



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

NEWSLETTER

3/74

Hon. Secretary,
Kevin Pearce, 74-129 Ext 860.
Membership Convenor:
Heather Crabb, 77-668.

COMING EVENTS.

28th MARCH – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Palmerston North Tramping & Mountaineering Club will be held on Thursday 28 March 1974 at 7:30 p.m. in the Society of Friend's Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North.

AGENDA

Apologies
Minutes of last A.G.M.
President's Report
Financial Report
Election of Officers
Subscriptions

Notice of Motion (Committee) that the subscriptions remain as they are for the coming year. i.e. \$5.00 Family, \$4.00 Senior, \$2.50 Junior (still at school.)

General

Notice of Motion Pearce/Stretton that this meeting instructs the incoming committee to sell the club vehicle; the proceeds to go into the club's general fund.

Members asked to bring their own pens or pencils for voting.

SUPPER DUTIES : Keith Potter, Helen Peek, Janice Rockell

30-31st MARCH -- MT NGAURUHOE

A visit to an area that abounds with interesting geological features including active volcanoes, hot springs, fault lines, dykes, explosion pits, lava flows (large & small, old & new) etc etc.

Leader : John Williams Phone 840925
Grading: Medium & Fit (i.e. 2 trips)
Report : Izadium a.m. Saturday
Cost : \$5.00 approx.

6-7th APRIL RANGIWAHIA HUT

"Rangi" is the Club Hut. Need more be said?

Leader : Glenn Dixon Phone 83-649
Grading: Easy
Depart : Izadium 6a.m. Saturday
Cost : \$2.00

12-15th APRIL EASTER TRIPS TO MT EGMONT

Two trips will be run this weekend, one for the fitters and the other normal mortals.

Around, About and Over Mt Egmont: Grading F. Leader Kevin Pearce
Around the Mountain : Grading M.

Names to John Williams 84-925 before 9th April
Depart: Izadium 6a.m. Friday
Cost : \$5.50

16th APRIL EASTER SUNDAY NORTH OHAU

Your chance to visit an area frequented by off-course nocturnal South Ohau-ers.

Names to Russ Johnson Phone 87-777
Grading : Easy
Depart : Izadium 7a.m. Sunday
Cost : \$1.60

20-21st APRIL SHINGLE SLIP KNOB

A visit to the Devon air crash.

Leader : Ian Hoare Phone 83-488
Grading : Fit
Depart : Izadium 6.00 a.m. Saturday
Cost : \$3.50

20-21st APRIL MT HOLDSWORTH WITH ELLI

Well it's up up up up

Yum. Yum. Yum, yum

down, down, down, down, down a pixie track

Possible excursion to Totara Flats according to interest of participants.

Leader : Ellie Schlee Phone 84-925
Grading : Easy
Depart : Izadium 6.00 a.m. Saturday
Cost : \$3.50

24th MARCH WEDNESDAY CLUB NIGHT -- SLIDE COMPETITION

Urgent: All members are requested to submit slides for the Competition immediately so that the Judge can pre-view them. Please deliver your slides, plus entry fee, to one of the following:

Russ Johnson, Empire Service Station, Main St, P.N.
Kevin Pearce, 378 Botanical Road, P.N. (evenings)
or bring them to the A.G.M.

2 CLASSES: "Novice" those who have not entered any previous Club photo competition.
"Veteran" all other club members.

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:
 - (a) Flora and fauna
 - (b) People
 - (c) Scenery
 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. Entry Fee – 5 cents for each slide.
 8. First winners will receive the total sum collected as entry fees for that class.
 9. The judge's decision is final.
 10. All slides to carry the owner's identification mark and may be titled.
- NOTE: Coloured or black and white prints will also be accepted for judging.

27-28th APRIL TAMAKI -- POHANGINA CROSSING.

A low level river crossing of the Ruahines.
Leader : Trevor Stretton Phone 84-925
Grading: Medium
Depart : Izadium 6.00 a.m. Saturday
Cost : \$1.85

27th APRIL POHANGINA -- TAMAKI CROSSING.

