178
 In from Kawhatau Base to enjoy the remaining winter snow (was there any?) and eventually down to Waterfall Hut. Next day over main ranges to Morecock Base via Hawkes Bay Ridge, Sawtooth Ridge, then Black Ridge to complete the crossing. (Note notice in this newsletter re Morecock Base road closure - another 3.5 km to walk.)

AUGUST 28-29 Wild Horses Kaimanawas M Malcolm Parker 357-5203
 Either a day or weekend trip depending on interest. We will endeavour to get current information from DOC as to the current whereabouts of the animals.

Committee Meeting: 5th. Club Nights: 12th and 26th.

SEPTEMBER

Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
<u>SEPTEMBER 4</u>	Rimutaka Walkway	E	Richard Lockett	323-6489
<u>SEPTEMBER 4-5</u>	Egmont	M/F	Bruce Van Brunt	356-4217
<u>SEPTEMBER 12</u>	Kaiparoro Clearing	E	Brenton Sheppard	06376-8474
<u>SEPTEMBER 11-12</u>	Snowcraft 3 @ Whangaehu	F/T	Peter Wiles	358-6894
<u>SEPTEMBER 19</u>	Diggers/Forks	M	Brian Lawrence	324-8552
<u>SEPTEMBER 18-19</u>	Iron Bark	M	Chris Saunders	358-4899
<u>SEPTEMBER 18-19</u>	Tararua Peaks	FE	Nigel Barrett	356-1568
<u>SEPTEMBER 25</u>	Santoft Beach/Beach	E	Liz Morrison	357-6532
<u>SEPTEMBER 25-26</u>	Yoemans Track	Mtn Bike Pedals	Aaron Panchaud	354-8422

Committee meeting: 2nd. Club Nights: 16th and 30th.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAMME

Club Night August 12th Mountain Safety videos (hopefully) and that Base Jump off, the Trango Tower (if you missed it on TV3).

August 26th Kaikouras revisited. A relook at a couple of interesting trips that Peter Wiles did in the 1980's.

September 16th - The Quiz!

FOR SALE

Tramping boots, Size 9 Paraflex with leather uppers. Worn twice. Phone Henricus Peters on 359-4727, around 6 pm.

EDITORIAL

The General Election is not many months away. While it is the silly season politically, it is a good time to focus the mind on some of the issues that concern us. Access to the environment is probably uppermost in many club members' minds. Not surprisingly perhaps there is a specific lobby group "Public Access New Zealand" (PANZ) which is dedicated to carrying this banner. PANZ is headed by Bruce Mason, who I understand is based in Dunedin. In order to bring pressure to bear on the local politicians, Bruce is embarking on a national tour during much of September. He will be speaking at a public meeting in Palmerston North on Wednesday 22nd September at Guildfords Palmerstons on the corner of Rangitiki and Featherston streets at 7.30 pm. The local politicians will be invited to attend. The more interested members of the public (that's us folks) who attend the greater the effectiveness of the pressure on the politicians.

Access to our traditional recreation areas cannot be taken for granted and the status quo will only be maintained by exerting appropriate pressure. Recent local events are the South Range Road affair and the access to the tracks near Sixtus Lodge. Other problem areas that some members will have had experience with are the Whanganui Bay problems,

the Rangipo Power Station road access to the Umukarikari track in the Kaimanwas (both regrettably Maori land problems) and access into the northern Kaimanawas not to mention the north and north-eastern Ruahine Range difficulties.

At a national level there is "debate" over the Queen's Chain issue as well as what is on the negotiation table over the Waitangi Treaty claims.

The arguments involved are by no means easy or restricted to just a few simple lines.

A pot porri of them might include:

- No service no fees,
- Pakehas should respect Maori values,
- National and forest parks, reserves etc should not be used for money making events that do not respect the Pakeha and Maori values embodied in them;
- the parks and reserves are the collective property of all New Zealanders and must not be offered as bargaining chips;
- Foreign tourism is planned to become one of this country's most important industry's in the economy. We should take every opportunity to take money off tourists who are making use of our resources.

Summer before last I visited the head of the Ahuriri Valley in south west Canterbury. This area has had a history of the land owner declining access to visitors (or the passage of visitors). We had no problems. However, I could easily see how the situation could easily get completely out of hand. Not only were there the likes of us who were interested in doing some climbing, there were other climbing parties, trampers, fishermen, hunters, shooters (I draw a distinction), campers, mountain bikers and just the curious explorers of back country roads. Trying to run a farm with all this going on, on your property tends to raise the blood pressure.

