

**P.N. TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.**

Hon. Secretary:  
Lynne Potter 79.499

P.O. Box 1217,  
Palmerston Nth.

NEWSLETTER 5/69

CLUB NIGHT: 29<sup>th</sup> May – 7.30 p.m.

At Berry Engineering Ltd. Social Room.

A programme of films has been arranged for this evening and a quality selection has been booked from the National Film Library. "R" Films were unobtainable - trampers of all ages from toddlers to totterers will enjoy the show.

Committee Meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30 p.m. at Wayne Boucher's,  
15 Franklin Avenue, P.N.

RANGIWAHIA HUT:

Keith Potter has purchased materials for the Hut and at time of writing we are daily awaiting news that the airdrop has been made.

Would all those who have not already let us have their promised donations now send them in to The Treasurer, P.N.T.M.C.

P.O. Box 1217,  
Palmerston North.

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 7 members were at the Hut for an airdrop and a further 11 came up on Sunday. Unfortunately the weather was not entirely suitable and the drop was not made. A window, Novarroof panels, a water tank and paint were carried up. A small amount of work was done, a large amount of wood was cut and a sponge cake was baked.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: These are coming in s-l-o-w-l-y;  
Have YOU paid yours YET? ? ?

BADGES, MAPS, GEAR FOR HIRE:

Members are reminded that Club badges and maps of the Tararuas and Ruahines are available from the Treasurer at a reasonable cost. Also Billies, tents, primuses, etc. are available for hire from the Gear Custodian, Dennis Moore 76.752

ANNUAL SLIDE COMPETITION: Held 24<sup>th</sup> April.

This year Anzac Day fell on a Friday, a fact which was overlooked when the date of the Club Night was set - only 16 attended. A total of 60 slides were entered by 9 competitors. The Club is again indebted to Mr. John Cleland.

Results: Flora & Fauna - 12 slides entered  
1st. Mr. Jensen (weka); 2nd. Keith Potter (red deer)  
Tramping - 17 slides entered  
1st. John Saunders (figure by lakeside)  
2nd. Mr. Jensen (figure in red on a glacier)  
Open - 31 slides entered.  
1st Nick Wolf ('Hillary & Tensing' on Kareti)  
2nd. Warwick Blanchard (figures on a glacier)

A fee of 5 cents per slide was charged and the loot was redistributed among the place-getters. Congratulations to our Patron, Mr. Jensen, and to the other prize winners and competitors. The judge reports that the general standard of slides has been improving over the last four years.

Members are urged to repay Mr. Cleland by producing even better slides for next year's competition.

#### COMING TRIPS

17 – 18<sup>th</sup> MAY: McKinnon Hut. Weekend trip of moderate difficulty.  
Leader: Dennis Arnott Ph.102 Rongotea.

30<sup>th</sup> MAY – 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE QUEENS BIRTHDAY: Northern Crossing  
Leave Izadium 6.30 p.m. Friday, return to Palmerston North sometime in June.  
Transport will be arranged for Friday night only. Fare 75 cents single. Storm gear, torch and ice axes necessary. Route: Levin Ohau, South Ohau, Te Matawai, Arete, Tarn Ridge, Mitre, (5154'), Mitre Flats, Masterton. Trip list closes 26<sup>th</sup> May.  
Leader: Kevin Pearce 74.129 ext. 856.

15<sup>th</sup> JUNE: Kapakapanui: Near Waikanae. Easy day trip leaving Izadium 6.00 a.m.  
Leader: Lawson Pither Ph.85.616

28 – 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE: Dawson Falls: Mt. Egmont.  
A family trip; climbing available for the more energetic and many fine walks on the mountain for others. Leaving Izadium 6.30 P.M. Friday 27<sup>th</sup>.  
Leader: Sheryll Kirkpatrick 77.829

#### CHRISTMAS TRIP:

It is necessary to make booking for this well ahead and the Committee would like an indication from members before 26<sup>th</sup> May as to whether they would expect to be able to take part or not. Please ring any member of the Committee between 7 - 8 pm. any evening.

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#### WAIKAREMOANA – EASTER 1969

After a road journey of seven hours from Palmerston North ten members of the Club arrived at Hopuruahine Landing, 12 miles past Lake House towards Rotorua, at varying times on the Thursday night before Easter. There are two huts at the landing, one rather old and dilapidated and the other of a good standard. On Good Friday morning, after the arrival of two New Plymouth members, eleven set off wading the Hopuruahine River at 9 a.m.. The track was found to be well marked and on this first day easy with some minor climbs to add interest. A rather discouraging feature was the great length of time taken in traversing the length of the Hoporuahine Inlet. At lunchtime it was still possible to see a car parked not far from where the main party had camped the night. The weather was fine and some enjoyed a swim before lunch and the arrival of the lady members. Te Puna hut was reached at 3.30 and it was decided to spend the night a short distance on the other side of an inlet. This inlet proved to be of great depth and the camping ground was reached after another hour. The weather was deteriorating, but thanks to good organisation, tents were quickly erected and a tasty meal of dehyd. vegies, potato, fresh stewing steak and instant pudding was enjoyed, even though rain was pouring down outside. Unfortunately some of the party had wet sleeping bags after this first night on the journey.

