

P.N. TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

Hon. Secretary
Heather Crabb 77-668

P.O.Box 1217
Palmerston North.

NEWSLETTER 11/71

COMING EVENTS

28th October. CLUB NIGHT

Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College St. (behind West End Chemist) at 7:30 p.m., Thursday.

Some call of hiking, some call it bush walking, some call of madness -- anyway our own bearded Brad Owen will be giving an illustrated account of his overseas tramping experiences.

SUPPER DUTIES: Maureen Cousins, Ian Hoare, Russ Johnson.

6-7th November. MITRE FLATS

An easy trip into the Eastern Tararuas. It may be possible for the more ambitious members to ascend Mitre -- the highest point in the Tararuas.

Grading: Easy Depart Izadium: 6.00 a.m. Saturday

Cost: Approx. \$2.00

Leader: Lawson Pither, phone 85 -- 616, 7-8 p.m.

6-7th November. 'OPERATION DELAWARE'

Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) on Delaware Ridge (Pohangina area) in the Ruahine Ranges.

Approximately 74 bods from the following clubs and organisations will be in attendance: Rifle, Rod and Gun Club (6) Manawatu Tramping & Ski Club (6), P.N.T.M.C. (8), Manawatu Deerstalkers Assn. (8), Massey Alpine (2), Pahiatua Group (8), Dannevirke Group (6) the, Levin/Shannon Group (12) Police (6) A.R.E.C. (3 radio Operators), Army (4 Drivers), Airforce (Helicopter crew +1.)

Each team will be self-contained. Radio 2ZA and local newspapers will be advised of the exercise. Field Search controller will be Kevin Pearce. 'Friday morning' information will be fed to him. V. Harris and J. Neuman to be advisors. On Friday night the F.S.C. will work out search teams and areas for Saturday to be searched.

F.S.C. will brief team leaders on Saturday morning at F.S.H.Q., while others will be told Radio procedure and given a list of articles missing persons will be carrying and wearing. Enlarged maps and aerial mosaics of the area will be used during briefings. A small sized aerial mosaics will be carried by each team, along with a TR3 radio.

On Saturday, in 'General Search' of the area will be carried out by all teams. A 'debrief' will be held on Saturday evening -- explanation by all team leaders, Liaison, the Radio, F.S.C. etc. After a briefing on Sunday morning a 'Contact Search' will take place in a specified area until 11-11 30 a.m. At 12 noon an R.N. Z.A.F. Iroquois Helicopter will arrive and give a demo of winching, stretcher carrying, boarding and unloading procedures and other capabilities. At debrief of Sunday's activities will finish the exercise. Throughout the exercise, the emphasis will be on the use of radios and search procedures.

Eight people from our Club have already volunteered for our team.

9th November. SOCIAL EVENING

At Bruce Lockwood's, 39 Limbrick St., 7:30 p.m.

Last month, a total of the 11 trampers rolled up to Brad's place to swap yarns. They found out how to organise food for large trips with a pack of cards, one of which seem to display a sex symbol!

Dave Ryrie showed some slides of the Arthur's Pass area. These evenings are proving to be a success, so you bring along your yarns and slides.

11th November. SOCIAL EVENING

7:30 p.m., Thursday at Grant Potter's, 3 Lifford Place.

22-21st November. BUSHCRAFT.

This will be held in an easy going flat bush country in the Rangiwahia area. Instruction will cover most bush craft procedures.

All enquiries to Russ Johnson, 87-777 Leader.

Depart Izadium: 8.00 a.m. Transport Cost: \$1.50

25th November. CLUB NIGHT

Illustrated series of talks on Rock Climbing, however not entirely of a technical nature, is hoped to be held in the clubrooms.

SUPPER DUTIES: Roger Clarke, Roger Lander.

27th November. KAPAKAPANUI.

A Saturday trip to a prominent peak near Waikanae.

Grading: Easy Depart Izadium: 6.00 a.m.

Cost: \$1.50 Leader: Adrienne Thompson, phone

74-203

30th November-3rd December.

The Royal Forest & Bird Society will be holding a display and showing some extremely interesting films in the Centennial Pavilion in the Square during the above dates. More information will be given in the next newsletter.

5th December. GRAND ANNUAL DINNER (Sunday)

A highlight of the year, Christmas dinner and Rangī. Limited to 20 persons, due to the size of the dining-room.

Grading: Easy Cost: About \$3.00

Names to Lawson Pither before 1st December, ph. 85-616, 7-8 p.m.

11-12th December. MICK-WAITEWAEWAE.

Details of this trip to the Western Tararua in the next newsletter.

Grading: Medium Leader: John Williams.

NOTICES

NEW TREASURER

Bruce Lockwood has been co-opted to the committee as treasurer. He replaces Lynne Potter who is leaving the district. Many thanks, Lynne.

FOOD TRAMPING TRIPS.

