

P.N. TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

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

P.O.Box 1217,
Palmerston North.

NEWSLETTER 12/70

COMING EVENTS.

26th November

CLUB NIGHT - in the new club rooms, 227 College St.

Films: "Hazard" and "Bushcraft"

Supper Duties: Denis Moore, Robyn Paul & Lynne Potter.

3rd December

Coffee evening at the Nicoberg, 8 o'clock.

9th December

Lunch time meeting - bring your own cut lunch to the fountain area of the square. 12 midday until 2.00 p.m.

12th-13th December

The trip to PANATAWAEWAE has been postponed. Instead this trip will join the Wellington Tramping & Mountaineering Club's Bushcraft at Walls Whare (Tararua).

Meet at the Izadium 5.00 a.m. Saturday. Estimated time of return 7.30 p.m. Sunday.

Leader: Dave Ryrie. Names to Heather Crabb, Ph. 77-668

Cost approx. \$2.50.

17th December

Coffee evening at the Nicoberg, 8 o'clock.

24th December

NORTH ISLAND CHRISTMAS TRIP WITH RUSS LACEY.
Kaimanawa - Kaweka.

NOTICES

NEW MEMBERS

Brad Owen

Phone 79-169 ext. 852 (Bus.)

Dawn Ellis

" 87-789

Michael Barham

" 72-871

CHRISTMAS TRIP TO NELSON LAKES

All trippers who have not yet paid the \$5.00 installment requested in the Guff Sheet are requested to do so on or by 26th November (Club Night.) Cheques may be posted to P.O. Box 1217 P.N. The balance of the trip cost (exact amount unknown at present) will be required about mid December.

"SONGS OF THE HILLS"

A popular trampers' 100 page song book will be available from the Wellington Tramping & Mountaineering Club at a price of 40 cents. Contact Kevin Pearce if you are interested in having a copy of this new song book for Christmas.

FOR SALE

Nylon sleeping bag cover. Used only twice. \$4.00 or near offer. Contact Adrian Turner, Phone 79-586 after 5 p.m.

COOKING FOR TRAMPERS

PART IV. TARARUA BISCUITS

On longer trips such as those undertaken during Christmas holidays, weight and bulk of food must be kept to a minimum. Bread is not suitable for such trips being bulky, perishable and not particularly concentrated. World famous Tararua Biscuits are often used as a substitute for bread.

Recipe (makes 33 biscuits, enough for 6 days.)

14 oz. coarse Creamoata.

8 oz. white flour

6 oz. butter

5 oz. Sugar
1/3 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon plain malt extract or Golden Syrup.

Melt butter and rub into flour, Creamoata, sugar and salt. Mix in warmed malt extract or golden syrup. Add water (if necessary) to make a softish dough. Roll out and shape into biscuits. Bake in a moderate oven 30-40 minutes until pale brown.

ALTERNATIVE RECIPE

1 lb. wholemeal flour.
1/2 lb butter
1/2 lb honey.

Melt butter and honey together and mix in flour to give a thick pastry. Bake slowly 1/2 - 3/4 hour until pale brown. Some people like to add nuts, raisins etc.

5 oz. of biscuits per man per day is recommended. To aid rationing, biscuits should be made of even size so that a day's ration might be say five biscuits. The biscuits should be shaped to allow easy compact packaging. Correct baking will give a biscuit, which is not too hard to eat yet not too soft and crumbly.

The biscuits can be eaten with butter, jam, cheese, other spreads etc.

WARNING

Keep biscuits out of reach of other humans or else they will be stolen.

PAST TRIPS

24th 26th October

LABOUR WEEKEND - MIDDLE WAIPAKAHI.

After a 5 a.m. start and drive to Waiouru and then on to Access Road No.10, twelve P.N.T.M.C. members started on the Club's first visit to the new Kaimanawa Forest Park via the middle Waipakahi. Leaving the cars the party climbed steeply up through bush for about 2 1/2 hours to the tussock tops above the N.W. Waipakahi river which we followed N.E. for about one hour and then dropped, down via a steep track to the river.

After setting up the tents in a bush clearing alongside the river the party spent the remainder of the afternoon relaxing in the warm water of the river or exploring the bush and river flats.

Sunday morning dawned with a clear blue sky and a frost glistening on the tents giving a promise of the good weather to follow. About 8 a.m. five members set out up the river and in about 30 minutes reached a leading spur and the track into the central Rangatikei via Thunderbolt, 5375'. One hour saw the party above the bush and heading eastwards towards the main range of the Kaimanawa mountains. On reaching the point 5,400' on the map the surrounding country lay before us in all directions, far to the West the National Park with the still snow covered Ruapehu glistening in the sun and to the North Ngaruahoe and Tongariro with not quite so much snow. Further around we could see Lakes Rotaira and Taupo, the scars of the Tongariro power project and in the far distance steam rising from the steam bores around Wairakei.

The Kaimanawa peaks Ngapuketurua, Prominent Cone, High Cone and the high peak Makarako 5,665' were soon identified. Later the party pushed on reaching the main range at lunch time, where we spent an hour in the sun and then turned westward towards our camp by the river.

The remainder of the party spent the day swimming and sunbathing near the camp.

On Monday morning after breakfast we packed up and left camp climbing up again to the tussock reaching the cars on the eastern side of the Tongariro river around lunch time after a weekend of glorious weather and a fine tramping and camping trip in the central Kaimanawas. Those enjoying the sunshine were Kevin Pearce, Heather Crabb, Dennis Moore, Richard Clarke, Tony Moss, Stephen McGill, Michael Barham, Sue Streeter, Richard Ussher, , Russ Lacey (Leader).

