



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING  
& MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (INC)  
P.O. Box 1217 Palmerston North

## NEWSLETTER

Hon. Secretary,  
Heather Crab, 77-668.

2/73

### COMING EVENTS.

#### 22<sup>nd</sup> February. CLUB NIGHT.

At the Society of Friends' Church Hall, 227 College St., at 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.  
Slides on Mt. Egmont National Park will be presented by Trevor Stretton.

SUPPER DUTIES: Sue Streeter, Pauline Gibbons, Alastair Gaisford.

#### 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> February. WALLS WHARE -- TOTARA FLATS.

Grading: Medium Cost: \$2.20 approx.  
Depart Izadium: 6.00 a.m. Saturday. Leader: Karyn Bishop,  
phone 84-925.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> March. KAIMANAWAS.

Grading: Medium & Fit. Cost: \$4.00 approx.  
Depart Izadium: 6.00 p.m. Friday Night. Leader: Ian Hoare, phone  
83-448.

#### 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> March. IRON GATES HUT.

Grading: Easy. Cost: \$1.50 approx.  
Depart Izadium: 6:30 a.m. Saturday. Leader: Trevor Stretton, 84-  
925.

#### 14<sup>th</sup> March. COMMITTEE MEETING.

At Russ Johnson's, 11 Lifford Place, at 7:30 p.m.

#### 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> March. FULL OTAKI RIVER.

Grading: F.E. Cost: \$2.00 approx.  
Depart Izadium: 6:30 p.m. Friday night. Leader: Tim Short,  
phone 76-906.

#### 18<sup>th</sup> March. WAITEWAEWAE HUT.

Grading: Medium. Cost: \$1.70  
Depart Izadium: 6:30 a.m. Sunday. Names to: Trevor  
Stretton, 84-925.

#### 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> March. OTAKI GORGE.

Grading: Fit and Medium. Cost: \$1.70  
Depart Izadium: 6:30 a.m. Saturday. Names to: Phone 84-925.

#### 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> March. Hikurangi - Crow Huts.

Grading: Fit. Cost: \$1.70 approx.  
Depart Izadium: 6.00 a.m. Saturday. Leader: Karyn Bishop,  
phone 84-925.

25<sup>th</sup> March. CROW HUT.

Grading: Easy. Cost: \$1.70 approx.  
Depart Izadium: 6:30 a.m. Sunday.

29<sup>th</sup> March. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Palmerston North Tramping & Mountaineering Club will be held on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 1973 at 7:30 p.m. in the Society of Friends' Church Hall, 227 College St., Palmerston North.

Nominations for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Auditor, not less than five committee members and Patron are required.

Subscriptions will be due immediately after the meeting.

Members wishing to resign are reminded of their obligation to inform the Secretary of their desire not to renew their membership.

31<sup>st</sup> March-1<sup>st</sup> April. WAIKAMAKA HUT.

Grading: Medium. Cost: \$2.50 approx.  
Depart Izadium: 6:30 a.m. Saturday. Leader: Ian Hoare,  
phone 83-448.

NEW MEMBER:

A welcome is extended to Susan Margetts, 34 Surrey Cres., Palmerston North.

NOTICES.

HIRE GEAR.

People returning gear to the Gear Custodian are requested to leave a note with it saying which trip it was used on, so that in the event of his not being home, he will know the details necessary to complete his records.

CLUB VEHICLE

HURRAY, HURRAY, HURRAY !!!

Squares on the truck at being snapped up fast. The donation of 50c or more for the purposes of restoration will secure one for you with your name recorded for posterity. Donations for this worthy cause is will help us to get the vehicle on the road for your pleasure. Please hand your donation to Bruce Lockwood or any committee member.

LEARN FIRST AID.

St John Ambulance are running a course at their Cuba St. Headquarters, commencing 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. to 9<sup>th</sup> April. For further details watch the local press, or phone Mr. J Doolan Tel. 83-934. There will be 6 lectures; people will be required to attend at least 5. Cost \$3.50 includes 250 page text book.

The course is open to anybody aged 15 yrs. or over.

YOUTH HOSTEL ASSOCIATION

The MANAWATU BRANCH of the Y.H.A. meet on the first Monday of every month at 8.00 p.m. in the staff canteen of Messrs. Collinson & Cunningham (King St. entrance.) All Club members will come.

WARNING -- NOTICE OF (IL)LEGAL ACTION.

To all the males concerned: we, the weak, helpless and demure female members of the club will not be terrorized into going swimming when we don't want to. It is a disgraceful situation when we are bodily tossed into pools like bags of garbage, or have to jump in fully clothed from shear (sic) fear.

