

P.N. TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

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

P.O.Box 1217,
Palmerston North.

NEWSLETTER 11/70

COMING EVENTS.

5th November

GUY FAWKES. There will be no coffee evening in the Nicoberg. Guy Fawkes and Barbecue at Putorino.

Meet Izadium 5.30-6 p.m. Bring your own food, cooking utensils and fireworks.

7th November

Easy Day Trip to Tamaki in the S.E. Ruahines on Saturday 7th November. Cost \$1.00.

Leader: Kevin Pearce. Names to Heather Crabb, 77-668

Depart Izadium 6.03 a.m.

Grading: Medium (A more difficult option may be available for the fitter members of the party.)

11th November

Monthly lunch meeting, 12 noon at Collinson & Cunninghame's Tea Rooms.

14th November

Maharaha. Easy Day Trip. Leader: Bill Holmes. Names to Heather Crabb. 77-668. Cost 50. Grading: Medium. Depart Izadium 7.00 a.m.

16th November

Committee Meeting at Lawson Pither's, 30 Surrey Cres. 7.30 p.m.

19th November

Coffee Evening, 8 o'clock at the Nicoberg.

21st-22nd November

Work Party at Rangī. Names to Lawson Pither before 8 p.m. Grading: Medium. Cost \$1.00 Leader: Keith Potter.

26th November

Club Night. Films: "Hazard" a mountaineering adventure in the Dolomites, illustrating the basic principles of accident prevention. The lessons learnt are applicable in every walk of life. Joe Brown, a famous British climber features. "Bushcraft" - a National Mountain Safety Council film. Supper Duties: Denis Moore, Robin Paul and Lynne Potter.

27th-29th November.

SOUTHERN CROSSING - CLASSIC

The party will leave cars at Otaki at approximately 7.30 p.m. before setting off for a 3 hour plus night hike to Feilds Hut. A torch with spare cells is a must for the trip in. Saturday, the party will climb Mount Hector (5016') the second highest peak in the Tararuas. Saturday night will be spent at Alpha Hut. On Sunday the Southern Crossing will be completed with the party coming out at Kaitoke. Transport will be arranged so that trip members should be in Palmerston North by 9.30 p.m. Sunday.

Bring torch and two spare cells, raingear and overtrou, sleeping bag and cover, long woollen pants and woollen shirt, mittens and warm hat, a light pack (dehydrated food helps here), food and eating utensils.

Names to Heather Crabb, 77-668 Cost: Approx \$4.00. Depart Izadium 6 p.m. Friday, 27th. Leader: Bill Olsen.

6th December

GRANDE ANNUAL DINNER Rangiwhia
Names to Lawson Pither, 85-616 Cost \$2.70

12th December

Easy Day Trip to Paratewaewae with Dave Ryrie.

24th December

NORTH ISLAND CHRISTMAS TRIP with Russ Lacey.
Kaimanawa - Kaweka - 2 weeks - 12 days tramping.
Leaving Desert Road Dec. 24th (Transport by bus) along main Kaimanawa range, crossing headwaters of Rangatikei River into Oamaru. Visit new Forestry hut, then along Kaweka Range, to Kuruipango and out via Hastings. Fitness necessary - A party of three persons would be fine. Contact Russ Lacey ph. 81-436 between 7-8 p.m.

29th December

NELSON LAKES CHRISTMAS TRIP.

NOTICES

NEW MEMBER Adrian Turner, 32 Amesbury St. Phone 79-586.

RESIGNATIONS Nick Wolf. (Now living in the South Island.)
Bill Olsen, from the Committee.

Heather Crabb has been appointed Vice President in the place of Bill who has suffered promotion and transfer to Wellington. Bill remains a Club member.

INSURANCE

The Club has arranged some extra passenger risk insurance over and above that provided by third party insurance and any policies held by drivers. The insurance covers all passengers being transported in private cars on Club trips.

GUIDE BOOKS

Tararua Forest Park Route Guide. Buy these from the Treasurer, Lynne Potter, at 40c each.

Rock Climbing, Titahi Bay, by Graeme Dingle, 75c. Order these through the Secretary, Kevin Pearce.