7th November

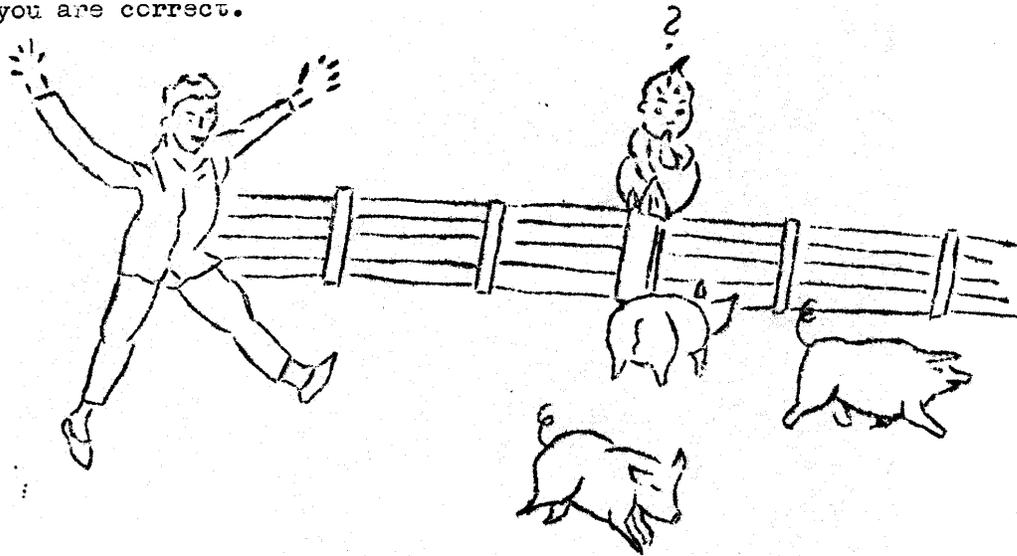
Fourteen Club members enjoyed a trip up the west branch of the Tamaki river on Saturday, 7th November. Most of the party crossed the saddle at the head of the stream and descended into Cattle Creek, a tributary of the Pohangina. Critics of the Ruahines who claim there is not a single large, healthy, fine specimen of a tree in these ranges were proved wrong. We all saw it.

Those taking part were Kevin Pearce, Peter Baxter, Owen Robinson, Steve Andrews, Adrian Turner, Brad Owen, Heather Crabb, Mark Annabel, Cheryl Salmons, Adrienne Thompson, Jane Scrymgeour, Dave Ryrie, Sue Gallagher, Dawn Ellis.

TEST YOUR PERSPICACITY

Shortly after a discussion on the menu for the Grande Annual Dinner - should we have pork or lamb - a strange happening was witnessed - but who was the culprit and what was his evil intent? Or was he merely trying to be helpful? Consider these questions, write your answers down and give yourself three A s if you are correct.

you are correct.



OVERDUE TRAMPERS.

In the event of a trumper being overdue would parents or wives please first ring one of the following Committee members:

Lawson Pither	Phone	85-616
Russell Johnson	"	87-777
Ron Haxton	"	83-994
Ian Hoare	"	83-448
Russ Lacey	"	81-436
Lynne Potter	"	79-499
Heather Crabb	"	77-668

TRAMPERS: Please detach this portion and give to parents or wives for their reference.

MOORCOC BASE -DEERFORD TRACK VIA NGAMOKO
REMINISCENCES OF THE RUAHINES.

DATE: 13th -14th Feb. 1970

Arrived Moorcock Base 10 p.m. Friday night. Pitched tent in frame of old garage. Ian Hoare, Graham Pascoe, Denis Arnott slept in it; Bill & Ann Olsen in Station Wagon. Started to rain 2.30 a.m. Hope not too wet in the morning. Our attempt to cross to Deerford track does not look too promising. Rained all night and still raining, mist right down. Sleeping bag wet. Cooked breakfast, Ann left 8 a.m.; we soon after raining, visibility nil. Should have reached Pohangina Saddle Hut about 11 a.m. Missed it in the mist, rain. Wandered down into the Tukituki, had lunch (in rain) and retraced our steps; Eventually found hut 2.30 p.m. Raining and mist. Everyone soaked, cold, cold. Staying here tonight going to make a do or die effort to get across in morning. Pray God weather clears or will have S.A.R. after us. It is still Saturday 10.30 p.m. Everyone in bed, very cold and still raining. Bill only one with dry sleeping bag but is sleeping on bunk with leak above! Hope weather better in the morning. Sunday. Left hut 7.15 a.m. Light rain. Visibility nil. Reached what we thought top one hour later. Headed off down ridge, decided wrong one, retraced our steps, found another likely looking one and tried that. 10 a.m. Two hours later another stop. We were losing height too quickly. Had lunch. Studied map. Mist cleared in one spot and could see farmland, but still could not see where we had gone wrong. Retraced our steps back to hut. Arrived 2.30 p.m. after a lot of compass work sweat and tears. Had a lot of trouble finding track down from hut, mist really thick. Arrived Moorcock Base again 5 p.m. Cadged ride to farm house to ring home and reorganise the transport.

Moral of the story: don't go tramping in the mist unless you know where you are going.

TRIANGLE HUT.

LEADER: Ian Hoare.
DATE: 28th Feb. - 1st March.
IN ATTENDANCE: G. Pascoe, S. Luxton, K. Pearce, D. Ryrie,
M. Watson, I. Hoare.

Saturday morning dawned fine and clear, and it was not long before our small party were tramping up the Oroua Valley. One of our members who had left his boots back home did not let this deter him, but instead carried on in the best of tradition, wearing Roman Sandals! When stumbling around looking for the track large appetites were soon worked up, and lunch was later served on a sunny river flat above the river.

From here the tramp continued on up the valley to Iron Gates Hut. Here, Kevin spent the night in order that he could tramp out to his car and drive around to "Rangi" next morning. This would have enabled the rest of the party to come out over that side via the Whanahuia Range.

The party then headed up the river towards Triangle Hut. The fact that they never arrived was not due to faulty compass, but due to the wrong location of the hut, marked on the leader's map. We were later to find the hut was another quarter of an hour up a tributary of the Oroua.

That night was spent under a fly, on a river flat just above the river. During the night the wind blew hard, and the fly had to be secured more than once. Luckily it did not rain terribly hard, and the river only rose slightly. Because of the deteriorated weather, and the lack of knowledge of the party's position, an attempt to cross the range over to Rangi was abandoned.

However, Kevin was not to know this, and so one member of the party went on down the valley to catch him before he drove away. In this he was only just successful, for it was not until Kevin was back at his car and ready to go that he was to be stopped. The rest of the party arrived a few hours later, after a leisurely tramp back down the valley.

EASTER TRIP 1970. KAWEKA RANGES.

TRIP LEADER : Russ Lacey.
DATE: 26th-30 March.
IN ATTENDANCE: Russell Lacey
Warwick Blanchard
Kevin Pearce
Ian Hoare
Kevin Chivers
Dean Chivers
Nigel Colling
Peter Flaus
Peter Baxter
Owen Robinson

On Thursday night at 5.00 p.m. ten quite keen blokes turned up at the Izadium ready for a good time. After getting ourselves organized into cars and packs packed away we roared off into the wild blue yonder!

