



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

NEWSLETTER

6/73

Hon. Secretary,
Kevin Pearce, 74-129
ext. 871.

COMING EVENTS.

23rd-24th June. BLUE RANGE -- COW CREEK HUT --
RUAMAHANGA RIVER

Grading: Medium. Cost: \$2.00
Leave Izadium: 6.00 a.m. Sat. Leader: Trevor Stretton, 84-925

28th June. CLUB NIGHT.

At the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College St., at 7:30 p.m.

FILMS: "Conquistador of the useless," the biography of the French climber, Terray.
National Mountain Safety Council film on "Rockclimbing".

A short film on Shotguns.

SUPPER DUTIES: Heather Crabb, Peter Hyde, Anne Hayman.

30th June-1st July. MANGAHAO DAM -- PUKETURA TRACK -- HARRIS CREEK.

A visit to the Tararuas involving some tops travel and also camping.

Grading: Medium Cost: 80 cents

Depart Izadium: 6.00 a.m. Saturday. Leader: Peter Baxter, phone

Feilding 5296.

1st June. HARRIS CREEK

A day trip going past the fabulous Mangahao Dams and meeting up with the weekend trip.

Grading: Medium-Easy Cost: 80 cents.

Depart Izadium: 6.00 a.m. Sunday. Leader: Elli Schlee, phone

84-925.

7th-8th July. ROCK CLIMBING COURSE -- TITAHU BAY AND MAKARA.

The first of three Mountaincraft courses. Persons wishing to take part in the later snowcraft courses are strongly advised to attend this course. Numbers may have to be restricted so demonstrate your keenness by getting names in early.

Cost: \$2.50 Depart Izadium: 7.00 a.m. Saturday.

Leader: Lawson Pither, phone 85-616

11th July. COMMITTEE MEETING.

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at Kevin Pearce's, 378 Botanical Rd.

14th-15th July. Pourangaki.

A little to the north of 'Rangi' lies the uncharted Pourangaki Valley. Fine weather is likely.

Grading:	Medium	Depart Izadium:	6.00 a.m. Saturday.
Cost:	\$1.50	Leader:	Karyn Bishop,

phone 84-925.

15th July. KELLY KNIGHT CAMPSITE.

A day trip to the Pourangaki.

Grading:	Easy	Depart Izadium:	6.00 a.m. Sunday.
Cost:	\$1.50	Leader:	Keith Margrain,

phone 77-303

21st-22nd July. RUAPEHU SNOWCRAFT I.

The second of the three Mountaincraft courses, to be held on the Chateau side of Mount Ruapehu. Accommodation will be in the N.Z. Alpine Club Hut. Cutlery, plates, mugs, billies, primuses are not necessary but bring them and leave in the cars in case weather is too bad to reach the hut. The Snowcraft Course is for keen people who are reasonably fit and who are willing to put effort into their activities.

Communal food will be organised for breakfasts and for Saturday night's dinner. Bring your own lunches (2) and also biscuits, chocolate etc. Bring full storm gear including mittens and over mitts, woollen longs and overtrousers, snow goggles and snow cream. Names must be in by Monday 16th.

Cost:	(very approximately, including transport, hut fees, food and gear hire) \$9.00
Depart Izadium:	6.00 a.m. sharp Saturday. (Home about 8.00 p.m. Sunday.)
Leader:	Kevin Pearce, phone 74-129 ext.871.

26th July. CLUB NIGHT.

Something exciting -- at the Society of Friends' Hall, 227 College St., at 7:30 p.m.
SUPPER DUTIES: Karyn Bishop, Ron Haxton, Julia Herbert.

28th-29th July. CONSERVATION EXERCISE.

Leader: Glenn Dixon.

As this is held at the start of Conservation Week we will be doing something along the lines of conservation. In past years we have planted trees in remote areas. Would people going on trips please carry a suitable plastic bag to collect litter on tracks and around huts, to be used in our display in the Pavilion during Conservation Week.

4th-5th August: EGMONT SNOWCRAFT II

Advanced Snowcraft Instruction -- the last of the Mountaincraft Courses.

Cost:	about \$9.00	Leader:	Brad Owen, phone 83-467
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CHRISTMAS 1973/74.

It is proposed to run a trip of about ten days duration to the beautiful Nelson Lakes area. The cost will be in the vicinity of \$35. With those interested in going on this trip please hand their names to Lawson Pither, phone 85-616, as soon as possible, as he requires names to enable him to make the necessary bookings.

Please get your names in early even if you are only just thinking of going on this trip.

