



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

NEWSLETTER

9/74

Hon. Secretary,
Tim Short, 76-906
Membership Enquiries
Peter Croad, 80-284 (evenings)

COMING EVENTS.

26th SEPTEMBER CLUB NIGHT

7.30 p.m. Thursday in The Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street.
Come along this evening to hear Andy Leigh of Forestry talk on animal control in high country areas. I have heard it said that Andy thrives on probing questions. This evening is a must for everyone.

Tim will also be there enlightening us on the "rape" of the Greenstone Valley.

Supper Duties: Peter Croad (tea towels)

Anne Clarke

Doreen Coenders

28th SEPTEMBER TOKOMARU CROSSING F.E.

28th – 29th SEPTEMBER TOKOMARU CROSSING F.

29th SEPTEMBER TOKOMARU STREAM E.

This trio of trips are in the little-known Baber's Saddle region behind Tokomaru. Many small waterfalls make the crossings interesting. While the Sunday trip offers a chance for those who can't make it on Saturday to be in on the "action".

Details concerning leaders, cost, departure times etc. from Tim Short Phone 76-906.

5-6th OCTOBER ADVANCED SNOW CLIMB – NGAURUHOE

Hopefully a knowledge of snowcraft will be required for this trip hence it's rather odd name. (From Mangatepopo)

Leader : Kevin Pearce Phone 76-198

Grading: Medium

Depart : 6.00 Izadium

Cost : \$5.00

6th OCTOBER PIRIPIRI STREAM

A chance to visit the new Piripiri tent camp and possibly a look at "the" Piripiri Caves. This area is in the south-west Ruahines and makes for a pleasant day trip.

Leader : Karyn Bishop Phone 84-925
Grading: Easy
Depart : 6.30 a.m. Izadium
Cost : \$1.00 Approx.

12-13th OCTOBER MOKAI PATEA -- CROW HUT

A trip onto the tops so storm gear will be necessary. This area is infrequently visited but offers grand views of the northern Ruahines. This trip is ideal for those venturing onto the tops for the first time and should provide good experience for future more arduous trips.

Leader : John Williams Phone 84-925
Grading: Medium
Depart : 6.00 a.m. Izadium
Cost : \$2.50 Approx.

16th OCTOBER COMMITTEE MEETING

At Trevor Strettons 7:30 p.m. 28 Carroll Street

19-20th OCTOBER HECTOR -- ASTON -- RENATA HUT

This trip in the southern Tararuas incorporates the "tops" section of the "classic" southern crossing -- and more!! A trip the fitter ones amongst us won't want to miss.

Leader : Trevor Bissell Phone 71-955
Grading: Fitness Essential
Depart : 6.30 p.m. Friday
Cost : \$2.00 Approx.

19-20th OCTOBER RENATA HUT

A trip which offers a view of that area of the Tararuas claimed by Wellington as its water supply catchment. Come and see the F.E.'s thunder homewards.

Names to : Ann Hayman Phone 73-991
Grading : Medium
Depart : 6.00 a.m. Izadium
Cost : \$2.00 Approx.

LABOUR WEEKEND

26-27-28TH OCTOBER MAKARORO ROUNDABOUT & PARKES PK RIDGE

We intend to venture into this area once again. This we are going to do despite what happened to two of our parties in the same area several Labour Weekend's ago. It is expected that older club members will remain undaunted by these memories and will attend. What did happen to the above mentioned parties? Come along and find out from some of those involved. Anybody attempting to find out before the trip will be rewarded only with vague generalisations -- so bury all your fears and enjoy a "legitimate" 3 day weekend in the north-west Ruahine Ranges.

Names to : Trevor Stretton Phone 84-925
Gradings : Fit & Medium
Depart : 7.00 p.m. Friday Izadium
Cost : \$3.00 Approx.

28th OCTOBER STANFIELD HUT

For those who "can't possibly" attend the above trip a "splash" up the Tamaki Stream behind Dannevirke is planned.