For the first night we stayed at Lowry hut where four other people were staying also.

Early next morning we jumped into the cars and went down the road for about five miles to swamp cottage where we left the cars.

We waited there for a while for Bill Olsen and family but by 10 a.m. they had not arrived so we pushed on. The first part of the trip was a real hard slog up a spur leading up to a ridge that led to the Kiwi Saddle Hut. After a couple of rests we reached the top, with a reasonable breeze. The sight was beautiful, to be able to look across

the hills was really wonderful. The erosion in the region is really terrific. After a breather we kept on going, at the top of one side of a saddle just before Kiwi Saddle hut we had a rest, before another long graunch, to be followed by a steep descent down to a welcome hut, Kiwi Saddle hut.

After a good "KAWEKA STEW" we felt much better and jumped into bed ready for a good night's rest but the rivalry between two schools and one party member and his fair pink lace panties (girl's). After a while things calmed down sufficiently to go to sleep but even this was not safe, for a member rolled over and his falling fist gave a rather disgruntled person a bleeding nose.

Early next morning we pushed on towards Kaweka Hut, after a nice gradual climb to Castle Camp, where we had a rest, this spot is really good for a picnic so if you want one, I advise you to go there. Later we crept on uphill to Kaiarahi trig. There we left our packs and shot up Mad Dog Rill towards Mt. Kaweka. After an awe inspiring sight of Tongariro, Ruapehu and Ngaruahoe on a cloudless day we set off back down towards Kaiarahi. From there we climbed down towards the ??? where we sidled around to the left of the ??? to the Kaweka Hut, via a gigantic slip. The trip

down was one of speed and excitement plus stones on the inside of most boots. The Kaweka Hut was used again by some shooters so we camped down stream under the stars. The trip leader that night showed several party members how to “read the stars”.

The next morning we set off towards MacKintosh Hut for a bit of time filling. At the hut were seven kids who were destroying a live tree so dear old Russell told them off. This they did not enjoy. We went down stream where we had an initiation ceremony, a ducking in a much stirred up muddy pool. As we left the kids shouted out all kinds of abuse at us but; we left without wasting any extra energy that we had. We spent that night on the edge of the Tutaekiwi River where we did a bit more star gazing. Next morning we set off for the road stopping at the lakes where several members swam across to the other side after we were told we couldn't do it, and rowed back in a canoe we had found.

We set out again for the road which was about an hour or so away. That swim must have done us good for we chopped the time down to 30 mins - poor old Russell must have felt like a racehorse.

This trip could be improved by only one way and that is to spend more time in the Kawekas; four days is rather too short. Thanks to Russ Lacey for a very enjoyable time.

POHANGINA RIVER.

TRIP LEADER: Ron Haxton.
DATE: 14th March, 1970.
IN ATTENDANCE: Grant Potter, Kim Lupton, Adrienne Thompson,
Anja Suuring, David Ryrie, Heather Crabb,
Ian Hoare, Peter Baxter, Lyall Perris,
Owen Robinson, Bruce Hamilton, Kevin Pearce,
Stephen Mallett, Carol Stewart, Warwick Blanchard,
Brian Booth, Owen Mills, Alan Looser.
Ron Haxton.

Running slightly late five cars and one motor-bike left the Izadium on what promised to be a most interesting trip. The changing of day from the usual Sunday to Saturday did not seem to deter members, a good muster of 19 eventually starting.

Although none of our number had been on this trip before we had an excellent guide, Mike Martyn of the N.Z.F.S. for the first half hour of the trip. Our thanks must go to Mike for arranging permits. Anyone going into this area of the Ruahines would be advised to contact Mike as he knows the area well and has a lot of good advice to impart.

The going was easy, open paddocks, followed by a bush track paralleling the river and finally dropping down to the river bed. At 11.40 a stop was made for lunch by a delightful little pool below a small rapid. After "Tangs" all round the majority of the party ventured in for a swim.

After lunch the party broke into two to return home, the keener ones going down the river and the remainder returning by the track. The cars were reached by approx. 4.30.

Summing up the trip, although the pace was slow and the party did not get any where near Mid Pohangina Hut it was an extremely enjoyable tramp, proving the need perhaps for more similar trips.

SOUTHERN RUAHINE CROSSING.

TRIP LEADER: Dennis Arnott.
DATE: 13-19th- April.
IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Hoare , Kevin Pearce, Warwick Blanchard,
Graeme Pascoe, David Ryrrie, Keith Potter,
Malcolm Watson, Dennis Arnott.

Saturday morning saw us heading towards Pohangina Saddle Hut up a rather overgrown, and exposed to the wind track. Part of the time we were crawling the other half running between gusts of wind.

About two hours later we reached the hut and lunch was served. After considerable discussion we decided to bash on. An hour later we were on the Ngamoko Range, and in the wind again. Conditions were more comfortable, however, than our last attempt when we could not see where we were. A few hours south down the range, and another stop by a tarn just north of Tunupo. A tent was pitched - quite an achievement in the wind that was blowing. Tea was cooked, and a well nourished party crawled into their sleeping bags at the end of a stamina testing day.

The tent was blown down a couple of times, but somehow we survived the night and the breakfast which followed it. In strong winds and thick fog we started out, and after many exciting moments we finally reached Toka about mid-day. Just off the top of Toka we met Bill and his party and most of us rushed down Deerford Track. However, two were delayed, but half an hour later they reached the party. After a rest at the bottom of Deerford we were taken home by our mini-bus which proved to be very successful.

DEERFORD TRACK.

TRIP LEADER: Bill Olsen.
DATE: 19th April, 1970.
IN ATTENDANCE: Angus Lonie, Ross Batchelor, Robin Paul,
Peter Flaus, Grant Potter, Michael Wiggle,
Richard Clark, Bill Olsen.

On a dark, misty windy ridge as we neared the summit of Mt. Toka, we sighted a number of rapidly descending storm lashed trampers. Shortly after we reached the tops but quickly retreated to have our lunch down in the more sheltered bush.

WAIIOPEHU

TRIP LEADER: Kevin Pearce.
DATE: 26th April.
IN ATTENDANCE: Dave Ryrie, Anja Suuring, Lynne Potter,
Heather Crabb, Lawson Pither, Kevin
Pearce, Owen Mills.