NOTICES

NEW MEMBER.

A welcome is extended to Michael Russell of 85 Rugby St., P.N.

RESIGNATION

We note with regret the resignation of our Vice President, Adrian Turner, who's off to the bright lights of Perth. Trevor Stretton has been appointed Vice President to replace Adrian.

LAST CHRISTMAS TRIP FOOD.

The food which was abandoned at Karamea has been recovered and Tim Short is sharing it out among the members of the Christmas trip. Stake your claim before 26th July. Unclaimed food will be sold in the funds transferred to the Club's account.

TRIP SCHEDULE CHANGES.

Members are requested to make the following changes to their trip schedule cards:

July 7th-8th Rockclimbing Course.
July 21st-22nd Ruapehu Snowcraft I.
August 4th-5th Egmont Snowcraft II
August 25th-26th Waiopahu-Gable End-Ohau. F.

OUTSTANDING TRIP FEES AND MISSING GEAR.

\$2.60 is still owed for the rockclimbing trip 5th-6th May. With the person concerned please attend to this matter. Also some items of gear are missing. If you find anything that does not belong to you hiding in the bottom of your pack please bring it along to Club Night.

ENGAGEMENT.

Adrienne Thompson and Paul Garlick, of Karamea have been and gone and done it and got themselves engaged. Congratulations, Adrienne and Paul!

THE USE OF PRAYER FLAGS IN THE MOUNTAIN RANGES.

We have previously drawn attention to the strange religious customs practised by the aborigines of the mountain ranges of New Zealand (Newsletter 2/73). A further weird custom has recently coming to our notice. The natives are obsessed with prayer flags which they refer to buy the strange name of 'socks'. They wear these prayer flags on the feet when walking but upon arriving at one of their temples (the diligent student will remember that these are called 'huts' by the natives) they fly their flags all around the inside of the temple. Indeed there seems to be some kind of race or competition to get as many flags flying as possible in the best possible positions such as above the altar. The moisture which drips from the flags is collected in cups and is drunk with tea or coffee or otherwise is collected in billies and is eaten with food. Apparently the moisture is considered to be sacred and very beneficial to health. Although I am only an anthropologist and have little medical knowledge I feel sure that the natives are mistaken in this belief. The natives take great delight and exercise incredible ingenuity in stringing up their prayer flags in all sorts of novel places so that the drips of sacred moisture fall everywhere -- even on their cocoons. It seems probable that the natives are attempting to placate their god Hughie with the prayer flag flying as they practise the ceremony most fervently during wet weather. Strange indeed are the ways of the natives!

HIRE GEAR

Would persons who hire gear for trips please return it in a clean condition? Billies must be washed thoroughly at home with hot soapy water. The Gear Custodian should not be expected to do this in addition to his other duties.

PAST TRIPS.

21st-23rd October, 1972. Waikaremoana.

The leader apologises for three unexplainable lapses of memory.

1. Forgetting when this trip took place, and the names of the participants and huts we bypassed.
2. Forgetting to write it up or leave any record.
3. Most unforgivable, forgetting to check up on the travelling times and inflicting grave concern and endless misery on the fitter and less fat members respectively.

The grunt up the hill, after an uncomfortable night spent in cars took 7 hours instead of the anticipated 3. Gaining at last the top of Panakiri Bluff, we found it crowded with teeming multitudes, and no free camping sites. We pushed on for another two hours till we found water, the weather being very dry and camped one hour away from the lake, suffered ants in the pants, spaghetiburgers and oversized opossums. Next morning after a refreshing swim we walked around the many, many arms of the lake, occasionally climbing on to bluffs. At 11.30 the hungry appetites were appeased..... lunch when we next reached water at 2 p.m.

A side trip to see a waterfall proved rather unrewarding in the drought. Several swim stops later we pitched camp right by the lake, disregarding the dangerous Taniwha. Judith was seen to carry her boots lovingly throughout the trip, occasionally bathing them in the lake. And Glenn showed us how to cut a fish before you catch it. Next day, weighed down heavily by a rice and raisins, with ears still ringing from the singsong, we set out on the last leg of the journey. One member injured his knee and went out and style -- by launch.

On meeting again we had to walk for some distance along the road. I recommend to parties and swapping cars for a trip this size -- easier organising the food, too.

No fatalities attributable to the Taniwha were recorded.

Trip members: Elli Schlee, leader, Mary-Ann Whitehead, Ina Te Wiata, Janice Rockell, Tim Short, Judith Domney, Glenn Dixon, Trevor Stretton, Maurice Te Wiata, Shirley Whitehead, Raewyn Lees, Michael O'Connor, Ann Clark, Susan Margetts, Alan Stretton, Peter Darragh.

