

P.N.TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

Hon. Secretary
Kevin Pearce 74-129 ext.856 (Bus.)

P.O.Box 1217,
Palmerston North.

NEWSLETTER 8/70

COMING EVENTS.

AUGUST 8-9th

Trip to Mangaehuehu Hut, Ruapehu. After driving part of the way up the Ohakune Mountain Rd. we shall walk about 2½ hours through the bush to the year old Mangehuehu Hut. This has a delightful setting above the bush line. There will be plenty of opportunity for those wishing to do more tramping or climbing (bring own ice axe if keen to do snowcraft.) It is expected that the senior ranger for Ohakune will talk to us at some stage during the weekend.

Cost: \$2.50 plus 50c for hut fee. Leave Izadium 3 a.m. Saturday.

Grading: Easy. Estimated time of return: 6.30 p.m. P.N.

Names to: Heather Crabb, ph. 77-668 Bring plenty of warm

clothing.

AUGUST 12th

Lunchtime meeting Wednesday, 12 noon. Collinson & Cunninghame's tearooms.

AUGUST 23rd

Sunday trip to Shut Eye Shack, Norsewood area of Ruahines. Leave Izadium 6 a.m. Trip Leader: Ron Haxton Ph. 83-994.

Cost \$1.50 Grading: Medium.

AUGUST 24th

Committee meeting 7.30 p.m. at Ian Hoare's, 49 Burns Ave.

AUGUST 27th

Club Night. We hope to have a quiz based on the Tararua Forest Park presented by the Social Secretary. Supper duties: Peter Baxter and Robin Paul. (If any member is unable to attend to supper duties would he/she please arrange with another member to take his/her place.

Everybody: Please sign the attendance book as well as paying 10c for supper when you arrive). (Visitor's only need to supply their addresses.

AUGUST 28-30th Trip changed from Sept. 5-6th.

Tongariro. A new hut is located near Aturere Crater. Good trip for both trampers and snowcrafters.

Leave Izadium 6.30 sharp Friday night.

Cost: \$3.50. Leader: Ian Hoare. Ph.83-448 Grading: Medium.

SEPTEMBER 5-6th

Trial Search. Any keen to participate contact Russ Johnson Ph. 87-777.

SEPTEMBER 10th

Maharahara. Leave Izadium 7 a.m. Cost: 50c. Grading: Medium Easy.
Names to Lawson Pither. Ph. 85-616.

CHRISTMAS TRIP

Nelson Lakes National Park. You must have your name and \$2 deposit with the treasurer by Club Night August 27th. This enables transport bookings to be confirmed. Phone Lawson Pither 85-616 for further details. Don't miss out by deciding and acting too late.

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to Richard Clarke, 21 Surrey Cres., P.N. Ph. 76-759

GENERAL

Club Gear Hire

Private hiring of the large and small packs and primus have been quite satisfactory. The moneys collected during the last 12 months from private hirage amounted to \$9.75 and from club trips \$15.25. This will eventually be spent on replacing gear as it becomes redundant. If there is anything else anyone would like to hire please let Russ know.

The hire gear available: Billies, packs, primus and fuel bottles, polypropilin, ropes and tents at low rates.

Found: Fuel bottle, has anyone lost one?

For all these matters contact the Gear Custodian, Russ Johnson Phone 87-777.

Back Copies of News Letters.

The secretary wishes to obtain the following newsletters to complete the set for the club's records. Volume 3, Nos. 6, 8, 9, 10, 11;

3/69, 6/69, 12A/69.

If you have any copies of these letters which you no longer require please contact the Secretary.

Spares of the following newsletters are available from the Secretary: 5/69, 8/69, 3/70, 4/70, 6/70.

Questionnaire

The Social Secretary reminds you to fill in and return your questionnaire. In regard to question 6 would you say whether you prefer tramping or non tramping topics, or a balance of these two.

PAST TRIPS:

June 26th-28th. Blyth Hut. Snowcraft.