Waiopehu (3,588') is a prominent peak behind Levin. Seven little niggers reached the Pipe bridge at about 10 o'clock (late start) and continued up the track for 3 hours but did not reach Edwards Shelter. Light rain did not detract from the enjoyment. After lunch we returned to the cars, sunshine (briefly) and Palmerston North. A Medium Trip.

AN ACCOUNT OF A CLIMB OF MOUNT EGMONT BY THE CLUB'S
PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND SOCIAL SECRETARY.

DATE: 11 th April.

IN ATTENDANCE: Lawson Pither, Bill Olsen, David Ryrie.

On Saturday 11th April the above top brass set off confidently for Hawera, arriving there without untoward incident. Using the very clear instructions they had been given they travelled for a considerable time from side to side of the town until eventually they discovered the Fire Station which formed the starting point in their search for the home of Mr. Rod Syme. Using compasses and after many adventures too strange and horrifying to be committed to paper our intrepid trio found his home. Showing great foresight our party were able to collect from him keys to Kapuni Lodge and Syme Hut and knowing that the Robson Lodge key could be obtained at the Lodge felt reasonably certain of a place wherein they could lay their heads on Saturday evening. (Confidence was the key note of the whole operation.)

The Lodge and Mount Egmont were discovered without difficulty and your top executives set off in a light drizzle carrying with them two keys and various other items amounting to about 40 lbs person.

When nearing Kapuni Lodge our party was hotly pursued by a very strongly built Daschund which was climbing with great strength in the company of Mr. Conway senior who is well known in climbing circles. The pair were pioneering a new climbing technique involving the use of a dog chain.

Luncheon was enjoyed at Kapuni Lodge and when your President tested the telephone in accordance with the instructions he was rather gratified to be told another group of Mountaineers were coming up the track. The climb from Kapuni to Syme Hut started off well enough for the first 500 ft. but from then on conditions deteriorated and our climbers fought every foot of the way against gale force winds.

A very pleasant night was spent in the well stocked Syme Hut. (Blankets, lighting and cooking equipment provided.)

On Sunday bright and early we realised that the wind had died down and a most enjoyable climb took place, crampons, ice axes and rope being essential for the last thousand feet on account of the ice. The weather was perfect where we were above the clouds, and the summit was reached at twelve midday. The first ascents for two of the party were celebrated with Milo and biscuits.

After roping down the party set a good pace and arrived back at Robson Lodge at about 4 p.m.

A weekend which was "The tops" in more ways than one.

WHARITE-COPPERMINE & COPPERMINE

TRIP LEADER: Ian Hoare.
DATE: 9th May, 1970.
IN ATTENDANCE: Heather Crabb, Adrienne Thompson, Jane Scrymgeour, Gavin Rogerson, Grant Potter, Bill Olsen, Lawson Pither, Warwick Blanchard, Ian Hoare.

On a dark, damp Saturday morning a party of nine assembled for what seemed likely to be a cold tramp. However, much to everyone's surprise and delight the weather cleared, and we were soon tramping up a chilly stream towards Coppermine Hut. On reaching the hut we were given an account of the history of copper mining in the area by Lawson. We had a "brew", then split into two parties - 3 bods going to Wharite, while the remainder went upstream in search of relics from the copper mining days.

The party going to Wharite climbed steeply onto the ridge opposite the hut, and then on towards the main Ruahine Range. On reaching the top the party donned longs, to bash through the overgrown track. 2½ hours after we had started from the hut we stood beneath the transmitter. We had lunch, and returned to the hut.

The other party meanwhile, had found one mineshaft which the hardier types explored. Further up the creek they found a waterfall, and a rope, used to climb around it. This, they discovered was rather slippery, though some managed to climb up it.

We came together again at the hut, and had a long rest, during which time we made good use of the bunks. We left and after a cold splash down the stream we arrived at the cars approx. 4.30 p.m.

BUSHCRAFT WEEKEND - TOTARA FLATS.

DATE: 15th - 17th May, 1970.

Enthusiasts Anja Suuring, Teresa Signal, Kevin Pearce, Warwick Blanchard, Lawson Pither, Peter Sutcliffe and Peter Baxter enjoyed and benefited from a weekend of instruction, experimenting and sun bathing. We camped at Holdsworth Lodge at the road end on Friday night. There were large numbers (70++) of trampers in and around and leaving the Lodge, on Saturday we tramped over to Totara Floats making use of map and compass on the way. The afternoon was spent pitching tents, crossing rivers and building bivvies. Sunday dawned fine and we headed for Mountain House where we had lunch. We returned to the cars by way of the Atiwhakatu Stream side track. All these who took part on this trip are more than sufficiently fit and experienced to go on Christmas trips.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND.
A Northern Crossing WAS MADE. 29th May-1st June, 1970.

Sue Streeter (Ohakune), Bill Olsen and Kevin Pearce successfully completed a Northern Crossing of the Tararua from Levin to Masterton on this weekend. Due to the libellous nature of this trip account these people will be referred to as x, y and z, not respectively.

We left P.N. at 8.30 p.m. and arrived at the Pipe bridge at 9.30 p.m. We reached Ohau hut two hours later and decided to sleep out. It was a clear frosty night. Next morning, after addict y had taken some acetyL Salycilic addiD (LSD) we set off up the Ohau river to South Ohau hut. After a short rest x headed up Yeate's track at a steady flat stick and arrived at Te Matawai Hut in 1 hour 45 min. y and z arrived 1 hour later. At 3 p.m. after lunch and a further dose of LSD for y we set off up Pukematawai. The sun set before we reached the summit. At 8 p.m. we arrived in the vicinity of Arete Bivvy. Now although y had previously visited the bivvy and x had seen it from the top of Arete on a previous trip great difficulty was experienced in locating it. This was finally done at 10 p.m. x had difficulty removing his boots which were frozen to his socks, y took more LSD and z fell asleep while cooking dinner. During the night a fresh westerly wind developed and we awoke to find a light mist.