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MASS ARREST OF CLUB MEMBERS? Monday 27th May.

The following persons who were seen in the 'Black Maria' (grey actually) were not under arrest and were not on their way to goal. Lawson Pither, Kevin Pearce, Andrew Laurent, Brad Owen, Glenn Dixon, Russ Johnson, John Newton, Chris Dench, Keith Potter, Tim Short and Denis Arnott. These people were in fact on their way to assist in the search for Kelvin Kennedy, one of two trampers who were swept away while attempting to cross the flooded Otaki River just below the Forks after having failed to find the bridge. The 'Black Maria' is a convenient vehicle for transporting search teams. The search was not successful although a pack belonging to the survivor was recovered. (A body was later found on the beach several miles south of Otaki.)

This drowning together with an earlier double drowning in the Park River illustrates the dangers of fording flooded rivers. Of the 5 persons who attempted to cross flooded rivers

60% were drowned. Not very good odds!

2nd-4th June. QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY. OHAU -- TE MATAWAI -- MANGAHAO.

The triplet trudged up to Ohau Hut in the backbreaking time of 45 minutes. The three optimists after conversation with three pacifists (sic) continued the crusade up to South Ohau for lunch. We continued up half an hour to the cairn which was presumed to be some indication of the track up to Girdlestone saddle. One member turning slightly pessimistic gained victory over the optimists who through continual pleading finally convinced the stubborn 2/3s that Yeates Track was more suitable for our attempts. We met two deersquarkers who tried hard to keep up with us, but for reasons unbeknown to us they decided to have a rest. The leader being the bright, fit fan of the outdoors decided to accompany them, so in complete loyalty the remaining trampers, in complete desperation, viewed Mitre Peak as well. After a dousing of water we continued the slog to Te Matawai Hut.

One primus provided the hut with more heat than we had bargained for that night so the crusaders decided that the fly for one member was completely in order. A warm night was spent by most members brought a late evacuation of the hut at about 830. After saddling the packs we cantered off pointing the nose in the direction of Pukematawai. The three optimists again saw a beautiful view of Ruapehu and the distant Mt. Egmont. The weather turned mouldy so as usual the slightly uncoordinated member turned pacifistic (sic) again. This time the optimists, through the grace of God and the aid of a barley sugar left the pacifist in disgrace murmuring something about touroids. With everyone on an uneven keel we made our way down Staircase Creek. After scaling a few large objects we made our way to Avalanche Flats Hut. Rising at dusk (?) meant an early start from the hut at approximately 10.30. Partial bare back riding and use of tracks where possible brought us to Harris Creek and the scheduled time of 2½ hours. One member pacifistic, one member optimistic and one member still pondering meant that we would be late for the rendezvous if we stopped for lunch. So on the crusade went, running on hope and a barley sugar. We were exactly 180 seconds early for the arranged meeting time. A special thanks to Russell and Mr. Dixon for the taxiing service provided.

Trip members: Keith Margrain - optimist
Tim Short - optimist
Glenn Dixon - pacifist.

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RUGBY?
CRICKET?
RACING?
TROTTHING?

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The typist apologises for any changes in the text of trip reports. Sometimes it is necessary grammatically, but more often because she cannot read the author's writing!

EASTER, 1973.

We regret that once again the trip leader has fallen down on his duty in furnishing a trip report but the fact is that on this trip he was so intent on driving his party ruthlessly onwards and upwards that he collapsed all over the place (ugh! how untidy) and hasn't yet recovered sufficiently to write his report! ! !

STOP PRESS This item was handed in just before the newsletter went to the printer.

THE PACK CARRYING MARATHON -- EASTER, 1973.

There were fourteen little trampers

Sitting on a hill.

They all fell down a shingle slide

and then there were nil.

Actually it didn't quite happen that way. It was all a bit more complicated than that. We were scheduled to leave Palmerston North at 6 p.m. on Thursday -- so promptly at 7 p.m. I picked up my last passenger (could not have been Heather being wrong) after getting all the others on the way or away from the fish and chip shop. After 2½ hours drive and a stop in Dannevirke for tea we arrived at Glenny Road end and the old mill and school. On arrival the first car load was busy finding out where the natives were living in as to where we might be able to spend a comfortable night. On finding an old empty house, after much debating, all settled down for the night and then the inevitable happened. Another car load arrived.

