

P.N. TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

NEWSLETTER: Vol.III No .12

P.O. Box 1217,
PALMERSTON NTH.

Dear Members,

We again reproduce a list of committee members for your convenience. Please feel free: to telephone them any time between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. for advice or information concerning unofficial Club activities.

President:	Lawson Pither	85.616	Treasurer & Gear Custodian:
Vice-Pres:	Peter Clausen	26.521	Keith Potter 79.499
Secretary:	Lyn Potter	79.499	

Committee:

Dennis Arnott	102 Rongotea	Russ Lacey	81 .436
Wayne Boucher	79.839	Dennis Moore	76.752
Roger Clark	76.719	Kevin Pearce	74.129 ext.
Russell Johnson	87.777		856

CLUB NIGHT: Thursday 30th January 1969

At Berry Engineering Works Ltd. Social Hall - 7.30 p.m. It is probable that a our next Club night we shall not have a speaker though we have in fact issued an invitation to a person who has traveled widely in Europe to address us. If he is unable to attend then we shall let the evening be informal. This type of meeting can be very enjoyable especially after the holiday period when it will be an opportunity for members to swap experiences. Bring any photos and slides you would like to show.

Committee Meeting: 7.30p.m. Monday 3rd February at the Pither home, 30 Surrey Crescent.

DINE & DANCE: The Manawatu Tramping & Skiing Club has extended an invitation to Club members to attend a Dine & Dance to be held in Kelvin Grove Hall, Tremaine Ave on Sat. 14th December.

Cocktails:	7.30 p.m.	Dinner: 8.00 p.m.	Dress: Semi-formal
Double:	\$4.00	Single: \$3.00	

Reply to Secretary, P.O. Box 245, P.N.

CLUB HIRE GEAR: A limited amount of Club gear is still available from Keith Potter for the Christmas holiday period.

PAST TRIPS

TRIAL SEARCH,16-17th November:

Unfortunately this clashed with trade examinations and only five members took part. The search was in the Scotts Road area of the Northern Tararuas. Those "lost" were our own Vern Stout and a policeman. The Army provided its usual services. The exercise was enjoyed by all in spite of bush lawyer and leatherwood and rain. Future trial searches can be recommended to all members with average or better fitness and experience.

The Search & Rescue Organisation gives us an opportunity to make an extremely valuable contribution to a very worthwhile cause. By virtue of our training, Tramping Club members are well qualified to do this. Remember this when you have your next opportunity to take part – you could help to save a life.

BUSHCRAFT COURSE; 30th Nov - 1st December saw the Bushcraft Course conducted by Vern Stout, whose very able instruction and interesting anecdotes were absorbed by the small but keen group. Camp was made about ten minutes up Harris Creek from its junction with the Mangahao River.

There is an interesting theory proposed by one of the experienced members of the Club which says that novices should suffer as this builds character and hardy trampers. Ideal suffering conditions were supplied by continuous rain from about 3 o'clock while camp was being made. Once in bed however it was just like home - w-e-ell almost like home. Sunday brought very good sunny conditions for the assault on West Peak. Why is it that after a hard slog to the summit one looks around only to find that all the neighbouring peaks are higher?

The weekend was very enjoyable and many a valuable point was learnt; such as how to prepare a comfortable bed, how to make a fireplace, what words to use when dangling upside down from the end of a rope, and that blood is only skin deep! Finally, encouragement to the younger members who on a ratio of pack weight to body weight carried the equivalent of a twelve stone man carrying a 60 lb. pack all weekend. Members of the Party: Sheryll Kirkpatrick, Ian Hoare, Graham Pascoe, Nick McPherson, Kevin Pearce, Owen Mills, Wally Blanchard, Vern Stout.

COMING TRIP:

Preparations for the Dinner at Rangiwahia Hut are well in hand and we are very pleased to advise that our Patron and Mrs. Jensen will be with us on Sunday. It is possible that Mr. & Mrs. Clifton will also attend - we hope they will manage it as they have very kindly allowed our members across their property on many occasions and this will be our opportunity to reciprocate in a small way.

A small party of members will make the trip on Saturday so that they can make an early start with the cooking on Sunday morning. The main party will leave from Izadiurn at 7 A.M. SUNDAY 8th.

Transport arrangements will be in the hands of Dennis Arnott on Sunday morning. Take your own eating utensils for two courses.

Any queries to Lawson Pither, phone 85.616.