On Sunday we travelled to Tarn Ridge hut taking 3 hours in the deep soft snow. The rest of the day was spent resting. An early start was made on Monday, we were away shortly after first light and reached Mitre at 12 noon. y was finding that LSD and water were not adequate substitutes for food. On the summit of Mitre x left y and z and proceeded at speed for Mitre Flats to inform Heather and our transport of our impending arrival. He reached the hut at 1.20 p.m. to find Heather and party gone. The message was given to another party which was about to leave for the road end. At 3.00 p.m. y and z still had not arrived although a lone trapper had reported seeing them near the hut. As all torch batteries had been exhausted x decided to head for the road immediately and thereby escape benightment. The trip out took 2½ hours. As there was no possibility of y and z getting out before darkness x, Heather and party left for home leaving y and z to their fate. y and z attempted to get out but were trapped by darkness. They eventually reached home on Tuesday afternoon.

How to find Arete Bivvy. (It is easily seen on clear days.)

1. From the summit of Arete proceed along the ridge N.E. towards Dundas for about 200 yards to a slight saddle. Leave the Ridge on the S.E. and descend, sidling slightly to the right until a terrace or bench is reached. The bivvy is on this bench.
2. From the tarn on the flat ridge to the south of: and below the summit of Arete (this tarn is on the line of snow poles which runs from Arete towards the Waiohine Pinnacles) head E to the edge of the ridge and descend a steep tussock slope to a small gully which runs parallel to the ridge. Travel up the gully (northward) for about 300 yards to the bivvy.

MITRE FLATS.

TRIP LEADER: Heather Crabb.

DATE: 31st May-1st June.

IN ATTENDANCE: Adrienne Thompson, Jane Scymgeour, Peter Baxter, Peter Wallace, Warwick Blanchard, Roger Russell, Heather Crabb.

The time taken on this trip into Mitre Flats Hut had better not be recorded. Suffice it to say time was taken to enjoy the very delightful scenery. As we passed near a farmer's shack the owner came out and spoke to us. An invitation to morning tea and freshly baked scones was appreciated but declined. We followed the river to the bush line. The track is well defined and easy but often fairly steep. A small slip is easily crossed as apparently recent work has been done on it. Just before reaching the hut there is a new suspension bridge with the old 3 wire one beside it. Those wishing to join a circus could try their hands (or feet) on the latter. The new one is recommended for others. The hut was occupied by several Venturer Scouts, other odd bods arriving at various times. The last three trampers to arrive decided it was too crowded so used their tent. Although the night was wild and windy they may have been more comfortable on the ground than we were on the bare platform built along two sides of the hut.

We regret that the more fit members did not have a chance to climb Mitre. A three day trip to Mitre Flats is suggested for this.

As our happy party neared the cars on Monday after a most enjoyable two days we were pleased to receive, from another party, news of Kevin, Bill and Sue who had made the Northern Crossing.

RANGIWAHIA.

LEADER: LAWSON PITHER.

DATE: 20th/20th-21st June.

IN ATTENDANCE: Lawson Pither, Michael ?, Peter Baxter,
Warwick Blanchard, Russ Lacey, Heather Crabb,
Ian Hoare, Grant Potter.

On Saturday four enthusiasts and one dog made their way to the club hut, found they were the fourth party to arrive that day and spent the night in the rather crowded hut. Four more members arrived the following day and were delighted to see snow bedecked foliage in the vicinity of the waterfall. They found the track rather overgrown, but the slips in a stable condition, while the tramper is helped tremendously by the new wire. Lawson's party mended a broken window, left a new saw, scrubbing brush and tin of Chemico, and fitted a new handle on the broom.

BLYTH HUT. SNOWCRAFT.

LEADER: Bill Olsen.
DATE: June 26th-28th., 1970.
IN ATTENDANCE: 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 & Bill Olsen.

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 practised. 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 7,500ft. 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 a forthcoming club trip.

Thanks to Sue all members enjoyed cups of tea in Ohakune. Sue's golden rule for the day: "Never drop your ice axe."

NOTES ON THE HIGH ALTITUDE HUT, RUAPEHU.

The hut is located near the Paratitotonga Saddle on the North west 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.

DAWSON FALLS AND SNOWCRAFT II.

LEADER: Kevin Pearce.
DATE: July 10-12th, 1970.
IN ATTENDANCE: Peter Baxter, Richard Clark, Bill Olsen, Owen Mills, Royce Hunt, Malcolm Watson, Kevin Pearce, Anne, David and Joy Olsen 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.

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.

Some excursions were made by the rest of the party 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 Minnie Caldwell, Peter Baxter, Ena Sharples and Kevin Pearce waltzed up the track with two of the said mattresses. A light mist obscured the view for the whole of weekend although it remained fine and calm. The hut was found to be in reasonable order.

Shortly after arrival and without warning or provocation, contrary to the Geneva Protocol on Chemical Warfare, Ena 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 Ena and Minnie 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 Ena would roll off the edge 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.

MANGAEHUEHU HUT TONGARIRO
NATIONAL PARK.

LEADER: David Ryrie.
DATE: 8th-9th August, 1970.
IN ATTENDANCE: David Ryrie, Lawson Pither., Sue Streeter,
Heather Crabb, Bill, Joy and David Olsen,
Adrian Turner, Malcolm Watson, Peter Sutcliffe,
Angus Lonie, Mark Annabell, Kevin Pearce,
Peter Baxter.

Anyone who thought that Mt. Ruapehu is just a one-sided, snow covered façade on which noisy and over-enthusiastic annual club trips in a bus vie for space to fall over, surely had their eyes opened on August 8th, when 14 member's of the club explored the southern side of the mountain. There is a wealth of tramping country, for us made more beautiful by a light fall of snow and the clean, cold weather which turned waterfalls to vast ice-sculpture and sharpened the edge of Girdlestone Peak, an ever absorbing and challenging spire which dominated the clear blue sky.

The Ohakune Mountain Road is usually open and suitable for most vehicles. We drove to the lower car park at about 4,000 ft. through rimu and beech forest. The track starts in the beech and crosses several small rivers, some with spectacular waterfalls, including the highest in the Park which tumbles over an ancient lava flow for over 100 ft.

A protracted stop was made for a brew, the magnificent view of Girdlestone seen up the valley and a discussion of the use of icicles in a perfect murder. After 1½ hours the track emerged into open tussock and ended - our guide, Ranger John Clay left us here, and we relied on trip leader David Ryrie from there on; a successful method, though some might question his sense of timing possibly due to the fresh snow and frequent stops to admire the almost impossibly beautiful mountain. The Mangaehuehu hut is at 4,200 ft., discreetly hidden till you get there but well sited, in every way. It represents the high aims of the Park Board, with accommodation for 24 in three rooms, running water, an excellent stove, carbonettes and an extensive cheese cooler, all for 50c a night.

