

P.N. TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

Hon. Secretary
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P.O.Box 1217
Palmerston North.

NEWSLETTER 6 /70

COMING EVENTS

JUNE 17th.

The lunch time meeting which was to be at the Windsor Room will now be at Collinson & Cunninghames' tea rooms between 12 and 2 p.m. Names to Lawson Pither ph. 85-616

JUNE 20th/20th-21st. Day & Weekend Trips.

Mid-winter at Rangī. Fun in the snow. There may be some mattresses to carry to the hut for our own comfort so come and help carry one, please. Leave Izadium 7 a.m. Names to Lawson Pither 85-616 Cost \$1.00 Grading: Medium.

JUNE 22nd Monday.

Committee meeting at Lynne Potter's, 28 Titoki St. 7.30 p.m.

JUNE 25th. 7.30 p.m.

CLUB NIGHT

We will be treated to a talk and slides by Pat Liddel on his experiences in Antarctica. There will also be a film on snow craft. Those going on the snowcraft course **must** see this film.

JUNE 26-28th.

BASIC SNOWCRAFT WEEKEND.

Instruction on step cutting and rope handling. Those members wishing will ice cave on Saturday night. An attempt will be made on the summit peak, 9,175 ft. Grading: Medium Leave Izadium 6.30 p.m. Friday Names to Bill Olsen Ph. 75-480 Cost \$3.50.

JULY 10-12th

DAWSON FALLS - KAPUNI LODGE

SECOND SNOWCRAFT WEEKEND

Climb Fanthams Peak and learn more advanced snowcraft skills. Ice screws, Crampons. Ice axes supplied. Cost \$5.00

Easy trip to Dawson Falls for fun in the snow and bush walks. Cost \$4.00 Leave Izadium 6.30 p.m. Friday Names to Bill Olsen. Ph. 75-480

NEW MEMBER

A warm welcome to new member:
Grant Potter, 3 Lifford Place.

PERSONAL

Two staunch and hardy members of the Club have left P.N. for the bright lights? of Bluff. Keith Potter and Denis Arnott have joined forces and are working on the Comalco project at Bluff. They are expected back home sometime early next year, when they will be welcomed back into the fold with open arms, (figuratively only.)

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SUBS:

The present monetary crises seems to have affected Tramping and Mountaineering enthusiasts particularly hard. These are coming so S-L-O-W-L-Y that your Treasurer is on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Please pay subscriptions to the Treasurer, Lynne Potter – before the end of the month.

EXCITING NEWS FOR P.N.T.M.C. MEMBERS

The Club Hut at Rangī is to be blessed with the installation of six new rubber mattresses by courtesy of the N.Z. Forest Service – the one catch being that we must carry them up ourselves.

The Committee is confident, however, that once these mattresses are received, we will be literally overwhelmed with eager members offering their services. (It should be pointed out that those members who extend their services naturally have preference in the sleeping arrangements at Rangī for future trips.)

GENERAL

Club Library – The Club has over the past years built up an excellent small Library, consisting mainly of FMC bulletins, pamphlets and Club Journals. All these are on display at Club Nights and are available for lending to Club Members. If you are interested in borrowing any articles please contact Chief Librarian, Russell Johnson.

Log Book – A heartfelt plea from the Log Keeper, Heather Crabb. Leaders of trips, please write up your reports as soon as possible after trips as the Log Book provides an interesting and informative record of past trips and must be kept up to date. Descriptive information on the type of terrain covered, conditions of tracks, noting any improvements or deterioration if leader has been there before, and trip grading is required for reference on further trips.

Photo Album – The Club also has a Photo Album on display at Club Nights which has in it many excellent photos donated (HINT) by club Members, showing club members on past trips etc.

Attendance Book – A recent innovation has been the introduction of an Attendance Book at Club nights which either members or non members are invited to sign and perhaps comment on the Club Night.

New “Dome” Shelter – This replaces the Shelter destroyed in the recent eruption and is found near Restful Rocks. It is easily seen on the normal route to the Crater and contains an emergency phone connected to Park Headquarters.

GEAR LIST

The following equipment and food is recommended for inclusion on Day and Weekend Trips.

Day Trip – WEAR – boots, woolen socks, puttees, shorts, woolen shirt and jersey.
CARRY – parka, torch, mug and large lunch, small first-aid kit. Longs and shoes to be left in cars.

Weekend Trip (2-3 days)
WEAR – as for day trip
CARRY – parka, woolen longs and/or over-trousers, gloves, socks, sleeping bag and cover, torch, knife, fork, spoon, mug, sun/snow glasses, candles, matches.
FOOD – This is normally left to the discretion of the Trip Leader after consultation with Trip Members.

These are suggestions only and equipment will vary depending on the type of conditions expected to be encountered. If in doubt consult your Bushcraft or Safety in the Mountains Manuals – which are available free to members – as they contain many excellent recommendations and suggestions.

CHRISTMAS TRIP (A Narrow Escape).

Bookings have been made on the Picton Ferry. We very nearly missed out by being too

late. We depart for Nelson Lakes from P.N. early on Tuesday 29th December, 1970 and return to P.N. on the afternoon of Monday 11th January, 1971. Estimated cost of trip including food, \$25. A deposit will be required, probably in early November.