A more rapid version of the above, but then the reverse order.
Leader : Tim Short Phone 76-906
Grading: F.E.
Depart : Izadium 6.00 a.m. Saturday
Cost : \$1.85

3-5th MAY RANGIWAHIA -- HOWLETTS CROSSING.

Details next newsletter.

TRIP SCHEDULE.

Suggestions are needed for the incoming trip schedule committee to compile the new Winter trip schedule. Where would you like to go? Please give your ideas to either Russell Johnson or Trevor Stretton, or any one of the new committee members, as soon as possible as the committee will be working on this as soon as they come into office.

CONGRATULATIONS to Judith and Bayne McKellow, who celebrated their marriage recently. They will be moving away from Palmerston North but our best wishes go with them.

EXTRACT FROM C.U.T.C. NEWSLETTERS.

Minutes from a Committee Meeting (C.U.T.C.) 1958.

Pool of instructors:

Mr Hooper reported to the committee the arrangements that had been worked out concerning the scheme. Five groups were proposed, consisting of:

- (a) Experienced rope leaders
- (b) Trainees experienced but not sufficiently to lead ropes
- (c) Not experienced -- but known to organisers
- (d) Capabilities not known and
- (e) Women

1st MARCH (C.U.T.C.) 1941

During the year the most difficult problem has been the provision of transport to the hills. In the early part of the year, through the generosity of a few members we were able to get enough petrol coupons to run trips by lorry: use was also made of the Midland Buses for a certain number of trips. With the increasing rigour of petrol restrictions both these methods had to be abandoned and trips could only be run either to the Peninsular or by train.

PAST TRIPS:

"Better late than never."

RECIPE FOR PRE-CHRISTMAS TRAMPING TRIP

Ingredients: 6 fresh P.N.T.M.C. trampers.
6 pair leathery boots
6 packs
1 well beaten road
1 Mangahao River
1 Harris Creek Flat
1 Avalanche Flat
2 swing bridges
2056720 gals. chilled water
1 heaped riverbed of medium sized boulders
At least 1 smile to every person.

Method: At 7:30 a.m. pick trampers from an assortment of gardens and shake well over winding road. Pack up and place on track. Cream trampers with mud and add one at the time to Mangahao River. Leave to soak till lunchtime, walking constantly. Before lunch add water to chest level but firstly remove 2 trampers to scramble up sidle track. To not put in small hut; instead lie out on grassy flats to dry. Add teaspoons of lunch and then hot tea brewed by Lower Hutt trampers.

Remove one of the trampers because of bad knee which would ruin flavour. Stir trampers into river once again but this time more slowly. Increase temperature slightly and raise clouds. Leave walking and grate one knee.

At about 4.30 add spirits at sight of hut and then proceed to peel off wet clothes and drain. At wet sock essence. Overnight prepare filling of hot stew and add to trampers if desired. Leave all ingredients to warm by fire and then place in separate sleeping bags. Do not let trampers raise the roof of hut with cheerful song.

Next morning roll trampers slowly out of sleeping bags and garnish with breakfast. To cooler water add trampers once more. Soon sprinkle with rain and later increase the rain to a steady downpour. Toss one tramper frequently in the river and slowly chill all members and completely immerse in water. Later thaw in hut with addition of warm clothes and once more add teaspoons of lunch.

Use self-raising river to make trampers detour to sidle track. Try not to lose trampers on track as through experience we know that this delays baking time. Put trampers on swing bridge but firstly make sure that the river has risen at least 2 feet and fills the basin completely. Remove trampers from river basin and place in well-greased motorcars. Now well browned remove to bath tub.

Excellent recipe for 6, but recipe could be doubled if necessary.

Avalanche Flats Trip members 23-24th December, 1972.

Trevor Stretton, Mary-Ann Whitehead, John Ogilvy, John Whitehead, Ian Hoare, Shirley Whitehead.

DECEMBER – JANUARY

“What a day for a daydream”

A Play in 12 Acts.