DAY TRIP
To
FIELD HUT

TRIP LEADER : Keith Potter
DATE : Sunday, February 4th

6 a.m. Sunday, February 4th saw two carloads of P.N.T.M.C. headed for Otaki Forks and Field Hut. The day proved a surprise to all after a very wet Saturday we were greeted with a bright and sunny day. Crossing the swing bridge the party sweated uphill to the bush edge and then proceeded to wade up the very muddy track reaching the hut in about two hours from our transport. A few members splashed up the still muddy track towards Vosseler, but most remained on a sunny knob in the tussock to enjoy the sunshine and terrific view. We returned to the transport by 5 p.m. – a very lazy but enjoyable day.

WEEKEND TRIP
To
PURITY

TRIP LEADER : Roger Clarke
DATE : February 11-18th, 1968
IN ATTENDANCE : Roger Clarke
Keith Potter
Tony Morrison
Bill Olsen
Wayne Boucher

Just to put some of you right, this trip did go as planned. It was a very enjoyable one, although a very hard climb at the start. Hut an enjoyable sight at long last, although it was further away than it looked. Kept awake all night by some people playing cards (no names mentioned) taking a lot abuse also. Rested Sunday before coming out in the afternoon.

DAY TRIP
MANGAHAO RIVER

TRIP LEADER : Don Fletcher
DATE : 3rd March, 1968
IN ATTENDANCE : Anne Olsen,
Bill Olsen,
David Olsen,
Joy Olsen,
Lawson Pither,
Glennis Allan,
Sheryl Kirkpatrick,
Don Fletcher

The weather was fine and warm just the thing for a Mangahao River trip. The party all told consisted of seven adults and two children, and with three cars there was plenty of room.

At the upper dam the party took to the track as the lake was up, the track being followed to Rimu Hut then down to the river-bed. After an hour up-stream at a sharp S bend we had smoko, some of the party having a swim in the lovely pools that are so common on the Mangahao.

Reaching the first of the many gorges, we took to the track on the south bank, but in places we had to double back losing the track and came out of the gorges about 1 o'clock, having dinner on the river bank. Time was going so we headed down stream again although the Hut must have been near.

Reached the cars at 5 p.m. and home by 6.30.

NORTHERN TARARUA
CROSSING
(Mitre Flat -Ohau River)

TRIP LEADER : Peter Clausen
DATE : 16-11th March, 1968
IN ATTENDANCE : 13 members in all.

The attempt on the Tararua Range crossing was unsuccessful due to a mishap to the leader, and a crossing wasn't made. However, a few of the 13 members made the top of Mitre, the highest peak in the Tararuas.

The party arrived at Masterton by railcar at 8 p.m. Friday and then they went by hired car to the end of Waingawa Road; tramped to Mitre Flats Hut via Barra Track arriving just after midnight, having crossed river on 3-wire bridge - great skill needed for this. Saturday made a climb to Mitre, a steep drag all the way; accident happened to leader on Peggy's Peak, cancelling remainder of crossing so part returned to Mitre Flats Hut. Spent remainder of weekend enjoying perfect weather; hardier ones swam in the Waingawa. Homeward trip Sunday, some travelling by bus, others by railcar. Public transport proved very successful. The only good point about the weekend was the perfect weather.

DAY TRIP TO COPPERMINES

TRIP LEADER : Lawson Pither
DATE :
IN ATTENDANCE : Lawson Pither
Keith Potter
Wayne Boucher
Robert Wellington
Karen Mathews
Glenys Allen
Sherryl Kirkpatrick

A party of eight, including five prospective members, were able to enjoy a day of tramping in the area of the Maharahara Coppermine. For most of the party there were surprises in the variety of the scenery in the area. It is hoped that some of this was recorded on film, as, besides a waterfall and rock pool, we were lucky enough to see some very fine effects of light and shade caused by the morning sun combined with mist and the trees.

All the party were either partly or totally immersed in the creek at some stage and seeing that it was such a hot day this added to the fun. We were all equipped with some dry clothes and this turned out to be very worthwhile. The sites of the two mines were located.

DAY TRIP
To
DEEFORD TRACK (Apiti)

TRIP LEADER : Keith Potter
DATE : 28th April, 1968
IN ATTENDANCE : 6 members in all

Weather cool, scattered rain and wind. Very misty on the tops. The track has been recut and blazed. Six members spent an enjoyable day in the rain on a proposed Deerford Track. Cone Ridge Creek trip, but owing to visibility being 20 yards we decided to come back down the track.

