

P.N.TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

Hon. Secretary
Heather Crabb 77-668

P.O.Box 1217,
Palmerston North.

NEWSLETTER 10/71

COMING EVENTS

30th September. CLUB NIGHT

Ruahine Quiz by Russ Lacey.
SUPPER DUTIES: Peter Flaus, Don Fletcher, Adrian Turner.

2nd-3rd October. COMBINED CLUBS WORK PARTY.

The upgrading of the track from the top Mangahao Dam over Ngapuketuru to Schormanns.
Details from Lawson Pither, phone 85-616 (before 7.30 p.m.)

13th October. SOCIAL EVENING to be held at Brad Owen's Flat 5, 505 Church St. at 7.30 p.m. Come and exchange your Trampers' Tales. This is a really friendly one. Bring your own cup and seat.

14th October COMMITTEE MEETING at Adrian Turner's, 32 Amesbury St. at 7.30 p.m.

16th-17th October HIKIRANGI RANGE (W. Ruahines)

Grading: Fit. Cost: \$2.00
Depart Izadium: 6.00 a.m. Saturday Leader: Brad Owen; Phone 83-467
This will be a traverse of the highest peaks in the Ruahines. Storm gear will be necessary.

22nd-25th October. ARANGA HUT – POTAE COLENZO (N.E. Ruahines)

Cost: \$3.50 Depart Izadium: 6.00 p.m. Friday
Leader: Peter Baxter. Names to: Grant Potter, phone 89-639
Grading: F.E.
Food supplied for breakfasts and dinners at a cost. Storm gear will be necessary.

22nd-25th October. PARKS PEAK - REMUTOPO (N.E. Ruahines)

Cost: \$3.50 Depart Izadium: 6 p.m. Friday
Leader: Sue Streeter, phone 76-060
Grading: Medium.

25th October. MAHARAHARA

Day Trip. For details phone Russ Lacey, phone 81-436.

25th October

13 mile Y.M.C.A. Walkabout '71 for Y.M.C.A. & P.N. St. John's Ambulance Assoc.

28th October. CLUB NIGHT

Overseas tramping - a series of slides to be presented by Brad Owen on the topic.
SUPPER DUTIES: Maureen Cousins, Ian Hoare.

6th-7th NOVEMBER. MITRE FLATS.

Grading: Easy Cost: Approx. \$2.00
Leader: Lawson Pither, phone 85-616

6th-7th November. S.A.R. TRIAL SEARCH in the Ruahines.

5th December. GRAND ANNUAL DINNER at Chateau Rangiwahia. Owing to the size of the dining room this trip will be limited to 20 persons.

Grading: Easy Cost: \$3.00 approx.
Names to Lawson Pither, phone 85-616.

NOTICES

SUPPER DUTIES

At present, three names appear in the newsletter for these positions each night -- one committee member and two other members. The duties are as follows: Heather Crabb brings tea, costly and sugar every club night.

The designated committee member brings milk and biscuits and supervises the members in their duties.

The designated members bring tea towels, fill and boil the zip, layout cups, saucers, biscuits and sugar, make tea and coffee, wash and dry crockery used and replace in cupboards.

It is the responsibility of the designated people to carry out their duties or to arrange a substitute and inform any committee member that a change has been made.

NEW MEMBER

A warm welcome is extended to Tom Easterbrook, R.N.Z.A.F. Base, Ohakea.

GEAR CUSTODIAN

Grant Potter has now taken over the duties in this capacity. Our thanks are extended to Russell Johnson for his work in the past.

CHRISTMAS TRIP

Private transport to Wellington is required by nine people, approximately, and packs on 27th December, departing Palmerston North 6 a.m. If you are able to help please inform Lawson Pither.

WOMEN'S LIB MOVEMENT

Segregated trip to Blythe Hut etc. Females only need apply. Watch future newsletters for details. Stirrer.

NEW TRIP MEMBERS.

When members are inviting friends on trips it is desirable to see that they are dequipped with boots and parkas.

RECIPE PAMPHLET

Our illustrious president, mountaineer and writer of fiction, who shall remain anonymous, has recently released this publication on "Food for Tramping Trips". Copies may be purchased from the Treasurer, Lynne Potter, at 10c per copy.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

On the NZMS 1 Sheet N140 Onga Onga sheet, there is a track marked from Waipawa River to Smith Stream Hut. Recently I attempted to go along this track, but found that route finding was not easy, although I remained on it all the time. There are few track markers.

Accordingly, intending users should treat this as a route only and allow more time than usual for this track.

Yours etc.
Dave Ryrie.

PAST EVENTS

WARNING

Don't let this happen to you. Some members have been remiss in handing in their trip accounts. It has been decided that where this is apparent alternative versions will be manufactured, (mainly of a libellous nature.). For example:

14th – 15th August TREE PLANTING

As no trip account was submitted it has been necessary for the author to write this

fictional account of what properly did not happen, so as to complete the club records. Any similarity, or apparent connection between the characters and events in this story and actual persons and events, is purely coincidental.

