

P.N.TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

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

P.O.Box 1217,
Palmerston North.

NEWSLETTER 2/71

COMING EVENTS.

4th February

Thursday night Coffee meeting. 8 o'clock at the Nicoberg.

6th February

Saturday trip to Field's Hut, Tararuas, to celebrate the club's first trip. Leave Izadium: 6 a.m. Leader: Heather Crabb, 77-668 Cost: \$1.20

10th February

Lunchtime meeting, Wednesday 12.00 noon to 1.30 p.m. near the bridge in the Square.

13th-14th February

A joint trip with arch rivals, Manawatu Tramping & Skiing club to the Holdsworth-Totara Flats area. Leader: Brad Owen Leave Izadium 6.00 a.m. Cost: Approx \$2 Names to: Heather Crabb, 77-668

There may be optional side trips. Bring Food for a communal stew.

15th February

Committee meeting at Lynne Potter's, Flat 2, 6 Pirie St. 7.30 p.m.

18th February

Club Night. Thursday, 7.30 p.m. in the Quakers' Rooms behind the West End Chemist, College St. Those who took part in the Nelson Lakes trip over Christmas will be telling us of their experiences. Slides and supper.

27th February

A Saturday Crossing of the Ruahines via Tamaki West Stream (N.W. of Dannevirke), Cattle Creek and the Pohangina River. The party will travel light and fast. There is a slight possibility that we will not get home until Sunday. A FITNESS ESSENTIAL trip. Cost: \$1.40 Depart Izadium 6.00 a.m. Sharp Leader: Kevin Pearce. Can anyone help with transport to Tamaki?

27th February

An EASY Saturday trip up the Pohangina River. Bring your swimming togs, lunch, a mug and a parka. Come and watch the F.E. party thunder by. Cost: 60c Depart Izadium: 7.00 a.m. Home by: 6 p.m. Names to Heather Crabb, 77-668

4th March

Thursday Coffee meeting at the Nicoberg, 8 o'clock.

6th March

A MEDIUM EASY Saturday trip to the lower Ohau gorge. Bring swimming togs and a change of clothes. Enclose food and clothing in plastic bags. Depart Izadium: 7.00 a.m. Home by: 6.00 p.m. Cost: 70c Leader: Kevin Pearce.

10th March

Wednesday lunch meeting at the bridge in the Square. Bring along your parcel of sandwiches any time between 12 noon and 1.30 p.m. A fine weather event only.

12th-13th March

Greater Main Range, Tararuas. Depart from the Izadium 6.00 p.m. Friday night. A good torch and spare batteries are essential for the three hour tramp in the dark from Otaki Forks to Field's Hut. The trip leader will supply (at a cost) all food for breakfasts and dinners and hot drinks for two lunches and also chocolate, biscuits, sweets etc. Parka, overtrousers, balaclava, mittens and sleeping bag cover are necessary.

Grading: FITNESS ESSENTIAL Hope to be home by 8.00 p.m. Sunday. Cost: \$1.20 plus food. Leader: Kevin Pearce.

There is a possibility that a MEDIUM trip to Waitewaewae could run in conjunction with the above trip. Enquiries to Kevin.

15th March

Committee Meeting 7.30 p.m. Monday at 30 Surrey Cres.

18th March

Thursday Coffee, 8 p.m. at the Nicoberg.

25th March

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Palmerston North Tramping & Mountaineering Club.

9th-12th April

Easter trip to Tongariro National Park. Leader: Adrian Turner.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to

Randall Goldfinch, Napier
Cheryl Salmons, Phone 79-657

PAST EVENTS

27th-29th November

THE SOUTHERN

The P.N.T.M.C. "aged" a bit more as members completed the first "Otaki to Kaitoke Crossing". Field's Hut was reached Friday night. At 5.59 a.m. the keen trampers set off for Vosseler in overcast conditions. Morning tea was enjoyed at Vosseler by all before the party set out to explore derelict Kime Hut.

Hector (5016') was climbed by 11 a.m. From this point high winds (60 m.p.h.) battered the party, most of the day on the tops to Alpha Hut.

Sunday dawned a summer day and ideal conditions were experienced both on the tops and in the clear swimming holes of the Tauheranikau River. Some sunburned faces were noted. Party members completing the Crossing: John Foote, Dave Ryrie, Dawn Ellis, Ian Hoare, Grant Potter, Peter Baxter, Kevin Pearce, Tony, Michael, Mark and Sue Morrison, David and Bill Olsen: Leader.

12th-13th December

WALLS WHARE. BUSHCRAFT WEEKEND.

At 5.50 p.m. six P.N.T.M.C. members left Palmerston for Walls Whare.

After an unscheduled stop by the train, a long walk, a bus ride and another long walk we arrived at Walls Whare.

On Saturday we were given instruction on packaging, gear, bivvy building, fire lighting and tent pitching. That night a talk was given on bush behaviour. About ten or fifteen odd bods arrived on Saturday afternoon from all manner of strange places.