Two other Club members were met on the top of Toka after spending four days at Leon Kinvig Hut. They carried out four deer skins and meat.

All back to cars and back to Apiti to call on Vern and Sue, for a much appreciated cup of tea.

Some members were still riding round the front paddock in a go-kart when three others left.

Thanks to Lawson and Ian for transport.

WEEKEND TRIP TO
WAIHOHONU HUT (National Park)

TRIP LEADER : Tony Morrison
DATE : 11-12th May, 1968
IN ATTENDANCE : 30 members in all

Sparkling weather - by day a view of Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe under clear sky and warm sun - perfect. The night, with snow and ice and hard frost lit by a full moon, gave imaginary scenes of planet surfaces.

Surprised to find a new hut in the area, a replica of the Ketetahi Springs Hut and one of a series planned by the Park Board. The old hut is still there packed with atmosphere.

No great physical energy shown by the party; a few found the Tama Lakes and two found themselves on top of Ngauruhoe when the sun went down and played Ed Hillarys to get down - "a bad example to the party". The wisdom of purchasing the Club's own first aid kit came to mind when a member came staggering through the door with a broken trouser fly zipper.

A good trip in an unspoiled area of the Park. No growls, other than the evening meal of spaghetti which resembled a fast-set fibreglass compound in texture.

Thanks to all car owners; to Wayne and Co. for filling up drained radiators, and to Keith for working out trip costs.

DAY TRIP
To
TITAHU BAY
(Rock Climbing)

TRIP LEADER : Trevor Arnold
DATE : 25th-26th May, 1968
IN ATTENDANCE :

Enjoyed by all who took part; well led by that mountain goat Trevor Arnold of Wellington. The party slept in a cave Saturday night while the tide rose higher up the rock all the time. Sunday was good too, but was a little crowded because of a Wellington Club's trip.

A memorable occasion - thank you Trevor.

SOUTHERN CROSSING

TRIP LEADER : Roger Clarke
DATE : June 1-2-3rd, 1968
IN ATTENDANCE : Bill Holmes
Keith Potter
Denis Arnott
Lawson Pither
Kevin Pearce
Dick Burgess
Nick Wolf
Roger Clarke

Arrived at Fields Hut 11.30 Friday night, leaving at 9 a.m. the next morning to reach Vosseler for lunch. Then headed for Mount Hector, paying Kime a short visit en route. After a windy and misty tramp we found ourselves atop Mount Hector, then a long drag down the tops to Winchcombe Bivy. Enroute we espied two deer but they proved too elusive for the hunters. Denis, Kevin and Roger woke Sunday morning to the sound of running water in the tent - a deluge of water had come down overnight. The others had slept in the Bivy. It was a cold, damp trip from the Bivy to Totara Hut via Cone Ridge.

On Monday the party was feeling good and after a hearty feed we had a trip across the river on the Flying Fox. 1½ hours up the stream we found ourselves confronted with a 2 hour climb up the ridge. The party took this in their stride well and on arriving at the Junction welcomed the walk downhill to the Mountain Lodge. Everyone felt quite elated on the completion of the trip and some found they could accomplish things they would never have attempted before. Thanks for the good teamwork by all members of the party which made the trip a successful one.

DAY TRIP
TO
KAKAPAPANUI

TRIP LEADER : Bruce Watson
DATE : 16th June, 1968
IN ATTENDANCE : Kathy Baxter
Peter Baxter
Sheryll Kirkpatrick
Mark Batchelar
Bruce Watson
Chris Richardson
Ian Voice
Lawson Pither
Ann Morrison
Jeannie Daamen
Wayne Boucher
Kevin Pearce
Nick Wolfe

How many persons would rather get a good sweat up than watch television on a Sunday? This was the question put by a member of a group from the Club who took part in the day trip to 3,615 feet on the top of Kakapapanui near Waikanae. Despite the weather the party enjoyed it thoroughly. With a few pushes and pulls everyone managed to be on top for lunch. Cloud cut visibility to a few feet but it was surprisingly warm.

On the way down a break in the cloud gave the trampers a silhouetted view of Kapiti.