Friday morn dawned bright and clear and with the smell of sausages cooking and primuses burning breakfast was eaten and food and gear split up for the weekend. Owing to a slight mistake some members started on up the river so Ian did a quick sprint up and directed everyone on to the right track across the bridge and up the road. After two hours trudging along the dropped off the end of the road down into the river, where the first tragedy occurred. "Where the's Paul and Glenn?" No sight, then, "There they go in a puff of smoke," and all that was to be found was the smouldering butts of two cigarettes. From there it was into and up the river to the spur. Yes, that's right, Colenso Spur. It was decided to stop for lunch at the river as this would be the last water until we had got up over and down to the river on the other side. So after an early lunch which we were told was wrong ("Lunch is always at 12.00" quote James.) After lunch it was up and away or awaaaaay up, and so it went slow -- slower and still slower and also it started to rain and blow and get darker and darker. On getting out of the bush and onto the snowgrass slope our club's previous secretary decided that she had carried her pack quite far enough, so then started the pack carrying marathon, with darkness closing in quickly. With the thought of going down the shingle slide in the dark with some members who had not been on slips before and some who did not like slips at the best of times it was decided to spend the night on the tops. As the wind seemed as though it was not going to abate the tents were not pitched but instead laid. As was mentioned earlier there was no water, so tea that night consisted of dried fruit salad, raisins and chocolate. After everyone had bunked down, Christine was heard to say, "What's that's star up there?" "It's the moon." She became completely moonstruck so we shot her. After a restless night everyone arose early next morning and headed down to water. Down the slip the pack carrying act came in again. At last Remutopo Hut and breakfast, all was at last night's tea for an early lunch? It was here that we lost Karyn. While cooking the soup sheep blew herself up with the primus. Also as we had a tape recording of James's voice we decided we didn't need them as well so we pushed him over a bluff. After hanging up the sleeping bags and clothes to dry seven members set off down stream. The first turned back about 100 yards down stream through fear of getting wet socks. After ¾ hour the next one decided not to carry on. That left five. After another ½ hour three more turned back after being told that Colenso Lake was about ¼ hour further on and time was running out. It was here that Jane and Ian disappeared into the mist taking half the party food with them and were never heard of again.

Meanwhile back at Rautopo Hut the sleepers had stirred and were busying themselves with the cooking of dinner which was cooked to the turn just as the three keen trampers arrived at the hut from down stream. After tea bed arrangements were made, 12 people in a 6 bunk hut. Here Maurice invoked the wrath of the Hammerfors by taking their name in vain, so they carried him off in the night.

In the morning it was decided not to wait for Ian and Jane but to carry on up to the tops. But before we left Mary-Ann's nose started to bleed so we applied pressure to the arteries in her neck shutting off the blood supply to the brain. Bye-bye Mary-Ann. Now we were off, but where was Peter? Then it was remembered Peter had painstakingly tied himself into his upper bunk with an enormous length of growth, creating such a fine mesh net over himself he couldn't get out in the morning and had to be left behind to his fate. Anyway we went up the stream then up the SLIP. Half way up the going got harder so the fit ones headed off to find the easiest way up then it reverted back to the trick of double packing. Ones up on the tops a short stop was taken to rest then we started off across the tops. After about five minutes there was another stop, unscheduled this time with the sudden collapse of someone. Then a puff of wind blew Heather away and she was last seen doing a Mary Poppins act over Waipawa. With this stop more clothes were put on and some food was eaten, then off again across the tops and down to the bush line. After a stop for lunch we carry on to the cross in the track and it was decided to go down to Makaroro Hut. In this hut there were also only 6 bunks but 12 people can fit in -- and sleep? It was here that Ina and Janice lost their way while looking for the loo and were forced to end their lives shut in the meat safe. On Monday morning we had a slow trip down the river and out to the road. We had lunch at the Forestry Hut then on down the road, across the bridge and back to the cars. Now we had the worry of getting the residue of our party back to Palmerston North in two cars but luck was with us. Kevin and Keith arrived after spending the full Easter weekend just up river a bit (and recorded they had done a fit trip.)

This is the list of dead or missing persons: Peter Hyde, Ina and Maurice Te Wiata, Paul Ross, Glenn Osborne, Janice Rockell, Ian Hoare, Jane Scrymgeour, Heather Crabb, Christine Batt, Karyn Bishop, Mary-Ann Whitehead, James Read, Trevor Stretton, Leader.

I must leave now now, dear friends, as St. Peter is waiting to give me my wings. You see when I arrived back with not even 50% of my party the committee decided to.....It was a lovely execution.....