



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

NEWSLETTER

2/75

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

COMING EVENTS.

27th FEBRUARY. CLUB NIGHT

A Club member returned from across the seas will be appearing tonight. Come and see what our globe trotting colleague got up to in far away lands. 7.30 p.m. in the Society of Friends' Meeting Rooms, 227 College St.
SUPPER DUTIES: Peter Croad, Sue Streeter, John Williams.

1st MARCH. FULL POHANGINA RIVER.

This trip starts from Moorcock Base and finishes at Pohangina Base. It involves much river travel and some pack floating. A trip for the club's fitter types.

Leader: Keith Margrain, 79-303
Cost: \$3.50 Approx.
Depart Izadium: 5.30 a.m.
Grading: Fitness Essential.

1st-2nd MARCH. NGAMOKO TENT CAMP.

See the F.E.s thunder past. An enjoyable stroll up the Pohangina to a tent camp an hour upstream from mid-Pohangina Hut.

Leader: Peter Hanratty, Ph. 74-765.
Cost: \$1.20 Approx.
Depart Izadium: 6.30 a.m.
Grading: Medium.

2nd MARCH. POHANGINA RIVER.

An easy scramble up the Pohangina River with investigations of the new Centre Creek tent camp being made.

Names to: Karyn Bishop, ph. 84-925
Cost: \$1.10 Approx.
Depart Izadium: 7.00 a.m.
Grading: Easy.

5th MARCH. COMMITTEE MEETING

7.30 p.m. at Trevor Stretton's, 28 Carroll St.

8th-9th MARCH. RUAHINE CORNER - ARANGA HUT

A trip dependent upon availability of access to Northern Ruahines. An area not frequented on club trips. This should be another first for the club.

Leader: Trevor Bissell, 71-955
 Cost: \$4.00 Approx.
 Depart Izadium: 6.30 a.m.
 Grading: Fit.

9th MARCH. DIGGERS HUT.

For those unavailable for the weekend trip or who want an easier trip this should be an interesting trip in the southern Ruahines. Come, see the work Forestry have done on Diggers Hut.

Leader: John Williams, ph. 84-925.
 Cost: \$1.00 Approx.
 Depart Izadium: 6.30 a.m.
 Grading: Medium.

Xth MARCH. RETURN CLUB GEAR TO 28 CARROLL ST.

This is a good idea. It should have been done earlier. If no one is home at 28 Carroll St. the gear may be left on the back porch. Please ring 84-925 before going to pick up gear for a trip.

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13th MARCH. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club will be held on 13th March, 1975 at 7.30 p.m. in the Society of Friends' Church Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North. Nominations for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Auditor, not less than five committee members and Patron are required. A nomination form appears at the end of this newsletter. Nominations are to be handed to the Secretary before 7.30 p.m. on 13th March. Proposer, seconder and nominee must all be full members of the club, i.e. have had their applications for membership approved by the Committee.

PLEASE NOTE

The date of this meeting has been changed from 27th March. There will be no club night on the 27th March.

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15th MARCH. TOKOMARU CROSSING

Names to: Tim Short. ph. 76-906
 Grading: F.E.

15th-16th MARCH. TOKOMARU CROSSING.

Leader: Mary Ryder, ph. 69-935
 Grading: Medium.

16th MARCH. TOKOMARU STREAM.

Names to: Ann Hayman, ph. 73-991.

These trips in the northern Tararuas have proved unpredictable. Past trips have resulted in changed routes, cancellation through poor weather, parties separated for an excess of twelve hours. All in all in interesting area with enough waterfalls to make the crossings rather different to most Tararua Crossings.

16th MARCH. YOUTH FESTIVAL.

Want to do your bit for the public image of the "tramping set?" If you wish to help set up and run a "club display" in the City Square contact Peter Croad, 80-284.

22nd-23rd MARCH. THREE PEAK TRIP.

The three principal mountains of the Tongariro National Park will be ascended on this weekend. Storm gear is essential. Water bottles are desirable.

Leader: Kevin Pearce, ph. 74-129
 Grading: F.E.
 Cost: \$4.00. Depart Izadium: 6.00 a.m. Sat.

22nd-23rd MARCH. RUAPEHU CLIMB

This trip should be of interest to those who have not climbed Ruapehu and those who have only climbed it in the winter months.