Dramatis Personae: Tim Short
Keith Margrain
James Read
Peter Darragh
Peter Croad
Judith Domney
Vivian Mawson
Ross Godman
Trevor Bissell

Prologue: One Thursday night late in 1973 a group of keen trampers with time to spare, sat down and proceeded to organise the 1973/74 Xmas Trip. However the meeting soon developed into anything but a suitable environment for the finalisation of plans so everyone went home with very little achieved. The trip was saved by a couple of hard-working? people who arranged everything, almost. What actually happened on the trip after all these bad omens it is the purpose of this chronicle to relate.

Actus I; Scaena: Newmans Depot, P.N.

All but two of those supposed to go on the trip assembled at the bus depot in time for the departure. Peter C. had a rather “cute” person next to him (those on the trip will understand). We picked up James at the ferry and once aboard most adjourned to what is undoubtedly the most popular part of the boat. We arrived at Picton relatively uneventfully to find that Eric had left his license behind. While they were trying to sort the rental van out, the rest went swimming and musseling. Judith ended up driving us out of Picton then Eric took over. On arriving at St Arnaud we proceeded a short distance along the track, lit a fire, had mussels for tea (Yuck!) and all, bar one, bedded down under one fly, whereupon Trevor arrived.

Actus II: Scaena; Lake Rotoiti

Our first real tramping day was uneventful, apart from the fact that it rained all day and we sighted a specimen of the genius trampus females with big...nostrils..., and there was almost a mutiny, lead by the captain, some wanting to inspect John Tate Hut (the habitat of the aforementioned specimen). The mutiny was quelled (curses!!) and we spent the night at Hopeless Creek.

Actus III: Scaena; Hopeless Creek

Although it was still raining we headed up for Upper Travers Hut, although James changed his mind at one point and popped off up to Cupola. We all arrived eventually at Upper Travers to find it occupied by deerstalkers who offered us a large portion of venison. We rewarded them with the singing of several tramping “dittys” courtesy of K.M. & P.C.

Actus IV: Scaena ; Upper Travers Hut

This was our first supposed eight hour day so we set off reasonably early and clawed our way to the Travers Saddle with Keith, and helpers, catching grasshoppers all the way (to have in tonights venison stew). It is perhaps just as well they didn't last the trip. We almost lost another member of the party on the way but arrived at Sabine Forks in well under eight hours in beautiful sunshine.

Everyone had a swim except James who had a shower, a'la boot. Most of us slept out that night midway between the two huts.

Actus V: Scaena; Sabine Forks

We started off in beautiful sunshine for Blue Lake. Most took their time except two, ego-trippers who arrived in half the time of the others. Again we had compulsory swims, the two early arrivals having the benefit of the sun (Keith's is only a cardboard cutout replica). The endurance record for Blue Lake is 92 swimming strokes -- that water's cold. That night we had another of our infamous wild hooleys that stretched on into the night (9 o'clock) much to the disgust of the Sweeney party.

Actus VI: Scaena: Blue Lake (New Years Eve)

Today was a day of wood collecting, day tripping, cooking and eating scones and potato fritters etc. Later that night we told ghost stories and cavorted in gay abandon (more ego-tripping). At 12 o'clock we celebrated with a 2½lb bottle of bubbly (I carried it up!)

Actus VII: Scaena: Blue Lake

A fairly uneventful day -- still raining. On arriving at Sabine Forks we found the new hut occupied by a crowd of Outward Bound 'Old Boys' on a sort of mobile refresher course. They were very friendly and generous with offers of cups of tea, or should it be bowls of tea and biscuits. Eventually two of our members started to feel inadequate, picked up their boots and left barefoot, leaving our fair damsels to their fate. Our two inadequates took it out on a large fallen tree with a two-man handsaw.

Actus VIII: Scaena: Sabine Hut

On the way down we met some fishermen and ended up with a pretty reasonably sized trout. At the sight of a picturesque gorge with a bridge over it, our two inadequates plus a woman's libber and our faithful leader (to keep an eye on things), proceeded to pack float through the gorge. The first one managed all right (Mountain Mule Expedition) then our faithful leader went through (the other pack) and rapidly proceeded to sink. Our other inadequate did not see this so in he went but he also had a MME and came out as dry as a bone (his pack anyway). Our woman's libber went in without boots or pack and also survived.