The evening passed in animated cooking, appreciative eating, discussions on vertebrae, radioactivity etc. and plans for an early start, pre-dawn if I can see the stars from my sleeping bag. In the morning we split into three parties with three different intentions, but basically they all did the same thing at different times throughout the morning. We walked out by a high level route, gradually climbing to 5,500 ft. through the snow and descending via the Blyth Ridge to the Massey Alpine Club Hut. The route is unmarked but through quite open country and took between 2 and 3 hours. Under the conditions it provided the perfect second day, magnificent views of the Kaimanawas, the Ruahines, Mt. Egmont and the snow whipping off Girdlestone in soft, feathery plumes that indicated a wind of about sixty miles per hour. This prevented any ascent by the after all not so early starters. The going was easy, over varying terrain but with

a little ice work to satisfy the mind. It was one of those very satisfying trips where no one got wet or fell in a hole or burnt the stew - nothing to remember it by, except the mountain.

Footnote: It should be mentioned here that shortly after starting on Saturday morning there was an incident to remember. How could one forget? One member's Anglia having broken down between Waituna West and Rewa and a certain Cortina station wagon happening to arrive at an opportune time, it was decided to set a new world record for cramming people into a car. So the Anglia's passengers were conveyed to Ohakune. Owing to pressure from the top layers or bods it was impossible to count heads, so arms and legs were counted and divided by four. The tally thus arrived at was $38\frac{1}{2}$ persons in one station wagon!

SHUT EYE TRACK.

LEADER: Ron Haxton.
DATE: 23rd August, 1970.
IN ATTENDANCE: Ron Haxton, Alan Looser, Adrian Turner, Heather Crabb, Theresa Signal, Bruce Lockwood, Janice Rockell, Mark Annabell.

Eight hearty souls set forth slightly late after one member slept in. (Would you believe a watchmaker who's alarm clock broke down and who's watch gains time?) The drive to Shut Eye was an epic in itself. Following the Ruahine tramping map we went down one road only to find it blocked by foot deep mud. Backtracking we took a wrong turning (aided by incorrect road markings and some roads not marked at all) and eventually ended up in Waipawa. From there we had no trouble and arrived at the road end at 9.30.

The going was easy along the river but the party was held up by a spell of bush-bashing after following what we thought was the commencement of the track. The correct track was found and after a fairly tough climb the hut was reached at 1.30. There we brewed up and had lunch.

The trip back was uneventful and considerably quicker than the journey up. The cars were reached at 4.20. Moral of the trip - do not use tramping maps as road maps. A-A maps are far more comprehensive.

Typist's note: Tea always tastes better if you put water with it.

PURITY.

Sometime in August, on a special occasion, an unscheduled trip was taken to Purity Hut in the Ruahines by four members of the Club. Russ Lacey, Ian Hoare, Kevin Pearce and Heather Crabb climbed a steep hillside to over 3,000'. The track was easy and pleasant through the bush.

It was proved, this day, that the age of chivalry is not past. Heather was grateful to Kevin for carrying her pack. It was a gratifying change for her as, on a previous occasion, she had been driven at the point of an ice axe, to carry a certain pack weighing every bit as much as the owner.

The party found themselves between two layers of cloud and even the visual effect of this was fantastic, similar to Chiang Yee's sketches in "The Silent Traveller, A Chinese Artist in Lakeland".

Over a brew at the hut the possibility of the Club's maintaining the hut was considered. As it was raining the party remained in the hut for the afternoon, making brews and discussing various topics, then made their way back to the car at 4 p.m.

OTARERE HUT.

TRIP LEADER: Ian Hoare.
DATE: 29th-30th August. 1970.
IN ATTENDANCE: Sue Streeter, Lawson Pither, Mike Stott,
Kevin Pearce, Gavin Rogerson, Peter Flaus,
Russ Lacey, Ian Hoare.

At 8 a.m. on Saturday morning the first car load of trampers arrived at the track into Waihohonu Hut. After biscuits and several mugs of tea we trudged up the muddy track to the hut. Had it not been for the horizontal type rain and wind it could almost have been a summer stroll.

The hut was reached without too much suffering and after half an hour the second car load arrived.

From behind Waihohonu a new track sidled up, through the bush at first, then in the open, travelling west across the grain of the country. Two hours later we began to wonder where we were, as we had long since missed the as yet unmarked track.. However, we soon saw and heard the waterfall behind the hut and trudged into the hut. It was empty, brand new, and built to the familiar Lockwood design.

It was fairly late by the time stew was cooked and consumed so before long the new Dunlopillo mattresses were put to use. Next morning conditions had not improved, and the mist was as low as ever. The party separated – Sue Ian and Kevin returning to Waihohonu Hut via the Red and South Craters, while the remainder tramped back through the maze of fantastic rock knobs and lava spires.

At 3 p.m. Kevin, Sue and Ian stumbled into the hut after battling through gusts of wind and patches of frozen snow. A well earned rest was had before tramping back to the cars. We arrived home late after having troubles on the Desert Road with Lawson's car.

CLUB MEMBER RUSS LACEY RESCUED BY S.A.R. (TWICE)

On Tuesday 1st September, Russ Lacey, a stalwart of our Club, and a friend entered the Ruahines from Takapari Road for the purpose of deer hunting. When they did not return on Thursday evening as planned worried relatives contacted the Police. On Friday unsuccessful reconnaissance was made. Grave fears were now held for the safety of the missing men. On Saturday morning more than 40 members of S.A.R. entered the area. Among the searchers were Russ Johnson, Ian Hoare, Peter Baxter, Denis Amott, Kevin Pearce, Stephen McGill, Robert Trout and Denis Moore. Seven teams carried out a general search of the area bounded by Takapari Road, the bush edge, Pohangina River Center Creek and a tributary stream of Center Creek about two miles in from the bush edge. About mid afternoon the missing men were located fit and well after rifle shots and shouting had been heard. Neither could offer a satisfactory explanation of why they had not returned home. Certain items of ladies' clothing of the most intimate kind had been found in the search area. Everyone spent Saturday night at base camp. Next morning Russ Lacey and his friend were again missing. A contact search of the area in which they had previously been found was organised. Shortly after its start, base camp received a radio message that Denis had been attacked by a slasher and had been wounded in the hand. Denis was at the time in the company of some Manawatu Ski Club members. An argument between Denis and these skiers had earlier been observed. Denis was taken to hospital where he received three stitches.