We would like to see as many members turn out on the 22nd.

Peter Wiles

NOTICES

THANKS

Thanks to Hillary at Mountain Equipment and Colin from MACPAC for an informative evening at the recent club night hearing at first hand the features and history of MACPAC's burgeoning array of clothing.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please send in your subs as this is your final reminder and last newsletter (unless other arrangements have been made for delayed payment.)

ALPINE CALENDARS

The calendars have arrived. The price will be \$12.50. If you missed out on the first round, Peter has a few left that are unspoken for.

QUIZ

We are to host and organize the inter-club quiz. A sub-committee has been formed to carry out this task. If you think you might have an idea or two for some questions or activities or events, please let Pauline or Derek or Tricia know. (Remember, we are hosting it in the Society's rooms so space is likely to be at a premium - erecting tents has already been rejected.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Next meeting will be at Tony's place 24 Springdale Grove. If you are unable to make it or expect to be late, please ensure that your apology is forwarded to the secretary in advance.

TRIP REPORTS

Don't forget (leaders) please get your trip reports in or use your short lived powers to delegate to an unsuspecting team member. How about a letter to the editor perhaps, or some good gossip, or a poem or what ever.

Is your DOC season pass about to expire? Time to think about getting a new order into Steve Bolton, so give your name to Tony, Nigel or Peter.

TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS

DOC has issued a public notice that the Morecocks Road beyond the base is closed for maintenance until further notice. Parking will now be at the old Morecock Base. This will mean an extra 3.5 km to walk.

Mangahao Riverbed area. For the period July 26 until September 21, ECNZ advise that maintenance work being carried on the system means that flows in the river bed may be increased.

TRIP REPORTS

INDULGENCES

It happens - but: once a year. In the middle of the year our active, inactive and dormant trampers emerge from the hills hollows and slumber to indulge. This year's successful event was held at the old Putara school house - perfectly equipped with electric lights and stoves, a large sleeping platform and the remainder of the hall for entertaining.

The early arrivers had the hall organised - decorations, flowers and a TV for watching rugby (or was it league?). Tents emerged and were erected on the spacious grounds sheltered by trees which housed the local magpies and migrant morepork. Saturday's trampers arrived with tales of snow, bush and mysteries of whether or not Christine left something at Herepai Hut.

The evening's indulgences began with soup and a variety of breads, chips and dip, followed by mains and the traditional winter deserts - all ably sustained by Tricia's seemingly unlimited supply of mulled wine. The less reserved imbibers were thankful that driving was not required at the end of the evening. The early departers headed for their sleeping bags leaving the more hardened campaigners to swap stories, swill the wine and leave the slumberers guessing at the source of the laughter.

Morning brought stories of phantom snorers, unused bed rolls, more debate over Christine's lost gear and lingering smells of the more opulent breakfasts trampers rarely indulge in these days (or was that normal fare for Mick?). With the tidy-up over, a group photo was required before groups headed off - the children enthusiastic at the crossing of the swing bridge, a short tramp, and the ultimate - throw stones in the river.

A lovely weekend, congratulations to Tricia and the team on a wonderfully organised event.

Team: Tricia, Pauline, Judy & Peter, Mick, Jo, Lawrence, Dominic, Fabian, Beth, Jenny, Llew, Peter, Julian, Brian, Linda, Daryl, Stefan, Errin, Terry, Christine. Stuart, Margaret, Richard, Tui, Brendon & Megan, Gerald & Elaine, Anita & Grant.

OPAWE ROAD TO MARAHARA - 18/7/93

This trip was to be Perry's trip to Waiopehu, but due to weather and distance, he decided to tramp close by. This track becomes very muddy half way up. A few wood pigeons are in the area - but they did not stay around long enough for a good look. We stopped short of the top by a few minutes due to adverse conditions. We could smell smoke and thought it was blowing over from the Kiritaki Hut.

Monica Cantwell and Perry Hicks.

WAITEWAEWAE

Arriving at the road end, we chatted with the DOC Ranger and discovered that: 1) There was a warden at the hut. And. 2) There was no axe at the hut. Being thoughtful trampers and concerned trampers (concerned because we envisaged a cold evening without the comfort and warmth of a fire) we offered to carry in the axe. (Self interest at all?)

A pleasant and relaxed trip was enjoyed by everyone. We all checked out the steam engine and Alistair checked out the deep mud hole. Rebekka decided she needed cooling off and took a dive in the Otaki River - just 5 minutes from the hut.

