



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

# NEWSLETTER

11/75

Hon. Secretary,  
Trevor Bissell, 71-955  
Membership Enquiries  
Peter Croad, 80-284 (evenings)

## COMING EVENTS

### 28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER CLUB NIGHT

Reminder Special General Meeting for the election of Treasurer. Nominations to be handed to the Secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting. To be held at the Society of Friends Meeting Rooms at 7.30 p.m.

Also prelude of this year's Xmas trip to the Arthurs Pass region. Any ? Island slides, please bring them along for a general slide evening.

Also Mr Bruce Parker of St Johns will be giving another one of his very informing, and essential 15 minute talks, on first aid.

### 29-30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER WAIOTOTARA VALLEY ELECTORATE

Disillusionment with politics. North of Wanganui, a new area for the Club. Indeed not a place to be scoffed at; a very delightful landscape.

Names to Kathy Hindmarsh Phone 77-877

Grading: Medium

Cost : \$3.60

Depart : Super Save Car Park 6.00 a.m.

### 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER (FRIDAY)

WINE

MUSIC

DANCING

WINE

MUSIC

DANCING

WINE

MUSIC

DANCING

The first P.N.T.M.C. CLUB SOCIAL at the Centennial Pavilion 8.30 p.m. \$3.50

Tickets on sale at Club night or from 28 Carroll Street Phone 84-925, 53 Waldegrave Street Phone 76-906 (during the day).

WINE

MUSIC

DANCING

WINE

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DANCING

WINE

MUSIC

DANCING

6-7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER BURNS HUT – MANGOROA CROSSING

Hey, girls, come and see her, the Clubs fittest female, lead you up the garden path on a low level crossing of the Northern Tararuas.

Leader : Kathy Hindmarsh Phone 77-877  
Grading: Medium  
Cost : \$3.40  
Depart : Super Save Car Park 6.00 a.m.

7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER NGAPUKETURUA STREAM

A new area in the North Eastern Tararuas. An essential swimming trip.

Names to Martin Speller Phone 81-717  
Grading: Easy  
Cost : \$2.20  
Depart : Super Save Car Park 7.00 a.m.

13-14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER PARI STREAM – RANGIWAHIA HUT – ANNUAL DINNER

Well if you need exercise to build up an appetite. Camping out on the tops in an area notable for weather then just come a tramping the Ranges with me.

Names to Glenn Dixon Phone 83-649  
Grading: Fit  
Cost : \$3.00 approx.  
Depart : Super Save Car Park 6.00 a.m.

14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER ANNUAL DINNER

This is the big ..... at Rangiwahia Hut in the Ruahines. The Banquet, a feast, siesta in the sun and roll on down the hill back to the car park.

Organisers : Kathy Hindmarsh Phone 77-877  
Grading : Easy  
Cost : \$4.00  
Depart : Super Save Car Park 7.00 a.m.

17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING

To be held at Pam Dicks, Himatangi Phone 299-738

20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER NORTHERN CROSSING OF THE TARARUAS

Over to Masteron and "We'll just all get together for a Saturday night". For the keen, the die hards and the dedicated.

Leader : Tim Short Phone 80-152 (home)  
Grading: F.E. & M.E. (Madness Essential)  
Cost : \$4.40 approx.  
Depart : Super Save Car Park 6.00 p.m. FRIDAY

20-21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER MITRE PEAK

The highest point in the Tararuas. Some might even go as far to call it an ego trip yet it would be within the capabilities of almost all club members.

Names to Peter Croad Phone 80-234  
Grading: Medium  
Cost : \$3.00  
Depart : Super Save Car Park 6.00 a.m.

23<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER BARBEQUE KAHUTERAWA VALLEY

7.00 p.m. if transport is required Phone Ann Hayman 73-991

MERRY CHRISTMAS

27-28<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER ARMSTRONG – WAIKAMAKA

Christmas hangovers? Me too. But this weekend the Eastern Ruahines. A very pleasant trip along the tops and the Waipawa River Valley. But beware of the multitudes of opossums at Waikamaka Hut, you have been warned.

Names to Martin Speller Phone 81-717

Grading: Fit

Cost : \$3.20

Depart : Super Save Car Park 6.00 a.m.