PAST TRIPS

11th-12th April

AN ACCOUNT OF A CLIMB OF MOUNT EGMONT BY THE CLUB'S PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND SOCIAL SECRETARY.

On Saturday 11th April the above top brass set off confidently for Hawera, arriving there without untoward incident. Using the very clear instructions they had been given they travelled for a considerable time from side to side of the town until eventually they discovered the Fire Station which formed the starting point in their search for the home of Mr. Rod Syme. Using Compasses and after many adventures too strange and horrifying to be committed to paper our intrepid trio found his home. Showing great foresight our party were able to collect from him keys to Kapuni Lodge and Syme Hut and knowing that the Robson Lodge key could be obtained at the Lodge felt reasonably certain of a place wherein they could lay their heads on Saturday evening. (Confidence was the keynote of the whole operation.)

The Lodge and Mount Egmont was discovered without difficulty and your top executives set off in a light drizzle carrying with them two keys and various other items amounting to about 40lbs. per person.

When nearing Kapuni Lodge our party was hotly pursued by a very strongly built Daschund which was climbing with great strength in the company of Mr. Conway senior who is well known in climbing circles. This pair were pioneering a new climbing technique involving the use of a dog chain.

Luncheon was enjoyed at Kapuni Lodge and when your President tested the telephone in accordance with the instructions he was rather gratified to be told another group of Mountaineers were coming up the track. The climb from Kapuni to Syme Hut started off well enough for the first 500 ft. but from then on conditions deteriorated and our climbers fought every foot of the way against gale force winds.

A very pleasant night was spent in the well stocked Syme Hut. (Blankets, Lighting and cooking equipment provided.)

On the Sunday bright and early we realized that the wind had died down and a most enjoyable climb took place, crampons, ice axes and rope being essential for the last thousand feet on account of ice. The weather was perfect where we were above the clouds, and the summit was reached at twelve mid-day. The first ascents for two of the party were celebrated with Milo and biscuits.

After roping down the party set a good pace and arrived back at Robson Lodge at about 4 p.m.

A weekend which was "The Tops" in more ways than one.

Those Participating: Lawson Pither, Bill Olsen, David Ryrie.

+Editor's Note: The wisdom of the Club's top brass climbing together is very much doubted. After all the Queen and Prince Charles do not both travel in the same aircraft in case of accident.

9th May. Wharite – Coppermine & Coppermine

On a dark, damp Saturday morning a party of nine assembled for what seemed likely to be a wet and cold tramp. However, much to everyone's surprise and delight the weather cleared and we were soon tramping up a chilly stream towards Coppermine Hut. On reaching the hut we were given an account of the history of coppermining in the area by Lawson. We had a "brew", then split into two parties - three bods going to Wharite, while the remainder went upstream in search of relics from the coppermining days.

The party going to Wharite climbed steeply onto the ridge opposite the hut, and then on towards the main Ruahine Range. On reaching the top the party donned longs, to bash through the overgrown track. 2½ hours after we had started from the hut, we stood beneath the transmitter. We had lunch, and returned to the hut.

The other party meanwhile, had found one mineshaft which the hardier types explored. Further up the creek they found a waterfall, and a rope, used to climb around it. This, they discovered, was rather slippery, though some managed to climb up it.

We came together again at the hut, and had a long rest, during which time we made good use of the bunks. We left and after a cold splash down the stream we arrived at the cars approx. 4.30 p.m.

Those taking part were: Heather Crabb, Adrienne Thompson, Jane Scrymgeour, Gavin Rogerson, Grant Potter, Bill Olsen, Lawson Pither, Warwick Blanchard, Leader: Ian Hoare.

15th – 17th May. Bushcraft Weekend. Totara Flats.

Enthusiasts Anja Suuring, Teresa Signal, Kevin Pearce, Warwick Blanchard, Lawson Pither, Peter Sutcliffe and Peter Baxter enjoyed and benefited from a weekend of instruction, experimenting and sun bathing. We camped at Holdsworth Lodge at the road end on Friday night. There were large numbers (70++) of trampers in and around and leaving the Lodge. On Saturday we tramped over to Totara Flats making use of map and compass on the way. The afternoon was spent pitching tents, crossing rivers and building bivvies. Sunday dawned fine and we headed for Mountain House where we had lunch. We returned to the cars by way of the Atiwhakatu Stream sidle track. All those who took part on this trip are more than sufficiently fit and experienced to go on Christmas trips.

Queen's Birthday Weekend. A Northern Crossing WAS MADE

Sue Streeter (Ohakune), Bill Olsen and Kevin Pearce successfully completed a Northern Crossing of the Tararuas from Levin to Masterton on this weekend. Due to the libelous nature of this trip account these people will be referred to as x, y and z, not respectively.