MAPS

Lands and Survey Dept. maps may be obtained through the Secretary at reduced cost. These maps are the best available and they cover most of New Zealand. The Treasurer holds stocks of Tararua (35c) and Ruahine Maps (40c).

NORTHERN TARARUA ASSOCIATED MOUNTAIN CLUBS.

The Club has been active in forming a loose association of Clubs in the local area for the purpose of promoting joint interests. Member Clubs are at present: Manawatu Tramping & Skiing, Massey Alpine and P.N. Tramping & Mountaineering.

NEW CLUB ROOMS

November Club Night and all subsequent Club Nights are to be held in the Society of Friends meeting rooms. 227 College St. (A back section behind the West End Chemist.) We are very fortunate to obtain the use of these rooms on very favourable terms. The building is new and we must be very careful not to jeopardize our privilege.

OVERRDUE TRAMPERS

It is expected that occasionally Club members will be overdue while on a tramping trip. The late return of loved ones causes parents and wives much anxiety. This anxiety is natural and easily understood, but generally is ill-founded. In the history of tramping in New Zealand,

mishaps to Club tramping parties have been rare. Flooded rivers, temporary loss of route, incorrect estimates of time required, visits to pubs or friends, etc. are common causes of late return.

Should a son or husband be late returning from a trip what should you do? Ringing the parents of other party members is not a good idea unless you have some definite information to pass on. It is possible that such calls will only increase anxiety. If a party is appreciably overdue one of the Club's committee should be contacted. Generally it will not be necessary for parents or wives to contact the Police. For all Club trips a responsible person is to be informed of the names of the party members and of the trip plans.

Sons and husbands who tramp can reduce possible anxiety. Before the trip they should inform their parents or wives of the proposed starting and finishing points of the tramp, and the estimated time of return. If late back, a phone call to one parent or wife with a message to be relayed to the remaining parents and wives, should be made. The cost of the toll call will be small if shared in this way. Care should be taken to see that the message is complete, especially if there has been a mishap of any sort. State where you are ringing from, the reason for the delay, your new estimated time of return and the names and phone numbers to whom the message is to be relayed.

All trampers should impress upon relatives that they do not intend to risk their lives in flooded rivers or be caught out in exposed conditions with inadequate gear merely so that they can be home in time. It is much better to keep relatives waiting while you wait for a river to go down or build an emergency shelter.

Trip Leaders - A list of names and phone numbers of trip members must be left in a sealed envelope at the Police Station immediately prior to leaving. The name and phone number of a committee member, who is known to be at home, is to be written on the envelope.

NEWS ITEM

The Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club has been successful in a postal bid for the right to buy a section at St. Arnaud township, Nelson Lakes National Park. The right depends upon commencement of a suitable building on the site which is not far from Park Headquarters.

The Wellington Club has for a long time been running two day weekend tramping and skiing trips to the park. It has run ski weeks there also. The presence of a Club "hut" at St Arnaud would not only enhance the use of the Park for the Wellington Club, but all mountain users including P.N.T.M.C.

Accordingly, the Wellington Club is holding a special General Meeting on 26th November at 8 p.m. in the Trades' Hall, Vivian St. Wellington, to decide whether this plan will go ahead and what form the building may take. Any further enquiries should be directed to the P.N.T.M.C. Social Secretary.

Note: Only financial members of the W.T.& M.C. will be eligible for voting at this meeting. (Scrutineers will be present.)

COOKING FOR TRAMPS

PART III. PACKAGING.

DEFINITIONS:

The Rack: An instrument of torture. A frame with a roller at each end to which the victim's wrists and ankles were tied so that his joints were stretched when the rollers were turned.

The Pack: An instrument of torture. A frame with a large bag and straps attached. The straps are placed over the victim's shoulders and the bag is then filled with heavy objects so that the victim's joints are compressed.

Masochist: Person who cranks the rack while he is tied to it or who loads things into his own pack.

