

## P.N. TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

Hon. Secretary:  
Lynne Potter 79.499

P.O. Box 1217.  
Palmerston Nth.

### NEWSLETTER 12/69

#### CLUB NIGHT: 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1970                      Meeting 6.30 p.m.

Would members gather at Berry Engineering Works at 6.30 p.m. A barbecue is planned for this night and you are advised to bring suitable food and clothing for such an evening. If in doubt concerning the weather please ring 85.616 - Lawson Pither.

Committee Meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> January at Kevin Pearce's, Flat 1, 378 Botanical Road.

### COMING EVENTS

#### 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER: HIMATANGI – LAKE KOPUTAROA:

Swim shorts and large quantities of liquid refreshments essential. Meet at the Izadium 8.30 A.M. Cost 50 cents. Names to Lynne Potter - 79.499

#### 17 – 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY: ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND:

Fun in the sun weekend at Castle Point. Swimming, fishing, sunbathing, both sorts of birdwatching and rock climbing. Ring Lawson, phone 85.616 for details.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY: WAIOPEHU:

A medium day trip to a prominent peak behind Levin. The last trip of the school holidays. Cost 70 cents. Leader: Vern Stout, phone 79.139.

#### 13 – 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY: CROSSING OF SOUTHERN RUAHINES:

Trip Grading - Fit. Details next newsletter. Leader: Kevin Pearce.

#### ACCESS TO TARARUA FOREST PARK & RUAHINE STATE FOREST:

The Forest Service has enquired from our Club as to whether any of our members have had any difficulties in obtaining access to tramping areas in the above forests. They are keen to help keep access open to the areas in which we as trampers are interested. In order to assist with this worthwhile objective members are asked to report specific cases where, in the past, they have been either unable to obtain access or had difficulty in getting to their tramping areas.

Please report your cases to Russell Johnson, ph. 87.777

NOVEMBER CLUB NIGHT: Doubtful weather forced the cancellation of the barbecue. A small group enjoyed an informal evening in the Clubroom. A number of slides, including the winning slide for the 1969 slide competition, were shown and tales tall and sometimes true were swapped.

PAST TRIPS:

Rangiwahia – Sept. 6 – 7:

Nine members spent an interesting and fine weekend at the Club Hut. The going up the valley is easy now that the big slip has good wire ropes across it. The new bridge saved a lot of time although wire netting across it would give one more confidence. By dinnertime everyone had settled in, and after dinner started to move out to do a trip to Mangahuaia, others to explore the varied tussock land above the hut. The stove smoked a lot that night so some members had a delayed meal.

Next day was fine and cool with a splendid view of Ruapehu. Later in the morning two Forest Rangers arrived to give a demonstration on Tussock planting, especially along the margins of tracks. A bit of planting around the Hut would help to reduce that area of bare ground. A previous party in the hut had left a fair amount, of firewood some of which was green - a bad practice this as in time what bush there is around the hut will have disappeared and in its wake unsightly areas of erosion. In the afternoon some of the party left via the bulldozed track and all were back at the cars by 4 p.m.

14 – 16<sup>th</sup> November: Combined Trial Search:

Three Club members were fortunate in being able to take part in Wellington's 1969 Trial Search, which was centred in the Southern Tararuas near Mt. Hector.

We left the Police Station 7.30 p.m. Friday, reaching Field Hut shortly after 2 A.M. Saturday. Large numbers of bodies were strewn about the hut on each and every piece of ground which made some pretence at being flat. The bush was uncommonly dry and the night fine and mild. At 6 a.m. we arose, breakfasted and were briefed. Two Club members were in a team to search Penn Creek and the third in a team to search the Snowy River. Saturday passed without success and late Sunday morning news that the lost party had been found was received over the radio, together with the exciting news that an Air Force Iroquois helicopter was being sent to return teams to Table Top Peak. The Iroquois is a large turbo-jet craft capable of carrying up to 13 persons and/or several thousand pounds of cargo. It has a top speed of about 150 m.p.h. and an endurance of about 2 hours. It literally dropped through the trees on top of the Snowy search team, who had to scurry to safety. The ride back to Table Top was exhilarating and quick - side doors were open and as we banked steeply on the corners the tree tops could be seen close below. The only likely restrictions on the usefulness of this helicopter in S.A.R. work are bad weather and non-availability. Those taking part: Vern Jensen, instructor; Warwick Blanchard, and Kevin Pearce, team leader.

22 – 23<sup>rd</sup> November: Putara – Mangahao Crossing, Tararuas:

Mrs. Jean Lonie Angus and Sally (7 years), Bill, Ann, David and Joy Olsen, Ian Hoare and Kevin Pearce completed a successful crossing in spite of the weather. The route was over the Massey Knob and Ngapuketuruua to the Top Dam. The track generally is good, though a little overgrown in leatherleaf regions.

SEASONAL REMINDER – CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR TRAMPERS:

Torch, woolen mittens, (Tararua map NZMS 57, Ruahine Map NZMS 74  
(both maps obtainable from Club Secretary

Compass (\$1 buys an adequate one, nylon overtrousers – almost essential to a trumper although many trampers lack them.

If you have money to burn then an Iroquois Helicopter (\$120,000) would probably be appreciated - pilots, fuel and maintenance may be expensive however.

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**NEWSLETTER 12A / 69**

**COMING TRIPS:**

**17 – 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY: ANIVERSARY WEEKEND: CASTLE POINT:**

A camp site has been pencilled in at this Wairarapa resort which is well known for its scenery, fishing, swimming and rocks. This is an ideal trip for members who would like to get away from the mountains for a weekend.