Six pages of recipes, menus and quantities of food for leaders and others planning tramping, hunting or climbing trips. Total weight per man per day is less than 2 lbs. for a balanced diet of about 3,300 calories per day. Copies are available from the Treasurer at 10 cents each. Send stamped self-addressed envelope if you require copies mailed.

The New Zealand Alpine Journal 1971.

Editor Dave Galloway of Palmerston North, 220 pages, many photos, map of the Northern Olivines, \$3.00.

This year's journal features on the front cover, a coloured photo from the East Ridge of Mount Cook. The bright cover is matched by the contents. Among the articles is an account of the N.Z. Tierra Del Fuego expedition, 1971 by Nick Banks and the Caroline face by Graeme Dingle. These two climbers have addressed Club Nights in recent months.

Send cheque or money order to:

Business Manager,
N.Z. Alpine Journal,
P.O. Box 409,
Dunedin.

CONGRATULATIONS to Sally and Lyall Perris on the birth of their son on October 7th.

EVEN YET ANOTHER REMINDER

You are reminded that river levels can rise unexpectedly below Hydro Electric dams and Control Works. The only ones liable to affect club members are the Mangahao and possibly the Tongariro Scheme. If in doubt the names of all rivers affected can be obtained from the Club secretary.

CABARET

The Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club have cordially invited club members to attend their Cabaret at the Maori Battalion Hall on Friday 29th October, 1971 at 8.00 p.m. \$4.00 single. Enquiries to the Social Convenor, Miss Lois Jepson, phone 75-648.

NAMES FOR TRIPS.

Problems are encountered by trip leaders trying to organize transport etc. if trip members hand in their names late. It has therefore been suggested that intending trip members have their names into trip leaders the Wednesday before the trip is to be run.

NEW MEMBER

A welcome to Peter Colpman, 25 Marne St. phone, 81-194.

PERSONAL

Friends of the late Ron Haxton (late, of the club that is) will be interested to know that the club has received a postcard from him. He has been to Hong Kong and Switzerland and is at the moment living it up in London with 44 dancing girls.

PAST EVENTS.

10th-12th Sept. WALLS WHARE-CONE-NEIL FORKS-TOTARA FLATS-WALLS WHARE EPIC.

There was a blood curdling scream and almost simultaneously the blood gushed out red and frothy. How did our heroes get in this situation? Well it all started at Walls Whare on Friday night. We had come over from Palmerston and were just settling down for the night when we were disturbed by shouts of "I've got the top bunk", "Do you want a brew" etc. It wasn't until each of the hundred individuals had made such comments that one of them noticed us and promptly shouted to the rest, that "There's people asleep up here," this in turn was met by a muttered "Not now" from one of our less patient trip members. Saturday morning dawned and it was an early start (to impress the natives). It was noted that only one fifth of the night before rabble were still there. We crossed the Waiohine using the best river crossing techniques. We pushed on up to Cone Saddle where it was decided not to go to Cone hut but to go on to Cone itself. It was a trifle windy on Cone so we didn't stay long. We headed on down Cone Ridge. The going was reasonable until the ridge flattened out. After much tree climbing by one of the more expert climbers, we found our way to the Neil Forks junction. The track down to the Forks was well marked and no difficulties arose. A magnificent stew was enjoyed by all on Saturday night having been cooked by one of the up and coming young chefs. Sunday morning was wet, but after sags for breakfast who cares? ...We climbed back onto Cone Ridge and headed down toward Totara Flats. As we descended the weather improved. We had lunch at Totara Flats and then headed down the Waiohine, which was in flood to Walls Whare. It was impossible to cross the river so we used the bridge further down stream. Here ends the story of Kevin Pearce, Tony Croad and Grant Potter.

18th-19th Sept. SAWTOOTH RIDGE

Three of us heavily disguised as mountaineers, with axes, ropes, crampons, splashed up the Tukituki on Saturday morning. After three hours we had a long scroggin stop at the Centre Tuki Hut and continued upstream in search of Daphne Spur. An hour later we were back for lunch, having decided we were searching in the wrong spot. Daphne Spur commences directly opposite the hut; a bit steep to start with, it then eases off a little.

The track is well marked, so is the turn-off, just above the bushline, which leads, on to the main range. Here we saw a couple of deer a few minutes before arriving at Howletts. A good hut with a fine position in a clearing in the mountain-beech forest. Into sleeping bags and warm up the pre-cooked meal all ready for an early night when in come five Heretaunga Tramping Club members. Three of them had been involved in a recent traverse of the Sawtooth which turned into an epic with an overnight bivvy in the snow. While they were smoking their savaloy stew on the fire we questioned them for details. Apparently they had perfect winter conditions, and although all the party of eight were experienced trampers, half had never been on snow and ice and no one had crampons. We were away at 7.30 a.m. Crampons were put on to traverse round the south and west sides below the summit of Tiraha and then down to a basin which leads onto the Sawtooth. The first twenty yards were spent balancing along a crumbly exposed edge, crampons grating on bare rock, so off came crampons. With this crossed the difficulties were over - the rest of the Sawtooth being a straight forward ridge walk. A quick steep drop down off Ohuinga on loose slippery snow until Black Ridge was gained. We wasted two hours swanning around in leatherwopd looking for Government Spur. Maybe the map was wrong, maybe we were wrong, maybe there is no track. So we gave that one up and decided to try and find Rosvalls Track. No trouble this time, a quick rush down to the Tukituki and eventually back to the car at 7.00 p.m. in pitch darkness.

