

P.N. TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER No.4

MAY 1966

Have you got what it takes?? We want a simple, original design for our Club emblem. Why not put your ideas down on paper and bring them along to our next Club meeting. A year's free membership will be the prize for the successful designer. Please note that the design chosen will become the Club's property.

The next Club meeting will be held on 26th May at 8 p.m., again at Trevor Arnold's, 568 Featherston Street. Vern Stout will talk on gear and food to take on tramping trips. To help towards cost of providing supper, members are asked to pay 1/- per head every meeting. As our present clubrooms may be too small to accommodate us in the future we hope this charge will also cover hire of a larger hall.

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FUTURE TRIPS: If you are wanting to go on a trip please ring the particular trip leader to help him organise transport.

Queen's Birthday, June 4 – 6th: MANGAPURAU: Good tramping and interesting bush country between Raetihi and Wanganui.

Leader: Vern Jensen, ring Suzanne Johnstone 77.118. Cost £1.

June 19th: OHAU HUT – GABLE END RIDGE: Easy Sunday trip.

Ring Sue Roberts 85.177 Cost 7/6

July 2nd – 3rd: HIKIRANGI RANGE McKINNON HUT: Good prospects for this one. Ring Trevor Arnold 79.478 Cost 15/-

July 17th: ROARING STAG HUT, TARARUAS: Ring Brian Abraham
86.248 Cost 10/-

Please notify Trip Leader by the Wednesday prior to the trip.

Don't miss this!

Have you seen the Nelson Lakes National Park? If not, why not come along on our 12-day Christmas trip? Bookings must be made now, as reservations will be limited for this holiday period. The trip will be starting from St. Arnaud, 60 miles from Picton via Blenheim; walk or swim seven miles down Lake Rotoiti, down the Travers River into the Sabine wilderness area, past Lake Constance, Robert Ridge to St. Arnaud - 10 days tramping. Ring Russ Lacey 81.436, if interested. Cost approximately £12 - £15.

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OH! FOR A TRAMPING LIFE
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“C!monyoutoadsoutabed!” you grope for your boots in the pitch dark, teeth chattering as you curse the keen type heralding an ‘early start’. You could be at home, sleeping in comfort, with a carpet to put your feet on when you venture out of bed at a decent hour; but you belong to that inexplicable breed labelled by the uninitiated “crazy trampers and climbers”.

Almost every weekend these men and women revel in the hardships the mountains offer, risking all in their search for adventure. It is difficult for them to explain why they sweat and grumble under great loads as they fight through bush beset by enough lawyer and supplejack to deter even the Viet Cong; battle through leatherwood that rips their flesh and the backside out of their shorts; freeze on alpine ridges, and waste their energies against useless, unfeeling masses of rock and snow.

They know the joys and freedom the mountains offer to those that seek them. The smell of a camp fire after a hard day up a stinking hot, never-ending riverbed; the peace of a perfect evening broken only by a lone morepork. The biting wind and mist of a storm on the tops when you curse the ranges, and then the wonder of a clear dawn and a magnificent view that makes it all worthwhile. The glory of an alpine morning after you have struggled up to a lonely windswept summit by the skin of your teeth the night before. Then there’s the time you get caught on the tops, when it pours with rain and the river’s come up and you wet as a shag waiting to get back down. Or you may be in an isolated hut with a cobbler who eats all your tucker and doesn’t chop any wood. His little idiosyncrasies put your nerves on end, and his feet smell; worse still, he swipes your best socks and leaves you a pair you can get into from either end.

The friendships formed in the mountains like no other - when your very life may depend on your mate's reactions you learn to respect his strong points and forgive his weaknesses. These are things that are hard to explain to someone who knows nothing of them but for those that have the "disease", well they wouldn't swap it for anything.

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BRING A FRIEND TO OUR NEXT CLUB NIGHT!