Fortunately the hut warden was keen to use the axe that we'd brought in. Soon wood chips were flying and in no time the fire was warming the assembled bodies. For some strange reason he insisted on leaving the front of the fire wide open.

We had arrived at the hut reasonably early in the afternoon and were surprised at the numbers of trampers that came in; even after dark to eventually fill the hut.

This was Rebekka's and Alistair's first overnight club trip and their fitness and positive approach impressed all of us. Well done, and we hope to see you again sometime soon.

SNOW CRAFT I at Tahurangi Lodge - by Nigel Barrett

It was that time of year again - mid July, the first of the Club's snowcraft courses, the usual high pressure system over the country, and an "air" of enthusiasm from 6 eager students, all keen and ready to tackle whatever the next two days were to bring.

On Friday night we left at about 6.00 pm - destination North Egmont and a comfy bed in the bunkhouse.

The drive up was uneventful - just quiet and peaceful as the mountain dominated peoples' thoughts. The road narrows once you reach the National Park boundary - trees, bush, possums - they all thrive in this area - we drove around a corner and accidentally missed one - shame really. However, upon arriving at the "Bunkhouse" we were graciously welcomed by some "Taranaki Natives" - about eight teenagers quite intoxicated by excess vodka and nearly deaf from listening to that popular "hard Rock Thrash" type music (I use the term loosely).

So after a brilliant night's sleep - it was time to head for Tahurangi Lodge. We started on our way at about 8.00 am and after half an hour a member of the party (Dave Hodges) suddenly realised that he was lacking in a vital piece of equipment - his ice axe. So Dave being a keen young man, ran all the way back to the car and retrieved it.

Once at the Lodge we unpacked, had a drink while waiting for Dave and then we proceeded into Hongi's Valley (I think), where Mike Johns showed us techniques for walking in the snow. We all picked it up quite quickly and were keen to tryout the icier slopes. Having rigid boots made edging a lot easier on the ankles. So after a few hours, we were all experts in this field and feeling quite satisfied with our achievements, went back to the Lodge for lunch.

Next came the fun part of the day - self arresting practice. After scanning the slopes for a while we found a spot that suited the purpose - firm snow with good fun out and most importantly it was long! Naturally we were keen to practice this most important technique. Mike had us doing all sorts - going down on our bum, head first on our stomach, head first on our back, left and right handed and even a good old undignified bum slide (for some). Next it was on with the crampons to practice walking in those and to try self-arresting with these on. Gradually we all headed back to the Lodge for a relaxing evening and dinner, a huge delicious pudding and a game of GRASS!

Sunday came all too quickly - but again there was not a cloud to be seen, the snow was hard and the air was warm - not bad for a Sunday morning. Mick and I were keen on going to the top but Mike hadn't really planned on us going. Rather we all headed off again for a longer walk with the crampons. We were accompanied by Miles' friend Ross; a well known figure in this area, who led the way at a blistering pace. Mike would stop us and give some hints on what to do when walking - LIKE looking uphill for falling debris, walking with our feet a bit further apart etc. We reached Snow Valley and waited a bit before we crossed. Ross went first, leading the way - taking us over some front pointing areas, but as Ross was "clinging" to some ice, Mike called out to him a warning of a rather large lump of ice descending at high velocity. The lump ended up sailing over his head a short distance away. However, we decided not to follow Ross. Rather we crossed Snow Valley as quickly as possible - dodging the constant flow of ice being dislodged from the sunny bluffs above. From here we dropped down to Humphries Castle - glissading at every opportunity. We had a snack here before heading back to the Lodge for lunch. After packing up we wandered our way down to the cars by various ways - all arriving back about 1.00 pm.

Driving back home this time was a little different than usual as a rather interesting thing did happen. We drove back having a good yarn and stopping off for a milkshake etc. when we arrived at a little town on the other side of Wanganui - called Kai Iwi. We stopped to fill up with petrol - the driver who shall remain anonymous - I'll call him Dr Pearce. Kevin and I got out (Kevin to fill up with fuel, me to fill the belly - Dave stayed put in the car at least that was what we thought. Anyhow, we got back in the car and drove off. Kevin and I chattered away quite merrily until we got to Bulls where I turned my head to talk to Dave and to my surprise found that he was not there and in-fact he was left back at the toilet at Kai Iwi!

We arranged to ring the petrol station at Kai Iwi and not surprisingly found that Dave was no a happy chappie and was rather cold by this time as well. Dave's mum went to pick him up - sorry about that Dave. Despite all this it was a great weekend enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to Mike and Ross.

The party included: Tricia, Pauline, Mick, Dave, Nigel, Kevin and Mike.