Packaging, being dead weight, should be kept as light as possible. Glass jars and bottles are OUT. They often weigh more than their contents, are easily broken and are difficult to dispose of. Cans are also out, except on day trips, easy weekend trips and perhaps as a special treat on other trips. Plastic bags and 'M & B' tins are IN. So called M&B tins (from May & Baker, a Chemical and Pharmaceutical Company) are high quality light weight screw top aluminium or plastic containers used to hold bulk supplies of pills and drugs. They are obtainable from chemist shops free of charge although it is a good idea to be a regular customer or to buy something first before asking. M & B tins are especially useful for holding butter, jam and sweetened condensed milk. They can also be used for sugar, salt etc. but as they take up a lot of room in the park don't overdo it. It is helpful to paint labels and your initials on the tins and to use the same tin for the same product each time, otherwise you may find that the peanut butter is always in the last tin you open.

Plastic bags are also very useful. However, as they are easily punctured some further protection is needed. They can be packed inside a billy or you can get your mother/wife/sister/girlfriend to sew some calico bags. 7 x 9 inches is a useful size and a 9 inch length of tape sewn at its middle to the bag about 2 inches from the top will allow the bag to be tied shut. Sugar, porridge, milk powder, frozen vegetables etc. can be carried in plastic bags with one or more of these inside each calico bag. The calico bags will last for many trips and they fit particularly well in the pack.

DISPOSAL

Always burn discarded plastic bags otherwise they will last for ever. Cans should be BURNED to destroy the protective tin coating and so aid rusting, BASHED to relieve your tensions and BURIED. (The three Bs). Otherwise carry plastic bags and cans out with you. Rats, mice and opossums are attracted to huts by food. Do not leave any food scraps in or around huts to attract these pests.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Once again, with reference to the "Cooking for Rampers", it appears that I should not be receiving your newsletter since I disagree with your recipe.

POG: (This word appears in the Trampers Dictionary, but I am unable to find this new word - porridge.)

(1) Take porridge from previous recipe, dig up uncooked porridge and bury cooked porridge.

(2) Make sure uncooked porridge just dug up is "boiling water" porridge. (3) Boil water, add salt, then add porridge to consistency required.

(3) Simmer for FIVE minutes.

TEST: Must be like concrete, i.e. when a spoonful is removed – a hole to remain.

Note for Editor: When sending out newsletter to Sue Gallagher and myself, kindly cut off recipes and burn them.

Yours etc.
Dave Ryrie.

PAST TRIPS
19th-20th September

TREE PLANTING
RETURN TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME
or YPRES REVISITED.

While conservation of our forests and mountains is of importance to all New Zealanders we as a group are much more conscious than the average person of the deterioration of back country areas. One of these in which we have a special interest is that part of the Ruahines in which our hut at Rangiwahia is situated and it is there that slipping and sickly looking bush is very noticeable.

Ever since the formation of our Club an effort has been made annually to assist in the fight against slipping hillsides by planting cuttings on the slips up to the swing bridge. This year it has become obvious to us all that the work was also required above the bridge and the Club as a Conservation Week exercise were asked to plant two thousand young pine trees on the slips.

On most weekends it is possible to glimpse the odd person or group passing hurriedly over the slips. On Saturday, 19th there was something different about the place. From the heights there might have appeared to be small groups of very busy spiders dangling on precarious looking slopes or other ant like figures moving across bare patches apparently cultivating them. It was, of course, the planting party who, with tools and instruction in the correct technique from Chris Coe or the Forest Service, were hard at work. About 1500 trees were planted during the weekend and a month later they were seen to be healthy. Those taking part were Peter Baxter, Mike Stott, Hamish Tough, Gavin Rogerson, Kevin Pearce, Peter Flaus, Lawson Pither, Sue Streeter, Bill Olsen, David Ryrie, Owen Robinson, Adrian Turner, Heather Crabb, Lynne Potter and. Keith Potter.

3rd-4th October

ROARING STAG LODGE

On Saturday 3rd October, seven males, two females and one of indeterminate character strolled through sunlit bush and beside bubbling streams for four hours reaching Roaring Stag Lodge in time for lunch. This hut is located in a delightful setting of bush beside the Ruamahanga River. Later in the afternoon five more members arrived, after a tramp in most pleasant weather conditions. Regarding the route it is interesting to note that after crossing the low ridge it is necessary to follow the Mangatainoka down stream to the second large creek which runs into it. Red paint has been used to mark the rocks at the junction and the track starts about 50 yards up it. From the map which was being used it appeared incorrectly that the track continued directly over the Mangatianoka and up the opposite slope.