Sunday morning was spent putting into practice the instruction we had been given on river crossing. After a short stroll on Sunday afternoon the six P.N.T.M.C. members took over Woodside Railway station. The members enjoyed many strange looks from the local inhabitants. At 6.45 the railcar arrived and took us back to P.N.

Many thanks to Dave for arrangement of taxis. Members participating were: Peter Wallace, Richard Clarke, Mark Annabelle, Peter Baxter and Grant Potter. Leader: Dawn Ellis.

22nd-25th January ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND VISIT TO LAKE COLENZO

Brad Owen, Ian Hoare, Kevin Pearce and Owen Robinson together with eighteen members of the Hutt Valley Tramping Club enjoyed a wet Anniversary weekend in the Northern Ruahines. Transport was by a large truck of the type used to shift furniture. We entered and left the ranges near Wakarara. Brad, Ian, Kevin and four Hutt Valleys made a fast trip (1 hour) from Renutupo Hut to Lake Colenso and the Sunday. A particularly large eel was seen in the lake but the attempt to catch it using an acid drop was unsuccessful. It is hoped that further joint trips can be arranged.

25th Dec.-11th Jan. NELSON LAKES CHRISTMAS TRIP.

On 29th December thirteen members in high spirits travelled by car and ferry "Aramoana" to St Arnaud, Lake Rotoiti and camped there for the night. The next day party equipment and food were sorted out and we left the camping ground in fine warm weather at 8.30 a.m. to tramp to Lake Head Hut which was reached at 12.30 p.m. Peter Sutcliffe used his canoe taking approximately 1½ hours to the envy of the rest of the party. After lunch and a swim we traveled up the Travers River Flats to Shift Creek where a suitable camp site was found. On New Year's Eve, after nourishing breakfast of macaroni cheese and Rissol-nut we followed the Travers river to a camp site near John Tait Hut. Members celebrated the passing of the old year in their various peculiar ways, our President wearing his Christmas Dinner party hat, others talking far into the night despite such ladylike injunctions as to "shut up", "belt up" or "put a sock in it" flashed in morse code from the next tent; whereupon a young reveller emerged to let off crackers in the still night causing three young ladies to stiffen out in their sleeping bags, thinking it was a hunter going berserk with his rifle.

On 1st January the party split into three groups. Adrienne, Cheryl, Heather, Jane and Adrian remained around camp and rambled further up the Travers Track. Brad, Kevin and Peter Sutcliffe left camp at 5.30 a.m. and climbed Mt Cupola, 7396', returning to camp by 5.30 p.m. Sue, Grant, Lawson, Peter Baxter and Randall left camp at 5.30 a.m. and climbed Mt Travers, 7671'. All enjoyed the magnificent views of surrounding mountains and there was much shutter-bugging. The party returned to camp by 5.45 p.m. After a heartily enjoyed dinner most members retired to their sleeping bags only to be disturbed by weird ethereal beings haunting the camp and uttering soul searing moans. Glances which clearly said "I don't believe in ghosts" were effective in exorcising them.

We left this camp site on 2nd January proceeding up Travers Track to Upper Travers Hut which was occupied. We set up camp nearby. The weather had turned cloudy and cooler. The following morning had a shock in store for our trip members. A Yeti had entered camp and somehow become attached to the tree which sheltered our cooking facilities. It was a Yeti with taking ways apparently, as he was wearing Lawson's parka and overtrousers. The party again split into three groups. Kevin, Adrian, Brad and Peter S. climbed Mt. Travers reaching the summit approx. 11.30 a.m. with fine clear visibility. Adrienne, Cheryl, Heather, Jane, Peter B., Lawson and Randall left camp at 8 a.m. to climb Kehu Peak, 7275', or generally have a good look around. It was confusing to know which was Kehu Peak amongst many other peaks. Peter B. and Randall climbed the peak nearest to Upper Travers Hut. Before returning to camp everyone glissaded in a patch of snow. Sue and Grant remained around camp and prepared the evening meal. The weather deteriorated becoming cold and overcast. We woke on 4th Jan. to the sound of pelting rain and gusty wind. The hut becoming vacant our party rapidly moved in and settled down for the day cooking, drying clothes and playing cards. Some bods went for a walk in the afternoon when the rain stopped.

We left the Upper Travers Hut at 8.30 a.m. on 5th Jan. to cross the saddle into the Sabine Valley. The party reached a tarn on the saddle top at 10.30 a.m. One hour was spent going along to a larger tarn nearer Rainbow Pass. Snow markers were followed down part of the way. We then cut down through bush onto a scree, where we had lunch. We sidled across to the correct valley. This led down to the Sabine Track.

The deep gorge was viewed with amazement, a 120' rope being lowered from the bridge remaining dry at the end. Sabine Forks was reached and camp was set up 20 minutes up the West Branch. Here inquisitive robins honoured us with visits into our tents. After dinner as on several other nights we serenaded the night with songs from our one song book, craning over each other's shoulders to read the words, some having to read them upside down!

