

P.N.T.M.C.

NEWSLETTER 11/69

CLUB NIGHT: 27th November: 7.30. p.m.

Berry Engineering Ltd. Social Room. We have two possible programmes for this night. If the weather is fine bring outdoor clothes and food for a barbecue, first meeting at Berry's at 7.30 p.m. If the night is unsuitable for a barbecue we shall be given a short address by Don Fletcher on astronomy, the remainder of the evening being of a social nature. If you have any slides you'd like to show please bring these along.

Committee Meeting: Tuesday 25th November at Lynne Potter's,
28 Titoki Street.

CANCELLATION: Unfortunately the site of our 1969 CLUB BONFIRE for Guy Fawkes celebrations is not available and this evening, 5th November is cancelled.

COMING TRIPS

8-9th November: WHARITE-COPPERMINE HUT

This medium-easy trip will be in the nature of pioneering for the Club as we have never officially tried this route to the Coppermine Hut before.

Cost - about 60 cents Leader: Warwick Blanchard 20.712

22nd-23rd November: PUTARA-MANGAHAO

A medium-easy trip crossing of the Northern Tararuas, starting 6 A.M. Saturday. Approx cost \$1.30 Leader Kevin Pearce 74.129 Ext 856

23rd November: Day trip to MANGAHAO DAM and beyond

This will be enjoyed by even the youngest of our members and the day party plans to meet the Crossing Party on the track and provide them with company and transport. Leave the Izadium 7a.m. Approx cost - 70 cents. Leader still to be appointed; names to Lawson Pither phone 85.616

7th DECEMBER: GRAND ANNUAL DINNER: At our Rangiwahia Hut. As space is limited at the Hut we shall have to close the applications for this on Friday 28th November or when 20 names have been received, so put yours in now. Price \$2.50 all inclusive. Names to Lawson Pither 85.616

14th December: HIMITANGI-LAKE KOPUTAROA, and back to Himatangi. Enjoy a day of beach and sand dune travel. If the weather is hot a bottle of soft drink will be an essential part of the lunch parcel. Meet at Izadium 8:30 a.m. Grading - easy. Approx cost 50 cents Leader: Dennis Arnott

Names to Lynne Potter 79.499

19th - 20th

24-26th JANUARY - CASTLEPOINT for Anniversary Weekend

Swimming, fishing, sunbathing. and rock climbing. This trip is in the planning stage and more details will be given in the next Newsletter.

TARARUA CHRISTMASTRIP:

Dennis Moore is looking forward to hearing from persons interested in his Christmas trip into the Tararuas four or five days after Christmas. Grading: Medium-fit. Phone Dennis at 76.752 within the next week.

OCTOBER CLUB NIGHT:

A small attendance of members were given an interesting address by Mr John Cleland on cameras and their use by tramping and mountaineering types. As well as showing us a movie film on the manufacture of a certain type of camera he was able to demonstrate a wide range of Olympus Penn cameras, the smallest of which weighed 12 ounces and in spite of being half-frame produced slides of good quality even when used by persons without previous experience.

John is always generous in his attendance at Club meetings and this is very much appreciated.

CLUB HIRE GEAR:

Your committee has made some changes in the rules regarding the hire of Club gear. A levy of 10 cents per person will be made on all club trips, no matter how much gear is taken. Charges for hire gear privately have been reduced.

Billy - 10c Pack - 30c Primus and/or fuel bottle - 50c

Tent - 50c Old 100' Nylon rope - 40c New 120' rope 70c

Reductions of 50% will be made for day trips. Special reductions will be made for long trips. e.g. (private Christmas trips.)

Your committee is considering buying another second-hand pack. All enquires welcome - Russ Johnson 87.777

PAST TRIPS

12-14th September: TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK:

An orange tent pitched on the back of Tony's truck was seen to proceed up Rangitike Street towards Ohakune on Friday night. Gale force winds at the top of the Mountain Road made short work of the structure and the idea of a 3-peak trip was abandoned. Early on Saturday we drove around to the northern end of the Park, where the climb to Ketetahi Hut was made in heavy rain and wind. On Sunday the party crossed over to Mangatepopo Hut in mist and engaged in a little rock climbing. Ann met us here with the truck and all except two returned to the city. Those taking part: Sue (Ohakune) Tony, Bill Loren (New York), Bruce, Kevin Malcolm and Dennis.

10-12th OCTOBER: MT EGMONT

At 12 noon on the Saturday, four mountaineering types simultaneously pointed in four different directions and said "It's over there." Marching on a compass bearing 321°5' they searched for Egmont it was misty. Onward and upward, crampons biting into the icy surface. For hours they had worked their way up from Robson Lodge in trying conditions of freezing wind and minimum visibility. Fantham was reached before they knew it, a rest taken Syme Hut buried to the eaves in snow, and the compass bearing taken. The sun showed for a moment above the swirling clouds, providing an instant's respite from the biting southerly, but no hope of a summit view and little hope of success. Suddenly the clouds parted for a brief moment exposing a most magnificent sight .. Egmont! All stopped in their tracks, but then it was gone. The upward pace increased. Soon they were above the clouds, with the peaks silhouetted above them against the blue sky. The last four hundred feet were very steep and the surface icy. At this point great skill was demonstrated - two climbers peeled off and successfully self-arrested. After that little episode two retreated and two went off to conquer the burg.

