



**PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING &  
MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (INC)**  
P.O. Box 1217 Palmerston North

**NEWSLETTER**

Hon. Secretary,  
Heather Crabb, 77-668.

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COMING EVENTS.

31<sup>st</sup> August. CLUB NIGHT.

At the Society of Friends' Church Hall, 227 College St., behind  
the West End Chemist, at 7.30 p.m.

SUPPER DUTIES: Bruce Lockwood, Roger Clarke, Tony  
Croad.

2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> September. CROW HUT.

Grading: Medium Cost: \$2.50 approx.

Depart Izadium: 6.00 a.m. Saturday. Leader: Owen Robinson, phone 88-

512.

10<sup>th</sup> September. NORTH OHAU.

Grading: Easy Cost: \$1.10.

Depart Izadium: 7.00 a.m. Sunday. Leader: Trevor Stretton, phone 84-

925.

13<sup>th</sup> September. COMMITTEE MEETING.

At Bruce Lockwood's, 39 Limbrick St., 7:30 p.m.

16<sup>th</sup>-17th September. KAIMANAWAS.

Grading: Fit, Cost: \$4.00 approx.

Leader: Ian Hoare, phone 83-448.

For details, departure time etc., ring Ian.

23<sup>rd</sup>-24th September. SNOWCLIMB, EGMONT.

Cost: \$4.30 approx. Depart Izadium: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

Leader: Brad Owen, phone 83-467.

28<sup>th</sup> September. CLUB NIGHT.

At the Society of Friends' Church Hall, 227 College St., at 7:30 p.m.

SUPPER DUTIES: Ian Hoare, Richard Clarke, Peter Colpman.

CHRISTMAS TRIP. 1<sup>st</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> January.

Members wishing to go on this trip please contact Trevor Stretton, 84-925, as  
bookings have to be in very soon.

NOTICES.

Club badges and maps of the Tararuas and Ruahines are available from Bruce  
Lockwood at a reasonable cost. For copies of "Food for Tramping Trips, 10c each, contact  
the Secretary or Bruce.

COMMITTEE

John Williams is leaving us for a year and the deep, deep south and his resignation

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from the committee has been accepted with regret. Thank you for your services, John and all the best for your position in Antarctica.

Keith Potter has been elected to replace John on the Committee.

WELCOME HOME to Ron Haxton who has been seeing the sites in England and on the Continent.

#### ASCENTS LIST

Peak Baggers, don't forget to hand in to the Secretary details of your successful climbs. Details required: Name of peak (and location if not well known), date of climb, route, persons in the successful party.

#### NEW MEMBER:

Welcome to Ian McIntosh, 29 Pitt St., Palmerston North.

#### PAST EVENTS.

##### 15<sup>th</sup>-16th July. RANGIWAHIA.

At precisely 0700 hours, a convoy of five dedicated trampers set off in the general (very general) direction of Rangiwahia after a week of bad weather, and on the previous Friday a thunderstorm, with promises for it is to continue from the Weather Office.

Somehow the other car in the party got the ridiculous notion that the Volkswagen (conveying the leader) that shot into the lead, after waking up the police station to drop off our particulars, knew the way. Well, it didn't. A couple of miles out of Mangaweka it realised it was on the wrong road, so it stopped. After being redirected by the locals we eventually arrived at the car park. At this point the taxi went back home and the VW was pushed up the hill.

At the park we met up with the Glaxo Social Club (a party of 9) who were also heading for Rangi. The total supplies for one of their members was two dozen cans of lager and a blanket. Our party arrived at the hut at approximately 1200 hours with the "Glaxians" 15 to 45 minutes behind.

With nothing better to do ? the two parties joined forces and headed off in the direction of Mangahuia to find suitable snow to play on with their plastic bags. One of the Glaxians strapped strange contraptions onto his feet mumbling something about snowshoes. In fact they were so successful he left them stuck upright in the snow for posterity.

On arriving back in the hut we set about making the stew, much to the envy of our hutmates. After tea there was much singing and high spirits (about 75 proof.) Then nine people crammed onto the top bunk, and the balance slept? underneath.

On awaking breakfast was made and meanwhile certain goody people stayed at the hut and cleaned up, a party of 6 climbed Mangahuia. It was very icy and on the top it was very windy and quote 'as cold as a penguins instep' unquote. After lunching on 2 squares of chocolate and half a barley sugar, a whole one for the leader (leader's privilege -- like the right to snore) we made off down. The wind and ice took a toll of one toboggan and several plastic bags but no people (almost though.) We all set off homewards together, the front runners arriving back at the car park, 40 minutes from the hut.

Trip members: Glenn Dixon, Tim Short, Chris Dench, Ian McIntosh, Peter Croad (leader.) Many thanks to Chris's brother for the taxi service.

