



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

NEWSLETTER

7/74

Hon. Secretary,
Tim Short, 76-906
Membership Enquiries
Peter Croad, 80-284 (evenings)

COMING EVENTS.

20-21st JULY OROUA RIVER -- TRIANGLE HUT

This trip offers a chance of reaching Triangle Hut via the Oroua River instead of the more common route over "Rangi".

Leader : Keith Margrain Phone 79-303
Grading: Medium
Depart : Izadium 6.00 a.m.
Cost : \$1.50

21st JULY IRON GATES HUT

Also on the Oroua River. A trip for those who can't make the weekend trip, or who want an easier trip.

Leader : Karyn Bishop Phone 84-925
Grading: Easy
Depart : Izadium 7.00 a.m.
Cost : \$1.50

25th JULY CLUB NIGHT

7.30 p.m. Thursday in the Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street.

Where is the club going at Christmas? What are the Christmas trips all about?
Where did the club go last Christmas, and what did they get up to?

It has often been the tendency to leave these questions unanswered until late in the year. However, to have a successful Christmas trip such things as boat bookings have to be made early. Come along, and see what it is all about (slides), and perhaps decide to come along this Christmas yourself.

Supper Duties: Kevin Pearce (tea towels)
Mark Bell
Karyn Bishop

27-28th JULY ROARING STAG LODGE -- RUAMAHANGA RIVER

A trip through some of the best bush in the Tararua Forest Park. This area behind Mt. Bruce in the Wairarapa is too beautiful to be missed.

Leader : Trevor Bissell Phone 71-955
Grading: Medium
Depart : Izadium 6.30 a.m.
Cost : \$2.00 approx.

28th JULY RUAMAHANGA RIVER

A stroll along bush covered terraces. An unspoiled area of the Tararuas. Come, and see for yourself.

Leader : Ian Hoare Phone 83-448
Grading: Easy
Depart : Izadium 7.00 a.m.
Cost : \$2.00 approx.

3-4th AUGUST BLUE RANGE -- COW CREEK

This trip an Eastern Tararuas offers some of the best views in the Tararua Forest Park. Bring your camera, and friends for an ideal Medium Fitness trip.

Leader : Ann Hayman Phone 73-991
Grading: Medium
Depart : Izadium 6.30 a.m.
Cost : \$2.00 approx.

4th AUGUST BLUE RANGE

For those otherwise engaged on Saturday this trip will offer many of the advantages of the weekend trip.

Leader : Russ Johnson Phone 87-777
Grading: Easy
Depart : Izadium 6.30 a.m.
Cost : \$2.00 approx.

An F.E. trip will probably run in the same area. Details from, and names to Ian Hoare Phone 83-448

10-11th AUGUST NEILL -- WINCHCOMBE RIDGE

Some snowcraft experience could be an advantage on this trip which is generally considered to be the "tough" alternative to the Southern Crossing. Reasonable fitness, and full storm gear will be necessary.

Leader : Keith Margrain
Grading: F.E.
Depart : Izadium 6.30 p.m. Friday
Cost : \$4.50 approx.

10-11th AUGUST MT. HECTOR

A climb of the highest peak in the Southern Tararuas is possible. An interesting trip in the snow with good views if weather is fine.

Leader : Peter Croad Phone 80-284
Grading: Medium
Depart : Izadium 6.30 a.m.
Cost : \$2.00 approx.

11th AUGUST FIELDS HUT

For an easier trip with lighter pack this trip behind Otaki is ideal. Come, and see the weekenders stagger homewards.

Names to Mary-Ann Whitehead Phone 86-861
Grading: Easy
Depart : Izadium 7.00 a.m.
Cost : \$2.00 Approx

14th AUGUST COMMITTEE MEETING

Keith Margrain's residence (34 Milverton Ave.) at 7.30 p.m.

17-18th AUGUST SNOWCRAFT 1A RUAPEHU

There comes a time when every trumper wants to go a little higher. High hills are often snow covered, hence the need for snowcraft. This trip will not be a picnic, and is suitable only for those with a genuine interest in practising, and mastering snowcraft. Storm gear, snow goggles, and bivvy gear are essential. Names to be in by 12th August.

Leader : Kevin Pearce Phone 76-198

Grading: Medium to Fit

Cost : \$6.00 approx.

Depart : Izadium 5.00 a.m. Saturday

Return to Palmerston North may be late (9.00 p.m.)

24th-25th AUGUST GOURMET DINNER AT TOTARA FLATS

We have taught Massey Alpine Club about debating, and the next lesson is on gourmandising. All the "celdies" are expected to attend this combined P.N.T.M.C. – M.U.A.C. weekend trip to the Tararuas. Please get your names in by Monday night (19/8/74) so that the party can be divided into 4 man (woman) cooking teams. Each team will be responsible for their own catering. Come prepared for camping.

Rules

- (1) A minimum of three courses is to be served.
- (2) Gentlemen are to wear ties.

Leader : Kevin Pearce Phone 76-198

Grading: Medium

Cost : \$2.50

Depart : Izadium 8.00 a.m. Saturday

25th AUGUST PANTEWAEWAE

This trip is in some of the most inaccessible country of the Tararuas, and is consequently visited infrequently.