Names to: Trevor Stretton, ph. 84-925
Cost: \$3.50 Approx.
Grading: Medium.
Depart Izadium: 7.00 a.m.

EASTER.

28-29-30-31st MARCH. LAKE WAIKAREMONA.

A longer trip though not difficult. Lake Waikaremona "Sea of Rippling Waters" is in the Southern Urewera National Park and makes a particularly enjoyable trip. Also a new area for many of our club members.

Names to: Peter Croad, ph. 80-284
Cost: \$6.00 Approx.
Grading: Medium
Depart Izadium: 6.00 a.m.

27th MARCH. – 1st APRIL. EASTER. MOUNT ARTHUR.

A visit to the North West Nelson Forest Park near Motueka. As only one car has been booked on the ferry numbers are limited.

Leader: Kevin Pearce, ph. 76-198.
Grading: Fit.
Depart: 7.30 p.m. Thursday.
Return: Palmerston North about 8.00 p.m. Tuesday.
Cost: About \$16.

30th-31st MARCH.

An enjoyable "splash" for those not on the full weekend trips. This area is just north of Woodville and the trip is particularly suitable for new and intending members.

Names to: Peter Croad, ph. 80-284.
Cost: \$1.00.
Grading: Easy.
Depart Izadium: 6.00 a.m.

24th APRIL. CLUB SLIDE COMPETITION.

Time to sort out all those beautiful slides for the Annual Slide Competition. Details in next month's newsletter.

NOTICES

SPECIAL WEATHER FORECASTS.

Weather forecasts covering the principal mountain ranges and the National Parks are broadcast every Friday on the National program at 4.55 p.m.

RUSS LACY, our club's first President and a life member of the club, has moved to the greener(?) pastures of Hamilton.

TRIP LEADERS Please notify the appropriate club Search Contact of your trip if you intend to quote his phone number on your list of names to be left at the Police Station. This is a good practice and reduces the mental stress applied to the search contact when he is awakened in the small hours of the morning!

WANDERERS' RETURN.

A warm welcome to Heather Crabb on her return from the U.K. and to Lindsay Sandes on his return from Australia.

(Typist's note:) In view of the above, members are warned to be on their best behaviour if they remember what a slightly caustic typewriter can do! (However, many thanks.)

PAM MOAR has shifted residence to 11 R.D. Ashhurst.

PROPOSED HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER STATION ON THE OTAKI RIVER

According to a report in the Evening Post on 13/12/74 there are a number of promising sites on the Otaki River for a power station of up to 40 MW capacity. Mr. Ryder, Chairman of the Horowhenua Electric Power Board, is reported as saying that premature release of further details to the public could prejudice the consultations with Government Departments which are necessary before further progress can be made. It is difficult to imagine the nature of these consultations that public knowledge is likely to prejudice. Surely the public has a legitimate right to influence decisions of Government. The Board's secretive attitude provides stimulus for speculation. We give below details of our design for the power scheme.

The Otaki River offers little possibility of diversion to produce a static head which will therefore have to be provided by a high dam. This will be built in a narrow part of the low gorge below the Forks, say near the present car park. Water flow in lower gorge varies enormously between times of flood and times of drought. Minimum flows of less than 200 CUSEC have been recorded. We will assume, for the purposes of calculation, that the flow exceeds 1,000 CUSEC for much of the time. If the overall power generation efficiency is 75% and the station has a load factor of 33% then it can readily be shown that the dam will have a height of about 200 feet if 40 MW is to be produced.

If the dam were built near the car park (GR 754737) the flats and river terraces at the Forks would be flooded. The lake would extend up the Otaki River to Penn Creek, and up the Waitotauru and Waitatapia rivers a distance of about 2½ and 1 mile, respectively. The lake would be much larger than that behind the Mangahao No. 1 dam but would be permanently full and would fluctuate little in level. Access to the Fields and Penn Creek tracks would be greatly hindered. A smaller scheme which did not flood the high terraces would necessarily be very much smaller than 40 MW because of the greatly reduced water storage that would be available.

It must be emphasised that the above discussion is speculation based on incomplete information. It may turn out that, because of weaknesses in the underlying rock or because of other reasons, the scheme is not feasible. We look forward to full disclosure of the facts by the officials involved.

PAST EVENTS.