Saturday dawned a perfect day. Fourteen keen snowcrafters were up at 6 a.m. and started up the Blyth Climbing Ridge at 7.30. In an hour's time we had reached the snow level and soon after we were cutting steps. Working in groups of two and three we started up the mountain. A well earned lunch was had at an elevation of about 7,500 ft. Because of the short daylight and lateness of time (1 p.m.) it was decided that the main party had no chance for a summit climb. Five extra fit members of the party decided to have a try anyway. Bruce, Malcolm, Sue, Kevin and Warwick raced against time. The only two members using crampons, Sue and Kevin, were able to reach the high peak, 9,175 ft. Unfortunately steps had to be cut all the way and so the other three lost the race against the sun.

The descent was enjoyed by all as belaying, and glissading were practiced. All members of the party were back at the hut before twilight left the sky.

When Vern Jensen joined the party at 10.30 p.m. not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. Sunday found most members of the party enjoying their beds, the sunshine and rock climbing. Vern pulled Bill out of bed as Bill had foolishly promised Vern a climb if he came up on Sunday. Instead of climbing up the Tahurangi ridge a full circle route was used. Leaving the upper Ohakune Ski Tow the first stop was made at the high altitude hut; altitude 7,500 ft. From here it was an easy walk up to the saddle where Crater Lake could be seen steaming away. The high peak ridge was easily reached from this side. The footprints of the five previous High altitude climbers were followed down the mountain. This high altitude hut route is recommended for forthcoming club trips.

Thanks to Sue all members enjoyed cups of tea in Ohakune.

Trip Members: Angus Lonie, Richard Clarke, Malcolm Watson, Peter Baxter, Peter Wallace, Sue Streeter, Kevin Pearce, Bruce Hamilton, Vern Jensen, Peter Flaus, Warwick Blanchard, John Foot, Mark Annabel, David and Bill Olsen.

Sue's golden rule for the day: "Never drop your ice axe."

Notes on the High altitude Hut, Ruapehu.

The hut is located near Paratitotongga Saddle on the Northwest side of the

mountain about 7,500 ft. above sea level. It is most easily reached from the top of the Ohakune – Upper Ski Tow area. Instead of leading directly towards the hut, which means crossing numerous gullies, it is best to pick a good ridge heading up the mountain until a good elevation is gained. After approximately 1¼ hours of climbing straight towards the peak, you then turn North and aim across the slopes for the hut. Total time generally to reach the hut is 2 hours. The hut in winter has its door frozen shut but access can be gained via “The Chimney.” The hut is not for overnight stays except in emergencies. An hour’s walk up the saddle just east of the hut will bring you to the Crater Lake. Climbs in winter require ice axes, rope etc. but usually climbs in Jan – March require mainly warm clothing, sunglasses, and map and compass just in case the clouds come down.

July 1-12th Dawson Falls and Snowcraft II

Heavy rain on Friday, Saturday and Sunday caused some dampening, mainly of clothing but also of spirits. However, seven snowcraft students managed to climb Fanthams Peak, 6438’, on Sunday morning. A moderate wind, light mist and sleety showers together with poor snow conditions hindered instruction. Those taking part were Peter Baxter, Richard Clarke, Bill Olsen, Owen Mills, Royce Hunt, Malcolm Watson and Kevin Pearce. These people plus the residual of the Olsen family spent Saturday night at Kapuni Lodge.

The Crabb family, Lindsay Sandes, Robin Paul, Richard Murcott, Gavin Rogerson, Mark Annabel and Peter Mills spent the Weekend at Robson Lodge, Dawson Falls. Some excursions were made in spite of the weather.

“THE HAM SANDWICH BATTLE AT YPRES” or “HOW THE MATTRESSES GOT TO RANGI.”

(A true, unbiased, factual, uncensored account in which the culprits are named.)

The Forest Service provided six rubber mattresses for Rangiwahia hut which the Club undertook to carry up. On Saturday morning Heather Crabb, Peter Baxter, Sue Streeter and Kevin Pearce waltzed up the track with two of the said mattresses. A light mist obscured the view for the whole of the weekend although it remained fine and calm. The hut was found to be in reasonable order.