RANGIWAHIA WORK PARTY (and Tramping)

TRIP LEADER : Wayne Boucher
DATE : June 29-30th, 1968
IN ATTENDANCE : Kathleen Baxter – Weekenders
Peter Baxter
Russell Johnson
Ian Hoare
Jeannie Daamen
Judy Griffiths
Kevin Pearce
Robert Wellington
Keith Potter
Lawson Pither
Chris Richardson
John Saunders
Miles Stilwell
Wayne Boucher
Elliott Cameron - on Sunday
Robert Grant
Glennys Allen

The weather on the Saturday began wet, then gradually improved but about 400' below the hut, snow began to fall and continued for most of the next 24 hours. During the morning the small party working on the slip stretched wire rope over it to be used as a handrail. This appeared to be successful except in one small gully where falling rocks carried away a post during Saturday night. The N.Z. Forest Service supplied the materials and we were fortunate to have the assistance of a Forest Service Officer, Mr Mike Martyn, with the job.

The Shelter provided by the hut, was enjoyed by all and was surprisingly cosy, though rather crowded, and difficulty was experienced in finding sleeping room, with ten trying to rest on an 8-man bunk. The hut looked very picturesque with about six inches of snow on the roof and icicles dangling from the eaves.

Visitors during Sunday morning were two deerstalkers and another party from our Club. These dauntless climbers fought their way through the snowstorm and up to a foot of snow to arrive looking more like snowmen than human.

Addition from later newsletter:- As you all noticed in the last Newsletter we erected a wire handrail across three slips. Unfortunately, the third slip has given way and has bent the stakes and broken the wire rope.

This now needs extreme care in crossing owing to its condition. The other slips too are in extremely poor condition despite all our work.

SEARCH & RESCUE

DATE : 9th July, 1968

On the 9th July, we had a full scale search for two shooters in the Tokomaru area. Many thanks to all who, not only turned out, but also rang to volunteer. The fact was we got embarrassed with too many offers. Jack Body of the Manawatu Tramping Club was Field Search Controller and the missing party was found before base was established. A good many lessons came out of this search and these will be discussed at a debrief to be held in about a fortnight.

Team leaders only will be invited, I'm sorry, in order to keep it as small as possible.

It is a shake up for us though to get our Club organised for assistance and you will be invited to give your names and fill in a form for Bill Homes at next Club night. Find out first if there are any conditions when you won't be available and if you are working, what does your employer think about it, and will you lose your pay?

Vern Stout

DAYTRIP
To
TIRITEA HUT

TRIP LEADER : Russell Johnson
DATE : 14th July, 1968
IN ATTENDANCE : Judy Griffiths
Peter Baxter
Denis Arnott
Lawson Pither
David Pither
Keith Potter
Ian Hoare
Malcolm Watson
Dennis Rush
Kevin Pearce
Russell Johnson

At 7 a.m. the party left the cars at the end of Greens Road and started up that track that leads to the Tiritea Trig, (Shere's). On entering the bush past the trig a relatively unmarked track was followed downhill until the hut was reached at 10.30 a.m. Strenuous efforts by two or three bods failed to produce the required amount of combustion to boil a billy on the fire. However, Dennis's lowly primus soon had a brew on the way. It was not 'till early in the afternoon that we left the hut, with the sun peeping occasionally through the trees above, and tramped, staggered, slipped and all but swam upstream to Brown's Flat and thence to the cars.

DAY TRIP
To
MANGAHAO VALLEY

TRIP LEADER : Ron Haxton
DATE : 28th July, 1968
IN ATTENDANCE : Ron Haxton
Denis Arnott
Peter Baxter
Kevin Pearce
Dennis Rush
Sheryll Kirkpatrick
Bruce Watson
Malcolm Watson
Lawson Pither
Keith Potter
Judy Griffiths
Heather Remnant

Fifteen members left the Top Mangahao Dam at 8.30, most of the party travelling on the track which was much warmer than the river, but not as fast. Deep pools and waterfalls were admired during the morning before everyone arrived at Harris Creek for lunch. The day was so unusually fine that two or three hours were spent sunbathing on a grassy river flat. On the return trip the party waded down the river with periods of cliff climbing to avoid deep pools. Although the water was very cold it was a pleasant change from the track. An enjoyable day was nicely rounded off by some faster trampers, who provided a hot cup of tea at the Dam.