An excellent turnout of fifty six club members all arrived at the Izadium by 5 minutes to six one rather damp Saturday morning. Conspicuous by his absence was the President, who was sleeping in. All quickly climbed aboard cars under the decisive commands of the trip leader, and at 6:01 a.m. the Izadium was deserted save for the last echoes of the roar of the departing engines. Shortly afterwards, the convoy of 12 cars skidded to a halt at the end of Table Flat Road. Five minutes later, all had boots on and were rearing to go. Some disappointment was expressed at that tree planting site, which we had been allocated. Some uncharitable members felt that as we were a tramping and not do good club the area (the Umutoi Stream just upstream from us confluence with the Oruoā) was of no interest, unlike say, the Rangi track. Consequently, they lacked enthusiasm for their work. One disgruntled member was observed to plant as few as 2,763 trees and his lines were not straight, one tree being a full 2 1/2 inches out of line.

After a good day's work had been done most of the party returned to Palmerston North. They collected all of the gear, as they dismounted from the cars, which looked strangely bare.

The six overnights camped in the new carpeted Apiti Bushwalkers' Lodge which is complete with bar. Consequently few trees are planted next day, and many trees, 47 crowbars and 29 grubbers had to be hauled to the top of the 2,000 foot cliff before they returned home. There were many blistered hands that night.

28th of August CONQUESTS HUT

Fine weather, helped a new trip leader to find Conquests Hut, which doesn't exist, and follow a map track, which also doesn't exist. However, an enthusiastic group, including some potentially new members set off in the general direction of the supposed track.

Very dense bush stopped a few ambitious attempts to force a passage to the top. This method was finally abandoned and an easier route following a river was taken. The river was narrow, steep and oppressed by ridges covered in steep bush. Minor challenges of climbing small waterfalls, and later during the day, diversions across large falls of loose shale added variety to the trip.

Discussion among the ranks forced an early stop for lunch. While some members lit a fire and brewed up for lunch the rest of the party set off for the top of the ridge. Very dense bush and hunger pains made this group eventually return to the riverbed for lunch.

A very sudden change in the weather sent the party scuttling down the swelling riverbed with fingers and faces numb from rain whipped by a strong wind.

The group finally reached the cars to find the rear guard member snugly asleep while in charge of the transport.

Trip members: Heather Crabb, Sue Streeter, Ina Te Wiata, Adrienne Thomson, Janice Rockell, Dianne Worboys, John Palleson, Brenda Thompson, Bruce Lockwood: Leader.

4th September. BUSHCRAFT

An early start on the trip was used by attempting to arrive at Table Flat Road end by a rather devious route, which turned out to be a "summer road only" and had a ford in it. Eventually, one beetle bursting with six trampers, arrived at Umutoi Hut and disturbed the peace with instructions on how to use a compass and what all the wiggly lines on the map meant. The trip leader kept referring to Pederson's Bush, and pointed to a large hill. Later we climbed to the top of Cone (one hour's travel) and discovered on a closer look at the map that the large hill was not Pederson's Bush and that the bearing was out by about 10°.

Lunch was had in the snow, listening to Ina's, funny stories, and collecting her snowballs. She was well repaid by Bruce, who planted some snow in a well earned situation.

From the peak we could take compass bearings in all directions, and scrub on the top can provide useful barriers for instructional purposes. It is unfortunate that the bushcraft was not patronised by club members, a little better.

On the way home, a little look was taken at the reverse end of the morning's, devious road route, to discover that it could be used in summer, and the remains of an old road, which used to connect.

Those on the trip: Ina Te Wiata, Sue Streeter, Teresa Signal, Pauline Gibbons, Bruce Lockwood, Dave Ryrie: Leader.

6th September. AN UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT, ERUPTS

At about 3:55 p.m. on Saturday, 8th May, 1971 and eruption of Mount Ruapehu, was observed or perhaps, more accurately, was experienced by four men working for the D.S.I.R. The eruption began without warning. A spearhead of water, mud and rocks rose suddenly from the lake to a height of many hundreds of feet. Before this had completely collapsed a second explosion of similar size to the first occurred. This was followed by a considerably larger explosion.

These events were filmed and photographed by observers, two of whom were standing on Pyramid Peak on the N.E. side of the Crater Lake, a distance of about 600 feet. from the water. The other two were at the end of Pyramid Ridge close to the Crater Rim.

Following the third explosion, the observers on Pyramid Peak were deluged with water, warm at first but soon becoming hot, mud, pebbles and boulders, some up to 5 ft. in diameter. Some of the rocks spewed out were extremely hot, as evidenced by their vapour trails, visible in the photos and the large holes melted in the ice, where they landed.

The above events were described and illustrated by two of the observers at a recent interesting and informative evening, organised by the Ohakea Mountain Club. Colour film of a Hawaiian eruption in 1962, was also screened and the various types of eruptions were described. Only 11 P.N.T.M.C. members attended. P.S. Do you know a "nuee ardente" when you see one?

11th September. BLUE RANGE HUT.