The party will tent and the facilities of a well equipped camping ground will be available. As we have been asked to give the camping ground Proprietor an idea of the number in the party, would you please, without making a definite commitment, advise Lawson Pither (phone 85,616) **NOW** if you are likely to be going.

Accommodation on a holiday weekend will be at a premium so please put your names in early. Estimated cost \$3.50, young children less.

**1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY: WAIIOPEHU:**

A Medium day trip to a prominent peak behind Levin. The last trip of the school holidays. Cost 70 cents, Leader Vern Stout phone 79,139

**13 – 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY: CROSSING OF SOUTHERN RUAHINES:**

Trip Grading – Fit; Leader Kevin Pearce.

**CLUB NIGHT: 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 1970:**

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Committee MEETING: 27<sup>th</sup> January at Kevin Pearce's, Flat 1, 378 Botanical Road.

**GRAND ANNUAL DINNER** - Special thanks to our Chefs – Sheryll, Lynne and Heather for their efforts which produced a memorable dinner on the 7<sup>th</sup> December.

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## THREE HUT TRIP

**TRIP LEADER** : Roger Clarke  
**DATE** : 2nd February, 1969 etc etc  
**IN ATTENDANCE** : Roger Clarke,  
Denis Arnott,  
Keith Potter,  
Warwick Blanchard

The area in which this saga took place, was the Ruahine's bounded by Pohangina Saddle: Hut, Upper Tuki Tuki River, Centre Tuki Hut and other places never before trodden by men.

Four keen men left the Izadium on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February intending to do a three hut trip, Pohangina Saddle, Black Stag, and Saddle Hut. We arrived at Moorcock Base and after giving Roger's boots some much needed attention with screw driver and tyre lever, we duly headed off. We also decided to take our Parkas. What a wise decision! Halfway up the ridge to Pohangina Saddle the party divided. Roger and Denis hoping to shoot some animals while en-route to the Hut, via another ridge and picnic flats. Four deer were sighted, but none shot, and the would-be hunters eventually arrived at the Hut just after 3 p.m. In the meantime, Keith and Warwick waited at the Hut until 2 p.m. then came to the conclusion that as we were no doubt, weighed down by venison we had gone straight back to the car. After a bite to eat we left the Hut at 3.30 deciding to go back via Stag's Ridge, still hoping to see something to shoot, but all we saw were a few Spaniards. It is quite a well marked track, leading down the ridge and into the bush. Somewhere in that there bush we should have taken a right hand turn, down a spur to Moorcocks Base. Unfortunately we missed the turn-off and at 6 o'clock found ourselves heading down into a river! Oh, what a surprise. (We later realised it was the Tuki Tuki, and two weeks later, found there as even a Hut, Centre Tuki, ten minutes upstream).

After studying the map we decided. to climb onto the ridge on the other side of the river. We filled a small plastic bottle with water and left some stick arrows pointing in the direction we were heading. An hour and half later, and after some hard climbing, farmland could occasionally be seen on a ridge to the right, and we realised that there would be no home comforts for us that night; and it was time to find a sleeping place. Just before 8 p.m. a suitable place was found, two logs lying about three feet apart, one end blocked by a tree stump. Luckily there was a ready supply of fern, and we cut a big pile. We formed a roof, made a mattress and eiderdown and used some to block the entrance once we were inside. Tea consisted of 1½ food tablets, slice luncheon sausage, 4 biscuits and quarter cup of water. We fired three shots after tea but heard no reply, so retired to bed, dressed in all the clothes we had with us. Parkas (mine was a brand-new summer sale bargain) woollen shirts and singlets, shorts socks and boots. Having crawled into our little abode we had to lie on our sides (restless turning not possible) if we sat up, our heads

met the tree stump amid showers of tree roots and bits of dirt. The wind came up and things became pretty cold so we decided to cut more fern to pack around us. Aided by a full moon this did not take long and we were soon bedded down again, serenaded by a Morepork making a hell of a racket, from a nearby tree. Monday morning didn't seem to bring the usual getting-up problems, and after two biscuits and a mouthful of water we were ready to leave by 7a.m. We left a note saying we were both well, and headed along the ridge until we found a suitable spot to drop down into the river. This spot was found about 9 a.m. and after a lot of rests and bush bashing. We left blazes on trees at regular intervals. The river was reached after dropping down a land slide. At the bottom a couple of deer carcasses were found, and a lot of nasty words were said about some lucky B's. After travelling down the river we decided it was time for smoko- a biscuit and a drink of water. We took our boots off for the first time in 24 hours and washed our socks. Progress along the river was pretty slow, and it was 11 o'clock before we saw any signs of farmland. We were mighty sick on the river, so climbed up onto the farmland. This was a mistake as it meant pushing thru scrub and sidling round spurs until we reached a farm track. If we had stayed in the river it would have taken half the time to reach a track. We reached the end of Mill Road around midday, faced with a walk of about 5 miles to Moorcock's Base.

What of Keith and Warwick? They had had a quite night sleeping in the car. In the morning they dashed up to Pohangina Saddle Hut in record time. After reading in the Hut Log we were returning via Stag Spur, they decided we had run out of light the night before and would undoubtedly be waiting at the car, .. so they promptly made a round-trip record! Consternation reigned when we were nowhere in sight. Keith decided it was time to go on into Onga Onga to telephone Palmerston to tell the folks what was going on. Apparently the Post Office was kept busy in the early hours of the morning, with anxious mums and dads enquiring 'Has your son come home?' As Keith returned he decided to have a look down Mill Road, just in case ... there we were just about to start the five mile walk. Boy-o-Boy were we glad to see them, and that small green car.