WHAKAPAPAITI HUT

TRIP LEADER : Lawson Pither
DATE : 17-18th August, 1968
IN ATTENDANCE : 34 members in all

This trip attracted a large number and was a very enjoyable weekend. The weather was not fantastic but neither was it bad. Upon arriving at the Chateau it was raining and cold, but by the time we were half-way to the Hut it was just cold.

The snowcraft instruction gave an introduction to many members of the skills needed in the snow and was extremely valuable.

We recommend the Whakapapaiti Hut as being very comfortable, but would have liked it a little less crowded as besides our 34, nine trampers from a Wellington Club came begging for shelter and it was a case of 'move up the bus boys'.

All in all it was an extremely enjoyable weekend giving many people their first real introduction to snowcraft. Thanks are extended to instructors and the organiser of the weekend.

RUAPEHU BUS TRIP

TRIP LEADER : Lawson Pither
DATE : 31st August, 1968
IN ATTENDANCE : Approx. 34 members

The weather was reasonable for this trip, and should have been extremely enjoyable. Unfortunately due to a break-down of the bus on the way to Ruapehu, the party was behind schedule consequently losing their bookings made through the Bus Hire people.

Despite all these troubles, a good time was had by all, but from the comments made us hardy trampers do not really enjoy this type of 'Bible Class' outing, and would rather be bashing through the bush up to our knees in mud, rain dripping down the back of our necks, and the mosquitoes making dive-bomb raids on various parts of the anatomy.

WEEKEND TRIP TO EGMONT

TRIP LEADER : Kevin Pearce
DATE : 14-15th September, 1968
IN ATTENDANCE : Wayne Boucher
Jeannie Daamen
Judy Griffiths
Sheryll. Kirkpatrick
Ann Morrison
Tony Morrison
Bill Olsen
Kevin Pearce
Keith Potter

We arrived at Dawson Falls on Saturday after a 2½ to 3 hour trip from Palmerston North. The mountain was hidden by mist and rain was falling. Two of the keener members of the party spurned the arm chairs and stoves of Robson Lodge and set out to climb Fanthams Peak. They returned triumphant during the afternoon just as there was a sudden improvement in the weather.

The weather on Sunday promised to be good so a climb of Egmont was planned. Five mountaineers left the Lodge by torch light at 5.30 a.m. and reached snow just below Kapuni Lodge at 6.30 a.m. where they roped up. The snow was hard and icy after a clear night and step cutting was necessary. Moving one at a time, safeguarded by belays, progress was slow. The party was envious of other climbers who had emerged from Kapuni Lodge and moved up the slopes at high speed on crampons. After a sterling effort by step cutters Tony and Bill, Fanthams Peak was reached at 11 a.m. It was now obvious that insufficient time remained to complete the climb by step cutting. Bill and Tony donned their crampons and continued upwards. Wayne, Kevin and Keith who lacked these devices started downwards after eating lunch. By now the sun had softened the snow somewhat and the major part of the descent was made by glissading.

Bill and Tony successfully climbed Egmont. A successful ascent was also made of Hasties Hill by the less ambitious members of the party. A content party returned to Palmerston North.

RANGIWAHIA WORK-PARTY

TRIP LEADER : Wayne Boucher
DATE : 13th October, 1968
IN ATTENDANCE : Vern Jensen,
Nick Wolfe,
Denis Arnott,
R. Batchelor,
Lawson Pither,
Roger Clarke,
R. Wellington,
Peter Clausen,
Vern Stout,
G Robert,
W. Blanchard,
Bill Holmes,
Ian Hoare,
Wayne Boucher

Fourteen applications were received and accepted in reply to the advertisement in the last newsletter. The stove was located on the ridge about one mile from the Hut. 1 mile +450 lbs. = impossible? Not at all! All applicants soon forgot their titles and aided by two inches of snow, soon had the stove at the hut. The wreckage of one sledge was left on the ridge. A sheet of flat iron was used as a replacement sledge and was found to be very satisfactory.

This was an excellent turn-out for this work-party and it was greatly appreciated. It is hoped that all future work parties will be as successful.

LABOUR WEEKEND
SOUTHERN TARARUAS

TRIP LEADER : Kevin Pearce
DATE : 26-27-28th October, 1968

TRIP DID NOT TAKE PLACE DUE
TO LACK OF SUPPORT

RANGIWARIA WORK-PARTY

TRIP LEADER : Dents Arnott
DATE : 3rd November, 1968
IN ATTENDANCE : Nine members in all

A second spontaneous work-party arose at the last Club Night. Nine keen members resolved to return to Rangi and install the stove. Denis Arnott provided tools and skill for the project. The stove is in now and is in full working condition, drawing well and providing plenty of heat.