MAIN RANGE FRIZZLE AND FRAZZLE 22-24/11/74.

Why Waitewaewae Friday night? Why the long hot grind to Maungahuka on Saturday? Why did I go? Well, the views were great, the company good, and boy! did it feel good when we stopped! We finished on Sunday by going down Pakihore Ridge and down the Otaki Gorge. We all got a little burned and greatly dehydrated. Tim Short, Trevor Bissell, Keith Margrain, Kevin Pearce and Julian Dalefield were the suckers involved.

NGAPUKETURUA – MANGAHAO 30/11 – 1/12/74.

This is a summer trip that can be recommended. We took two cars, left one at Kakariki (GR 114094) then we all crowded into the second car and drove to the Mangatainoka road end. And easy stroll up past Putara Hut and then north towards Conical Knob soon had us in position for a descent into the head of the Ngapuketurua Stream. Travel in the stream was easy. Water was warm and the day fine. The stream is gorgy in parts and would be difficult in flood.

We camped Saturday night and on Sunday continued down the Mangahao River which involved a number of compulsory swims. (Sidling would be possible but would be tedious and slow.) We left the river at the flood gauge and crossed farm land to our car.

It is imperative to notify the Mangahao Power Station before entering the river

below the dams if drowning is to be avoided. Also obtain permission from Mr. Udy, phone 6031, Pahiatua, before crossing his farm at Kakariki.

Those taking part were: Roger Harvey, Peter Darragh, Trevor Bissell, Michael Triplow and Kevin Pearce.

A VISIT TO THE OLIVINE ICE PLATEAU

Synopsis: Kevin Pearce, Trevor Bissell and Tim Short flew from Queenstown to the Forgotten River airstrip on New Year's Day, 1975. They spent four nights in a snowcave on the Plateau before returning to civilisation by way of Fohn Saddle, the Beansburn and the Routeburn. The fourteen day trip was blessed with much fine cloudy weather.

The Olivine Range has been described as remote and inaccessible. It lies to the west of Mount Aspiring between the Arawata and the Cascade and Pyke rivers. The Olivine Ice Plateau is at the Southern end of the range, has an altitude of about 5,700 feet and is surrounded by peaks of between 7,000 and 8,000 feet. The Plateau was first crossed just 39 years ago. Climax, Destiny, Darkness, Intervention, Blockade – sonorous names.

Our little plane was full of people and packs. It took off from Queenstown without apparent difficulty and was soon skimming over the ranges east of Lake Wakatipu. Our road was rather bumpy and our seat belts performed a useful function. Soon we were in the Dart Valley. The mountain tops were in cloud as we flew up the Rockburn. Landmarks were easily recognised from our earlier study of maps and photos. All too soon we were above our landing zone, the faint trace of the landing strip visible in the tussock below. Then we began to circle. The narrow valley required very tight turns. Our conception of distance and height, of up and down became confused. Luckily we were not piloting our plane and we were soon safely on the ground. We unloaded, the plane left and we were alone. We saw no one else for ten days.

Snow cover on the Plateau was thin. We chose a site for our snowcave with difficulty. Construction proceeded without hitch until we struck hard ice. Kevin took to the ice with vigour. Splinters of ice flew. Suddenly the axe broke through into a cavity. Hasty inspection showed that a crevasse ran diagonally across the cave. The beam of a torch vanished into its depths without revealing a bottom. Our snow disposal problem was solved. Eventually we managed to plug the unwanted hole.

It was of little consolation to know that there could not be more sandflies unless they were much smaller and that the sandflies could not be any bigger unless there were fewer of them. We were camped in the Dart Valley. Tim must have dozed off. He turned restlessly and the edge of his mosquito net lifted. The sandflies attacked. A desperate battle followed. We only managed to prevent Tim from being carried off by fastening him to a large beech tree with our 11 mm diameter climbing rope.

Full details will be given at a later Club Night.

EXPEDITION TO THE SOURCES OF THE REES AND DART RIVERS.

THE RIVERS OF LAKE WAKATIPU. 11th-27th January 1975.

Dear Little Box-watchers,

In the beginning our fairy-godmother dropped us just below the Rees Valley Post Office, where we partook in a little refreshment. With buckled knees, straining shoulders, stretched necks and curling toes we glided our way up the Rees Valley to Arthur's Creek. Here the hovering black cloud swarmed around us whilst we ate tea which was flavoured with mint and raspberries from the local gardens.