Leader : Mark Bell Phone 77-727

Grading: Easy

Depart : Izadium 7.00 a.m.

Cost : \$1.50 approx.

NOTICES

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to:

Pam Moar, 490 Church Street, Palmerston North. Phone 89-664

RESIGNATION

We are sorry to say farewell to Lynne Potter, who is going overseas very soon. Lynne has done much good work for the club as Secretary, and as typist.

PARKING AT THE CHATEAU TONGARIRO

The charge of 50 cents per day, or \$10 per season will be levied for parking at the top of the Bruce.

CONGRATULATIONS

... for becoming a financial member of the P.N.T.M.C. for 1974. There are now approx. 50 financial members in the club; please do not let any non financial members read this newsletter.

TRIP REPORTS

REPORT ON THE USE OF HOWLETTS HUT BETWEEN MAY 1969 IN JUNE 1974

Location: S.W. Ruahines, on the tops.

The total number of trips passing through, or staying in Howletts Hut for the sixty one month period was one hundred, and thirty one giving a monthly average of approximately 2 (2.1491). This figure gives little indication as to the normal distribution of the trips. If we take a comparison of the "winter" months (May, June, July, August) with the remainder of the year a more accurate picture of hut occupation can be obtained. Of the total figure of 131 trips only 24 visited the hut during the 22 winter months covered by the report giving an average monthly occupation of just over 1 compared with an average monthly occupation during the summer months of almost 3. From this it can be easily seen that the hut, and I suspect the area in general is visited far less often during the colder months. This is hardly surprising it being obviously colder, the days shorter, and the deer less numerous on the open tops hence it is not at all desirable to the "average" deerstalker, and non-tramping club member. If we were now to look at the type of group visiting the hut we could add further weight to our observation.

Of the 131 trips to the hut 43 were made by tramping, and mountaineering clubs such as our own, 26 were made by the N.Z.F.S. employees, and other government bodies such as hydrological survey teams, and 62 trips were made by deerstalkers, and non-tramping club members though I suspect that some of the groups in this last category were in fact tramping club groups although this was not stated in the log book. The type of group seems to be closely correlated to the month of the year. Of the 24 trips made to the hut an "winter" months 18 (75%) were made by tramping club parties (5 by our own club) 5 (21%) were made by deerstalkers, and non-tramping club members, and only 1 (4%) was made by a N.Z.F.S. party. It is quite understandable why this is so, tramping club parties visit the hut in search of good winter snow conditions for such trips as Sawtooth Ridge (many like our club fail to find them) while the main attraction for most other visitors to the hut the deer have moved down into the bush.

This reflection of the seasons in the type of group visiting the area can be seen when we look at other periods such as the "roar" when the number of trips by N.Z.F.S., and deerstalkers reaches a peak whereas there is a decline in the number of tramping club parties in the area. After all who wants to be shot by some possessed deerstalker?

If you are further interested in the results of the survey, and would like to know the answers to such questions as "Who owns Howletts Hut?" and "Which club has made the most visits to the hut in the last 3 or 4 years?" write to:

Howletts Hut Statistical Report,
P.O. Box 1217,
Palmerston North.

15-16th JUNE HIKURANGI RANGE

Three enthusiasts braved the mighty Kawhatau River by winching themselves across the "cable cage" near Kawhatau Base, and proceeded to increase their elevation by 2,800 feet and about 4,000 yards. Unpleasant conditions on Hill, at grid reference 549046 forced the party to drop down to Hikurangi Hut for the afternoon (and evening). Next morning the surrounding countryside was found to be covered in a few inches of dry powder snow, which was still arriving by airmail. A brief sortie down the ridge towards the river was abandoned when the first views of a roaring torrent presented themselves. The climb back onto the top of the range was hampered by a very strong wind, but the trio enjoyed the novelty of tramping through dry snow. Snow was lying at 2,400 feet at the "Base" when the party departed, and the snow was falling at Kimbolton on the way home.

Leader : Tim Short

Team : Vivianne Morson, and Trevor Bissell

6-7th July NGAPUKETERUA -- HARRIS CREEK -- MANGAHAO -- SHORMANS CROSSING

The Number ONE party blazed their trail up onto Ngapuketerua from the back of the Top Dam facing up to waist deep snow, and even deeper Leatherwood. In true FE tradition members sometimes threw themselves face down in the snow to flatten a clear path for their comrades, however progress in such conditions was slow, and so the five heroes of Number ONE party turned from the tops at the base of Kareti, and went to lunch at Putara Hut.

Late in the day the Number TWO party struggled in dragging a half dead leader who rallied just enough strength to carry his own pack into the hut. Their sad tale of privations, and struggle (in the path trodden earlier in the day by Number ONE) may never be told.

Next morning, after seeing the Number TWO'S limp off down towards the Mangatainoka Valley, the Number ONE'S took to the tops and another day of snow, Leatherwood, more Leatherwood, bush, and river.

Number ONE Leader : Trevor Stretton

Number ONE Team : Mary-Anne Whitehead, Kevin Pearce, Ian Hoare, and Trevor Bissell

Number TWO Leader : Tim Short

Number TWO Team : Vivienne Morson, Anne Hayman, and Mark Hindmarsh.