Work parties are fun and leave the participants with a warm feeling and sore feet!

GUY FAWKES

DATE : 10th November, 1968

Because of a stiff wind, and remembering our last Guy Fawkes evening at Foxton, we held this years' event in the Morrison's backyard. Despite the change in venue from Foxton Beach to Tiritea, a large crowd of over-grown children gathered at the Izadium at 4.00 on Sunday 10th November.

Upon our arrival the party fanned out to scour the countryside for wood to build a bonfire. Ann was beginning to wonder whether her house would still be left standing, as trees were uprooted and chopped down then dragged towards the fire. After a large supper around 6.30 (some traitors actually bought fish-and-chips) we decided to let off our fire-works. Some did so rather shamefacedly, excusing themselves with "we only buy them for the kids". Unfortunately the kids did not get much of a look in as the adults were too busy enjoying themselves.

The party broke up around 10.00 and an enjoyable time was had by all, as the Morrison's backyard is sheltered from the wind and the night was very pleasant with a full moon.

TRIAL SEARCH

DATE : 16-17th November, 1968

Unfortunately this clashed with trade examinations and only five members took part. The search was in the Scotts Road area of the Northern Tararuas. Those "lost" were our own Vern Stout and a policeman. The Army provided its usual services. The exercise was enjoyed by all in spite of bush lawyer and leatherwood and rain. Future searches can be recommended to all members with average or better fitness and experience.

The Search & Rescue Organisation gives us an opportunity to make an extremely valuable contribution to a very worthwhile cause. By virtue of our training, Tramping Club members are well qualified to do this. Remember this when you have your next opportunity to take part, - you could help save a life.

BUSHCRAFT COURSE

TRIP LEADER : Vern Stout
DATE : 30th November - 1st December, 1968
IN ATTENDANCE : Sheryll Kirkpatrick,
Ian Hoare,
Graham Pascoe,
Nick McPherson,
Kevin Pearce,
Owen Mills,
Wally Blanchard,
Vern Stout

30th November - 1st December saw the Bushcraft Course conducted by Vern Stout, whose very able instruction and interesting anecdotes were absorbed by the small but keen group. Camp was made about ten minutes up the Harris Creek from its junction with the Mangahao River.

There is an interesting theory proposed by one of the experienced members of the Club which says that novices should suffer as this builds character and hardy trampers. Ideal suffering conditions were supplied by continuous rain from about 3 o'clock while camp was being made. Once in bed however, it was just like home - well almost like home. Sunday brought very good sunny conditions for the assault on West Peak. Why is it that after a hardy slog to the summit one looks around only to find that all the neighbouring peaks are higher?

The weekend was very enjoyable and many a valuable point was learnt; such as how to prepare a comfortable bed, how to make a fireplace, what words to use when dangling upside down from a rope, and that blood is only skin deep!. Finally, encouragement to the younger members who on a ratio of pack-weight to body-weight carried to the equivalent of a twelve stone man carrying a 60 lb pack all weekend.

GRAND ANNUAL DINNER

TRIP LEADER : Lawson Pither
DATE : 8th December, 1968
IN ATTEDANCE : Lawson Pither
Mrs Pither
Mr & Mrs Jensen Snr
Keith Potter
Lynne Potter
Roger Clarke
Wayne Boucher
Kevin Pearce
Owen Mills
Nicholas Wolfe
Sheryll Kirkpatrick
Denis Arnott
Grant Robert

Christmas dinner on top of a mountain?? Yes, and with brightly coloured decorations, paper hats and all the trimmings.

The rain kept up a steady beat as the main party reached the hut to be greeted by enticing aromas of roast and Christmas pud. The previous day the Chief Cook and her retinue had braved storm and flood to make early preparations for the meal and all who participated in the feast will wish to extend heartiest thanks for the excellent cuisine.

The roast was washed down with a mild Sauterne and was followed (by those that had enough room left) by two Christmas puddings, suitably ignited with a 'drop of the hard stuff', and topped with cream fresh from the tin cow.

Our patron, Mr Jensen, and his wife were welcome guests joining in the celebrations and obviously spending the night at the hut to recover.

The dinner proved, without a doubt, the benefit of having the stove and made the effort of installing it worthwhile.