When we got to Lake Rotoroa a "raft" was made and the trout was fried in steaks complete with herbs. For "afters" we had the hottest curry imaginable. We then slept while being eaten alive by sandflies.

Acus IX: Scaena : Lake Rotoroa

The party splits up today with Keith and Tim going on their own extended trip with the leadership left in the hands of the remaining inadequate. The weather was good as we shot off (at a crawl) up Mt Cedric and after a good hard slog up all the way (3hrs approx.) but after 10 minutes the cloud came down until visibility was practically zero so we all set off back the way we had come, with our inadequate feeling more inadequate than ever. On getting back to our morning's starting point the party splits up once again with Trevor and Peter D. heading for St Arnaud via the Howard Track and the main party going down the Lakeside track. We stopped one hour down the track and spent a very cosy night, all in one tent beside the lake!

Actus X: Scaena: Lake Rotoroa

On our last tramping day we wandered out to civilisation which met us with a jolt. There was a bus full and several cars of people attending a W.E.A. conference having a picnic. After we had our photographs taken and had provided entertainment for the touroids, James arranged lifts for us with them to Gowanbridge -- the first shop. It was a real old general store with food and rat poison on the same shelf, but they had beaut bread and sabs and we went to "Bed" at 6 o'clock and we promptly all woke at about 10 o'clock as dry as five wooden gods.

Actus XI: Scaena : Gowanbridge

After pea and ham soup for breakfast we walked to Kawaitiri Junction where the bus was to pick us up. At this point Peter D. rejoined us. It was the oldest bus (and the oldest driver) I have ever seen. He proceeded to drive past the place he was supposed to have dropped us off at but James got stuck into him and we were driven, in the bus, to the Tahuna Beach Motor Camp apparently the biggest motor camp in New Zealand. We all had tea at a restaurant in our tramping gear and all had steak with everything, then after milkshakes etc we brought candyfloss and played in the childrens playground.

That night we could just about feel the campers watching us to see our sleeping bag arrangements so we just kipped down in our sleeping bags, out in the open, and went to sleep.

Actus XIII: Scaena : Nelson

After taking an hour deciding who should ring the taxi we went into Nelson and caught the bus to Picton and the ferry home. We got to the bar early to be sure of a table and then found that the bar didn't open on Sunday which made our last day even more uneventful than anticipated. We all arrived in P.N. a little later than anticipated and just a little tired.

Epilogue:

On the 21st February we all got together at the Melody Lane for tea and had a great time -- the waitress had a sense of humour (rating 7). We then assembled at Ross Goodmans for "eleveneses?" and the showing of slides and photos. Apparently everyone got home safely that night or the next morning. Thanks Ross.

23-24th FEBRUARY -- GRAND EPIC TO IRON GATES HUT

After the trip was just about cancelled due to lack of transport there was an influx of cars so that on Saturday morning we left one car behind. We left on time and left a list of trip members at the Police Station.

On arriving at the road end we found a club member, who shall remain nameless, in distress and as soon as we had assisted him we set off on our epic. It was anything but a quick trip and as soon as we got to the hut we finished lunch then most just lay on the bunks reading books of dubious nature left by the Forest Service. One of our members set a new pole sitting record and a couple went for walks upriver.

The same sort of activities were continued until we left on our way back down river just before lunch on Sunday. The trip back seemed relatively uneventful until "roll call" back at the cars. There was one missing but he turned up before too long and we all took off home.

Trip members: Marianne Whitehead, Pam Dicks, Peter Darragh, John Knox, John Ogilvy, Peter Croad, James Read

2-3rd MARCH INTERMEDIATE BUSHCRAFT COURSE

"The truth? the whole truth? and nothing like the truth"

7 P.N.T.M.C. trampers who were tired of getting lost in the bush, plus our instructors, set off on Saturday morning on the Intermediate Bushcraft Course. Instructions were given at the end of North Manakau Road to proceed to Island Forks via Waitewaewae Peak. This much to the amazement of Charlie, spend some time looking at map and compass (by the correct method of course) to work out a route. He obviously thought that he knew where to go without the use of these.

