



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

NEWSLETTER

5/73

Hon. Secretary,
Kevin Pearce, 74-129 ext.871

COMING EVENTS.

28th May. FIRST AID COURSE

The St. John Ambulance Association will be presenting an excellent programme of films on accidents, their causes and treatment in the St. John Ambulance Hall, Cuba St., opposite the Showgrounds at 7.00 p.m. Club members are urged to see these films if possible and also to attend a First Aid Course for

which enrolments will be accepted on this night. The course will be weekly for a period of eight weeks. Further enquiries to the secretary, John Doolan, phone 75-312.

31st May. CLUB NIGHT.

FILM EVENING.

Three modern instructional films are to be screened.

1. Rock Climbing – Basic skills and techniques of rock climbing. Britain's leading exponents discuss the fascination this sport holds for them and famous mountaineer, Joe Brown, demonstrates his ability.
2. Snowcraft – A National Mountain Safety Council film made in New Zealand for New Zealand conditions. All those planning to go on the snowcraft course later in the year must see this film.
3. Such a Stupid Way to Die – A brand new colour film from the National Mountain Safety Council dealing with Exposure (Hypothermia.)

At the Society of Friends' Hall, 227 College St., at 7.30 p.m.

SUPPER DUTIES: Lawson Pither, Ian Hoare, Margaret Holterman Ten Hove.

2nd-4th June. KAIMANAWAS – QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

A fascinating trip into this range in the central North Island will be going up the Waipakihi River onto the tops and back down the ridge.

Grading: Fit Cost: \$3.65 approx.
Leaving Izadium: 6.00 a.m. Sat. Leader: Keith Magrain, phone 79-

303.

9th-10th June. MITRE PEAK.

Grading: Medium. Cost: \$2.00
Leaving Izadium: 6.00 a.m. Sat. Leader: Tim Short, phone 76-906.

13th June. COMMITTEE MEETING.

At 28 Carroll St., at 7:30 p.m.

16th-17th June. DIGGERS HUT

Day trip.
Grading: Easy Cost: \$1.10
Leaving Izadium: 6:30 a.m. Leader: Chris Dench, phone 79-413

23rd-24th June. BLUE RANGE -- COW CREEK HUT -- RUAMAHANGA RIVER

A delightful bush and river round-trip in the Eastern Tararuas.
Grading: Medium. Cost: \$2.00
Leave Izadium: 6.00 a.m. Sat. Leader: Trevor Stretton.

28th June. CLUB NIGHT.

In the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College St., at 7:30 p.m. Films: "Conquistador of the useless," the biography of the French climber, Terray.
National Mountain Safety Council film on "Rockclimbing".
A short film on Shotguns.
SUPPER DUTIES: Heather Crabb, Peter Hyde, Anne Hayman.

30th June-1st July. MANGAHAO DAM -- PUKETURA TRACK -- HARRIS CREEK.

Round trip. Grading: Medium.

1st June. HARRIS CREEK

Grading: Easy.
For details of both these trips rang Trevor Stretton, phone 84-925.

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PAST EVENTS

7th-8th April. BUSHCRAFT COURSE.

The Bushcraft Course was once again held in the Rangiwahia area. There were 10 keen tramping types on the course, with one instructor (?) for the weekend and two (Fairy Godmothers) instructors for the Saturday only. Because of the lack of instructors not all subjects were covered as they should have been.

Before leaving the cars everyone set their compasses on a given destination. The lead person changed every 10 minutes and at first the compass course was strictly adhere to, but when it was realised that it is 'easier to go around Mt. Everest than to go over it' things went smoothly. When the campsite of last year's Bushcraft Course was reached everyone set to and erected overnight shelters.

The afternoon was spent discussing clothing, equipment and some important points on First Aid, covering unconsciousness, exposure and frostbite. Four o'clock saw everyone standing around a pile of food. Under the magical eyes of the two fairy godmothers it was transformed into – yummy – a gourmez's delight.

After breakfast on Sunday a fly and tent were erected (?) and then dismantled. After dividing into two teams compasses were used while tramping 'blind' in semi-heavy bush without the aid of tracks. Bearings were given and altered in order to impress upon all, that a compass and the sun, can be valuable aids to maintain direction while tramping in bush.

The those taking part -- Elizabeth Webster, Julia Herbert, Katharine Davy, Peter Darragh, Glenn Dixon, John Knox, Michael Russell, David Smithers, Michael O'Connor, Peter Mew, Heather Crabb (Inst.), Sue Streeter (Inst.) Russell Johnson (Inst.)