On Saturday night the weather deteriorated and the Ruamahanga was running bank to bank by Sunday morning. The party left early with what was thought to be plenty of time in hand for the journey. On reaching the first crossing of the Mangatainoka what the previous day had been a splash through the shallows had become rather more difficult and the second crossing, no more than two hundred yards from the cars was impossible.

The party spent a reasonably comfortable night in a farm shed and were all able to cross the river next morning without difficulty.

Many lessons were learned on this trip but one which was brought home to all was the speed with which these mountain streams can flood and go down again. The wisdom in waiting for the waters to return to normal level was obvious.

Those taking part were: Heather Crabb, Brad Owen, Michael Barham, Ian Little, Peter Baxter, Christine Baxter, Adrian Turner, Peter Wallace, Richard Ussher, Sue Gallagher, Tony Moss, Mike Stott, Sue Streeter.

AN ALTERNATIVE VERSION OF THE ROARING STAG LODGE TRIP.

Two day weekends are too short to adequately recover from a week's work. On the Friday before this trip a discussion between some Club members who went on the trip, was overheard. The topic was the use of 'floods' to obtain long weekends. (N.B. this discussion really did take place!) It is also known that one member, who is a school teacher, organized with her headmaster for a relieving teacher to be available in case she did not return from the trip in time for school on Monday morning. On Saturday morning the party noticed a carlet not far from the car park but across a small streamlet. So that when on Sunday a few lights showers brought the stream up a little and discoloured the water slightly the "river" was declared to be "flooded". This necessitated an extra night out and where better to spend it than in the chalet.

Some of the party, of course, diligently placed a foot in the water first in a "determined effort to cross." No risks were taken however, as the flood was sure to recede next day.

If any deny these facts ask them if they enjoyed their experience.

IN RETROSPECT OF ROARING RIVER LODGE AND OTHERS.

Is the age of chivalry dead? What price Sir Gallahad and his gallantry? Equality is the term of convenience. Let us consider each in turn.

CHIVALRY – "After you. Ladies before gentlemen. If you survive crossing that creek then WE will follow and show you how to do it." "After you. Knock that snow off that branch. I want to get past without getting my feet wet." When Guinevere hesitates – "Stop meesin' about and get a move on woman!"

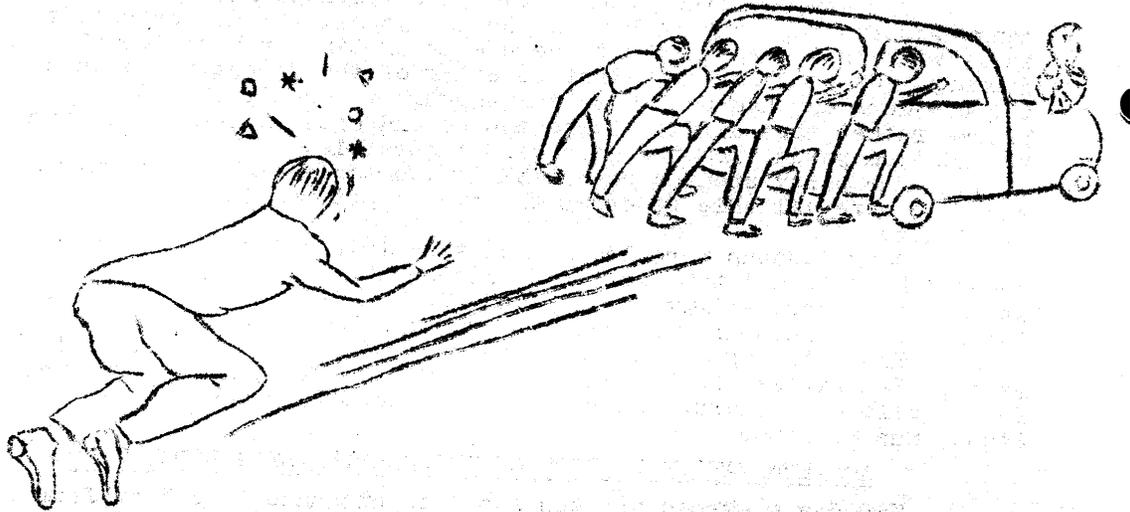
GALLANTRY – "Help I'm floating away!" "Oh, that's alright," says one of our bold knights in tarnished armour. "Here, I'll stand with my 13 stone 11 lb 4½ ozs on both your feet and anchor you. You'll pardon, of course, the hobnailed boots!"