When we first crossed the river there was a slight delay as Charlie stopped to take off his boots, (he hates wet socks). We then bushbashed up onto the ridge through fairly dense supplejack. It didn't take long for most of us to realise that you step over supplejack rather than crawl through -- but Charlie persisted and was forever getting his suitcase caught in it.

As we went up the ridge Charlie kept asking how soon it would be before we would come to the hut. When we finally got it through to him that this was a bushcraft course and there was to be no hut, he suddenly developed acute high altitude sickness, (we were then at about 3,000 feet). Fearing for his health we took the most direct route off the ridge, down into the headwaters of the Kaitawa Stream. Carrying Charlie on a stretcher through that hook grass was not a pleasant experience, but being a courageous team we carried on regardless.

As soon as a lunch stop was mentioned, Charlie seemed to recover considerably. Anxious to have a brew Charlie lit his Primus (Much against the rules), which promptly blew up in his face. We continued down the river in a westerly direction, but the going was slow as Charlie had trouble on slippery boulders and fell into the stream many times.

At about 2 p.m. Charlie decided that he could go no further, so we decided to set up camp. We build fires, pitched tents and keener members even made bivouacs. After dinner our instructor talked to us about bushcraft, but Charlie rudely insisted on watching his portable television set.

We had a comfortable night, despite some rain and on Sunday morning Charlie was so comfortable (I think he had a camp stretcher) that he pitbashed until 10 a.m. By this time some of the party had got tired of waiting for Charlie and had gone for a walk up another tributary of the river. At lunch time we arrived back to find (to our distress) that Charlie had died from sitting on a large thistle. We hastily buried him under our old fireplace and practised our square bashing by building a cross for his tombstone. Without Charlie the trip back to the cars was relatively uneventful.

Some advice to fellow trampers -- if tramping in this area beware of Charlie's ghost because Charlie does have an amazing effect on trips.

Party members: Kevin Pearce (instructor), Martin Speller, Tony Howard, David Neilson, Mark Bell, Shirley Whitehead, Mary-Ann Whitehead and Charles Brown.

9th MARCH MUAC – PNTMC COMBINED SCRUBCUTTING

On Saturday the 9th of March, our kindred Club MUAC organised an expedition to a farm on Saddle Road. The aim was clearing a few acres of scrub in return for funds for a new generator to be installed in the Massey Hut at Ruapehu.

Several members of this club joined this venture. (Why? For what purpose? Well may you ask.)

We split into groups of 4 males and 2 females. A healthy ratio, we thought, but how on earth did Julie end up in charge of three girls? Well may you ask again.

And then, at lunchtime, as metres in metres of sticking plaster went onto blistered hands, the same person was heard to state, with some conviction: "the problem is simply lack of energy." Well, yes, whose energy?

As enthusiasm flagged, till only a sporadic slasher blow was heard in the Ruahine foothills, reinforcements arrived in the form of Titch, who attempted to complete in the last ten minutes, what 35 bods failed to do in a day.

A grande barbecue and swimming in the Manawatu revived the (almost) broken spirits, however, nothing could be done for the five broken MOW slashers.

Participants from our Club: Pixie Whitehead, Elli Schlee, Julian Dalefield

P.S. All reports concerning sighting of streakers in the area are as yet unconfirmed.

10th MARCH POHANGINA RIVER DAY TRIP

I hereby
wish to
record the
passing of
a P.N.T.M.C.
tramping trip
on this tenth
day of March,
nineteen hundred
and seventy four,
between the hours
of seven am and
five fifteen pm.
Destination-
Pohangina River.
Accomplishment-
Pohangina River.
Maximum temperature
25 degrees Celsius
Minimum temperature
20 degrees celsius.
Distance covered-
864,000 centimetres.
Food input, 3629 grams.
Food output, not measured.
Trip members travelling to
Pohangina, equals 4,
Trip members traveling
from Pohangina, equals 8.
Energy
expended
equals..

Trip Members:
Pam Dicks,
Lyn Dunstan
Jennifer Hansen
Mary-Ann Whitehead

.
.
...?