19th-23rd April. EASTER – THE F.E. FIASCO.

After spending a comfortable night on an emerald green grass river flat caressed by a gentle breeze two intrepid trampers set off into the forbidding wilderness naive of the perils which lay ahead. For two hours they strolled up the greasy, slimy creek. Then following a dynamic acrobatic display by the trip leader trudged on up along a long spur onto the main range in the range to Top Maropea. Despite the wind blown dust and dirt and cold driving rain our two intrepid trampers once again camped out.

The next morning dawned windy with a promise of rain to come. Again despite seemingly insurmountable barriers we trudged on along the range to Waipawa Saddle and down the full-length of the Waikamaka Stream to Otukota Hut. Had it not been for the instructions gained from a deerstalker we would never have found the hut. As it was it took us many tense minutes before we finally located it.

Light seemed long coming, but eventually it arrived, bringing with it yet another day. On we trudged down the Maropea River to the Mangatoa River then up the river to Colenso and on to Remutupo where due to lack of campsites we unfortunately had to stay the whole night in the hut. Being unaccustomed to these surroundings it was 9 o'clock before we finally left the hut in the morning. After getting blown over the range we sauntered down along the river and out arriving only minutes after the other party, and so ended the adventures of the two intrepid trampers, Kevin Pearce and Keith Margrain.

AN EMPHATIC CATEGORICAL REFUTATION OF AN UGLY RUMOUR

There is absolutely no truth in any rumours that the recent Easter trip to Lake Colenso was hut bound every night. This trip did in fact camp out on Friday night. We commend members for their stoicism.

For the benefit of members free from satiric cynicism and who will therefore not understand the above paragraph we suggest that they closely question trip members concerning their diurnal and nocturnal activities on this trip. We suspect that sleeping was not one of the activities.

THE OTHER EASTER TRIP

We regret that once again a trip leader has tripped up on furnishing a trip report on an Easter trip. We know that the trip members will be disappointed as they will be anxiously waiting to learn of their fate. Knowing that a trip report has been written one can only conclude that the trip leader has a GUILTY CONSCIENCE and is afraid or reluctant to hand it to the typist. However, we will extract it painfully from him for the next issue of "Struth!"

Meanwhile, up in the Ureweras some of our members, out with another club, made camp in a dry river bed. That night it rained and – ha-ha-ha! Well, really, aren't some people.....

23rd April. KAPAKAPANUI

Those "wise" ones who stayed behind at Easter had every good intention of justifying it by a day trip into the Tararuas. However, due to the weather, the common complaint that weekend, the trip didn't eventuate. That is, all arrived at the marshalling point in the good confidence only to be met by a continuing downpour and sharp wind.

Those who enjoyed, therefore, the morning's drive to Waikanae and back again were Vivien Mawson, Ann Hayman, John Knox, Martin Speller, Caroline Poore and Pauline Gibbons.

FOUND

A special notice to those who tramping naked in the Ruahines. One bush singlet placed in the wrong pack on Rangitriple weekend.

Phone Tim Short, 76-906.

26th April. SLIDE COMPETITION

A good attendance enjoyed the judging of the Annual Colour Slide Competition. Mr. John Cleland and Mr. John Brock were the judges. The 'people' section was won by Brad Owen, Lindsay Sandes was first equal with himself in the 'Tramping' section and Kevin Pearce cleaned up the 'Open' section. Next year it is proposed to have a competition for novice photographers and a second competition for the more advanced photographers.

30th April-1st May. WAIKAMAKA HUT (RUAHINES.)

In the usual tramping club fashion we were one hour late leaving the Izadium.

With our great knowledge of map reading, we all managed to go in the same direction. As we opened the first gate to proceed on to a "four-wheel drive, farm track type" road, we noticed the faint smell of petrol. We laughed as we thought of the white spirits leaking into Chris' pack. The smell, however, became stronger and when we noticed the great clouds of black smoke bellowing from the main working area of the car -- we stopped. After some investigation we found the petrol hose was disconnected. Having solved the problem, we decided to carry on with the tramp.

10.00 a.m. found us skipping up the rock strewn Waipawa River. Climbing the Waipawa Saddle we were forced to take frequent rests due to the heavy traffic. We finally arrived at the hut at 3.00 p.m. On our arrival three deerstalker's decided they would leave. Just as we were preparing tea, Adrienne, Randall and Greg arrived. While the fairer members of the sex prepared the meal, and Randall chopped wood, Chris, (our 'Honourable' leader) supervised -- from a horizontal position!

Next morning, at some unspoken hour, we were woken up by Chris beating a frying pan with a spoon.....