So ended a very eventful, energetic, enjoyable "Day Trip."

## RANGIWAHIA - HOWLETTS CROSSING

**TRIP LEADER** : Keith Potter  
**DATE** : 14-15-16th February, 1969  
**IN ATTENDANCE** : Dennis Arnott,  
Dennis Moore,  
Bill Holmes,  
Bill Olsen,  
Roger Clarke,  
Keith Potter

Departed Palmerston, 6.15 Friday night and after a flat tyre, reached Apiti for a 2-hour refreshment stop. The cars were sent home at 9.30 and we set off at a gallop up the track to Rangī. Two hours 15 mins. later we stumbled into bed for a few hours sleep. We awoke next morning at 6 to be greeted by gale force winds, rain and fog. Breakfast was slowly eaten and we were off crawling on our hands and knees at times. Mangahūia was reached 1¼ hours later and from here on an easy side track was taken along the tops. Lunch stop was taken early at 12.30 at the approach of the last saddle. Then a stiff climb took us out of the saddle, only to find we had to drop 300' and a long sidle and back up onto the ridge.

The top of Tiraha was reached at 3.30. Here the mist came down and visibility dropped to 50 feet (until the following day). A compass bearing was taken which was proceeded upon until after a steep decent we came to a creek junction - 'a creek junction on top of the main ranges!' After a loud discussion we decided to proceed straight up the opposite side of the creek. Upon reaching the top, a track was found and half an hour later we came upon Howletts Hut.

Next morning was spent in bed, so a late start was made at 11 a.m. down Daphne Spur and centre Tuki Hut was reached at 12.30. Left for cars with the rain coming down steadily and the river up and muddy. This section of the trip took 3½ hours and it didn't stop raining once.

Special thanks for Lawson and Bill for transporting cars, and Dennis and Graham for cars.

DAY TRIP  
SCHORMANS TRACK

TRIP LEADER : Dennis Moore  
DATE : 2nd March, 1969  
IN ATTENDANCE : Robin Paul,  
Simon Luxton,  
Kevin Pearce,  
Robert Wellington,  
Owen Mills,  
Lawson Pither,  
Grant Robert,  
John Saunders,  
Dennis Moore,  
Peter Flaus,  
Keith Potter,  
Nick Wolfe,  
Malcolm Watson

Thirteen Club members enjoyed a delightful day tramping up Schormans Track to Putara Hut. We had a spectacular view of the Putara Valley and river. The weather was misty, but cleared on arrival at the Hut. Three fit members did the round trip, going up over Hines, Ruapae, Herepai and down again to road end. A good view looking over to Mangahao was obtained on arrival at the top some 10 minutes from the Hut.

## WAIKAREMOANA - EASTER 1969

TRIP LEADER:- Kevin Pearce

DATE:- 3rd to 7th of April.

IN ATTENDANCE:-

Mrs. Crabb	Lynne Potter
Keith Potter	Hilda & Alton England
John Saunders	Miles Stilwell
Tony Mullins	Wayne Boucher
Lawson Pither	Robert Wellington

After a road journey of seven hours from Palmerston North ten members of the club arrived at Hopuruahine Landing, 12 miles past Lake House towards Rotorua, at varying times on the Thursday night before Easter. There are two huts at the landing, one rather old and dilapidated and the other of good standard. On Good Friday morning, after the arrival of two New Plymouth members, eleven set off wading the Hopuruahine Rivir at 9am. The track was found to be well marked and on this first day easy with some minor climbs to add interest. A rather discouraging feature was the great length of time in traversing the lengthy Hopuruahine Inlet. At lunch time it was still possible to see a car parked not far from where the main party had camped the night. The weather was fine and some enjoyed a swim before lunch and the arrival of the lady members. Te Puna Hut was reached at 3:30 and it was decided to spend the night a short distance on the other side of the inlet. This inlet proved to be of great depth and the camping ground was reached after another hour. The weather was deteriorating, but thanks to good organisation, tents were quickly erected and a tasty meal of dehyd. veggies, potato, fresh stewing steak and instant pudding was enjoyed, even though the rain was pouring down outside. Unfortunately some of the party had wet sleeping bags after this first night of the journey.

Saturday morning dawned overcast, but not raining, and after a good breakfast, the party set off for Marauti Hut which was reached after a few hours. The track wound in and out of the many inlets and was indeed picturesque and easy. After lunch at Marauti Hut, where we met a party of schoolchildren and fishermen, we had an interesting afternoon travelling to Waiopaoa Landing which the last members reached at about 6pm. after a slow trip. Tents were pitched and the party enjoyed a good meal cooked on the fire in the hut. Once again we met two parties of schoolchildren - one from Putaruru High School and the other from Wairoa College. These children were being very well cared for by three teachers to about 12 children in each case. They were obviously enjoying the experience and it was a pleasure to meet them.

One of the high spots of the trip was the social entertainment which was spontaneous and such fun on Sat. night. At 2am. the writer was awoken by the roaring of stags. What a magnificent sound is made by these animals when they hurl defiance at each other. There was no chance of sleep until about 3am. when they moved off and could be heard gradually receding into the distance.

Sunday was a beautifully fine day and some of the party swam before breakfast. The party set off at about 9:30am. and a steady climb commenced. It was up and up for about 4½ hours with many stops for breathers and on many occasions it was deemed necessary to stop and admire the view. The climb was of the order of 2000ft. and mere words were unable to describe the beauty of the scenes which unfolded as we worked our way up. The view which was most appreciated about 2 pm. was of a small tin hut and then the larger building which was the Puketapu Hut. This hut was placed at the top of a bluff which must be all of 1000ft. and is very nearly vertical. The view from there was of the Lake and apparently endless undulating bush country inland, and in the opposite direction farmed hills of accompanying scars and slip marks to Wairoa and the sea. It was possible to see burning-off operations being undertaken in the distance. This farmed country could be productive, but it most certainly is not endowed with any beauty in comparison with the bush clad hills.