Names to : Ian Hoare Phone 83-448
Grading : Easy
Depart : 6.30 a.m. Izadium
Cost : \$1.50 Approx.

31st OCTOBER CLUB NIGHT

NOTICES

Summer Trip Schedule

The Summer Trip Schedule for 74/75 is due to go to print in the near future. Any good suggestions to Ian Hoare Phone 83-448.

Search on 17-18th August

Thanks have been received from both the Police and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for the part played by the P.N.T.M.C. in the above search.

PAST EVENTS

27-28th APRIL TAMAKI POHANGINA MUTINY

After an hour of organisation at the Izadium we finally managed to sort out enough transport to take us to the Tamaki and to collect us from the Pohangina on Sunday.

We left the Tamaki-West road end in the rain with all (or nearly all) wearing shorts and parkas; -- a 'hardy' team. We tramped to Stanfield Hut where we had a brew (nice hot soup that was), to give us energy to get over the saddle. Once over the saddle we tramped to Cattle Creek Hut where we had another brew, (nice hot drinking choc). We spent the afternoon and evening in Cattle Creek Hut listening to the rain pouring down and filling up Cattle Creek.

The next morning we worked our way down Cattle Creek towards Mid Pohangina Hut. We finally came to a gorge where the waters were too turbulent and our 'gun' rock climber in the party was unable to sidle the gorge. We decided to uphold the honour of the club and turn back before any of our members were drowned. We stopped at Cattle Creek Hut for another brew (tea this time, made in a 1:1 ratio of tea leaves to water).

We carried onto Stanfield Hut where we had another brew while two (?) of our gallant members went out to find a phone to reverse our transport arrangements. Unfortunately telephone lines were down at the road end and by time they rang to P.N. it was too late to cancel one trip to the Pohangina. Many hours later after much organisation in P.N. we were rescued by automobile from the Tamaki road end.

Our thanks to Tim Short and Mr McLauchlan for their rescue efforts.

Trip Members:- Peter Croad, Anne Clarke, Ann Hayman, Peter Darragh, Martin Speller, Stuart McLauchlan, Raymond Mills, John Ogilvy, Mary-Ann Whitehead.

THE FIRE

X was filling a primus with white spirits from a one pint container. Several feet away on the same bench a second primus was burning. X is the sort of person that things happen to. If anyone loses their compass, forgets their iceaxe, dents their car, gets involved in a street fight etc. then it is quite often X.

Anyway the white spirits caught fire and how! X tried to carry the burning tin outside but dropped it in the doorway. The windows in the hut were non opening, small, and double glazed with thick perspex. We were so surprised at what had happened that no one panicked or did anything foolish. The flames were going right up to the ceiling and along to the ends of the hut and out the ventilators. Y wanted to leave by the door but quickly changed his mind, the flames began to subside. The fire went out by itself once the fuel had been consumed. Amazingly the hut had not begun to burn and was undamaged save for a deposit of soot. One parka was damaged, a hat and several bags of food were destroyed. No one was burnt, not even X.

For the rest of the trip it was difficult to exclude mention of the fire from our conversation. e.g. "Would you like some roasted peanuts?" -- an innocent inquiry. The reply -- "ROASTED you say? No thank you!"

The moral of this story is clear. The consequences of the fire could easily have been very much worse. Survivors without parkas, sleeping bags, boots or food would have had a desperate walk out. White spirits vapour is heavier than air and can flow along flat surfaces for considerable distances.

30th JUNE SOUTHERN CROSSING

Some of us have at our disposal, unfortunately less than others for tramping, hence there is a popular demand for day trips. Such was the case on this recent on the spur of the moment trip.

We departed in darkness from Otaki Forks stopping at a neighbouring tarn to Kime Hut for a game of curling and then onto cedries establishment for lunch. Thence along the Marchant Ridge to return home about 9:30 p.m.

Taking part:- Dennis Church, Glenn Dixon, Kevin Pearce, Keith Margrain.