Shortly after mid-day Russ and his companion were again located. This time Russ had a broken leg below the knee. He was carried by stretcher back to base camp. We packed up and headed for home, just as the rain started, after a most successful trial search.

N.B. Some of the above events are imaginary.

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

DATE: 19th 20th SEPTEMBER.
TRIP LEADER: LAWSON PITHER
IN ATTENDANCE: 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, Keith Potter.

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 of 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.

ROARING STAG LODGE.

LEADER: Heather Crabb.
DATE: 3rd -4th October.
IN ATTENpANCE: Brad Owen, Michael Barham, Ian Little, Peter Baxter, Christine Baxter, Adrian Turner, Peter Wallace, Richard Ussher, Sue Gallagher, Tony Moss, Mike Stott, Sue Streeter, Heather Crabb.

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 downstream 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 Mangatainoka 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 comfortably 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.

LABOUR WEEKEND MIDDLE WAIPAKAHI
KAIMANAWAS.

LEADER: Russ Lacey.
DATE: 24th -26th October, 1970.
IN ATTENDANCE: Kevin Pearce, Heather Crabb, Dennis Moore,
Richard Clarke, Tony Moss. Stephen McGill,
Michael Barham, Sue Streeter, Richard Ussher,
Peter Wallace, Gavin Rogerson, Russ Lacey.

After a 5 a.m. start and drive to Waiouru and then on to Access Road No, 10 saw twelve P.N.T.M.C. Members start on the Club's first visit to the new Kaimanawa Forest Park via the middle Waipakehi.

Leaving the cars the party climbed steeply up through bush for about 2½ hours to the tussock tops above the N.W. Waipakahi river which we followed N.E. for about 1 hour and then dropped down via a steep track to the river.

After setting up the tents in a bush clearing alongside the river the party's spent the remainder of the afternoon relaxing in the warm water of the river or exploring the bush and river flats.

Sunday morning dawned with a clear blue sky and a frost glistening on the tents giving a promise of the good weather to follow.

About 8 a.m. five members set out up river and in about 30 minutes reached a leading spur and the track into the central Rangatikei via Thunderbolt 5,375'. One hour saw the party about the bush and heading eastwards towards the main range of the Kaimanawa mountains.

On reaching the point 5,400 on the map the surrounding country lay before us in all directions; far to the west the National Park with the still snow covered Ruapehu glistening in the sun and to the north Ngaruahoe and Tongariro with not quite so much snow. Further around we could see Lakes Rotoaira and Taupo, the scars of the Tongariro power project and in the far distance steam rising from the steam bores around Wairakei.

The Kaimanawa peaks Ngapuketuru, Prominent Cone, High Cone and the high peak Makarako 5,665' were soon identified. Later the party pushed on reaching the main range at lunch time, where we spent an hour in the sun and then turned westward towards our camp by the river. The remainder of the party spent the day swimming, and sunbathing near the camp.

Monday morning after breakfast we packed up and left camp climbing up again to the tussock, reaching the cars on the eastern side of the Tongariro river around lunch time after a weekend of glorious weather and a fine tramping and camping trip in the central Kaimanawas.

A TRIP TO TAMAKI, EASTERN RUAHINES.

LEADER: Kevin Pearce.
DATE: 7th November, 1970
IN ATTENDANCE: Kevin Pearce, Peter Baxter, Owen Robinson,
Steve Andrews, Adrian Turner, Brad Owen,
Heather Crabb, Mark Annabell, Cheryl Salmons,
Adrienne Thompson, Jane Scrymgeour, Dave Ryrie,
Sue Gallagher, Dawn Ellis.

Fourteen Club members enjoyed a trip up the west branch of the Tamaki river on Saturday, 7th November. Most of the party crossed the saddle at the head of the stream and descended into Cattle Creek, a tributary of the Pohangina. Critics of the Ruahines who claim there is not a single large, healthy, fine specimen or a tree in these ranges were proved wrong. We all saw it.

"THE SOUTHERN"

LEADER: Bill Olsen
DATE: 27th-29th November.
IN ATTENDANCE: John Foote, Dave Ryrie, Dawn Ellis, Ian
Hoare, Grant Potter, Peter Baxter, Kevin Pearce,
Tony, Michael, Mark and Sue Morrison,
David and Bill Olsen.

The P.N.T.M.C. "aged" a bit more as members completed the first Otaki to Kaitoke Crossing. Field's Hut was reached Friday night. At 5.59 a.m. the keen trampers set off for Vosseler in overcast conditions. Morning tea was enjoyed at Vosseler by all before the party set out to explore derelict Kime Hut. Hector (5016') was climbed by 11 a.m. From this point high winds (60 m.p.h.) battered the party, most of the way on the tops to Alpha Hut.

Sunday dawned a summer day and ideal conditions were experienced both on the tops and in the clear swimming holes of the Tauherenikau River. Some sunburned faces were noted.

WALLS WHARE - BUSHCRAFT WEEKEND.

LEADER: Dawn Ellis
DATE: 12th-13th December.
IN ATTENDANCE: Peter Wallace, Richard Clarke, Mark Annabell
Peter Baxter, Grant Potter and Dawn Ellis.

At 5.50 p.m. six P.N.T.M.C. members left Palmerston for Walls Whare. After an unscheduled stop by the train, a long walk, a bus ride and another long walk we arrived at Walls Whare.

On Saturday we were given instruction on packaging, gear, bivvy building, fire lighting and tent pitching. That night a talk was given on bush behaviour. About ten or fifteen odd bods arrived on Saturday afternoon from all manner of strange places.

Sunday morning was spent putting into practice the instruction we had been given on river crossing. After a short stroll on Sunday afternoon the six P.N.T.M.C. members took over Woodside Railway station. The members received many strange looks from the local inhabitants. At 6.45 the railcar arrived and took us back to P.N.

NELSON LAKES CHRISTMAS TRIP.

LEADER: Kevin Pearce.
DATE: 29th Dec.- 11th Jan. 1971.
IN ATTENDANCE: Kevin Pearce, Adrienne Thompson, Cheryl Salmons,
Heather Crabb, Jane Scrymgeour, Sue Streeter,
Adrian Turner, Brad Owen, Grant Potter, Peter
Baxter, Peter Sutcliffe, Lawson Pither, Randall,
Goldfinch.