Two tents were pitched at this point and the balance of the party were accommodated in the hut. By this time the party was reduced to the number 9, as two of the lady members had travelled by launch back to the motor camp on Sunday morning. On Sunday night we had another very sociable gathering in the hut and part of the fun was when the trip leader was being given a back massage by our own highly qualified masseuse. This caused great amusement and was suitably recorded on film.

On Monday morning the party regretfully started the last leg of their journey and reached the Onepoto Armed Constabulary Parade Ground after three hours. There were many fine views of the Lake on this day and a tramper starting from the Onepoto end could enjoy these very soon after his start from that place.

#### INDIGENOUS FLORA OF LAKE WAIKAREMOANA AREA.

The forests surrounding Lake Waikaremoana consisted of two main types: 1) mixed Podocarp Beech and Broadleaf, 2) Beech. These are the dominant types of trees under which the forest is classified; they are influenced greatly by climate, soil and altitude so one finds silver beech *Nothofagus Menziesii* entirely dominant above 2,900ft; with the Podocarp (*rimu*, *matai*, *kahikatea*, *totoru*, *miro*), Beech (red and some occasional silver black) and Broadleaf (*tawa*, *rata*, *tawari* and *kamahi*) at lake level.

On leaving the Hopuruahine Landing on the first day we encountered the occasional black Maire (*Nestigia Cunninghamii*) tree with seedlings under some displaying the long grass-like juvenile form so different from the lanceolate adult form. *Tawari* was most common, unfortunately it was not in flower though the lacebark (*Hoheria* spp.) was, as was the Koromiko (*Hebe stricta*) and the occasional *Dracophyllum pyramida*. Also flowering were two different perching orchids (epiphytes). Beneath the trees, usually Beech, on well drained banks could be found *D. pyramida*, a strange tropical looking shrub with a leggy habit of growth. The leaves had marked resemblance to a pineapple plant. To give the scrub an improved appearance it was blessed with glossy green leaves marked with red and an upright panicle of minute flowers in large numbers. Unfortunately this most unusual and attractive shrub is very slow growing and hard to cultivate.

Little rata trees (*Metrosideros robustus*) inches high were common amongst the lakeside rocks. Rimu seedlings and red beech seedlings were also abundant in the forest.

The effect of red deer on the forest was most noticeable in the absence of red beech trees in their juvenile stage as a dense undergrowth; silver beech at higher altitudes was similarly affected. I searched for Hard Beech (*Nothofagus truncata*) but failed to identify any.

Mistletoe was seen on some red manuka shrubs. This mistletoe is a very small tufted plant about 6 inches across and exists as a parasite on the manuka and occasionally black beech. Its name is a long horrible one – *Korthalsella salicornioides*. This mistletoe has most insignificant flowers quite unlike *Elytranthe tetrapetala* of the South Island which is featured on one of the decimal notes.

*Pseudomintera colerata* could be seen growing side by side with its close relative *P. axillaries* around the 2,600' level, though both could be found at lake level and quite possibly there were hybrids. *Colerata* has the red splashed leaves; *axillaries* has no red and is glaucous (grey-white) underneath. Also with red marked leaves was *Oleria cheesemanii* an attractive shrub found over 3,000' up in the silver beech forest; also at lake level where the red splashes were more absent. The leaves were lanceolate with waved margins.

## TRAINS HUT

TRIP LEADER:- Kevin Pearce.

DATE:- 25th - 27th April.

IN ATTENDANCE:- Kevin Pearce  
Dennis Arnott  
Warwick Blanchard

Tony Mullins

Bill Holmes

At 9am. Friday five men put on boots and packs and set off for Trains Hut, several muddy miles up the Waitotara River. After passing the homestead and a large "Trespassers Will Be Prosecuted" sign, an attempt was made to jump across a stream which appeared in our path; those who did not succeed continued with sloshy boots. Two hours later, a flat grassy area loomed and it was decided to boil the billy over a hot manuka fire after a hot trek through several swampy areas and over an exciting papa cliff.

After moving on it was decided not to risk our lives on a very shaky bridge constructed of fencing wire and a deck of well spaced manuka, so a detour was made on an equally hazardous track. From here on the track to the hut, goats were quite common but no shots were fired for fear of frightening off the elusive pigs, which later proved to be non-existent in the area. After passing quite a spectacular waterfall our objective was reached, six hours after leaving the road end.

While our cook was preparing the evening stew and the tent was being erected on a level, lump free area (?), we were joined by several members of the Wellington T.M.C. The rest of their group numbering 21, stumbled in small groups for the next hour. Our congratulations must go to the cook for a wonderful meal which was eaten by candlelight under the stars.

Sunday morning dawned fine and sunny and promised a good day. After breakfast was cooked and eaten, we moved our packs and sleeping bags into the hut which was earlier vacated by the W.M.T.C. The morning was filled by exploring the surrounding "peaks", but not before a hair-raising crossing of the Waitotara River was made on stepping stones provided by Mother Nature. The afternoon was devoted to the task of gathering and cutting firewood, and one member swam in the river with the water temperatures in the low 40's. As darkness fell evening meals were cooked and eaten in front of a warm fire.

