

P.N. TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

Hon. Secretary:
Lynne Potter 79.499

P.O. Box 1217,
Palmerston Nth.

NEWSLETTER 7/69

CLUB NIGHT 31st July, 7.30 p.m.:

At Berry Engineering Ltd., Social Rooms.
Recent films on Rock Climbing and Snowcraft are being ordered for this Club Night. These films are of an instructional nature and also entertaining. We shall all learn a lot from them, especially after the trips on rock and snow which are planned for July.

Committee Meeting: 29th July at Lynne Potter's, 28 Titoki St.

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COMING TRIPS

Sunday 13th JULY: Rock Climbing in the Manawatu Gorge. Instruction in rock climbing will be given. This trip is suitable for novices. It is recommended that all those who want to take part in the Club's annual Alpine Course should take part. Wear your tramping boots, long trousers, preferably woollen (jeans and tight fitting clothes are not suitable), balaclava or cap and long sleeved shirt. Bring 20-30 feet of hemp line (clothes line rope), your lunch and a parka. The course begins at 10a.m. Sunday at the first parking space on the left in the Gorge. In the event of unsuitable weather the trip will be postponed until 27th July. If in doubt ring Lawson Pither after 9a.m. on Sunday. Names to Lawson, phone 85.616

19 – 20th JULY: FIELDS HUT:

Report Izadium 6.00A.M. Fun in the snow and perhaps a climb of Hector (5016') for the fit. Trip Grading - Medium.

Leader: Lawson Pither, 85.616

3rd AUGUST: IRON GATES, day trip:

Leaves Izadium 6.00A.M. MEDIUM fitness trip that follows a track along the side of the Oroua Valley.

Leader: Russell Johnson, 87.777

16 – 17th AUGUST: WANGANUI HUT, MT RUAPEHU:

The Snowcraft Course will probably be run in conjunction with this trip.

Leader: Tony Mullins, 78.805

24th AUGUST: WHARITE trip, in which it is hoped there will be an opportunity to see over the T.V. Translator as well as a tramp along the ridge above the Coppermine area. Leaving Izadium 8.00A.M. Grading - Very Easy.

Leader: Peter Clausen, 26.521.

6 – 7th SEPTEMBER RANGIWAHIA HUT:

Report to Izadium 7.00A.M. A school holiday trip to our warm hut (new stove) and the surrounding open tops. Trip Grading - Medium. Bring Dad and MUM.

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MAPS FOR SALE: Ruahine - 45 cents, Tararua - 35 cents. Club Badges.- \$1.15.

PAST TRIPS

KAPAKAPANUI: 15th June.

Only four members made the climb of this peak behind Waikanae. The weather was good compared with that reported for Dunedin. Trip Grading – Medium.

Mid-Winter Trip to RANGIWAHIA:

Three members set off on Saturday, 21st June for Rangiwahia, carrying with them large quantities of food, carbonettes, Maire firewood and tools for repairs to the hut. Small patches of snow were on the track at the bush edge and this became progressively deeper till from the new Swing Bridge on, the rocks became completely covered and it was a pleasant tramp through snow from then on. At about this stage the snow began to fall and continued for the rest of the weekend. As usual a deer preceded the party up the track, though it was not seen by them. This tramp through light falls of snow must have been one of the most enjoyable journeys to the Hut undertaken by Club members. Layers of snow had formed on the branches of the trees and the waterfall near the Hut was fringed with icicles of impressive size. The snow around the Hut was calf-deep and the Hut cold but dry.

The stove did its job very well and the party enjoyed an excellent meal on Saturday evening. Temperatures were as low as 25°F on Saturday night, but all the party were warm and comfortable. Tony Mullins swam at the waterfall on Saturday afternoon and again on Sunday. These feats being recorded on film – air temp 27°F, water 34°F, which bore out the accuracy of that old chestnut “it’s warmer in than out”. It was noted that Tony was trying to thrust his feet into the stove firebox after his Saturday effort.

On Sunday morning four other members arrived and the Works Manager finally decided that, due to the weather conditions, the renovations were not to be started on this occasion. It was found that bare skin would stick to metal at the prevailing low temperatures.

Those taking part: W/endres, Tony Mullins, Kevin Pearce, Lawson Pither.
Sunday – Wayne Boucher, Dennis Arnott, Ian Voice, Warrick Blanchard.

TRAINS HUT: Anzac Weekend.