27<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER ARMSTRONG SADDLE

A steady gradient through magnificent bush to a view point commanding a fixed gaze on the immense Heretaunga and the Manawatu Plains.

Leader : Ann Hayman Phone 73-991

Grading: Medium

Cost : \$3.20

Depart : Super Save Car Park 6.00 a.m.

27<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER – 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

Arthurs Pass & surrounding area medium and fit.

1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY KAWEKA RANGES

Names to Tim Short Phone 80-152

HAPPY NEW YEAR

NOTICE

Committee Resignations

Do trampers ever settle down?

Well that's exactly what Mary Ann Whitehead and Trevor Stretton plan to do when after they get married in December. Mary Ann has served on the committee for two years as Treasurer and Trevor for several years in the positions of Gear Custodian, Trip Convener, Vice President and President.

They both will be sadly missed not only for their loyalties and service but for what they are as persons. On behalf of the club I would like to wish you Mary Ann and you Trevor all the best in happiness in the years ahead.

In late January we will also be losing Martin Speller who has won a Rotary exchange trip to Wisconsin U.S.A. for twelve months. "Congratulations Martin and all the best from the Club.

New Member

Steven Moore 85 Te Awe Awe Street, Palmerston North Phone 81-699

Wanted to buy

Mountain Mule, Featherlite or similar, Rhonda Stout 79-139

### Early Tramping in the Tararuas

As you squeeze your feather sleeping bag, metal primus and plastic pre-packed food into your expensive framed pack have you ever considered what it was like to go tramping 100 years ago? Then look at the following "gear" list and see what you think....

- Thin duck fly
- Thin Russian leather sleeping bag
- Gun
- Small axe
- Large fish-hook attached to stout twine
- One stew billy
- One tea billy (since "tea brewed in a stew billy is not nice")
- Pepper and salt
- Home-cured bacon
- Tea
- Sugar
- Rice
- One dozen shallots
- Home-made scones

Certainly there are similarities to the items we would take today but don't forget that this was for no weekend trip, not there and back home in two days. This was all that was taken on an expedition of unknown duration for an unknown destination. And it was carried in a swag, not a pack. The full story can be found in our local library in a book called "Early History of the Wairarapa" by Chas. Bannister. It describes a journey in search of Hapuakorari, said by the Maoris to be a beautiful lake somewhere in the Tararuas. The same book tells about the first ascent of Mount Bannister in 1881.

Let us consider just one of the problems faced by these early trampers and see how they overcame it. If we disregard the lack of tracks, huts and adequate maps (for these people were searching for the unknown anyway) their main problem was food. How did they survive on the above meagre rations? Essentially they did so by living off the land. When their bacon and scones were gone they caught birds and fish. They had to know which berries and plants were edible. They lived as the Maoris had done for hundreds of years before them.

Their scones were made of pounded fern root, dried crayfish tails and pork dripping. One scone, 15 inches across and 1½ inches thick, was a good meal for three hungry men. They ate roots of spear grass boiled with meat, and commented on its "good eating". They caught eels and cooked them on large flat stones heated in a fire. They roasted blue duck on forked sticks in front of the fire (but because it was so tough had to stew for several hours before being able to eat it). They included fresh-water crayfish, kakas, and pigeons in their diet. And as a last resort there were also wild cattle in the area, but these were very wild and did not particularly like being shot at.

Such food sustained them while they traveled the peaks and valleys in behind Masterton – Baldhead (as Mt. Baldy was then known), South King, Waiohine, Puke Matawai, Arete, Girdlestone, Waingawa, Te Mara, Miki Miki. They slept on moss and prospected for gold. They never found the legendary lake – it remained hidden in the mist which comes down to enshroud all who search for it. They lived close to Nature.

However, as we now look back on their exploits, not everything they did can be looked at with a sense of admiration. Take for example what occurred when they were coming off the Blue Range on their way towards home. Upon hearing the shrill whistle of two huia they captured the birds' attention with a call and then they captured their lives with a gun. The female was shot first knowing that the male bird would stop to look for its mate. They shot it too. They skinned both birds and took the tail feathers as a price. Today we have no huia. It is clear from their description that the forests then were abundant in birdlife. Are they

the same today? If we can learn anything from others let us learn to cherish our forests so that we may enjoy tramping now and hope that others too will have the same pleasure in the future.