We awoke on Sunday morning to another fine day and a temperature of 37°F. After eating, the hut was cleaned up and packs hoisted onto unwilling shoulders. Before stopping for lunch a shot was fired at a goat across the river (the barrel must be bent). Back at the cars at 2.30pm. and it was here that a strange sight was seen - a pair of boots being removed and thrown over a bank into the river, never to be seen again.

## WEEKEND TRIP TO McKINNON HUT.

TRIP LEADER:

DATE: 17th-18th May.

IN ATTENDANCE: 6 members in all.

Five members took part on this trip to the western Ruahines. Permission to cross the farmland was obtained from the farmhouse. However in future access will have to be from the Kawhatau Forestry Base as the farm has now been closed to the public. A heavy frost had produced half an inch of ice on the tarns and the mad axeman could not be persuaded to go for a swim. 4½ hours after leaving the cars we reached the 6-bunk Forestry hut.

Saturday afternoon was spent resting and by Sunday the weather had deteriorated a little. A fresh breeze and mist gave an interesting 3¼ hour trip back to the cars.

TRIP GRADING: medium Fit.

NORTHERN CROSSING – Queen’s Birthday  
Weekend.

TRIP LEADER:

DATE:

IN ATTENDANCE:

A crossing of the Tararuas from Levin to Masterton (or visa versa) by way of the Ohau River, Arete, Tarn Ridge, Mitre Peak and the Waingawa River, is known as the "Northern". Such a crossing was attempted by a small party which included representatives from the highest echelons of the Club's hierarchy, i.e. Lawson and Kevin. Third Man - Tony Mullins.

Ohau Hut was reached on Friday night and Arete on Saturday night, at which point one of the party began to show symptoms of exposure. Conditions were as follows: 4" powder snow, moderate very cold southerly wind, light mist, full moon; position of party uncertain, position of nearest shelter (Arete Bivvy) uncertain. A tent was hurriedly pitched on the lee side of the ridge and treatment for exposure was administered. The night passed. In the morning Arete Bivvy was observed about 400yds below to the south. Tony and Bill were in residence here, having completed an epic trip along the main range from Putara the previous day. One of the northern party joined the two at the Bivvy and completed the crossing with them, but not without further incident. The remaining two of the northern party, including the exposure victim, retraced their route of the previous days.

A number of valuable lessons were learned here on this trip, concerning exposure and frostbite.

TRIP GRADING: Fitness Essential.

The member who completed the crossing experienced some exciting moments. On one occasion at the Waiohine Pinnacles 1½ hours were spent doing some hairy rope work on the wrong spur. Sunday night at Tarn Ridge was cold and clear. Started Monday at 3am. on cold moonlit track through snow covered peaks. Air temperature dropped to 20°F with knee-deep snow, some crust. Sun-up came as three weary idiots struggled to Mitre: then a long walk out, firstly through beautiful snow-draped silver beech trees, then lowland forest, via Mitre Flats to car at 3.30pm.

Effects: two slightly snow-bitten bods who have also suffered swollen feet; the third member was reluctant to leave the “wonderful alpine regions”.

## KAPAKAPANUI

DATE:- 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Only four members made the climb of this peak behind Waikanae. The weather was good compared with that reported for Dunedin.

Trip Grading. – Medium.

## RANGIWAHIA

TRIP LEADER:-

DATE:- 21st of June 1969.

IN ATTENDANCE:- Weekenders :- Tony Mullins

Kevin Pearce

Lawson Pither

Sunday: Wayne Boucher

Dennis Arnott

Ian Voice

Warwick Blanchard

Three members set off on the Saturday, for Rangiwahia, carrying with them large quantities of food, carbonettes, Maire firewood and tools for repairs to the hut. Small patches of snow were on the track at the bush edge and this became progressively deeper till from the new Swing Bridge on, the rocks became completely covered. It was a pleasant tramp from there on. At about this stage the snow began to fall and continued for the rest of the weekend. As usual a deer preceded the party up the track, though it was not seen by them. This tramp through light falls of snow must have been one of the most enjoyable journeys to the hut taken by club members. Layers of snow had formed on the branches of the trees and the waterfall near the hut was fringed with icicles of impressive size. The snow around the hut was calf-deep and the Hut cold but dry.

The stove did its job very well and the party enjoyed an excellent meal on Saturday evening. Temperatures were as low as 25°F on Saturday night, but all of the party were warm and comfortable. Tony Mullins swam in the waterfall on Saturday afternoon and again on Sunday, these feats being recorded on film – air temp. 27°F, water 34°F, which bore out the accuracy of that old chestnut “it’s warmer in than out”. It was noted that Tony was trying to thrust his feet into the stove firebox after his Saturday effort.

On Sunday morning other members arrived and the Works manager finally decided that, due to the weather conditions, the renovations were not to be started on this occasion. It was found bare skin would stick to metal at the prevailing low temps.

## MANAWATU GORGE

TRIP LEADER:- PETER WILSON P. N. T. C. Lecturer.

DATE:- 13th July.

IN ATTENDANCE:-

Peter and Judy Wilson gave excellent instruction to the Club members who attended this rock climbing course. This is not the first time that the club has been indebted to the Wilsons. The techniques and points included the following:

- (1) the importance of an upright stance for balance,
- (2) belaying
- (3) double roping.

One weakness was evident and this was the inability of some Club members to tie the bowline and the figure-of-eight knot. All those who attended the course should remember that only the very elementary techniques of rock climbing were shown. Much practice and experience is needed before competence can be achieved, for most mortals anyway.

## IRON GATES

TRIP LEADER:- Russell Johnson

DATE:- 3rd August.