##### 22<sup>nd</sup>-23rd July. WAIOPEHU-GABLE END.

Departed Izadium, 7:15 a.m. on a somewhat bleak, dull, drizzling Saturday morning. Arrived at "the homestead" near the bushline at 8:45 a.m. after a short ordeal from the Ohau River in something, I still do not know what, but driven by a L.W.T.C. member. Five packs tied on with three foot of rope,

one could most aptly described as AMISS -- CARRIAGE.

Soon we are on the track to Waiopehu, in fact not on it, up it, straight up at least only for the first 20 minutes. Then with a quick shedding of excess clothes and dashing behind trees we were off once more. Once on a much gentler grading more conversation was intercoured, in the main a lot of hogwash, especially one certain member who kept jabbering on about milk shakes. By the time Edwards Shelter was reached, our only member of the fairer sex, having new boots was feeling the pinch, only it wasn't that, it was feet divested of skin. So due to the cobbler's fault we had to reduce our pace considerably and so finally but painstakingly for Judith we reached Waiopehu Hut around 1 p.m. Once settled in a full stomach was our first objective, then after numerous attempts at fire lighting success was finally made. So with nothing better to do we played cards, apart from that anonymous person who got out that brown rummy stuff, to which I must admit is very stomach warming.

Later a L.W.T.C. working party arrived and hence learning that to complete the Gable End Ridge from where we were is ten hours tramping. So with very low cloud, one lame member and two others with inadequate gear to spend a night in the open we decided to stay put. (Excuses, Excuses -- Ed.) Anyway the stew, that of which Judith did most of the cooking, was really great, that is until the matches were discovered. Later on with the addition of three deerstalkers making a combined total of thirteen we all somehow squashed onto the bench. Well, with only one female present and those deerstalkers when they got hold of that rum, you can only imagine the conversation. So if you were intending on getting to sleep you were out of luck.

The morning was lovely and fresh, so to reduce the boredom, Keith and I went to the top of Waiopehu and Man! was that cloud thick. We left the hut at 12:30 p.m. and made the bush line in good time, learning though that in future would be sensible to put your raincoats on during thirty minute hail storms. Well, even if the trip was unsuccessful it had its enjoyable moments.

One final thing, that unknown voice who on the way out persisted on giving false hopes to our limper has been tried and will be turned loose to the "Fog Dog."  
Trip Members: Judith Domney, Keith Margrain, Ian Hopkirk, James Langly, Tim Short (leader.)

#### SOCIAL EVENING, HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> AUGUST RESPECTIVELY.

A very successful evening was held on this (these) occasions, at Sue's, which was (were) enjoyed by the vast number of members who attended in each case.

Members: Heather Crabb, 9<sup>th</sup> August.  
Trevor Stretton, 10<sup>th</sup> August.

#### 11<sup>th</sup>-13th August. SNOWCRAFT II, RUAPEHU.

##### A TALE OF FAILURE AND LACK OF RESOLVE.

A plastic sheet was required for the removal of snow from the snowcave tunnel. Two of the party were sent to fetch such a sheet from the instructor's pack, a distance of about 300 metres (we are really with it!) They did not return. The third member was sent to discover the reason. He did not returned either. Meanwhile, the instructor continued to dig as best he could, reshovelling the snow several times before getting it to the tip head. Finally our gallant instructor decided it was time to sort the shirkers out, who doubtless were enjoying a hearty lunch in the shelter of the nearby Alpine Club Hut.

The first thing he noticed was a myriad of tracks in the snow. Next he found one of those pupils wandering aimlessly in circles or figures of much lower symmetry. The remaining pupils were also recovered in various states of disorientation and were mustered in the Alpine Club Hut.

After lunch resolve sufficient to brave the elements and complete the snowcave was lacking. The evening was spent matching feat of strength with feat of strength, ditto for feats of skill, daring and ludicrousness.

Sunday dawned as Sunday's do, and we set out on a compass bearing to locate a bluff suitable for practice of such advanced snowcraft skills as the use of barn doors as deadmen (anchors), how to travel in waist deep snow etc. As we neared the bluff our omniscient instructor benefactor and leader gave warning. The leading pupil decided to ignore this generous advice in a spectacular manner by walking fearlessly over the edge.

Those taking part were Brent Johnston, David Hay, Kevin Pearce and Tim Short.

TRIP LEADERS PLEASE NOTE:

Although the Secretary-cum Editor-cum General Factotum loves to let her imagination run riot manufacturing trip reports she is far too overworked and underpaid just now to do so, so please keep those trip reports rolling in and help to keep our newsletter vibrating with life and laughter. (Oh, Yuk!)