

P.N. TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Hon. Secretary:
Lynne Potter 79.499

P.O. Box 1217,
Palmerston Nth.

NEWSLETTER .6/69

CLUB NIGHT: Thursday 26th June, 7.30p.m.

Berry Engineering Works Social Room.

Members of a local Karate Club will be telling us something about the sport and giving a demonstration so for a meeting that will be instructive and different you are urged to attend this monthly meeting.

Committee Meeting - Tuesday 24th June at Kevin Pearce's,
Flat 1, 378 Botanical Road, P.N.

COMING TRIPS:

21 – 22nd JUNE: RANGIWAHIA SWIMMING CLUB:

An invitation is extended to members to meet at the tarns on the Rangiwahia Ridge on 22nd June. Any of those present will be very welcome to join in the breaking of the ice and the competitions to follow. Festivities begin on the ridge at mid-day and the following competitions have been suggested:

Endurance - competitors must be able to leave the pool under their own power at the conclusion of their effort. There is some doubt as to the availability of volunteers to drag out casualties.

Races of various kinds.

Any members who would like to go to the hut on Saturday could form a party to do work on it. We hope to have transport leaving the Izadium at 7a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday.

New Grading – IMPOSSIBLE Leader: Tony Mullins ph 73.805

27 – 28 – 29th JUNE: DAWSON FALLS, MT EGMONT:

A family trip, drive right up to the Lodge. Two departure times - 6.30p.m. Friday and 7a.m. Saturday from the Izadium. Very easy bush walks, but fitness essential for climbs of Sharks Tooth. Contact Lawson Pither phone 85.616

JULY: Rock Climbing, Manawatu Gorge.

Fine weather trip only, suitable for novices. Details later.

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RANGIWAHIA HUT PROGRESS REPORT:

The materials were successfully air dropped close to the hut on Saturday 3rd May. The Club is indebted to Ron Haxton and the Middle Districts Aero Club for the drop. The materials were recovered and placed in the hut the following day. Unfortunately, our Project Manager, Keith Potter, has resigned. (Keith is shortly to move to Waiouru). Dennis Arnott has been appointed in his place. Those wishing to help with the modifications should contact Dennis.

CHRISTMAS TRIP:

There was little support for this project and no Club Trip will be arranged.

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TRIP GRADING: The Committee has decided to try to grade trips for difficulty more accurately and consistently than in the past. The following gradings will be used:-

Very Easy, Easy, Medium Easy, Medium, Medium Fit, Fit, and Fitness Essential. Grading depend on number of tramping hours special hazards, (rivers, slips etc.) and equipment required. Some trips graded "easy" in the past grade as "medium" or "medium fit" under the new system.

PAST ACTIVITIES

McKinnon Hut, 17-18th May: Five members took part on this trip to the western Ruahines. Permission to cross over the farmland was obtained at the farm house. However, in future access will have to be from the Kawhatau Forestry Base as the farm has now been closed to the public. A heavy frost had produced half an inch of ice on the tarns and the mad axeman could not be persuaded to go for a swim. 4½ hours after leaving the cars we reached the 6-bunk Forestry hut. Saturday afternoon was spent resting and by Sunday the weather had deteriorated a little. A fresh breeze and mist gave an interesting 3½ hour tramp back to the cars. Trip grading – MEDIUM FIT.

NORTHERN CROSSING: Queen's Birthday W/E:

A crossing of the Tararuas from Levin to Masterton (or vice versa) by way of the Ohau River, Arete, Tarn Ridge, Mitre and the Waingawa River, is known as "The Northern". Such a crossing was attempted by a small party which included representatives, from the highest echelons of the Club's hierarchy, i.e. Lawson and Kevin. Third Man - Tony Mullins.

Ohau Hut was reached on Friday night and Arete on Saturday night, at which point one of the party began to show symptoms of exposure. Conditions were as follows: 4" powder snow, moderate very cold southerly wind, light mist, full moon; position of party uncertain, position of nearest shelter (Arete Bivvy) uncertain. A tent was hurriedly pitched on the lee side of the ridge and treatment for exposure was administered. The night passed. In the morning Arete Bivvy was observed about 400 yards below to the south. Tony and Bill were in residence here, having completed an epic trip along the main range from Putara the previous day. One of the northern party joined the two at the Bivvy and completed the crossing with them, but not without further incident. The remaining two of the northern party, including the exposure victim, retraced their steps of the previous days.

A number of valuable lessons were learnt on this trip, concerning exposure and frostbite. Trip grading – FITNESS ESSENTIAL.

The member who completed the crossing experienced some exciting moments. On one occasion at the Waiohine Pinnacles 1½ hours were spent doing some hairy rope work, on the wrong spur! Sunday night at Tarn Ridge was cold and clear. Started Monday at 3A.M. on cold moonlit trek through snow covered peaks. Air temperature dropped to 20°F with knee-deep snow, some crust. Sun-up came as three weary idiots struggled up Mitre; then long walk out, firstly through beautiful snow draped silver beech trees, then lowland forest, via Mitre Flats to car at 3.30p.m. Effects: two slightly snow-bitten bods who also suffered swollen feet; the third member was reluctant to leave the "wonderful alpine regions."

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