The next day we proceeded, followed by the big black cloud, along wide open river flats to 25 Mile Creek where we spent two days. We encountered both the Big and Little Devil whilst out on one side trip. Our second day there we spent climbing Lennox Falls and

investigating the mysterious fairy rings. Watched by Mt. Earnslaw we washed in the ice fed river.

Early next morning just as the sun was rising, at 10 o'clock in the morning we were on our way. After passing the Hunter River, a major tributary of the Rees River, the valley narrowed and we encountered dense jungle conditions. The lads, both old and young conducted a "severe difficult" rock climb up the south face of Giant Rock. Thereafter the whole party proceeded up "The Slip". Here "Pierre le Hairdresser" did his thing. Thereupon the expedition moved onto Shelter Rock Hut where we made camp. After dining we were serenaded by the harmonious harmonica. Later an arduous Kea Hunt into the interior proved fruitless.

Due to adverse weather conditions on the pass a rest day was decreed. Cordon Bleu camp crockery produced scones and popcorn. We tried our hand at poker and it is down on record that Uncle still owes seventeen matches. After a fond farewell from our music man we competed for the record of the number of people to fit in one sleeping bag -- we now hold the record with three middle sized persons in a Fairydown Snowline bag. Dinner that night consisted of T.V.P. prunes and groans.

On Saturday -- Christmas Day, we discovered the source of the Rees River and climbed the mighty Rees Saddle. We saw the entrance to the Dragon's cave as we climbed and at the top the majestic snow covered mountains and rushing river valleys spread before us. Down the mighty Snowy Creek, across the new bridge and on to Dart Hut, where we ate our long awaited Christmas Dinner.

On Boxing Day with the mist all around we trudged our way up the Dart Glacier where the snow Queen lives -- where ice cascaded down the valley and where we discovered Lake P.N.T.M.C. Lake P.N.T.M.C. is used for skipping stones, for taking photographs of, and water skiing for grasshoppers.

Anniversary Day -- we sidled along the Dart Gorge through beech forest and down to Cattle Flat. The young fellow excelled himself by climbing dangerously to a bush robin. In the midday sun we bathed courageously in a refreshing mountain stream.

During breakfast at Cattle Flat we were inspired by the great mountain in front of us and we decided to climb the Curzon Glacier just across the river. We were foiled by the turbulent, swift, wet and cold Dart. Our plans were deferred to Daley's Flat, where we camped the night after a strenuous double pack carry.

The next day continued smoothly until Sandy Bluff. Here our heroes demonstrated fairy waltz tactics in the middle of the river. Quote "We were practising our turns". We passed around the base of Sandy Bluff and then on to Chinaman's Bluff. Forty Chinamen were encountered panning for gold. We called in at Arawata Bill's residence but he wasn't home. For further references see "Moirs Guide" northern section.

After the strenuous previous day we were granted a half day off. Breakfast in bed, scones for morning tea, lunch and then on our way. Through Dan's paddock where a cheese mine was found, through the gooseberry patch and then a stop for the night.

The next day we passed through the raspberry gardens at Paradise. After many arduous hours walking the roads a local delivery truck passed us during our lunch stop. On its way back, after many prayers, it picked us up and delivered us to Rees Valley Station. Here our Fairy-godmother took us for a ride and landed us in a ditch. Thanks to the grader and driver we were hauled out. "Quote" That's my fourth victim this week." Then into Glenorchy where the meals aren't dished out with mugs.

Now, dear little Box-watchers --

Heads under wings,

Beaks under blankets,

All eyes closed.

Goodnight.

P.S. Peter really likes beans.

Adventurers into the interior: Peter Darragh, Vivienne Mawson, Trevor Stretton, Ann Hayman, Mary-Ann Whitehead.

25th-26th JANUARY. BUSHCRAFT COURSE – RANGIWAHIA.

The three stooges set off on a compass bearing for Feilding to pick up the Terrible Trio. Once all were settled in their ecologically catastrophic mode of conveyance we proceeded, post haste, to Rangiwahia.

After leaving appropriate signs for any following (knowing they wouldn't see them anyway) we headed off up the river by the Bulldozed Track. