

P.N. TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

Hon. Secretary:
Lynne Potter 79.499

P.O. Box 1217
Palmerston Nth.

NEWSLETTER 10/69

CLUB NIGHT: 30th October at 7.30p.m.

Berry Engineering Ltd., Social Room.

A professional photographer, Mr. John Cleland, has accepted our invitation to speak on ways and means of improving the results of our photographic efforts. A display of camera equipment suitable for tramping and climbing devotees will accompany the address.

Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 28th October at Lawson Pither's,
30 Surrey Cres., P.N.

TARARUA CHRISTMAS TRIP:

Dennis Moore is keen to lead a 4 or 5 day trip in the Tararuas immediately after Christmas. The Devon air crash on Shingle Slip Knob will be visited as also a number of the higher peaks/ Grading: Medium-Fit. Interested contact Dennis 76.752.

COMING TRIPS:

13 – 14th OCTOBER (Monday & Tuesday):

Work Party at Rangī, weather permitting. Contact Dennis Arnott, phone 102 Rongotea.

5th NOVEMBER: At Ann and Tony Morrison's, Tiritea. Members and their families and friends are invited to celebrate Guy Fawkes at the Club Bonfire. This is a good opportunity for dads and mums to demonstrate their technique with whizz-bangs, sparklers, crackers and any other choice bangers, so do join us on the 5th.

8 – 9th NOVEMBER: WHARITE – COPPERMINE HUT:

This will be a new route to the Coppermine for our Club and should be more interesting and rather harder work than by the conventional track up the Coppermine Creek. There is an opportunity here for botanists amongst the party to study at close quarters the growth pattern of the Tupare (*Olearia Colensii*) which grows in this area in profusion. Grading - MEDIUM EASY

Leader: Warwick Blanchard 20.712

22 – 23rd NOVEMBER: PUTARA MANGAHAO:

A Medium-Easy crossing of the Northern Tararuas, starting Saturday morning. A Second Party will go in to Mangahao on Sunday to meet the crossing party.

Leader: Kevin Pearce.

Early December: Grande Annual Dinner:

To be held at a certain Chalet in the Mountains. This will be the social event of the season to celebrate the Club's birthday. More details later in our next Newsletter.

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LAST CLUB NIGHT: Mr. Tom Cookson, Forest Protection Officer of the N.Z. Forest Service, addressed a small gathering of Club members. We were told of the work of the Forest Production division of the Service and of the Mountain Safety Committee. The Club is fortunate to have someone of Mr. Cookson's calibre looking after its interests.

PAST TRIPS

16-17th AUGUST: Mt Ruapehu:

A late start was made on Saturday morning, in rather unpleasant weather conditions, for the higher snow-covered slopes and a suitable spot for a snow cave. After two hours of ploughing through soft snow, and good navigation, a cave dug the previous weekend, was located on a steep and thrilling slope.

All crawled through the tunnel into the rather cramped cave and enjoyed a bite to eat. Armed with a shovel and a large sheet of plastic, work commenced on the enlargement of the cave to sleep four bods comfortably. Great chunks of ice and snow rolled out the entrance for about two hours before the interior was finally dug to a size 7-8ft. square and 4 feet high. What remained of the day was spent in making an inspection of a spectacular frozen waterfall which consisted of a solid pillar of ice almost 30' high and 10-15ft. dia.

Meals were cooked while lying in sleeping bags and eaten the same way. After a very comfortable night, the weather on Sunday was not promising, with a cold wind containing a large amount of snow. A start was made after breakfast for a higher altitude which was hidden by cloud. After two hours of kicking steps and battling strong winds, a decision was made to descent to lower altitudes.

On reaching the public shelter, a meal was had and a trek to the Wanganui Tramping Club Hut where 7 non-mountaineering types spent the night. After a short stop at the hut the return trip was made and thus ended a thoroughly enjoyable weekend.

ROCK CLIMBING, TITAHI BAY, 27-28th SEPTEMBER:

Perfect weather was enjoyed by the eight who took part in the activity. The sound rock and the variety of climbs ranging in difficulty from easy upwards should ensure that further trips are organized to this pleasant spot only 80 miles from Palmerston North.

A Climb of the Pinnacle: Which is a prominent feature of the Titahi Bay cliffs. The northern side is vertical to overhanging and smooth for its entire height, 100 feet from the beach to the summit. The base of the Pinnacle is triangular and it tapers to a narrow summit ridge. The S.W. Face is a giant slab with an angle of about 60° and a number of cracks and sloping ledges. The usual routes are up this face or its edge with the northern face. The route down is the back edge of the northern face. This is a knife-edge and curves downwards out of sight to a saddle 20 feet below where the Pinnacle abuts the cliffs. Although the normal routes are not very difficult technically the great height and the steepness of the peak together with the absence of foot handholds makes it a memorable climb. The feeling of exposure (great height) as one sits astride the summit with legs dangling is enormous. One of the party roped up with Keith Jones of V.U.W.T.C. and made a successful ascent of the Pinnacle.

Amongst those who took part were two young children of 6 and 12, who demonstrated an enviable technique on The Slab. The large number of climbers enjoying their day were to say the least cosmopolitan. A Swiss father and son were performing with considerable skill and a British climber showed great ability on The Slab and other features.

Our own party comprised several who were making their first acquaintance with the rock. These and the more experienced all had a thoroughly enjoyable day and will return at an early date for another confrontation.