#### 10-12<sup>th</sup> October Rangī - Howletts

After many hassles with transport it was decided to turn the Rangī Howletts Crossing into a round trip. The crossing would be completed on Saturday as usual and the return journey would be made by dropping into the Oroua River and climbing up onto Mangahuia.

Friday nights' walk into Rangī Hut was painless (not like South Ohau!) but the weather had some room for improvement. In the morning it had plenty of room for improvement. This resulted in an interesting exercise in the use of a map and compass. An attempt at rock climbing along the ridge from Te Hekenga towards Taumataomekura in strong winds was abandoned in favour of a low side route in the snow on the right of the ridge. The route off Tiraha to Howletts was found after making two minor mistakes and Howletts was reached for a late lunch.

Sunday was a longer but more pleasant day. The peaks which were traversed the day before were seen on one or two occasions when the cloud lifted. Lunch was enjoyed in the sun on the banks of a branch of the Oroua River before a long climb through fern, bush, leatherwood etc. to Mangahuia.

We met a large Wanganui party at the road end. They had taken a number of younger members into Triangle Hut and back. Compared with their vehicles a 1964 Triumph Herald did not look out of date.

Party:- Roy Wilson, Trevor Bissell.

#### News of Loos

The work party at Rangiwahia has good news about our loos there. 4 public spirited members went up for a weekend work party on October 18/19<sup>th</sup>. After we'd reached the hut hidden in low cloud, it began to rain, indeed, it did so every time James poked his nose out of the door.

John dug a new hole and trench, whilst Cathy and Bill cleared a path to the new site. James and Bill then demolished the old toilet. Our new model as visitors will discover is a proto-type for use by Pygmies in Central Africa. We've been informed a new purpose built toilet is to be donated and flown in hopefully this summer.

When the Sunday work party arrived, it was discovered that the ladder to be used for work on the hut roof had been dismantled by Bill and used in building our toilet. (With gaffs like that lad, do you still suppose you'll be elected a member!) The club should however be grateful to all volunteers who turned up, although the loss of the ladder (R.I.P.) and the appalling weather ruled out any serious outside work.

Many thanks from those involved to Mr & Mrs Bishop for kindly giving tea to those of the party who called on them after the trip.

Participants in the trip were:- (weekend) bill Frecklington, John Williams, Cathy Hindmarsh, James Read. (Sunday) Tim Short, Peter Hanratty, Glenn Dixon, Anne Hayman.

#### Disclaimer

The organizers of the club's trips and social programme deny being psychic. If therefore you have a good idea or want something included, you will have to tell them. It is no good grumbling later it was missed out, if you didn't notify them.



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## NEWSLETTER

Hon. Secretary,  
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Peter Croad, 80-284 (evenings)

Dear Club Members

On Friday December 5<sup>th</sup> our Club is staging its first ever Social. Over the few short years of our existence the club has accomplished many achievements and we are hoping that this new venture will add to the list.

This year's function is a pilot scheme and depending on its success a social on a much larger scale will be held in 1976. Hence the organizing has been timid, in relation to not, hiring a band (instead taped music) and of only partial catering, guests are therefore asked to bring a plate. The dress is casual and there will be a wide range of liquor available.

It will be respectable, indeed a Club evening to be proud of. It is, in the aim of, a gathering together of friends, trampers, climbers, and skiers of all ages within the Manawatu. A strong emphasis being placed on singles as opposed to couples for this encourages much more mixing and meeting of people creating a more relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.

There has been 150 invitation cards printed which are selling well however an incentive has been created of one complimentary ticket for every ten sold. The tickets can be obtained from 28 Carroll Street Phone 84-925 or from yours truly 51-53 Waldegrave Street Phone 76-906 or 33 Kingswood Street Phone 80-152 (after hours) and Club Night the 27<sup>th</sup> November. The cost is a mere \$3.50 single and the venue is the Centennial Pavilion 8.30 p.m.

I trustingly ask for your support by you now penciling in December 5<sup>th</sup> amongst your Christmas celebrations. So do come along and unwind your year's frustrations with the Club. Just get your spirits up, your feet in dancing shape and hold your head high for you are a member of the P.N.T.M.C. See you THERE.

Tim Short  
President

The long standing club members will be hearing Wedding Bells on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Any members wishing to make a donation for a Club present to Mary Ann & Trevor. Please contact Tim Short or Glenn Dixon Phone 83-649.