

P.N. TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

Hon. Secretary:
Kevin Pearce 74-129 ext. 856 (Bus.)

P.O. Box 1217
Palmerston North.

NEWSLETTER 4/70

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 19th March:

Twenty-two members and nine non-members were present at the meeting. The following committee was elected:

		Phone
Patron:	Mr. O. Jensen	
President:	Lawson Pither	85-616
Vice President:	Bill Olsen	75-480
Secretary:	Kevin Pearce	74-129 ext. 856
Treasurer:	Lynne Potter	
Committee:	Heather Crabb (Log Keeper)	
	Russ Johnson (Gear Custodian)	87-777
	Ian Hoare	83-448
	Ron Haxton	83-994
	Denis Arnott	24-678 Rongotea
	Warwick Blanchard	20-712
	Russ Lacey	81-436

These committee members will be available to answer enquiries before 8 p.m.

Subscriptions for the coming year were fixed at:

Juniors (over 14 yrs. and still at school.)	\$1-50
Seniors	\$2-50
Married couples and families	\$3-50

These subscriptions are now due. Send the lollie to P.O. Box 1217 P.N. or bring it along in person to the next club night.

After some discussion of General Business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

APRIL CLUB NIGHT: Thursday 30th April - Slide Competition.

Colour Slide Competition Rules:

1. A competitor may enter any number of slides.
2. Each Slide must have been taken by the entrant personally.
3. No slide may have been previously entered in a P.N.T.M.C. competition.
4. There will be 3 classes, all with a tramping or outdoor flavour:
 - (1) Flora & Fauna
 - (2) Tramping subjects
 - (3) Open
5. A slide may be entered in one class only and once entered may not be withdrawn.
6. Entries close for all classes immediately before judging begins.
7. First, second and third will be awarded in each of the classes, and an overall champion slide declared.
8. Entry fee - 5 cents for each slide.
9. First winners will receive the total sum collected as entry fees for that class.
10. The Judge's decision is final.
11. All slides to carry the owner's identification mark and may be titled.
12. Slide frame to be marked with a spot in bottom left corner when held correctly for hand viewing.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: 28th April, 7.30 p.m. At Russ Johnson's,
11 Lifford Place.

<u>NEW MEMBERS :</u>	Anja Suuring	Phone	88-691
	Alan Looser		82-717
	Peter Baxter		658 Feilding
	Owen Robinson		88-512
	Gavin Rogerson		76-753

COMING EVENTS:

18-19th April. SOUTHERN RUAHINE CROSSING.

A return visit to this area following the last fiasco. Moorcock Base, Ngamoko Range, Deerford Crossing. A fit trip, bring longs, mittens, balaclava. Depart Izadium 6.00 a.m.
LEADER: Denis Arnott.

As transport is normally difficult to arrange for these trips which involve crossings, a mini bus is being used on this occasion. The bus holds 11 at the cost of 13c a mile, or we estimate a total of \$30 divided amongst those going. Would all those taking part please confirm their intention to Denis Arnott **NOW** - 24-678 Rongotea.

19th April. DAY TRIP, DEERFORD TRACK.

A medium-easy trip to the Western Ruahines to meet the crossing party. Depart Izadium 7.00 a.m. LEADER: Bill Olsen, Ph. 75-480. Approx. cost 80c.

26th April. MYSTERY TRIP.

This trip is a team competition and is part motor-rally, part treasure hunt and part tramping trip. There will be one team per car or pair of motor cycles. Points will be gained or lost depending on the outcome of each stage of the competition. Total return road distance will be about 150 miles. The tasks set for the various teams will vary in difficulty depending on the age and number in the team. The trip will run regardless of the weather although a modified program will operate if the weather is bad.

In general the driver will be the team leader. Each team should have:

1. Good road maps of the area within a 75 mile radius of the clock tower.
2. Tramping maps of the Ruahines and Tararuas.
3. Magnetic compass.
4. Any reference book you may think useful.
5. First aid kit.
6. Pens and paper.
7. Oven cloth.

Each person should bring pack, parka, boots, lunch etc. ie. gear normally taken on a day tramping trip.

Assemble at the Izadium at 8.00 a.m. The first team will leave shortly after and all teams must be away by 8.30 a.m.

Each team will be given a number of sealed envelopes and instructions before departure.

Cost: \$1.60 (14 years and over).

Names are required by 23rd April. Names to Lawson Pither. Ph.85616

9th May. WHARITE – COPPERMINE & COPPERMINE.