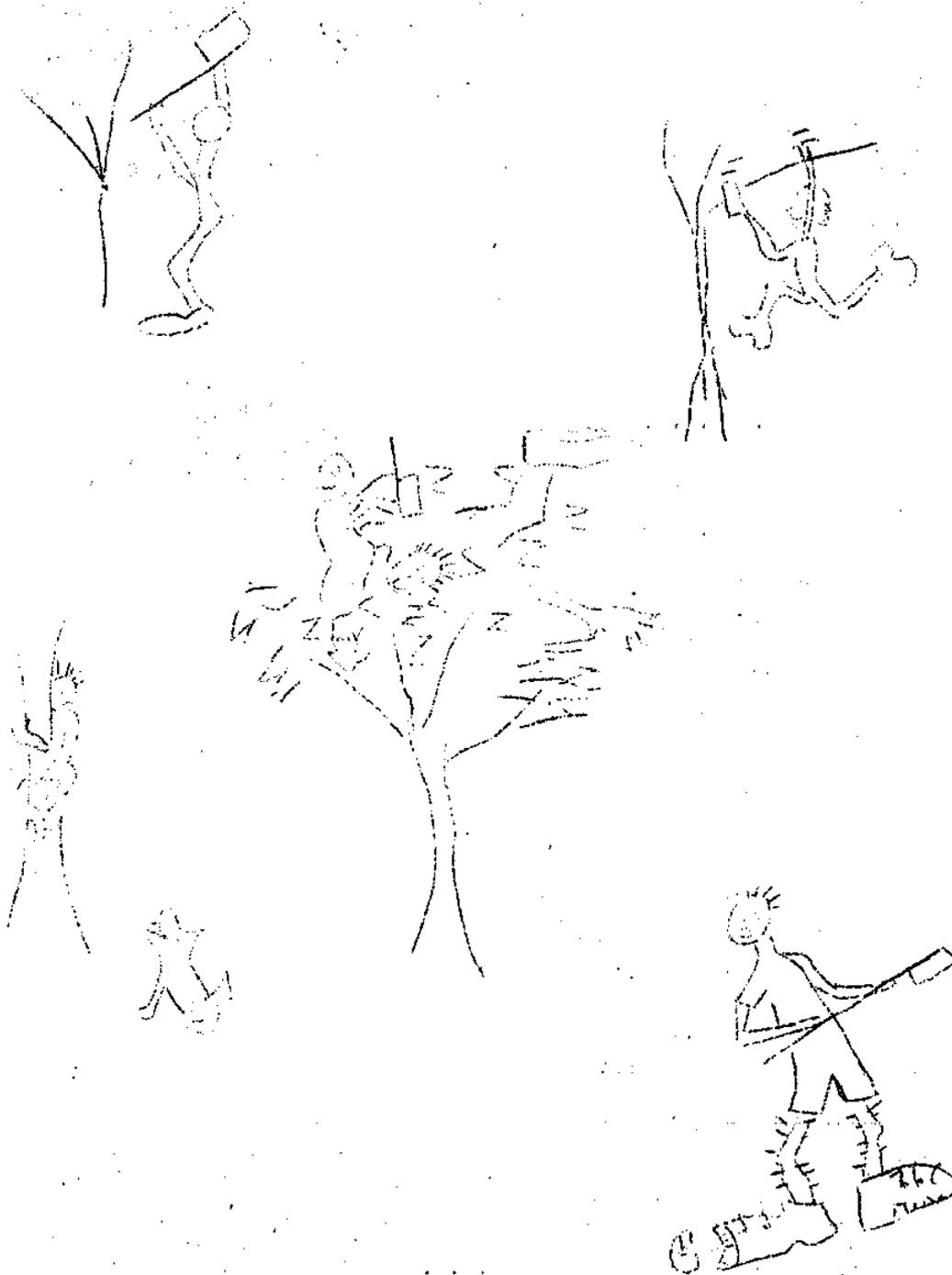
CLUB SAREX 16 MARCH, 1974

29 persons attended the Club's first Search and Rescue Training Course held at the Police Station and later at Tiritea. Such courses can be very boring and a waste of time. However, the course was rather more successful than that although there were some problems catering for the wide range in the experience of those present. Elementary aspects of S.A.R., although necessary for the novice, can be tedious for others. In the future it would be wise to run separate courses for novices, team leaders etc.