EQUALITY & LIBERATION - The oft quoted terms which explain all! Now because there are 11 of us and 4 of you and our armour would be damaged by "stacking sardine style," some bodies are going to sleep outside. Two out of the four female members were forced by weight of numbers to spend the night in the paddock with the sheep whilst our radiant heroes spent a most comfortable sojourn by a roaring fire in great luxury. ANON.

ODE TO AUTURERE

With apologies to Wordsworth.

He that is of good Devon,
Gave orders for border number seven
To run up the road on bare feet
In the wind and the sleet
Pushing before a car in great awe
Whilst to the rear he did roar! ANON.



DISCLAIMER: The Editor will not be held responsible for any items included in this newsletter by the typist.

The opinions published in this newsletter are not necessarily the opinions of the typist.

P.N. TRAMPING & MOUNTINEERING CLUB
NELSON LAKES CHRISTMAS TRIP 1970/71

GUFF SHEET 1.

10/10/70

THOSE TAKING PART:

Kevin Pearce⁺ Leader. 378 Botanical Rd. Phone 74-129 ext o 856(Bus)
Lawson Pither⁺ Subleader. Phone 85-616 7 - 8 p.m.
Heather Crabb Ladies! Leader Phone 77-668
Adrienne Thompson Ph. 74-203 Jane Scrymgeour
Adrian Turner " 79-586 Randall Goldfinch (Napier)?
Peter Sutcliffe⁺ " 85-616 Peter Baxter (Feilding. 658)
Grant Potter " 89-639 Sue Streeter (Tainui St. Ohakune)

⁺ to provide car.

Depart Palmerston North in time to catch 2.20 p.m. ferry to Picton on Tuesday 29th December.

Return on 10.40 p.m. ferry on Monday 11th January.

Non drivers will be booked on an earlier sailing if possible.

THE AREA TO BE VISITED

Lakes Rotoroa and Rotoiti lie in a mountainous area 55 miles S.W. of Blenheim at the head of the Bultler River. Maps (Nelson Lakes National Park, NZMS,164, 60c) and a handbook (Nelson Lakes National Park) are available from the Public Library, Bennetts or may be borrowed from the trip leader. Study of the area now will add to enjoyment later.

FOOD

All food except lunches, sweets, chocolate etc. will be communal and will be purchased by the leader. A recommended menu for lunches will be given later.

PERSONAL GEAR.

The following is a brief list of major items only. Please ensure that you have all these well before the start of the trip. All gear must be in good order and boots must be well broken in.

+ Pack + Sleeping bag + Sleeping bag cover or large sheet of polythene + Parka + Boots + Long woollen trousers and/or overtrousers.

Check these items now. Have you got them and will they still be in good order in December? (N.B. Christmas is coming.)

PHYSICAL FITNESS

Everybody who is coming on this trip will be physically able to complete it otherwise they would not have been allowed to come. However, the fitter you are the more you will enjoy your holiday. It is strongly recommended that all party members come on all Club trips during November and December. Distances of about six miles easy going but with heavy packs will be covered on the first few days.

OUR ROUTE

St. Arnaud, Travers Valley, Travers Saddle, Sabine Valley, Lake Rotoroa, St. Arnaud. There will be optional side trips to neighbouring valleys and peaks or rest days.

Most nights will be spent in tents as the excellent huts in the park will probably be crowded. All tents, ropes, billies etc. will be supplied.

COST

The estimated cost of \$25 includes all transport, all food except lunches and meals on the ferries. A \$2.00 deposit has been collected from all members and a further \$5.00 is now required to offset ferry fares of \$72.00. The balance will be required in December.