

P.N. TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

Hon. Secretary:
Lynne Potter 79.499

P.O. Box 1217,
Palmerston North.

NEWSLETTER 3/70

COMING EVENTS:

19th MARCH: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

7.30p.m. at Berry Engineering Works Social Room

Agenda: Presentation of President's Report,
Presentation of Treasurer's Report,
Election of Office Bearers,
Subscriptions,
General.

8th MARCH: PICNIC: Fine weather trip only, at Horseshoe Bend Tokornaru. Family groups make their own way there to arrive about lunch-time. Would any who want transport or have it available, please ring Russell Johnson Phone 81.117. If in doubt about weather also ring Russell.

Programme: Swimming, baseball and barbecue in the evening – Please bring your own food. Trip Leader: Kevin Pearce

14th MARCH: Up the Pohangina River with Ron Haxton - Phone 83.994

A medium easy Saturday trip with a 6.30a.m. start.

17th MARCH: COMMITTEE MEETING at Lawson Pither's 6.30p.m.

Meeting will follow a buffet meal.

26-30th MARCH: EASTER TRIP TO KAWEKAS:

The trip will be suitable for all members. Russell, who knows the area well, will plan it so that it will not over-tax the abilities of those taking part. Phone Russell Lacey – 81436 for further details.

18-19th APRIL: SOUTHERN RUAHINES:

Return visit to the Southern Ruahines, Moorcock Base, Ngamoko, Deerford crossing. Grading – Fit Leader - Denis Arnott. Phone names to Russell Johnson 87.777

26th APRIL: MYSTERY TRIP:

The organisers of this trip, who refuse to divulge their identities, state that this trip will be a team competition and will be part motor-rally (or bike), part treasure hunt and part tramping trip. It will be suitable for family groups. There will be one team per car or per 2 motor-cycles. More details later (Prizes for all.)

PAST TRIPS: 26th OCTOBER: HARDINGS PARK:

On 26th October last, a club party visited "Hardings Park" which lies in the Northern Tararuas, just south of the Tiritea Catchment area.

Two cars and one motor-bike, left the Izadium at 7.30a.m. 8 o'clock saw us climbing the track to Browns Flat where we skirted the swamps and crossed the stream at the lower end. It was at about this time that steady rain and strong winds were encountered. After following the bush edge along for some way, we entered the bush and made an ascent and descent of the main range.

This party of relatively unskilled, ill-equipped but keen

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PAST TRIPS: HARDINGS PARK Cont:

mountaineers actually crossed the main Tararua Range – a tremendous effort requiring only one pit stop.

The range is actually several hundred feet above sea level here - fantastic. Thanks for the pit stop must go to Doris Upton (her first tramp) for without this we would never have made it.

We arrived at the old punga hut shortly after 10.00 a.m. where we had a "brew" and a bite to eat. The rain lifted before mid-day, so we crossed the Otangaue Stream and followed some deer tracks up a spur opposite the hut, hoping to get a view of Pahiatua. Two thirds of the way up we decided to call it a day and made our way back to the hut, where, after another "brew" we retraced our steps to the cars, reaching them late in the afternoon.

Party Members: Ian Hoare, Ross Elliott, Heather Crabb, Doris Upton, Owen Robinson, Brian Booth Trip Leader: Russell Johnson.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

as given at A.G.M.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Report for the past year.

Club's Activities:

During the twelve months ended 29th February, twenty-four trips were arranged; regrettably two did not go due to lack of support and transport in each case. Satisfactory travel arrangements were made in all other cases and the remaining trips were very much enjoyed by those taking part. Trampers' weather did not prevail on many occasions and for those who turned out the rewards were impressive - peaks were climbed, crossings made and firm friendships have grown amongst all those taking part. Besides the physical advantages of becoming fit, the friendship and comradeship within a tramping party is something which cannot be duplicated in any other body.

Support in most cases was received without doing anything but advertising in the newsletter. Whether or not this support was reasonable in a Club of 56 members is for you to decide. I know that we have had a hard core of members who, through their enthusiasm, are always ready to take part in Club activities. It is my opinion that more support should be forthcoming from a Club of our size. You may feel critical of the leadership – if so you have the remedy in your hands tonight, just as I have this opportunity to speak to you.

The root of the matter as I see it is to be found in the words "Club Spirit". This Club Spirit we must have or the Club will undoubtedly wither and die. This of course must not be allowed to happen and will not if you could decide tonight. to

- 1) be a more active tramper,
- 2) if you can spare one or perhaps two nights a month and allow your name to go forward as a prospective committee member.
- 3) If you are not able to become a committee member do not be a passenger. Give them your ideas on trips, on Club policy and in fact on anything which you think will improve the Club. For obvious purposes we must have a small committee to look after your interests, but the committee will always appreciate assistance as committees have been known to run out of ideas.

Also I know we do not have many girl members, but I feel that one lady on the Committee as we had last year was insufficient. I would like the feminine viewpoint to be put forward at Committee meetings and invite our lady members to have their names put, forward tonight for the Committee.