Taking part were Peter Baxter; Grant Potter, Brad Owen.

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

This work party was organised by the Northern Taranaki Associated Mountain Clubs and the labour was supplied by our own Club. The work involved was the clearing the Puketura track from the top Mangahao dam. Although overcast and grey there was very little rain. The Club's excellent new fly, with its extra long guys, was pitched over our tent to give us a very snug camp. A total of 7241 axe blows, 5622 slasher blows and 2796 saw strokes were made and 91 bruises, 54 cuts, 702 scratches, 77 abrasions 21 blisters and sundry other lesions were received. Altogether a most satisfactory score and a satisfying weekend.

Those taking part were John Williams, Trevor Stretton, Kevin Pearce and Richard Clark.

3rd October. DARING ASSAULT ON THE ESPLANAPE.

Recently two of the more capable and enterprising members of the club, two dauntless women, Anon and Anon III, ventured into an area hitherto unexplored by trampers' boots. Leaving early on a spring afternoon they braved the elements and prepared to endure great hardships to explore the hidden reaches of the Rose Garden (G5 on the P.R.O. map) on the true right bank of the Manawatu River. Here is our intrepids' epic adventure recounted in their own words:

On awaking on the afternoon of 3rd October we could hardly believe the day had arrived at last - the day we had long planned for! The trip - an attempt on the Esplanade. After a light lunch of asparagus soup roast beef and Yorkshire pudding with sundry vegetables, followed by steamed pudding and ice cream, fruit salad and cream, nuts and cheese washed down with Waihirere Moselle, medium sherry and cafe au lait, packs were loaded into the conveyance to transport us across the asphalt jungle to within sight of our goal, there to be met by our first obstacle. After a gruelling two hours using fixed belays we were able to scale the gate once past the magnetic pull of the children's playground and forcing each other on to resist the temptation of the sandpit we made our way to the band rotunda where we took a compass bearing. This was necessary to find and negotiate the route from this edifice to the fish pond. On arrival at the fish pond which was dimly seen through our snow goggles, Anon ventured the toe of her boot into the water, pronounced it COLD and dived in, pack floating being necessary to cross this murky, goldfish infested stretch of water.

On the other side we rubbed our eyes as what we thought was a mirage appeared 25 yards away. But it was, it really was, what must be the most remote hut in New Zealand, the Begonia House. After brewing up over a fire amidst the polyanthus we continued our journey towards the paddling pool. In this vicinity are found many species of birds - budgerigars, golden pheasant and peacocks to name a few. Then came the most eerie part of our journey, crossing the deserted waste of the paddling pool which takes on a glacier like appearance at this time of the year. We paused to strap on our crampons and set our sights on our goal - the Rose Garden. Our crampons were hardly biting into the concrete hard surface of the paddling pool making the crossing treacherous so we were thankful to be on safer territory when at last we edged our way over the south end onto the grass. From there it is a hard trek through dense bush to the Rose Garden. We had done it! We had made a traverse of the Esplanade - something that, to our knowledge, had never been done before by a trumper.

16th-17th October. HIKIRANGI RANGE TRIP

It takes me ages to write a witty? humorous? trip account, but the editors (that's me and a couple of others (oldies)) insist. Now that the witty, humorous part has been dispensed with I will give a blow by blow account of the trip.

Two trip members assembled at the Izadium at about 5.45a.m. (ugh) and the transport arrived a little later. Another trip member was picked up at the "Dead" end of Main St. Here our four intrepid trampers were pushed and pulled and finally stuffed into a Beetle amidst packs and other miscellany. At the road end the aforesaid intrepid trampers disembarked or rather fell out of the aforesaid Beetle. The trip up Purity Ridge was uneventful apart from the fact that an hour was spent in reaching the bush. Most of this time was spent bashing through lawyer and saplings of a sort which grow very close together. Lunch was enjoyed at Purity Hut and then we pushed on up to Wooden Peg. Iron Peg, Mangaweka and Hikirangi followed in relatively quick succession. The hut was found after a little searching and we then set about preparing our evening meal. The beef curry and rice was prepared without any difficulty and then a new dish was served for dessert with our fruit - a mixture of two jellies and an instant pudding (delicious). We left the hut at 9.00 a.m. and were out by about 1 p.m. Lunch was eaten at the roadside and we slogged along the road for what seemed to be ages. The car was finally reached or rather the car finally reached us (the driver had gone ahead without his pack.)
Trip members: Owen Robinson, Grant Potter, Bruce Lockwood and Tom Easterbrook.

See - The Cream of the Tramping Club - below.

The Great of the Tramping Club.