Thanks are due to the Police Department for the use of their facilities, to the organisers and instructors and lastly to the most important group of all -- the searchers and potential searchers.

NOTE RE A.G.M.

MEMBERS, WHEN NOMINATING AND VOTING FOR YOUR COMMITTEE GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO YOUR CHOICE AS, FOR THE EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE CLUB, A GOOD WORKING COMMITTEE IS REQUIRED.



The Main Range. 27th. Dec. – 2nd. Jan '74.

Three enthusiastic people went wandering down to Parawai Lodge in the moonlight night, arriving there at 9.30 P.M. All was quiet except for the occasional cry of the morpork and the scuttling of mice under the floor. Throwing packs on the floor and the sleeping bags on the beds, a good-night was said.

Early next morning we got up and had a hearty breakfast of burnt sausages and rice, before setting off for Field's Hut. After devouring our delicious dinner, we carried on to Vosseler Hut. On the way we had to contend with thick mist over the Table Top, causing us to edge our way with great care. The billy was boiling in the hut by 3.30. After another session of burnt food we decided Stuart had forfeited his post as cook.

Next morning we were hesitant about leaving on account of the weather, but when it improved at 9.30, we decided to set off in the direction of Mangahuka Hut. After many, many hours of slogging we reached the hut, where we encountered some N.Z.F.S. deer cullers who had approached from the opposite direction.

Our youngest and smallest member, Stuart embarrassed us by saying to the deerstalkers that he could cut their traveling time in half - he later found out that he was terribly mistaken.

Our next day's tramp was over to Anderson's Memorial Hut done in beautiful weather. Stuart's suggestion, after the long climb onto the top of Pokoparingi, that the destination be altered to Waitewaewae, was declined, in view of the fact that we had to carry him to the hut!

After a prolonged lunch we headed for Nichols, about 3 hours away. Mark decided to forge ahead and prepare the grub for the other two. When the meal was ready to serve, a loud crash startled him. On opening the door Mark found two unidentified objects who had collapsed, littering the entrance.

The fourth day was monotonously spent bashing through bush, especially leatherwood. We camped out on New Year's Eve.

New Year's Day was the worst day of our lives. Heading for Pukematawai, in leatherwood and with no water and nothing off which to take a bearing, we landed on the wrong ridge -- confession is good for the soul, they say. We sat down; Glenn chain smoking, Stuart thinking we should never get out and Mark saying, "What have I done to deserve this."

Eventually we retraced our steps and got onto the correct spur, which took us to the Ohau River, and out to the Pipe Bridge.

Those Happy faces when we reached the car were:

Glenn Osborne, Mark Hindmarsh and Stuart McLauchlan.

SQUARE DANCING.

Put on your boots, throw away your pack and come along to the Square Dancing at The Student Centre, Massey, Wednesday 3rd. April at 8.00 P.M.

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FIRST AID.

If you've missed the course organised by St. John Ambulance, one is shortly starting being run by the N.Z. Red Cross. Details will appear in the local Press. THE LIFE SAVED MAY BE YOUR OWN.

Disposing of gear

Two beginners are on the lookout for second hand gear.

ADVANCED BUSHCRAFT. 2nd-3rd March.

Our Objects: To visit Island Forks via Oroua Peak.

5.00 P.M. had arrived after a day's battle at Navigation and bush bashing, yet our starting point was still visible. Finally, we had to make camp on a bed of rocks in Murray Creek.

The following day after reaching Upper Otaki Hut it was apparent time had beaten us and deprived us of any chance of returning to our cars via Island Forks, so we headed to Otaki Forks. Now, it was a case of every man for himself, hitching back to Manakau Road end.

"I must admit I had an unfair advantage due to talent and good looks" claims one participant.

Ah for the intermediate party, they ended up having only a few minutes walk from the cars, but got lost and had to ask a 'Charlie' character to aid them.

The brilliant dare devils were:

Trevor Bissell, Keith Margrain and Tim Short.

Psychic Secretary.

Contrary to widespread belief, the secretary isn't psychic, so please notify any change of address.