The facts:- Most successful weekend enjoyed by all. Mt. Egmont climbed on Saturday and Sunday.

The Party:- The Morrison, Olsen and Crabb families, Lawson Pither, Peter Flaus, Warwick Blanchard, Peter Sutcliffe, Kevin Pearce, Denis Arnott.

Special thanks to Mr Wells - on Friday night we found the Lodge spotlessly clean, fires going and the kettles boiling.

13-14th October: RANGI WORK PARTY

Dennis Arnott (Works Manager) Denis Moore (Foreman) and Kevin Pearce (Clerk of Works) took two days "off work" to begin the renovations to the Club's Hut at Rangiwahia. Very long hours were put in. The hut is now bright and shiny inside with its Sisalation lining. An opening window was fitted above the bunk; Nova panels placed in the roof above the bench and new wall bracing fitted. The bulk of the work is now done. Spouting and roof ridging are yet to be fitted and there is some painting also.

17-19th October: TWEEDALE SEARCH

Vern Jensen, Dennis Moore and Kevin Pearce took part in the search for the body of Constable Tweedale who had been missing on Mt. Holdsworth near Masterton since June. The body was

located by this party at the bottom of a waterfall in Isabelle Ck. on Sunday morning. A letter expressing appreciation signed by Mr Urquart, Commissioner of Police, has been received by the Club.

LABOUR WEEKEND: THE KAIKOURAS

Lawson Pither, Warwick Blanchard, Kevin Pearce and Mike Bisouth (M.T.S.C.) visited the South Island for this weekend. We caught the Friday night ferry to Picton, arriving at St. Arnaud on Lake Rotoiti at 12.15 a.m. Saturday after a journey of 165 road miles from P.N. We camped by the lake side. Next morning (i.e. the same morning but 6 hours later) we rose, breakfasted and set off around the lake shore. Twenty-nine Wellington Catholic Tramping Club members had been on the ferry with us and were now scattered round the lake. Lake Head Hut was reached after 2¼ hours and near here we crossed the Travers River on a fallen tree bridge. The water beneath was deep, swift and cold, unfortunately for those already safely across no one fell in. We then proceeded up the Travers Valley over grassy flats and through fine beech forests.

The going was very easy the whole way; the bird life was prolific and very tuneful; the weather was partly cloudy. Seven hours out IT happened ...

Warwick saw it first, the dreaded white upon red discs. He stopped in mid-stride, stared and then went white. I turned to see what he was staring at - a shiver ran down my spine. I noticed Kevin's knuckles whiten on his ice axe. We stood there for some seconds or minutes saying nothing. Lawson coughed. We all spun round as if shot. Mike suggested in a thin wavering voice that we continue on to the hut. We walked close behind each other, ice axes at the ready. Every cracking twig sent our hearts into our mouths - not a very pleasant place to keep them. An hour later we reached John Tait Hut. That night we slept with the door bolted on the inside. I kept my ice axe under the bunk. Never again will we drink beech leaf tea.

Mount Travers was clear first thing Sunday morning. We got breakfast started at 5.30 a.m. but did not leave the hut until 7.30. I guess we had not fully recovered from our frightening experience the day before. Thirty minutes up the Travers River we reached Summit Creek and followed it up to its head. The route was now up scree and then snow into the basin between the so-called North Ridge and Northwest Buttress. The summit was now hidden in mist. At midday we reached the summit ridge. The strong wind and poor visibility enforced a retreat, so we returned to the hut at 3.45 p.m. after stopping to see the spectacular Travers Falls, 15 minutes from the hut. That night it rained and the river was up about a foot next morning.

It had stopped raining when we left for St. Arnaud on Monday. Stops were made for photography, but both the Robins and Mt. Travers remained elusive. We reached the car dry, but snow started to fall as we drove off. We caught the 10.40 p.m. ferry back and were in Palmerston North at 4.00 a.m. Tuesday.

The observant reader will notice that this account was titled "The Kaikouras". The fact we ended up at Nelson Lakes was not due to faulty compass. An alternative bad weather trip had been arranged, as the Kaikouras can be difficult to get out of when the rivers are in flood.

Members may be interested in the cost per party member for this trip.

Petrol (330 miles return)	3-30
¼ return car fare on ferry	5-50
Return passenger fare	4-00
Food	2-10
Gear hire, hut fees	<u>0-70</u>
	\$15-60

Longer stays in the northern parts of the South Island would cost very little more.