We eventually set out from the hut at 10 a.m. on our return journey. Whilst climbing the saddle, three members of the party decided to 'get in practice' for the rock-climbing course at Titahi Bay. About 5 yards from the top George got stuck. This called for a rescue operation. Ross immediately stripped -- his pack, and its straps were used in George's ascent.

We met the day party struggling to the top of the Saddle.

We had lunch at the Waipawa Chalet, and came to the track end at about 2.00 p.m.

Those participating:

Chris Dench (leader of the ____? ____)

Adrienne Thompson)

Ina (George) Te Wiata) rock climbers

Mary-Ann Whitehead (demolition expert)

Vivien Mawson)

Jane Scrymgeour) birdies

Ian Hoare (arbitrator)

Ross Goodman (rescue operator)

Peter Darragh (card Shark)

Randall Goldfinch)

Greg) wood choppers.

5th-6th May. ROCK CLIMBING

Our trip leader took his duties seriously and had arranged with Hughie for a small patch of fine weather. (It is a pity that the leaders often fall down in their weather arrangements.) Fine, calm, sunny, warm weather was enjoyed at the foot of the Titahi Bay sea cliffs on Saturday and more good weather was enjoyed on Sunday at Baring Head. This fine weather was quite local on Saturday.

Those taking part included Neil Wanden, John Knox, Elizabeth Webster, Jan Fielden, Christine Batt, Tim Short, Stuart McLauchlan, Mary-Ann Whitehead, Judith Domney, Rob Lusher, Janice Rockell, Dave Perry, Lawson Pither, Lindsay Sandes, Alistair Gaisford, Peter Croad, Kevin Pearce, Arlene Denby, Heather Crabb, Brad Owen, David Pither, Sue Streeter.

11th-13th May. NATIONAL PARK.

It takes considerable courage to leave the comforts of home on a wet and windy Friday night with the rather dubious aim of a night somewhere in the wilderness called Tongariro National Park followed by a weekend of brutal, gruelling and cruel exercise. There are obviously at least 13 courageous, or maybe just mad, people left in Palmerston North, for this is what they did.

Only one car sank on the road into Mangatepopo hut where it remained for $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour until the landrover came to the rescue and pulled it out. Despite this small delay we were in bed by 1:30 a.m.

Saturday morning dawned early but was rather smothered by the low cloud and pouring rain. However, this dull morning was enlivened by the well timed arrival of Sue who walked in the door as Tim expressed his opinion that Sue would never come. A considerable number of joyous remarks such as "it's probably snowing up there" heightened our spirits as we set off towards Ketetahi and an easterly direction by foot and people who made these remarks went west in the Landrover. Included in this party was a new super-light-weight trampler who left his pack at Turangi and survived the weekend on two tins of food and donations from his colleagues of less initiative. Congratulations on surviving this rugged test of durability, James.

The Landrover was taken to the base of the road at which a direct ramp to Ketetahi begins. This road is halfway through bush and the other half over rolling tussock land. The easterly party took a route through the South Crater, around the Red Crater through the Central Crater, around the Blue Lake and then to Ketetahi. We arrived at Ketetahi at about 1:30 p.m. to meet our smarter, drier and smugger half. The Ketetahi hut is well equipped with 22 bunks, kitchen sink, running hot water one way down the track, cold water the other way and about 200 yards upwards a refrigerator. Despite these luxuries complaints were heard concerning the lack of electric blankets and shortage of ice-cream.

At 4.00 a.m. Sunday morning, three party members who got a bit left behind bowled in. After performing something which sounded like a rain-dance they collapsed on the floor where we found them in the morning.

On Sunday the sun rose -- a hopeful sign, followed by us -- even more hopeful. The party split with one group tramping for about an hour up Mt. Tongariro and then descending through Ketetahi and back to the road. The rest of the party went back to Mangatepopo via Central Crater and the highest point of Mt. Tongariro. We had more luck with the weather and a beautiful view of the course of Saturday's tramp. The craters and the lakes could be seen. At Mangatepopo we were once again united and after a piece of remarkable engineering required to make one of the cars move (namely, pushing) we returned to Palmerston North.

Elevated member: Tim Short

Members (ordinary): Neil Wanden, Peter Hyde, James Read, Keith Potter, Mary-Ann Whitehead, Christine Batt, Eric Short, Peter Darragh, Ross Goodman, Glenn Osborne, Paul Ross, Richard Clarke, Sue Streeter.

Late-comers: Trevor Stretton, Allan Stretton, John Titchener.

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