

P.N. TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

Hon. Secretary:
Lynne Potter 79.499

P.O. Box 1217.
Palmerston Nth.

NEWSLETTER 12/69

CLUB NIGHT: 29th January, 1970 Meeting 6.30 p.m.

Would members gather at Berry Engineering Works at 6.30 p.m. A barbecue is planned for this night and you are advised to bring suitable food and clothing for such an evening. If in doubt concerning the weather please ring 85.616 - Lawson Pither.

Committee Meeting: 27th January at Kevin Pearce's, Flat 1, 378 Botanical Road.

COMING EVENTS

14th DECEMBER: HIMATANGI – LAKE KOPUTAROA:

Swim shorts and large quantities of liquid refreshments essential. Meet at the Izadium 8.30 A.M. Cost 50 cents. Names to Lynne Potter - 79.499

17 – 19th JANUARY: ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND:

Fun in the sun weekend at Castle Point. Swimming, fishing, sunbathing, both sorts of birdwatching and rock climbing. Ring Lawson, phone 85.616 for details.

1st FEBRUARY: WAIOPEHU:

A medium day trip to a prominent peak behind Levin. The last trip of the school holidays. Cost 70 cents. Leader: Vern Stout, phone 79.139.

13 – 15th FEBRUARY: CROSSING OF SOUTHERN RUAHINES:

Trip Grading - Fit. Details next newsletter. Leader: Kevin Pearce.

ACCESS TO TARARUA FOREST PARK & RUAHINE STATE FOREST:

The Forest Service has enquired from our Club as to whether any of our members have had any difficulties in obtaining access to tramping areas in the above forests. They are keen to help keep access open to the areas in which we as trampers are interested. In order to assist with this worthwhile objective members are asked to report specific cases where, in the past, they have been either unable to obtain access or had difficulty in getting to their tramping areas.

Please report your cases to Russell Johnson, ph. 87.777

NOVEMBER CLUB NIGHT: Doubtful weather forced the cancellation of the barbecue. A small group enjoyed an informal evening in the Clubroom. A number of slides, including the winning slide for the 1969 slide competition, were shown and tales tall and sometimes true were swapped.

PAST TRIPS:

Rangiwahia – Sept. 6 – 7:

Nine members spent an interesting and fine weekend at the Club Hut. The going up the valley is easy now that the big slip has good wire ropes across it. The new bridge saved a lot of time although wire netting across it would give one more confidence. By dinnertime everyone had settled in, and after dinner started to move out to do a trip to Mangahuaia, others to explore the varied tussock land above the hut. The stove smoked a lot that night so some members had a delayed meal.

Next day was fine and cool with a splendid view of Ruapehu. Later in the morning two Forest Rangers arrived to give a demonstration on Tussock planting, especially along the margins of tracks. A bit of planting around the Hut would help to reduce that area of bare ground. A previous party in the hut had left a fair amount, of firewood some of which was green - a bad practice this as in time what bush there is around the hut will have disappeared and in its wake unsightly areas of erosion. In the afternoon some of the party left via the bulldozed track and all were back at the cars by 4 p.m.

14 – 16th November: Combined Trial Search:

Three Club members were fortunate in being able to take part in Wellington's 1969 Trial Search, which was centred in the Southern Tararuas near Mt. Hector.

We left the Police Station 7.30 p.m. Friday, reaching field Hut shortly after 2 A.M. Saturday. Large numbers of bodies were strewn, about the hut on each and every piece of ground which made some pretence at being flat. The bush was uncommonly dry and the night fine and mild. At 6 a.m. we arose, breakfasted and were briefed. Two Club members were in a team to search Penn Creek and the third in a team to search the Snowy River. Saturday passed without success and late Sunday morning news that the lost party had been found was received over the radio, together with the exciting news that an Air Force Iroquois helicopter was being sent to return teams to Table Top Peak. The Iroquois is a large turbo-jet craft capable of carrying up to 13 persons and/or several thousand pounds of cargo. It has a top speed of about 150 m.p.h. and an endurance of about 2 hours. It literally dropped through the trees on top of the Snowy search team, who had to scurry to safety. The ride back to Table Top was exhilarating and quick - side doors were open and as we banked steeply on the corners the tree tops could be seen close below. The only likely restrictions on the usefulness of this helicopter in S.A.R. work are bad weather and non-availability. Those taking part: Vern Jensen, instructor; Warwick Blanchard, and Kevin Pearce, team leader.

22 – 23rd November: Putara – Mangahao Crossing, Tararuas:

Mrs. Jean Lonie Angus and Sally (7 years), Bill, Ann, David and Joy Olsen, Ian Hoare and Kevin Pearce completed a successful crossing in spite of the weather. The route was over the Massey Knob and Ngapuketurua to the Top Dam. The track generally is good, though a little overgrown in leatherleaf regions.

SEASONAL REMINDER – CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR TRAMPERS:

Torch, woolen mittens, (Tararua map NZMS 57, Ruahine Map NZMS 74
(both maps obtainable from Club Secretary

Compass (\$1 buys an adequate one, nylon overtrousers – almost essential to a trumper although many trampers lack them.

If you have money to burn then an Iroquois Helicopter (\$120,000) would probably be appreciated - pilots, fuel and maintenance may be expensive - however.

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NEWSLETTER 12A / 69

COMING TRIPS:

17 – 19th JANUARY: ANIVERSARY WEEKEND: CASTLE POINT:

A camp site has been pencilled in at this Wairarapa resort which is well known for its scenery, fishing, swimming and rocks. This is an ideal trip for members who would like to get away from the mountains for a weekend.

The party will tent and the facilities of a well equipped camping ground will be available. As we have been asked to give the camping ground Proprietor an idea of the number in the party, would you please, without making a definite commitment, advise Lawson Pither (phone 85,616) **NOW** if you are likely to be going.

Accommodation on a holiday weekend will be at a premium so please put your names in early. Estimated cost \$3.50, young children less.

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A:Medium day trip to a prominent peak behind Levin. The last trip of the school holidays. Cost 70 cents, Leader Vern Stout phone 79,139

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GRAND ANNUAL DINNER - Special thanks to our Chefs – Sheryll, Lynne and Heather for their efforts which produced a memorable dinner on the 7th December.

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