IN ATTENDANCE:-

Nick Wolf	Warwick Blanchard
Ian Hoare	Ces Robieson
Robin Paul	Rob Wastney
Mark Taylor	Dennis Moore
Russell Johnson	

Sherryl Kirkpatrick and Ross Eliot were unable to attend, having caught the dreaded flu on Saturday.

Sunday dawned fine and clear as the party of nine left the transport at the end of Table Flat Road and proceeded along the bush track which soon came out onto the side of the Oroua River valley. The valley is rather like a South Island river valley, with its grass flats on the valley floor, rather open bush on the sides and beech forest higher up.

The track followed the side of the valley and kept some distance above the river, except where it crossed a side stream; then it eventually came right down to the river bank opposite the N.Z.F.S. cullers' fly camp, 1½ hours from the cars. The camp was situated in a sunny sheltered clearing.

Ten minutes later the track led across a large tributary, up the side of a spur, and 2 hours 50 minutes after leaving the cars the Iron Gates Hut, built on another sunny flat about 10 or 15 feet above the river bed was reached.

According to the Hut Log, Roger "Hunter" Clarke had spent some time working the area around Triangle Hut, further up the river. After a most refreshing brew-up and a bite to eat, the party went upstream for a short way, but returned to the hut around 2 o'clock and finally reached the cars again at 5:15pm.

Throughout the trip the scenery was terrific, with numerous birds of various types being seen and heard continuously. Three deer and some rather large trout were also spotted.

## WANGANUI HUT MT. RUAPEHU.

TRIP LEADER:- Tony Mullins.

DATE:- 16th- 17th August.

IN ATTENDANCE:-

Tony Morrison	Michael Morrison
Dennis Arnott	Warwick Blanchard
Kevin Pearce	Lynne Potter
Keith Potter	Mrs Crabb
Sherryl Kirkpatrick	Tony Mullins

A late start was made on Saturday morning, in rather pleasant weather conditions, for a higher snow covered slope and a suitable spot for a snow cave by some of the more ambitious members while the other 5 made for the Wanganui Hut intending to spend the weekend lazing there. After two hours of ploughing through soft snow and good navigation, a cave dug the previous weekend, was located on a steep and thrilling slope.

All crawled through the tunnel into the rather cramped cave and enjoyed a bite to eat. Armed with shovel and sheet of plastic, work commenced on the enlargement of the cave to sleep four bods comfortably. Tony and his son having made their way to the Wanganui Hut for the night after climbing part of the way with us to the cave. Great chunks of ice and snow rolled out the entrance for about 2 hours before the interior was finally dug to a size 7-8ft. square and 4ft. high. What remained of the day was spent in making an inspection of a spectacular frozen waterfall which consisted of a solid pillar of ice almost 30' high and 10-15ft. in diameter.

Meals were cooked while lying comfortably in sleeping bags and eaten the same way. After a comfortable night, the weather on Sunday was not promising, with a cold wind containing a large amount of snow. A start was made after breakfast for a higher alt. which was hidden by cloud. After two hours of kicking steps and battling strong winds, a decision was made to descend to lower altitudes.

On reaching the public shelter, a meal was had and a trek to the Wanganui Tramping Club Hut where 7 non-mountaineering types spent the night. After a short stop at the hut, the return trip was made and thus ended a thoroughly enjoyable weekend.

## RANGIWAHIA

TRIP LEADER:- Don Fletcher

DATE:- 6th to 7th September.

IN ATTENDANCE:- 9 members

Nine members spent an interesting and fine weekend at the club hut. The going up the valley is easy now that the big slip has good wire ropes across it. The new bridge saved a lot of time although the wire netting across it would give one more confidence. By dinnertime everyone had settled in, and after dinner started to move out to do a trip to Mangahua, others to explore the varied tussock land above the hut. The stove smoked a lot that night so some members had a delayed meal.

Next day was fine and cool with a splendid view of Ruapehu. Late in the morning two Forest Rangers arrived to give a demonstration on Tussock planting, especially along the margins of tracks. A bit of planting around the hut would help to reduce that area of bare ground. A previous party in the hut left a fair amount of firewood some of which was green - a bad practice this is as in time what bush there is around the hut will have disappeared and in its wake unsightly areas of erosion. In the afternoon some of the party left via the bulldozed track and all were back at the cars by 4 pm.

TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK.

TRIP LEADER:- Tony Morrison.

DATE:- 12th -14th September.

IN ATTENDANCE:- Sue (Ohakune)

Bill Olsen

Bruce Aubertin

Malcolm Watson

Tony Morrison

Loren (New York)

Kevin Pearce

Dennis Arnott.

An orange tent pitched on the back of Tony's truck was seen to proceed up Rangitikei 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 the 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.

## ROCK CLIMBING, TITAHI BAY, SEPTEMBER.

TRIP LEADER:- Kevin Pearce.

DATE:- 27th to 28th September.

IN ATTENDANCE:-

Perfect weather was enjoyed by the eight who took part in the activity. The sound rock and the variety of climbs ranging in difficulty from easy upwards should ensure that further trips are organised to this pleasant spot only 80 miles from Palmerston North.

A Climb of the Pinnacle which is a prominent feature of the smooth slab for its entire height, 100 feet from the bottom to the summit. The base of the pinnacle is triangular and it tapers to a narrow summit ridge. The S.W. face is a giant slab with an angle of about 60° and a number of cracks and sloping ledges. The usual routes are up this face or its edge with the northern face. The route down the back edge of the northern face. This is a knife-edge and curves downwards out of sight to a saddle 20 feet below where the Pinnacle abuts the cliffs. Although the normal routes are not very difficult technically, the great height and the steepness of the peak together with the absence of good handholds makes it a memorable climb. The feeling of exposure (great height) as one sits astride the summit with legs dangling is enormous. One of the party roped up with Keith Jones of V.U.W.T.C. and made a successful ascent of the Pinnacle.