Rangiwahia Hut:

As you are all probably well aware the Hut has been made very much more comfortable with the addition of the range, which burns wood very satisfactorily and was installed at a minimal cost. You will be told more about the Hut and future plans for it later in the evening.

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SEARCH & RESCUE:

Members have taken part in a search and a trial search during the year, and in both cases valuable lessons were learned by those taking part. Participation in Search & Rescue, while not being compulsory is one way of putting the skills which you have learned as a trumper to a very important use. Those who take part in these operations are, in the main amateurs and they come from bodies such as ours.

I have mentioned Club Spirit. We must now consider the Club's duty to the general public, who insist on occasionally losing themselves in the hills. We are the Palmerston North Tramping & Mountaineering Club and we are expected besides having a good Club Spirit, to also develop a helpful Public Spirit in regard to Search & Rescue. You will know yourselves when you feel ready to commence Search & Rescue training and I urge you to take part in this work.

Mainly through the efforts of one of our members a Search & Rescue Committee has been set up in our district. The objects of this committee on which your Club will be represented, are:

- a) To combine Mountain Clubs in one harmonious S.A.R. organisation;
- b) To provide Representatives capable of advising the Police on mountain S.A.R. activities;
- c) To improve S.A.R. efficiency;
- d) To provide a body of trained searchers who can be made available at short notice.

Your committee has supported the formation of this body and we are pleased to report that it has already started to function.

Committee:

During the year your Committee has met monthly. Attendance at these meetings has been good.

The Committee exercised their power to add to their numbers and two were added to those elected at your last Annual meeting.

I would like at this stage to give my sincere thanks to the Committee who have really pulled their weight. They have made my job very easy and have always been ready and willing to work for the Club.

It has been a great pleasure to me to be your President for the year and in closing I wish the Club every success in the future. May the membership rise and may the spirit of adventure without which we are all nonentities continue to flourish in this Club.

Ladies & Gentlemen, I move that this report be received:

-- Lawson Pither.

Mislaid – A nylon rope has been mislaid. If you have it please advise the President - phone 85.616

P.N.T.M.C. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Year Ended 28th February, 1970

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of your executive for the year ended on 28th February, 1970.

During that year there were twenty weekend or longer trips and eleven day trips arranged through the Club, and to the leaders of all these we express our thanks. It is essential in any Club to have stalwarts such as these and we have indeed been fortunate in that respect. Membership has increased from fifty to fifty-five and although we have held our own numerically, there could be a weakness here as some of our very keen members have left the district or given up active membership. However in spite of this apparent loss of experienced members you will see that when I speak about last year's programme, that the quality and experience of some of our members has been widened considerably.

At this stage I would like to put to you all a question that I often ask myself. Does the Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club show signs of healthy and vigorous growth? To help you answer the question I have delved back to the records of the Club's first trip on which 14 took part including many who are with us tonight. We advertised a mid-winter trip to the same area in the Tararuas and due to the small number interested it did not take place. Other trips had much less support than these early ones and the general pattern during 1969/70 was for smaller parties than in the Club's beginnings, and of a total of 30 trips last year the attendance for only eight reached double figures.

However, we must not be over critical as within the scope of 1969/70 programme there were three Search & Rescue operations, two classes in rock climbing, two Tararua Crossings one of which was a simplified version when nine completed and the other a much more difficult mid-winter effort which three out of five completed – a particularly fine achievement. The Spectre of Brocken was seen during this crossing and a test of training was when a tent had to be erected in a snow storm and was occupied for the night under freezing conditions. Two attempts were made on Mount Egmont, the first on the 28th June when deteriorating conditions and strong winds forced the party to give up the ascent and spend a period on snowcraft training. It was during this period that one of your Committee tripped and dived into the snow to re-appear some ten feet down the Mountain like a snow bunny. In early October the Mountain was climbed by two out of a party of four mainly on ice and for a long period in cloud with visibility down to about forty feet, the course being set by compass. Ropes were used and previous practice at belaying was put to very good use.

Two weeks later a party of four travelled to the South Island and enjoyed a weekend in the Lake Rotoiti area during which they climbed to the summit ridge of Mount Travers. On this occasion the party plugged their steps in soft snow, a marked contrast to conditions on Egmont.

One of the most enjoyable tramping trips of the year was to Lake Waikaremoana in which eleven members participated.

All of these events made a terrific impact on those taking part and enabled them to improve their efficiency as a result of the experience. But remember, there were many tramping trips during the year when a large number of our members were deprived of the benefits through their non-attending.

Would you all consider the following equation in which the words follow an orderly progression of events which are very relevant to the training of a trumper. Think on this: -
Education + Equipment + Experience = Enjoyment.

I urge you to acquire all of the first three elements and the fourth will undoubtedly follow. But please take every opportunity to obtain experience as without it you will never enjoy tramping to the full.

To all of you, with special reference to my Committee, I thank you for your co-operation and company during the past year. It has been most enjoyable for me.

I wish you all very happy and successful tramping and mountaineering during the year ahead.

I move that this report be approved by the meeting .

L.Pither
President P.N.T.M.C.