We left the camp site at 9.30 a.m. on 6th Jan. heading up the track to Blue Lake Hut which was reached at 2.00 p.m. The remainder of the day was spent swimming in the icy cold lake and generally cleaning up.

The next day we walked past Blue Lake to see where the stream emerged through the moraine wall, then we followed over this to Lake Constance, where perfect reflections were seen. On the return mist rapidly came down. After lunch the party left the Hut to return to the previous camp site above the Forks. On 8th Jan. we followed down the Sabine River track and took time for swimming now and again. We reached the Sabine Hut at 4.30 p.m. where a box of food having been arranged to be left for us, was carried back to camp, ½ hour back up the track near the edge of the river. A fine dinner was enjoyed.

On 9th Jan. the party split into two groups for the remainder of the trip. Cheryl, Sue, Peter B., Peter S., Brad, Lawson and Randall continued along to Sabine Hut where from the back of the hut Mt. Cedric, 5026', track leads up through birch forest. The track was followed, map in hand, to the Cairn across the ridge tops where they had lunch. The view from Angelus across the lake was terrific with coloured rocks. Lake Angelus provided good swimming.

Adrienne, Heather, Jane, Adrian, Grant and Kevin continued around to Sabine Hut where we commenced climbing up to the ridge line. The track tended to meander for a considerable distance on the tops until reaching Tier Stream where lunch was consumed. We continued downstream for a short distance before arriving at a shepherd's cottage. At this point a well defined track led through farm land and partial bush. While tramping on this part of the track three young quail and parents were observed. We set up camp beside the Hodson Stream.

Some of the first party climbed Angelus Peak, 6837', in 1½ hours, and returned to the hut for a fine morning tea the others had prepared. Then the group left Angelus Hut tramping along Robert Ridge, marked with dark red paint crosses on the rocks. There were terrific views of Speargrass Creek and Hut. Peter S. separated at 3 p.m. to get his canoe from Lake Head Hut. The remaining group reached the West Bay car park of Lake Rotoiti at 4.40 p.m. The weather once more was fine and hot.

In the meantime the second party left their camp site with a steady climb for approximately two hours onto a bush covered, swampy plateau. We then dropped a short distance to a tributary of Maud Creek. Then we sidled around up to a further ridge and continued to drop to Speargrass Creek for lunch. The creek was followed for some distance. The track had to sidle around ridges until we reached the West Bay Car park of Lake Rotoiti at 3.30 p.m.

We camped once more at St. Arnaud and the following day a happy band of trampers returned home by car, ferry "Aranui" and train. Trip members: Kevin Pearce (leader), Adrienne Thompson, Cheryl Slamons, Heather Crabb, Jane Scrymgeour, Sue Streeter, Adrian Turner, Brad Owen, Grant Potter, Peter Baxter, Peter Sutcliffe, Lawson Pither, Randall Goldfinch.

"ON INCIDENTS DELIGHTFUL AND SOME MOST TERRIBLE FRIGHTFUL"

Peter with his fishing rod
Tramped over the greensward sod.
To catch a fish was his earnest wish
But alas and alack we saw no such dish.

In a canoe as big as a shoe
It was up the lake that Peter flew
Passing by with a victorious cry
Which made the rest of us want to sigh.

It was Lawson with his mosquito netting
Who haunted the camp after the sun setting.
A terrible fright to see such a sight
Which kept them awake and dancing all night.

With a half billy of water he sought 'er
But no luck, never caught 'er.
The door he did climb, one foot at a time
While the rest looked on with looks sublime.

It was Randall who nearly started a scandal
By being a dab hand with an old axe handle.
He chopped the wood as fast as he could
Until the whole ground shook on which he stood.

Our Grant with terrible yell of "I can't!"
Was thrown in the creek midst an ominous chant.
With an injunction of "I don't mean maybe,"
This was the fate of our grubby baby.

Now Brad the lad was terribly sad
He tore the only shorts he ever had.
By all he swore it would happen no more
As he threw those old shorts clean out the door.

Now Adrian, after mu-celli had
The most terrible pains in the belly
His hands grew sweaty and it was no yeti
Just a breakfast he will never forgetti.

The mosquitoes to Adrienne took a liking.
The effect of this was most striking.
They bombed and they bit without giving a whit
To the size of the eye on which they did sit.

Now it was Heather going all for leather
Who kept our happy party much together.
Thus it was our ladies' leader
Was never to be found when we did need her.

Peter B. it was good to see
Was always in the foremost three.
By the food he ate at a shocking rate
He could run and jump like a bull at a gate.

It could be well to remember
Our smallest member
Whose greatest wish
Was not to be liked to a "Greasy Dish."
Anon.

GENERAL It has come to the notice of the committee that an undesirable trend is passing through the club. That is, members trading their roomy cars for sleek little two seater jobs. If this state of affairs is allowed to continue the committee will have to take drastic steps to provide transport for trips. The question is, what can we afford – this?