A small party enjoyed a pleasant day trip to Blue Range Hut in the Eastern Tararuas. After following well-defined tracks we soon arrived on the top of the range, where the forest gave way to scrub. From here good views of the main range were obtained.

After a short distance down the other side we soon arrived at the hut where we had lunch. During the afternoon, we had an easy walk back down to the car park. Those taking part worth, Janice Rockeel, Heather Bassett, Eileanor Harris, Adrian Turner: leader.

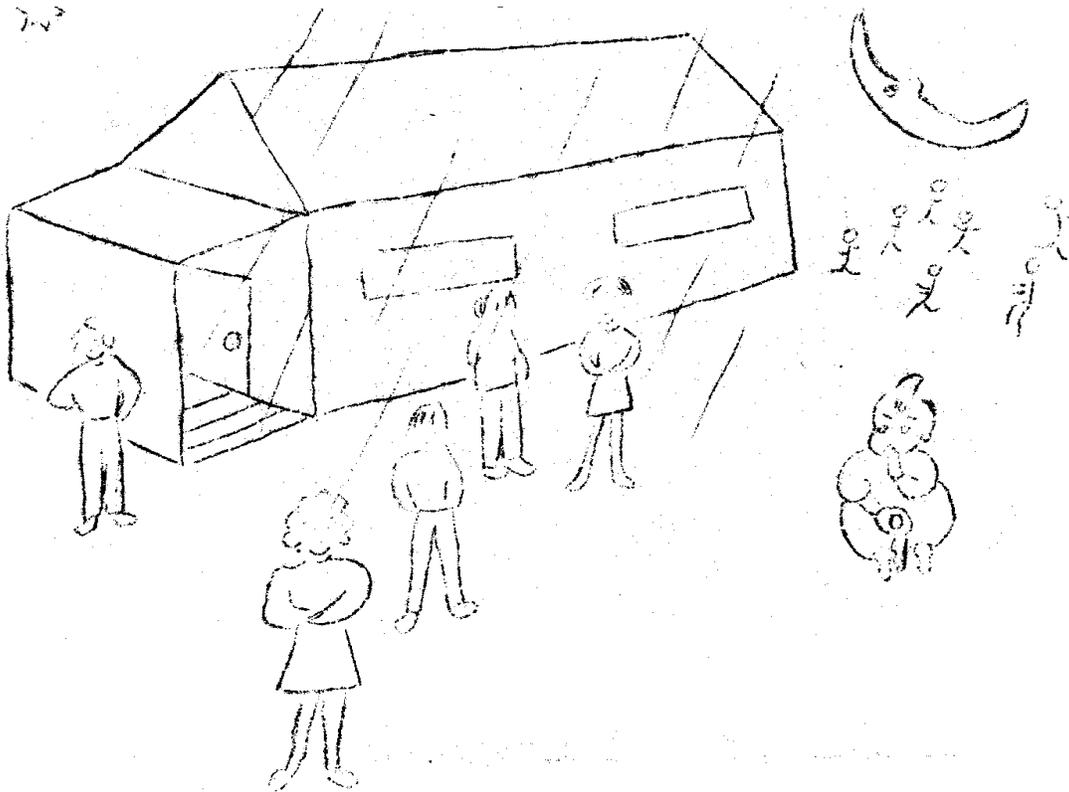
15th September. SOCIAL EVENING

An informal gathering was held in the Society of Friends Hall, which 11 people attended. Slides, a film and supper were enjoyed by all,

It has been suggested that where numbers allow, people would volunteer to hold these evenings at home.

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION

Character building through hardship is all very well on F.E. traps, but isn't that carrying the point too far in extending it to club nights, when open-air meetings have been held outside the hall?



STOP PRESS
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

TREE PLANTING

After having overheard comments about a fictitious trip report I feel I must quell the libelous reports of an unknown individual. In order to protect myself I must therefore set out the facts and explain the situation as I see it. The morning of the 14th dawned a lousy day, and about 15 enthusiastic workers arrived at the Izadium by 7 a.m.

The heavens had really opened up at this stage and time was marching on, so we hastily retreated to the cars, whereupon it was agreed unanimously that our President was late. 29 more long minutes were allowed for the arrival of said person, but to no avail.

In due time we arrived at the road end. We then donned our working gear and seven minutes hence were ready for the mammoth task of planting 500,000 pines and silver poplars. The trees, with the Rangers help, were moved to the planting site. Some carried them on their backs, while others preferred their arms. One was seen to be balancing vast quantities on his head.

Everyone shows suitable planting sites, some working on steep slopes, others on relatively easy grassy slips. I happen to be engaged on the latter, placing every tree to its required depth and absolutely correct distance from its neighbour. While it might appear to the UNINITIATED, whom I felt like planting with the trees, that they seemed to be a thicket, the ranger assured me that the mortality rate was 99% because of rising rivers and hungry cattle and deer.

FOOTNOTE

When you've been hot and thirsty, have you ever had to wait your turn to drink out of an M & B. tin.

Yours etc.,
Anon II.