At 9 a.m. Friday five men put on boots and packs and set off for Trains Hut, several muddy miles up the Waitotara River. After passing the homestead and a large “Trespassers Will Be Prosecuted” sign, an attempt was made to jump across a stream which appeared in our path; those who did not succeed continued with sloshy boots. Two hours, several swampy areas, an exciting papa cliff later, a flat grassy area loomed and it was decided to boil the billy over a hot manuka fire.

After moving on it was decided not to risk our lives on a very shaky bridge constructed of fencing wire and a deck of well-spaced manuka, so a detour was made on an equally hazardous track. From here on to the hut, goats were quite a common sight, but no shots were fired for fear of frightening off the elusive pigs, which proved later to be non-existent in the area. After passing quite a spectacular waterfall our objective was reached, six hours after leaving the road end.

While our cook was preparing the evening stew and the tent was being erected on a level, lump-free area (?), we were joined by several members of the Wellington T.M.C. The rest of their group, numbering 21, stumbled in, in small groups for the next hour. Our congratulations must go to the cook for a wonderful meal which was eaten by candlelight under the stars.

Saturday morning dawned fine and sunny and promised a good day. After breakfast was cooked and eaten, we moved packs and sleeping bags into the hut which was earlier vacated by the W.T.M.C. The morning was filled in by exploring the surrounding "peaks", but not before a hair-raising crossing of the Waitotara River was made on stepping stones provided by Mother Nature. The afternoon was devoted to the task of gathering and cutting firewood, and one member swam in the river with the water temperature in the low 40's. As darkness fell evening meals were cooked and eaten in front of a very warm fire.

We awoke on Sunday morning to another fine day and a temperature of 37°F. After eating, the hut was cleaned up and packs hoisted onto unwilling shoulders. Before stopping for lunch a shot was fired at a goat across the river (the barrel must be bent). Back at the cars at 2.30p.m., and it was here that a strange sight was seen - a pair of boots being removed and thrown over a bank into the river, never to be seen again. Party: Kevin Pearce, Dennis Arnott, Bill Hollies, Tony Mullins, Warwick Blanchard.

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OVERDUE TRAMPERS: It is expected that occasionally Club members will be overdue while on a tramping trip. The late return of loved ones causes parents and wives much anxiety. This anxiety is natural and easily understood, but generally is ill-founded. In the history of tramping in New Zealand, mishaps to Club tramping parties have been rare. Flooded rivers, temporary loss of route, incorrect estimates of time required, visits to pubs or friends, etc. are common causes of late return.

Should a son or husband be late returning from a trip, what should you do? Ringing the parents of other party members is not a good idea unless you have some definite information to pass on. It is possible that such calls will only increase anxiety. If a party is appreciably overdue one of the Club's Committee should be contacted. Generally it will not be necessary for parents or wives to contact the Police. For all Club trips a responsible person is informed of the names of the party members and of the trip plans.

Sons and husbands who tramp can reduce possible anxiety. Before the trip they should inform their parents or wives of the proposed starting and finishing points of the tramp, and the estimated time of return. If late back, a phone call to one parent or wife with a message to be relayed to the remaining parents and wives, should be made. The cost of the toll call will be small if shared in this way. Care should be taken to see that the message is complete, especially if there has been a mishap of any sort. State where you are ringing from, the reason for the delay, your new estimated time of return and the

names and phone numbers to whom the message is to be relayed.

All trampers should impress upon relatives that they do not intend to risk their lives in flooded rivers or be caught out in exposed conditions with inadequate gear merely so that they can be home in time. It is much better to keep relatives waiting while you wait for a river to go down or build an emergency shelter.

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CLUB HIRE GEAR:

The Club's hire gear is now at Russell Johnson's, 11 Lifford Place. Gear may be hired by ringing 87.777 or 78.581 (business) between the hours of 8.00a.m. and 8.00p.m. If necessary gear will be taken to Empire Service Station, 512 Main Street, to be collected. Gear must be collected before Friday night and returned not later than Wednesday. No trade on Sunday.

CLUB OFFICERS:

Lawson Plther	85.616	Keyin Pearce	74.129 ext856
Lynne Potter	79.499	Dennis Arnott	102 Rongotea
Sheryll Kirkpatrick	77.829	Wayne Boucher	79.839
Peter Clausen	26.521	Don Fletcher	87.432
Russell Johnson	87.777	Dennis Moore	76.752

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