Amongst those who took part were two children of 6 and 12 who demonstrated an enviable technique on the Slab. The large number of climbers enjoying their day were to say the least cosmopolitan. A Swiss father and son were performing with considerable skill and a British climber showed great ability on the Slab and other features. Our own party comprised several who were making their first acquaintance with the rock. These and the more experienced all had a thoroughly enjoyable day and will return at an early date for another confrontation.

## MT EGMONT.

TRIP LEADER:- Dennis Arnott

DATE:- 10th to 12th October.

IN ATTENDANCE:- The Morrison, Olsen and Crabb families,

Lawson Pither

Peter Flaus

Warwick Blanchard

Peter Sutcliffe

Kevin Pearce

Dennis Arnott

At 12 noon on the Saturday, four mountaineers 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 and ice picks 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 at 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 on to conquer the burg.

A most successful weekend enjoyed by all. Special thanks to Mr Wells – on Friday night we found the Lodge spotlessly clean, fires going and the kettles boiling.

RANGI WORK PARTY.

13th to 14th October.

Dennis Arnott (Works Manager)

Dennis Moore (Foreman)

Kevin Pearce (Clerk of Works)

The three 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 Sisilation 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.

## TWEEDALE SEARCH

17th to 19th October.

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.

## HARDINGS PARK.

TRIP LEADER: Russell ,Johnson.  
DATE: 26th October, 1969.  
IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Hoare, Ross Elliott, Heather Crabb,  
Doris Upton, Owen Robinson, Brian Booth.

On 26th October a club party visited "Hardings Park" which lies in the Northern Tararuas, just south of the Tiritea Catchment area.

Two cars and one motor-bike, left the Izadium at 7;30 a.m. 8 o'clock saw us climbing the track to Brown's Flat where we skirted the swamps and crossed the stream at the lower end. It was at about this time that steady rain and strong winds were encountered. After following the bush edge along for some way, we entered the bush and made an ascent and descent of the main range.

This party of relatively unskilled, ill-equipped but keen mountaineers actually crossed the main Tararua range - a tremendous effort requiring only one pit stop.

The range is actually several hundred feet above sea level here - fantastic. Thanks for the pit stop must go to Doris Upton (her first tramp) for without this we would never have made it.

We arrived at the old punga hut shortly after 10:00 a.m. where we had a "brew" and a bite to eat. The rain lifted before mid-day, so we crossed the Otangaue Stream and followed some deer tracks up a spur opposite the hut, hoping to get a view of Pahiatua. Two thirds of the way up we decided to call it a day and made our way back to the hut, where, after another "brew" we retraced our steps to the cars, reaching them late in the afternoon.

## KAIKOURAS

TRIP LEADER: -Kevin Pearce

DATE:- 27th to 29 th October

IN ATTENDANCE:- Lawson Pither  
Kevin Pearce

Warwick Blanchard  
Mike Bisouth (M.T.S.C.)

The party of four caught the ferry on Friday night to Picton, arriving at St. Arnaud on Lake Rotoiti at 12.15am. 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 around 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 turn white as he clutched his ice axe tightly. We stood there for some seconds or minutes saying nothing. Lawson coughed. We all spun around 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 the 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 on Sunday morning. We got breakfast started at 5.30. am. but did not leave the hut until 7.30. I guess we had not fully recovered from our fright. Thirty minutes up the Travers River we reached the 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 by mist. At midday we reached summit ridge. The strong wind and poor visibility forced 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 and were back in Palmerston at 4.00 a.m. Tuesday.

The observant reader will notice that this account was titled "The Kaikouras". the fact that 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 wet and the rivers are in flood.

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

Petrol (336 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.

## COMBINED TRIAL SEARCH

DATE:- 14th to 16th November

IN ATTENDANCE:- Vern Jensen (instructor)  
Warwick Blanchard  
Kevin Pearce (team leader)

Three Club members were fortunate enough to be able to take part in Wellington's 1969 Trial Search, which was centred in the Southern Tararuas near Mt. Hector. We left the Police Station 7.30pm. Friday, reaching Field Hut shortly after 2AM. Saturday. Large numbers of bodies were strewn about the floor of the hut and each and every piece of ground which had some pretence at being flat. The bush was uncommonly dry and the night fine and mild. At 6am. we arose, breakfasted and we re-briefed. Two Club members were in a team to search Penn Creek and the third teamed to search the Snowy River. Saturday passed without success and late Sunday morning news that the lost party had been found was received over the radio, together with the exciting news that an Air Force Iroquois helicopter was being sent to return teams to Table Top Peak. The Iroquois is a large turbo-jet craft capable of carrying up to 13 persons and / or several thousand pounds of cargo. It has a top speed of about 150 m.p.h. and an endurance of about 2 hours. It literally dropped through the trees on top of the Snowy Search team, who had to scurry to safety. The ride back to was exhilarating and quick - side doors were open and as we banked steeply on the corners the tree tops could be seen close below. The only likely restrictions of its usefulness of this helicopter in the S.A.R. work are bad weather and non-availability.

PUTARA  
MANGAHAO CROSSING. TARARUAS

TRIP LEADER:- Kevin Pearce

DATE:- 22nd to 23rd November

IN ATTENDANCE:- Mrs. Jean Lonie Angus and Sally (7 years)  
Bill, Ann, David and Joy Olsen, Ian Hoare, Kevin Pearce.