Therefore, I, the undersigned, declare that action other than legal, but drastic will be taken towards all those concerned whether they be active participants or passive observers, who take great pleasure in inciting riots and violence.

#### FOR SALE

A Brown Best 'Tripax' pack in very good condition. \$12. Contact James Read, P.O. Box 1161, Palmerston North.

Mountain Mule Pack and a pair of tramping boots size 5 or 6, both in good condition. See Dawn Ellis, or contact the Secretary, 77-668.

#### PAST TRIPS

The following account of a daring exploit has been taken from the pages of "The Diary of a Madman," by K.N. Peers.

#### 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> January, 1973. GREATER NORTHERN CROSSING.

(A stunning, sickening account of backsliding, cowardice and anti social activities by certain decadent elements. Censors classification R25.)

The Anniversary weekend of 1973 was probably the last Anniversary weekend there will ever be (Waitangi Day, Labour Governments and all that.) However, in spite of this last chance decadent elements within the club piked. It is a pity that this horrid 5 letter word should have to appear in a Club publication. For those who have led the sheltered life of a TRAMPER (rather than just that of a trumper) a definition is given – PIKE (verb) To opt out, to balk, to show cowardice, to lack resolve and fortitude, to be unreliable and easily defeated, to shirk.

The residue of the party left after the great pike, travelled to Masterson by the 5:50 p.m. railcar on Friday evening, thence by taxi to Holdsworth Lodge and thence on foot to Powell Hut, arriving at 11.00 p.m. An early start was made next morning and we reached Tarn Ridge at the 11:30 a.m., Te Matawai at 3:30 p.m. and South Ohau at 5.00 p.m. The weather was fine and clear but cool because of a strong breeze. Camp was made a few minutes down stream from the hut.

We started late on Sunday morning and arrived at the pipe bridge at 11 a.m. and then travelled by thumb, reaching Palmerston North at 12:30 p.m. Sunday.

The names of those taking part are not given, not as a space saving measure but to protect the pikers from the enraged fury of Club members. (Pikers could otherwise be found by difference thus -- Names on trip list minus names on Newsletter account equals pikers.)

#### 11<sup>th</sup> February. TUKITUKI RIVER.

Write a trip report on the Tukituki? What can I say?

It rained and it rained and it rained. We saw a gate with a notice bearing the words "No Shooting," so I searched my companions and went through. It rained and we dropped down into the Morecock Stream. It rained as we wandered down stream to meet the Tukituki. Five sodden people sheltered under an X.O.S. rock up the Tukituki to have their lunch. Hot soup and a billy of tea warmed us and we breathed in the fresh air and watched bubbles foaming in the river and it rained. We saw the first few of the Howlett's party sprinting down the river so called them over -- well they couldn't have got much wetter anyway. So we packed up and retraced our steps -- back to a dry hut.

Party members: Dave and Steve Galbreath, James Read, Heather and Maire Crabb.

#### THE PASSAGE OF THE F.E.s

I became conscious of a sudden quietness, a stillness -- I paused. No bird was singing, no cricket chirping, no leaf rustling. Then I sensed a most distant rumble. At first very faint, but rapidly increasing in intensity. I use the word 'sensed' as it was as much felt as heard. I was frightened. An earthquake? Nuclear war? Volcanic corruption? The end of the world? The ground began to shake, the noise reached a crushing pitch, a tremendous thundering as though million great stallions were in stampede.

The sky began to darken from the south east yet it was lit as if by flashes of unseen lightning. The trees about me began to sway and fall, mud splattered and steam billowed. The air was acrid and sparking with electricity. And then it passed, fading to the north west. The sky lightened. Fields track was left dry and smoking, sulphurous fumes hung in the air. The F.E.s had passed! Sunday afternoon, 4<sup>th</sup> February on the return from the Annual pilgrimage to Fields hut.

OBSERVATION OF A STRANGE CUSTOM.

Throughout the mountainous areas of New Zealand and particularly in the Tararuas, there stand many strange edifices. These are temples, known to the aborigines as 'huts.' At frequent intervals, usually at weekends, a weird religious rite is practiced. Each temple is equipped with an altar or 'fire place.' The aborigines throw sacred objects known as 'tin cans', 'food scraps' and 'rubbish' into the altar to placate their gods. (The chief god is called 'Forestry.' 'Hughie' is another important deity.) It seems to be believed that the gods remove these non inflammable sacred objects for their own use by a process of spontaneous combustion. The unbiased observer, free from superstition can clearly see that this is not so. The sacrifices soon fester and rot and accumulate to an ever increasing depth. Strange indeed are the ways of the natives!

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