Meet at the Izadium at 6.30 a.m. LEADER: Ian Hoare, Ph. 83448

Trip grading: Medium-fit. Coppermine: Easy.

15 – 17th May. BUSHCRAFT WEEKEND, TOTARA FLATS.

All club members, both experienced and novice, are urged to attend this weekend in the Eastern Tararuas. There will be little instruction in anything but you will be invited to perform various tasks as this is the best way to learn. Navigation, fire lighting, tent pitching, bivvy building and river crossing are the fields to be covered. Bring your Bushcraft Manual, a billy if you can lay your hands on one, a sheet of polythene for a ground sheet/bivvy roof, food for a communal stew on Saturday night, map and compass if you have these, matches, torch etc. Depart Izadium 7.30 p.m. Friday.

We sleep in Holdsworth Lodge at the road end, (an air mattress would add to comfort)

Cost \$1.50.

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Cont. from LEADER: Vern Jensen.
Page 2. Names to Heather Crabb, Phone 77-668
Trip Grading: Medium.

29th May – 1st June. QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY. NORTHERN CROSSING

Fitness Essential. Leader: Kevin Pearce.
31st May -1st June. (Sunday -Monday) Mitre Flats, Easy. Names to Heather Crabb, Ph. 77-668

6th June. ROCK CLIMBING.

Titahi Bay. Names to Warwick Blanchard, Ph. 20-712.
20th June) Day and weekend trip to Rangī to celebrate midwinter.
20-21st June) Leaving Izadium 7 a.m. 20th June
Grading: Medium - Easy. LEADER: Lawson Pither Ph.85-616
26 – 28th June. (Tentative) Snowcraft course at Blyth Hut, Ruapehu.
10 – 12th July: (Tentative) Snowcraft course at Kapuni Lodge, Egmont.

CLUB NIGHTS:

April 30th Slide Competition.
May 28th Peter Sutcliffe on the Darrans + Rock climbing film.
June 25th Snowcraft film + ?

PAST CLUB NIGHT:

26th Feb. It was with pleasure that members heard Peter Sutcliffe give a talk illustrated with slides on his experiences as a guide on the Routeburn Track. This seems to be a beautiful scenic trip, varied enough to interest our members.

Also Peter, Lawson Pither and Kevin Pearce gave members their enlightened views on the Manapouri Power Project. The general opinion is that even if the Government goes ahead with this scheme, if enough people make enough noise over this, similar questions jeopardising the beauty of the New Zealand landscape may be averted in the future.

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

		Phone
New Members:	Russell Johnson	87-777
	Ron Haxton	83-994
Rock Climbing:	Warwick Blanchard	20-712
Snowcraft:	Bill Olsen	75-480
General Tramping:	Kevin Pearce	
	Russell Lacey	81-436
Receipt Newsletter Material	Russ Johnson	
For those wanting to go on unofficial trips:	Lawson Pither	85-616

TRANSPORT:

We feel that in the past both drivers and passengers have been most considerate and cooperative in driving safely and conducting themselves with responsibility in other people's cars. Keep up the good work. We would advise drivers to take out an extended passenger risk insurance for an unlimited cover which is available at a very low premium and remind passengers to take off boots and waterproof clothing before entering vehicles.

PAST TRIPS:

14th Dec. 1969 Himatangi.

As difficulties were encountered in obtaining access to Lake Koputuroa our small but enthusiastic party of trampers invaded the sandhills of Himatangi. Many things were discovered including an old rather derelict truck. Doubts were expressed as to how it got there. Many different techniques were demonstrated as to how sandhills should be descended. It was apparent that some methods were more successful than others. After stumbling through a wilderness similar to that of the Gobi Desert we arrived back at the cars. Here large quantities of .../4

liquid refreshments were consumed. After lunch members spent the afternoon swimming and sunbathing before returning to Palmerston after an exciting, stamina testing day at the beach.

Those taking part: Anja Suuring, Margaret Death, Heather Crabb, Owen Robinson,
Leader: Ian Hoare.

13 – 14th Feb. Moorcock Base – Deerford Track via Ngamoko Range.

Reminiscences of the Ruahines.

Arrived Moorcock Base 10 p.m. Friday night. Pitched tent in frame of old garage. Ian Hoare, Graham Pascoe, Denis Arnott slept in it; Bill & Ann Olsen in Station Wagon. Started to rain 2.30 a.m. Hope not too wet in the morning. Our attempt to cross to Deerford track does not look too promising. Rained all night and still raining, mist right down. Sleeping bag wet. Cooked breakfast. Ann left 8 a.m.; we, soon after; raining, visibility nil. Should have reached Pohangina Saddle Hut about 11 a.m. Missed it in the mist, rain. Wandered down into the Tukituki, had lunch (in rain) and retraced our steps; eventually found hut 2.30 p.m. Raining and mist. Everyone soaked, cold, cold. Staying here tonight; going to make a do or die effort to get across in morning. Pray God weather clears or will have S.A.R. after us.