The eight successfully completed a crossing of the Tararuas in spite of the weather. The route was over the Massey Knob and Ngapuketuru to the Top Dam. The track generally is good, though a little overgrown in leatherleaf regions.

MANGAHAO.

DATE: 23rd November, 1969.  
Heather Crabb,  
Dori Upton,  
Avis Lidstone.

On this trip we intended meeting the party from Putara at Harris Creek hut, but owing to our leisurely pace we didn't quite make it. In the meantime the other party decided to come down the other side of the lake.

However, we enjoyed thoroughly the day's freedom and fresh air, and became quite lyrical on the beauties of river and bush. We returned to the car at about 4:30 as we had some anxiety about the low state of the petrol tank.

## RANGIWAHIA

TRIP LEADER:- Lawson Pither

DATE:- 6th to 7th December

IN ATTENDANCE:-

Heather Crabb	Lynne Potter
Sherryll Kirkpatrick	Keith Potter
Warwick Blanchard	Dennis Arnott
Lawson Pither	Kevin Pearce
Mr. Jensen (Club patron)	Roger

The party of chefs five in all arrived at the hut in brilliant sunshine, sweating, panting, etc; at 12.30p.m. NO WATER, STAGGER BACK TO WATERFALL and back to hut laden with billies. Four botanist-deer-stalkers arrived back an hour later stood aghast at the door, at the sight they beheld, of 5 clowns making paper chains. We then got enthusiastic and put ridging on the hut as it started to RAIN. Quick dash outside Warwick and Keith to put up makeshift spouting to catch water. Lawson and Kevin arrived with alcoholic beverages at 5.00 p.m. and stood guard over them all night. Four budding gamblers kept the rest of the tired hard working party awake until about 11 p.m. playing 500 by candle-light. We then slept - waking at half hour intervals. Hut (DESPARATELY) needs mattresses (Point out to committee)

Awoke - next morning at about 6.00 a.m. and had breakfast in relays lasting until about 8.00 a. m. Menu ranged from venison to spaghetti. Hut was cleared by kicking everyone out along with packs and boots, telling them to come back at 12.30 p.m.

The lone chefs were left to prepare the banquet. Mr Jensen arrived at 7.30 a.m. that morning registering surprise at seeing two funny females, Heather and Sherryll squatting in the waterfall, peeling potatoes and kumeras. We then put the roast in the oven, blew up the balloons losing four to punctures and one to faulty blowmanship. We then laid the table with CLOTH and sat around chewing fingernails and listening to the roast talking to itself and awaiting the arrival of two final members of the party.

TO BE CONTINUED AFTER DIN-DINS; NEXT EXCITING  
INSTALLMENT OF P.N.T.M.C. GRAND ANNUAL DINNER.

(completely unbiased opinion of menu will be written by completely unbiased President Lawson Pither. Or else!)

<u>MENU</u>		<u>TABLED' HOTE</u>
SOUP	--	Nun
ENTREEÉ	-	Nun din
MAIN COURSE	-	Mutton a la Hoggets (deep fried) Delicately smoked Peep. (pig-sheep-ham) Spud du supreme a la P.N.T.M.C. (boiled) Kumeras a la Maori (roast) Cresticated Surprise Peas and Beans (now 3¢ off)

GARNISHES - Home Style Gravy Quick (dat' da way graby should taste)  
Mint Sauce preservative with Sodium Benzoate.  
Malaysian /Pineapple Chinks (royal fair)

DESERT - vast waste – “Seriously folks”.

Fruit Jumble

- Ingredients-- mixed as follows:-  
- toss fruit in bowl, first emptying from tin.  
- strawberries, topped, untinned.  
- Manderins, (Mandarigein D.P. Lichte Siroop)



- peaches – sunkissed - depipped and deskinnd (tinned)  
- pears (note well. Not encyclopaedia)  
- passionate fruit  
- pineapple as before  
- crème – a la crème du cow whippeded

Plum du Pud

- garnished with "Hic" sauce or .....  
Creme a la creme du cow whippeded

THE CUP THAT CHEERS - donated by A. A.  
(Automobile Association) - mission estella (Sauterne type)

CHEESE BOARD - Crème a la crème du cow solidified

CAFÈ NOIR  
CAFÈ AU LAIT

Followed by pink and green paper hats ..... use discriminately .....  
chocolates.

The dinner has been enjoyed by one and all including our four guests from the N.Z.F.S. who have been on a diet largely composed of venison during the last week. It has been suggested that our grand annual dinner should be held more often than previously but it is impossible to repeat our lady chefs' performances more then once a year. At present practice is the way to improving their techniques under these conditions and we hope to persuade them to you, the male members up here again very soon. Many thanks to all of those who helped organise the gathering especially Heather, Sherryll and Lynne.

Lawson Pither (your completely unbiased President).

## HIMATANGI.

TRIP LEADER: Ian Hoare.  
DATE: 14th Dec. 1969.  
IN ATTENDANCE: Anja Suuring, Margaret Death, Heather Crabb ,  
Owen Robinson, Ian Hoare.

As difficulties were encountered in obtaining access to Lake Koputuroa our small but enthusiastic party of trampers invaded the sand hills of Himatangi. Many things were discovered including an old rather derelict truck. Doubts were expressed as to how it got there. Many different techniques were demonstrated as to how sand hills should be descended. It was apparent that some methods were more successful than others. After stumbling through a wilderness similar to that of the Gobi Desert we arrived back at the cars. Here large quantities of liquid refreshments were consumed. After lunch members spent the afternoon swimming and sunbathing before returning to Palmerston after an exciting, stamina testing day at the beach.