20-22nd JULY RANGI -- TRIANGLE -- OROUA RIVER

The trip was scheduled to be a stroll up the Oroua River to Triangle Hut. Due to persistent rain during the week prior to the trip however, it was decided to go in via Rangi thus avoiding swimming up the flooded Oroua River.

Saturday morning saw us sitting in the cars at Rangi road end. From memory, it was a bleak out-look that morning, the trees groaned under the westerly wind, and the mist hung low on the surrounding hills. On with parkas and we were off up the track, across the now familiar shingle slide, over the bridge and on up through the leatherwood.

A quick bite to eat at Rangi and we were off again now through soft snow and cold rain. A 90 degree turn at Mangahua, along the range for ten minutes then down a well disced track to Triangle Hut for lunch. After lunch we lazed round, cut some wood and watched a rubbish hole being excavated. The river at this stage was still a little high, though we decided that the bulk of the party would go down the river in the morning if it dropped overnight.

The river had dropped by morning so that seven of us set off downriver. The main fork was reached in good time, everybody appeared to be in good spirits and even the sun was beginning to make fleeting appearances. We soon entered the gorge and floated through. The water was quoted, "as cold as a penguin's instep" so to avoid further immersements we climbed up round the next pool. Unfortunately one individual slipped and injured his wrist, not seriously but enough to cause the individual some pain which combined with cold made him good bait for stock.

It was now midday and we still had some distance to travel. Circumstances be what they were it was decided to send two individuals out to explain the situation to the drivers and relay the message that we would not be out until Monday to the parents of those concerned. With the need for haste now removed we carried on down the river at a slow but steady pace to Tunupo campsite where we camped for the night on a pleasant river flat. Monday morning we walked out escorted by our "GALLANT RESCUERS".

I regret any anxiety caused to worried parents but hope that we will see the "kids" out again soon.

Thanks to Tim and Kevin for the transport.

Those on the trip were:- Ann Hayman, Chris Bartlett, Mark Bell, Anne Clarke, Tim Short, Glenn Dixon, Kevin Pearce, Peter Croad, and one other.

28th JULY RUAMAHANGA RIVER

Undaunted by the dismal weather conditions a group of six hardy members proceeded along a damp track to Roaring Stag Lodge. Because the Ruamahanga River was flooded it was decided (democratically) to travel via the "dry level" route from the Mangatainoka Valley.

The first obstacle was a slightly swollen Mangatainoka Stream, which we sidled, consequently arriving at the lodge relatively dry. Returning, we decided (democratically) we had track-bashed enough, and headed straight downstream. This proved to be an interesting climax to a pleasant day trip. The younger-set even ventured in for a swim while waiting for the rear-guard to arrive.

Those participating:- Robert Campbell, Eric Short, Ann Hayman, Bill Griffiths, Glenn Osborne, Ian Hoare.

3-4th AUGUST (AND 5th?) BLUE RANGE -- COW CREEK

Twelve persons began the climb up to Blue Range, leaving the cars at the Kiriwhakapapa road end. And then the lunch was had at Blue Range Hut. Cow Creek Hut was reached to find it occupied by more trampers. Because "first-come, first served" seemed to be the rule, we pitched two flies for a night of sleep. Sleep however did not agree with Tim who misread his watch at 2:30 a.m., believing the time was 8 a.m. After waking everyone with cries of "wake up, it's eight o'clock", we managed to persuade Tim that it was only 2:30 a.m. Trevor turned off his primus which he had lit to cook breakfast and we returned to sleep.

Instead of slogging our way back over Blue Range, we decided to take the easier way out, down the Waingawa River. The party split up at Mitre Flats Hut, the drivers returning over Blue Range to get the cars, the others continuing down the river. We arrived at Waingawa road end as darkness fell, but where were the cars? Time moved on, still with no sign of those cars. A phone call was made back to Palmerston, informing that eight of us were waiting at Waingawa Road end for the delayed cars.