On 29th December thirteen members in high spirits travelled by car and ferry "Aramoana" to St. Arnaud, Lake Rotoiti and camped there for the night. The next day party equipment and food were sorted out and we left the camping ground in fine warm weather at 8.30 a.m. to tramp to Lake Head Hut which we reached at 12.30 p.m. Peter Sutcliffe used his canoe taking approximately 1½ hours to the envy of the rest of the party. After lunch and a swim we travelled up the Travers River Flats to Shift Creek where a suitable camp site was found. On New Year's Eve, after a nourishing breakfast of macaroni cheese and Rissol-nut we followed the Travers river to a camp site near John Tait Hut.

Members celebrated the passing of the old year in their various peculiar ways, our President wearing his Christmas Dinner party hat, others talking far into the night despite such ladylike injunctions as to "shut up", "belt up" or "put a sock in it" flashed in Morse code from the next tent; whereupon a young reveller emerged to let off crackers in the still night causing three young ladies to stiffen out in their sleeping bags, thinking it was a hunter going berserk with his rifle.

On 1st January the party split into three groups. Adrienne, Cheryl, Heather, Jane and Adrian remained around camp and, rambled further up the Travers Track. Brad, Kevin and Peter Sutcliffe left camp at 5.30 a.m. and climbed Mt. Cupola, 7396', returning to camp by 5.30 p.m. Sue, Grant, Lawson, Peter Baxter and Randall left camp at 5.30 a.m. and climbed Mt. Travers, 7671'. All enjoyed the magnificent views of surrounding mountains and there was much shutter-bugging. The party returned to camp by 5.45 p.m. After a heartily enjoyed dinner most members retired to their sleeping bags only to be disturbed by weird ethereal beings haunting the camp and uttering soul searing moans. Glances which clearly said "I don't believe in ghosts" were effective in exorcising them. We left this camp site on 2nd January proceeding up Travers Track to Upper Travers Hut which was occupied. We set up camp nearby. The weather had turned cloudy and cooler. The following morning had a shock in store for our trip members. A Yeti had entered camp and somehow become attached to the tree which sheltered our cooking facilities. It was a Yeti with taking ways apparently as he was wearing Lawson's parka, and overtrous. The party again split into three groups. Kevin, Adrian, Brad and Peter S. climbed Mt. Travers reaching the summit at approx. 11.30 a.m. with fine clear visibility.

Adrienne, Cheryl, Heather, Jane, Peter B., Lawson and Randall left camp at 8 a.m. to climb Kehu Peak, 7275', or generally have a good look around. It was

confusing to know which was the Kehu Peak amongst many other peaks. Peter B. and Randall climbed the peak nearest to Upper Travers Hut. Before returning to camp everyone enjoyed glissading in a patch of snow. Sue and Grant remained around camp and prepared the evening meal. The weather deteriorated becoming cold and overcast. We woke on 4th Jan. to the sound of pelting rain and gusty wind. The hut becoming vacant our party rapidly moved in and settled down for the day cooking, drying clothes and playing cards. Some bods went for a walk in the afternoon when the rain stopped.

We left the Upper Travers Hut at 8.30 a.m. on 5th Jan. to cross the saddle into the Sabine Valley. The party reached a tarn on the saddle top at 10.30 a.m. One hour was spent going along to a larger tarn nearer Rainbow Pass. Snow markers were followed down part of the way. We then cut down through bush onto a scree, where we had lunch. We sidled across to the correct valley. This led down to the Sabine Track. The deep gorge was viewed with amazement, a 120' rope being lowered from the bridge remaining dry at the end. Sabine Forks was reached and camp was set up 20 minutes up the West Branch. Here inquisitive robins honoured us with visits into our tents.

After dinner as on several other nights we serenaded the night with songs from our one song book, craning over each other's shoulders to read the words, some having to read them upside-down! We left the camp site at 9.30 on 6th Jan. heading up the track to Blue Lake Hut which was reached at 2.00 p.m. The remainder of the day was spent swimming in the icy cold lake and generally cleaning up.

The next day, we walked past the Blue Lake to see where the stream emerged through the moraine wall, then we followed over this to Lake Constance, where perfect reflections were seen. On the return mist rapidly came down. After lunch the party left the Hut to return to the previous camp site above the Forks. On 8th Jan. we followed down the Sabine River track and took time for swimming now and again. We reached the Sabine Hut at 4.30 p.m. where a box of food having been arranged to be left for us, was carried back to camp, ½ hour back up the track near the edge of the river. A fine dinner was enjoyed.

On 9th Jan. the party split into two groups for the remainder of the trip. Cheryl, Sue, Peter B., Peter S., Brad, Lawson and Randall continued along to Sabine Hut where from the back of the hut the Mt. Cedric, 5026', track leads up through birch forest. The track was followed, map in hand, to the Cairn across the ridge tops where they had lunch. The view from Angelus across the lake was terrific with coloured rocks.

Lake Angelus provided good swimming. Adrienne, Heather, Jane, Adrian, Grant and Kevin continued around to Sabine Hut where we commenced climbing up to the ridge line. The track tended to meander for a considerable distance on the tops until reaching Tier Stream where lunch was consumed. We continued downstream for a short distance before arriving at a shepherd's cottage. At this point a well defined track led through farm land and partial bush. While tramping on this part of the track three young quail and parents were observed. We set up camp beside the Hodgson Stream.

Some of the first party climbed Angelus Peak, 68371, in 1½ hours, and returned to the hut for a fine morning tea the others had prepared. Then the group left Angelus Hut tramping along Robert Ridge, marked with dark red paint crosses on the rocks. There were terrific views of Speargrass Creek and Hut. Peter S. separated at 3 p.m. to get his canoe from Lake Head Hut. The remaining group reached the West Bay car park or Lake Rotoiti at 4.40 p.m. The weather once more was fine and hot. In the meantime the second party left their camp site with a steady climb for approximately two hours onto a bush covered, swampy plateau. We then dropped a short distance to a tributary of Maud Creek. Then we sidled around up to a ridge and continued to drop to Speargrass Creek for lunch. The creek was followed for some distance. The track had to sidle around ridges until we reached the West Bay car park of Lake Rotoiti at 3.30 p.m.

We camped once more at St. Arnaud and the following day a happy band of trampers returned home by car, ferry “Aranui” and train.