We left P.N. at 8.30 p.m. and arrived at the Pipe bridge at 9.30 p.m. Many thanks to our chauffeureess, Heather Crabb for transport. We reached Ohau hut two hours later and decided to sleep out. It was a clear frosty night. Next morning, after addict y had taken some acetyl Salicylic acid (LSD) we set off up the Ohau river to South Ohau hut. After a short rest x headed up Yeates' track at a steady flat stick and arrived at Te Matawai Hut in 1 hour 45 min. y and z arrived 1 hour later. At 3 p.m. after lunch and a further dose of LSD for y we set off up Pukematawai. The sun set before we reached the summit. At 8 p.m. we arrived in the vicinity of Arete Bivvy. Now although y had previously visited the bivvy and x had seen it from the top of Arete on a previous trip great difficulty was experienced in locating it. This was finally done at 10 p.m. x had difficulty removing his boots which were frozen to his socks, y took more LSD and z fell asleep while cooking dinner. During the night a fresh westerly wind developed and we awoke to find a light mist.

On Sunday we travelled to Tarn Ridge hut taking 3½ hours in the deep soft snow. The rest of the day was spent resting.

An early start was made on Monday; we were away shortly after first light and reached Mitre at 12 noon. y was finding that LSD and water were not adequate substitutes for food. On the summit of Mitre x left y and z and proceeded at speed for Mitre Flats to inform Heather and our transport of our impending arrival. He reached the hut at 1.20 p.m. to find Heather and party gone. The message was given to another party which was about to leave for the road end. At 3.00 p.m. y and z still had not arrived although a lone trumper had reported seeing them near the hut. As all torch batteries had been exhausted x decided to head for the road immediately and thereby escape benightment.

The trip took 2½ hours. As there was no possibility of y and z getting out before darkness x, Heather and party left for home leaving y and z to their fate.

Y and z attempted to get out but were trapped by darkness. They eventually reached home on Tuesday afternoon.

How to find Arete Bivvy. (It is easily seen on clear days.)

1. From the summit of Arete proceed along the ridge N.E towards Dundas for about 200 yards to a slight saddle. Leave the ridge on the S.E. and descend, sidling slightly to the right until a terrace or bench is reached. The bivvy is on this bench.
2. From the tarn on the flat ridge to the south of and below the summit of Arete (this tarn is on the line of snow holes which runs from Arete towards the Waiohine Pinnacles) head E to the edge of the ridge and descend a steep tussock slope to a small gully which runs parallel to the ridge. Travel up the gully (northward) for about 300 yards to the bivvy.

31st May – 1st June. Mitre Flats.

The time taken on this trip into Mitre Flats Hut had better not be recorded. Suffice it to say time was taken to enjoy the very delightful scenery. As we passed near farmer's shack the owner came out and spoke to us. An invitation to morning tea and freshly baked scones was appreciated but declined. We followed the river to the bush line. The track is well defined and easy but often fairly steep. A small slip is easily crossed as apparently recent work has been done on it. Just before reaching the hut there is a new suspension bridge with the old 3 wire one beside it. Those wishing to join a circus could try their hands (or feet) on the latter. The new one is recommended for others. The hut was occupied by several Venturer Scouts, other odd bods arriving at various times. The last three trampers to arrive decided it was too crowded so used their tent. Although the night was wild and windy they may have been more comfortable on the ground than we were on the bare platform built along two sides of the hut.

We regret that the more fit members did not have a chance to climb Mitre. A three day trip to Mitre flats is suggested for this.

As our happy party neared the cars on Monday after a most enjoyable two days we were pleased to receive, from another party, news of Kevin, Bill and Sue who had made the Northern Crossing.

Trip members: Adrienne Thompson, Jane Scrymgeour, Peter Baxter, Peter Wallace, Warwick Blanchard, Roger Russell, Leader: Heather Crabb. Trip grading: Medium.

PAST CLUB NIGHT.

28th May

The club again had the pleasure of a talk, accompanied by slides and music, by Peter Sutcliffe on the Darrans. It was suggested this would be a suitable area for a future Christmas trip.

This was followed by a film on Rock climbing and a practical demonstration by Kevin Pearce from which we hope some members gained some knowledge.

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COMING TRIPS.

- June 20th/20th - 21st, Day & Weekend Trips. Rangiwahia.
June 26-28th:
 Basic Snow Craft Weekend.
July 10-12th:
 Dawson Falls - Kapuni Lodge. Second Snow Craft Weekend.
July 25th:
 Saturday trip to Spion Kop. Leader Dave Ryrrie.
August 8-9th:
 Mangaehuehu hut Ohakune side or Ruapehu.
August 23rd:
 Sunday trip to Shut Eye Shack. Leader: Ron Haxton.
September 5-6th:
 New hut near Aturere Crater, Tongariro. Leader: Ian Hoare.
September 19th:
 Saturday trip to Maharahara. Leader: Bill Holmes.
October 3rd-4th:
 Southern Crossing of Tararuas. Leader: Bill Olsen.
October: 23rd-26th
 Labour Weekend. Kaimanawas. Leader: Russ Lacey
October 26th:
 Day trip to Blue Range.
November 14th:
 Saturday. Paratewaewae.
November 28-29th:
 Roaring Stag Lodge.
December 5-6th:
 Grand Annual Dinner at Rangi.
December 26th-11th Jan:
 Christmas trip to Nelson Lakes.