Shortly after arrival and without warning or provocation, and contrary to the Geneva Protocol on Chemical Warfare, Sue lit the stove. Fuelled with leatherwood it produced voluminous clouds of diabolic, malignant, pernicious, noxious, virulent, foul, rank, venomous, abominable, astringent, lachrymentary smoke, only a small portion of which went up the chimney. This was only the beginning. That night Sue and Heather formed an alliance. They took over the mattresses, sandwiched Kevin between them and forced Peter to sleep on the hard straw. Throughout the night they periodically rolled over onto Kevin who was trapped in his Everest sleeping bag, cooking and crushing him. Occasionally Sue would roll off the edge of the mattress and land on poor inoffensive Peter. Eventually the long night ended.

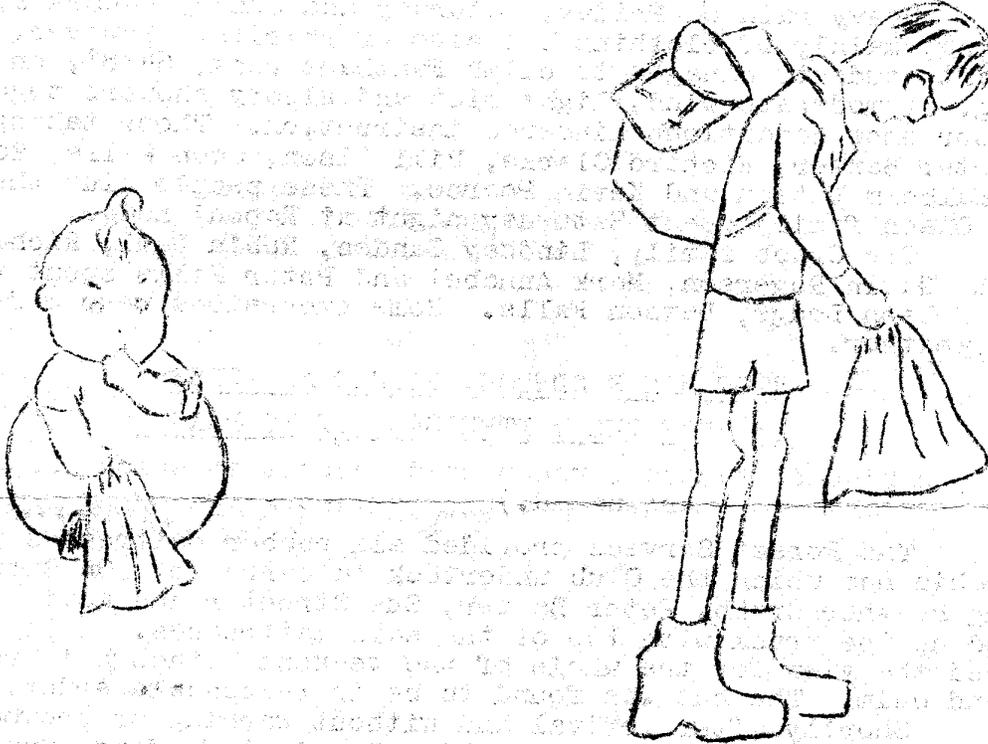
Lawson and Gunther Pither and Hamish Tough came up on the Sunday morning with a further two mattresses. The hut was cleared out as was the water tank and all returned home.

Further to this libelous trip report this is a true, unbiased, factual etc. account in which the subject is Not named but we all know who he is, DON'T WE?

While conducting a psychological surveyor the trip members it was interesting to note that one subject insisted on a probable carryover from childhood, namely, taking to bed a specific article such as a certain “cuddly rug” or towel. Paradoxically it was apparent that subject showed considerable psychopathic tendencies when faced with a certain member being unable to contribute adequately to the communal food supply. A rope with a sliding noose over a rafter being suggestive of an unpleasant fate! Aforesaid subject experimented with methods of

asphyxiation which were very nearly 100% successful, members having to evacuate the establishment with great alacrity.

It was also revealed that another unnamed member was afflicted with sleep talking, which provided an entertaining few minutes for the unwilling listeners. When cross examined member denied all knowledge.



FROM BABYHOOD TO TRAMPER.