It is still Saturday 10.30 p.m. Everyone in bed, very cold and still raining. Bill only one with dry sleeping bag but is sleeping on bunk with leak above! Hope weather better in the morning.

Sunday. Left hut 7.15 a.m. Light rain. Visibility nil. Reached what we thought top one hour later. Headed off down ridge, decided wrong one, retraced our steps, found another likely looking one and tried that. 10 a.m. Two hours later another stop. We were losing height too quickly. Had lunch. Studied map. Mist cleared in one spot and could see farmland, but still could not see where we had gone wrong. Retraced our steps back to hut. Arrived 2.30 p.m. after a lot of compass work sweat and tears. Had a lot of trouble finding track down from hut, mist really thick. Arrived Moorcock Base again 5 p.m. Cadged ride to farm house to ring home and reorganise the transport. Moral of the story: don't go tramping in the mist unless you know where you are going.

28th Feb. – 1st March. Triangle Hut.

Saturday morning dawned fine and clear, and it was not long before our small party were tramping up the Oroua Valley. One of our members who had left his boots back home did not let this deter him, but instead carried on in the best of tradition, wearing Roman Sandals! When stumbling around looking for the truck large appetites were soon worked up, and lunch was later served on a sunny river flat above the river.

From here the tramp continued on up the valley to Iron Gates Hut. Here, Kevin spent the night in order that he could tramp out to his car and drive around to "Rangi" next morning. This would have enabled the rest of the party to come out over that side via the Whanahua Range.

The party then headed up the river towards Triangle Hut. The fact that they never arrived was not due to faulty compass, but due to the wrong location of the hut, marked on the leader's map. We were later to find the hut was another quarter of an hour up a tributary of the Oroua.

That night was spent under a fly, on a river flat just above the river. During the night the wind blew hard, and the fly had to be secured more than once. Luckily it did not rain terribly hard, and the river only rose slightly. Because of the deteriorated weather, and the lack of knowledge of the party's position, an attempt to cross the range over to Rangi was abandoned.

However, Kevin was not to know this, and so one member of the party went on down the valley to catch him before he drove away. In this he was only just successful, for it was not until Kevin was back at his car and ready to go that he was to be stopped. The rest of the party arrived a few hours later, after a leisurely tramp back down the valley.!5

Cont. from
page 4.

Those taking part: G. Pascoe, S. Luxton, K. Pearce, D. Ryrie, M. Watson, Leader:
I. Hoare.

26th – 30th March. Kaweka Range.

Easter Friday morning after spending the night at Lowry Lodge ten club members left the road end near the river gauge on the Ngaruroro river and climbed steeply onto Kuripapango Hill on rather a warm day. As we toiled along the main range the drifting cloud cleared and revealed the very eroded high country in all directions.

A cheerful but tired party arrived at Kiwi Saddle Hut late in the afternoon just as the rain commenced.

Saturday a.m. we moved north towards Castle camp where we had a welcome stop and a drink of very welcome water, secured some distance below the ridge.

Later we moved on to Kaiarahi, 4915 ft.; here we dropped the packs, scampered north over Studholmes Saddle to Dog Hill and then to Kaweka, 5657 ft., here to rest by the Memorial Cairn (to members of H. T. C. killed in the war).

Returning to our packs 3 hours later we galloped down a steep scree and reached Kaweka hut. This being full, we camped out near the creek.

Sunday was an easy day and tramp to M^cIntosh hut in beech forest some distance east of the camp. Later we returned to our camp site and then moved about 1 hour to a new camp site near the Tutaekuri river and another fine night out under the stars.

Monday we strolled leisurely out to the road with a pause for a swim at "The Lakes".

A memorable trip to a new tramping area for the club and one we will always remember - for the steep hills – the erosion - the beautiful warm weather and the welcome given us by a party of shooters at Kaweka Hut.

Those taking part: Kevin Pearce, Peter Flaus, Peter Baxter, Nigel Colling, Warwick Blanchard, Owen Robinson, Ian Hoare, Kevin Chivers, Dean Chivers, Russ Lacey (leader).

Later. We found the missing members of our party (6) were one day behind us led by Bill Olsen.

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