Saturday morning dawned overcast, but not raining, and after a good breakfast, the party set off for Marauti Hut which was reached after about 3 hours. The track wound in and out of the many inlets and was indeed

picturesque and easy. After lunch at Marauiti Hut, where we met a party of schoolchildren and fishermen, we had an interesting afternoon travelling to Waiopaoa Landing which the last members reached at about 6 p.m. after a slow trip. Tents were pitched and the party enjoyed a good meal cooked on the fire in the hut. Once again we met two parties of schoolchildren - one from Putaruru High School and another from Wairoa College. These children were being well cared for by three teachers to about 12 children in each case. They were obviously enjoying the experience and it was a pleasure to meet them.

One of the high spots of the whole of the trip was the social entertainment which was spontaneous and such fun on Sat. night. At 2 a.m. the writer was woken by the roaring of stags. What a magnificent sound is made by these animals when they hurl defiance at each other. There was no chance of sleep until about 3 a.m. when they moved off and could be heard gradually receding into the distance.

Sunday was a beautifully fine day and some of the party swam before breakfast. The party set off at about 9.30 a.m. and a steady climb commenced. It was up and up for about 4½ hours with many stops for breathers and on many occasions it was deemed necessary to stop and admire the view. The climb was of the order of 2000 ft. and mere words are unable to describe the beauty of the scenes which unfolded as we worked our way up. The view which was most appreciated about 2 p.m. was a small tin hut and then the larger building which was the Puketapu Hut. This hut is placed at the top of a bluff which must be all of 1000' and is very near the vertical. The view from here was of the Lake and apparently endless undulating bush country inland, and in the opposite direction farmed hills with accompanying scars and slip marks to Wairoa and the sea. It was possible to see burning-off operations being undertaken in the distance. This farmed country could be productive, but it most certainly is not endowed with any beauty in comparison with the bush clad hills.

Two tents were pitched at this point and the balance of the party were accommodated in the Hut. By this time the party was reduced in number to 9, as two of the lady members had traveled by launch back to the motor camp on Sunday morning. On Sunday night we had another very sociable gathering in the Hut and part of the fun was when the Trip Leader was being given a back massage by our own highly qualified masseuse. This caused great amusement and was suitably recorded on film.

On Monday morning the party regretfully started the last leg of their journey and reached the Onepoto Armed Constabulary Parade Ground after three hours. There were many fine views of the Lake on this day and a tramper starting from the Onepoto end could enjoy these very soon after his start from that place.

#### INDIGENOUS FLORA OF LAKE WAIKAREMOANA AREA

The forests surrounding Lake Waikaremoana consisted of two main types: 1) mixed Podocarp Beech and Broadleaf, 2) Beech. These are the dominant types of trees under which the forest is classified; they are influenced greatly by climate, soil and altitude so one finds silver beech *Nothofagus Menziesii* entirely dominant above 2,900 ft., with the Podocarp (*rimu*, *matai*, *kahikatea totara*, *mior*), Beech (red and some occasional silver and black) and Broadleaf (*tawa*, *rata*, *tawari* and *kamahi*) at lake level.

On leaving th Hoporuahine Landing on the first day we encountered the occasional black Maire (*Nestigia Cunninghamii*) tree with seedlings under, some displaying the long grass-like juvenile form so different from the lanceolate adult form. Tawari was most common, unfortunately it was not in flower though the lacebark (*Hoheria* spp.) was, as was the koromiko (*Hebe stricta*) and the occasional *Dracophyllum pyramidale*. Also flowering were two different perching orchids (epiphytes). Beneath the trees, usually beech, on well drained banks could be found *D. pyramidale*, a strange tropical looking shrub with a leggy habit of growth. The leaves had marked resemblance to a pineapple plant. To give the shrub an improved appearance it was blessed with glossy green leaves marked with red and an upright terminal panicle of minute flowers in large numbers. Unfortunately this most unusual and attractive shrub is very slow growing and hard to cultivate.

Little rata trees (*Metrosideros robusta*) inches high were common amongst the lakeside rocks. Rimu seedlings and red beech seedlings were also abundant in the forest.

The effect of red deer on the forest was most noticeable in the absence of red beech trees in their juvenile stage as a dense undergrowth; silver beech at higher altitudes was similarly affected. I searched for Hard Beech (*Nothofagus truncata*) but failed to identify any.

Mistletoe was seen on some red manuka shrubs. This mistletoe is a very small tufted plant about 6 inches across and exists as a parasite on manuka and occasionally black beech. Its name is along horrible one - *Korthalsell salicornioides*. This mistletoe has most insignificant flowers quite unlike the *Elytranthe tetrapetala* of the South Island which is featured on one of the decimal notes.

*Pseudomintera colorata* could be seen growing side by side with its close relative *P. axillaris* round the 2,600' level, though both could be found at lake level and quite possibly there were hybrids. *Colorata* has the red splashed leaves; *axillaris* has no red and is glaucous (grey-white) underneath. Also with red marked leaves was *Oleria cheesemanii* an attractive shrub found over 3,000' up in the silver beech forest; also at lake level where the red splashes were more absent. The leaves were lanceolate with waved margins.

	Leader of Easter Party:	Kevin Pearce	
Party:	Mrs. Crabb		Lynne Potter
	Keith Potter		Hilda & Alton England
	John Saunders		Miles Stilwell
	Tony Mullins		Wayne Boucher.
	Lawson Pither		Robert Wellington

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