Sleeping bags were got out and we settled down to sleep in an old disused hut at the road end. At 12 a.m. Kevin and Ian who had sacrificed a night's sleep, arrived to take us back to Palmerston.

The drivers who had not been able to reach Kiriwhakapapa Road end by dark had spent Sunday night out, and arrived home on Monday morning.

Those taking part were:- Trevor Bissell, Keith Forbes, Pam Moar, Tim Short, Ray Mills, Mark Hindmarsh, Pam Dicks, Martin Speller, Peter Croad, Stuart McLauchlan, Glen Osborne, Ann Hayman.

11th AUGUST FIELDS HUT

The sun was shining, the birds were singing, the bees were humming, the cows were mooing, etc. etc. etc., and we were on our way to Fields Hut. Peter and Ian's aim was for Mt

Hector so they went on ahead, and we watched them disappear along the skyline as we strolled up the farm land. Fields track provided us with the usual delightful Tararua mud and we made our way through it to arrive at Fields Hut in time for lunch. While waiting for the other two to return from Vosseler we drank hot soup and soaked up some of the winter sun to provide us with energy for the return trip to the cars.

Trip Members:- Arlene Denby, Mary-Ann Whitehead, Trevor Stretton, Ian Hoare, Peter Darragh.

17th-18th AUGUST RECENT SEARCH AT TOKOMARU

4 search teams were sent into the field throughout the night of August 17th to search for an overdue party believed missing in the Tokomaru River.

The team spent Saturday night searching the river and its environs, until the missing party was found safe and well at about 4:30 a.m. Sunday in the Tokomaru River gorge.

Club members involved were:- Keith Potter and Glen Dixon.

SNOWCRAFT 1 RUAPEHU 17-18th AUGUST

Kevin Pearce, Trevor Bissell, Tim Short, Mark Bell, Peter Darragh, Stuart McLauchlan, Peter Croad, Keith Margrain, Trevor Stretton and James Read spent an enjoyable weekend on the Ohakune slopes of Ruapehu. Saturday night was spent in two rather poor snowcaves (snow conditions prevented better results) and we returned home early on Sunday as weather conditions were unsuitable for snowcraft practice.

GOURMET DINNER 24-25th AUGUST

This was a combined M.U.A.C. P.N.T.M.C. venture and a successful one. The intelligentsia won the dress section while the workers were first in the ludicrous feats of brown section. There was no clear-cut winners in the food and brain competitions.

Those taking part were (workers) Kevin Pearce, Peter Croad, Keith Margrain, Glenn Dixon, Tim Short, Ina Te Wiata, Mary-Ann Whitehead, Warwick Thomson, John Valentine, Trevor Stretton, Mark Hindmarsh, Stuart McLauchlan, and Trevor Bissell.

(Intelligentsia) Shirley Whitehead, Grant Harper, Paul Harper, Glenys Rankin, Dave Owen, Isabelle Very, Mr. Willis, and Elizabeth Flap.

KAIKOURAS, HODDER VALLEY 29th AUGUST – 2nd SEPTEMBER

A small group of members (4) recently visited this delightful area of the South Island and were successful in climbing Mount Tapuaenuku.

7th SEPTEMBER ROCK CLIMBING -- TITAHU BAY

Tim Short, Bruce Lockwood, Glenn Dixon, Peter Croad, Trevor Bissell, and Keith McLauchlan enjoyed a most rewarding day at the bay under the able instruction of Nigel Boyen. Thanks very much Nigel for a very worthwhile day.

8th SEPTEMBER INTER-CLUB SPORTS

On Sunday the expected happen, we defeated the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club at both netball and soccer. The games were evenly contested though eventually the brilliance of our teams proved too much for the opposition. It proved to be an enjoyable afternoon which could well become an annual happening.

A good muster of bods turned up from our club to give support to the teams, there were however a few faces missing, these individuals will be dealt with by the "Vice" President.