

P.N. TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

Hon. Secretary:
Lynne Potter 79.499

P.O. Box 1217,
Palmerston Nth.

NEWSLETTER 2/70

COMING EVENTS:

13 – 15th February: Southern Ruahine Crossing:

Leave Izadium 6.30 p.m. sharp on Friday. We spend Friday night at Moorcock base hut, travel the Ngamoko Range and reach Table Flat road on Sunday. A FIT trip, cost \$2.00. Three names on the list already.

Leader: Kevin Pearce ph74.129 ext856

24th FEBRUARY: Committee Meeting at Russell Johnson's, 11 Lifford Place, 7.30 p.m.

26th FEBRUARY: CLUB NIGHT 7.30p.m.

Club member Peter Sutcliff will give an illustrated talk of his experiences while acting as a guide on the Routeburn Track.

28th FEB - 1st MARCH: TRIANGLE HUT:

A FIT trip up the Oroua River, returning possibly over Mangahua and past 'Rangi'. Leave Izadium 6 A.M. Saturday. Cost \$.1.00. Lead by volunteer leader Ian Hoare, ph. 83.448

14th MARCH: (Saturday)

A MEDIUM EASY day trip up the Pohangina River. Leader: Ron Haxton ph. 83.994

17th MARCH: Committee Meeting at Lawson Pither's.

19th MARCH: Annual General Meeting.

As the last Thursday in the month precedes Good Friday, the Annual General Meeting is set down for the 19th. Judging from the lack of support for Club activities over the last few months a lively meeting is expected. Club members will no doubt be anxious to elect a new committee that will give them what members require - whatever that is!

26 – 30th MARCH: EASTER TRIP TO KAWEKAS:

Last year's Easter trip to Waikaremoana was a great success and high hopes are held for this Year's trip under leader Russ Lacey. Details later.

30th APRIL: Annual Slide Competition.

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Personal: President Lawson Pither and his wife are at present holidaying in the South Island. They are expected back about 26th February

PAST EVENTS:

1st FEBRUARY: Waiopehu - due to lack of support this trip did not run.

29th JANUARY: Club Night: Bad weather forced the cancellation of the barbecue. An alternative programme was provided. Don Fletcher addressed the twelve members present - his topic astronomy. We live on a small world, near an ordinary star, the sun, and are part of a galaxy of which there are many (millions?) in the Universe. Following Don's informative talk Philip Burgess and Kevin Pearce gave an account of an ascent of Mount Sefton.

CASTLEPOINT: ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND:

Lawson, Philip and David Pither, Warwick Blanchard, Linda Turner, Anja Suuring, Philip Burgess, Kevin Pearce and Craig Johnson (Saturday only) visited this Wairarapa Coastal resort. We arrived about 11 a.m. after a 110 mile journey and pitched our large centre-poleless tent in the local Motor Camp. Some difficulty was experienced driving the tent pegs into the hard ground.

After a swim and then lunch we went for a tour of inspection. Dinner was preceded by a swim and surfing and was followed by an expedition to the cave under the Lighthouse. The entry of each wave at the seaward opening of the cave was marked by abrupt pressure changes within the cave and strong puffs of wind at the inland cave opening. We retired to bed early. The tent was now flapping a little in the rising wind. The night dragged on, sleep being difficult because of the noise of the wind. By about 2 a.m. the wind had reached gale force. Lawson was forced to rise several times to retie guys and flaps.

At about 6 a.m. we were woken by the crash of splintering timber, the renting of canvas and falling of tent poles. Our tent had collapsed. It was not the first one in the camp to suffer this fate. One of our party suffered injury when the jagged end of a broken pole was driven into his thigh. However, in the best tradition, he did not leave his post but assisted in the struggle with the wildly thrashing canvas. After breakfast it was decided to travel to Riversdale where the wind was reported to be moderate. After some repairs the tent was repitched under the pines of the Riversdale Motor Camp. A swim and surfing again preceded lunch. By afternoon the wind had risen and blowing sand kept everyone off the beach. The tent was well sheltered and was not endangered. Towards evening the wind moderated and we went for a walk along the beach. A crayfish post was set and the famous fence inspected.

The weather on Monday was windy and overcast with rain threatening, so we returned to Palmerston early.

The relative merits of the two resorts can be summed up as follows: Both are a similar distance from P.N. The roads to both are good except for a few miles of unsealed surface. Castlepoint Motor Camp is exposed but has good facilities, while Riversdale is sheltered but has poor facilities. Swimming, surfing, fishing, boating and rock scrambling are the principal activities at Castlepoint, while Riversdale is restricted mainly to swimming and surfing. Both are suitable for family outings.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Sir, I wish to urge all our members to give serious thought to the question of raising the level of Lake Manapouri. How many of our members know where the Lake is? How many know what is involved in the power project? Over the next few months there will be a rising tide of discussion and debate on this matter.

It is important that the facts be known before opinions are formed. The question is not simply one of saving a pretty spot or having cheap power. The extra power gained by raising the lake, over and above that available from the lake at the present level, may be very expensive in the long run. All members should find out as much as possible about the scheme and then act. We may be facing a disaster.

I am etc., K. Pearce.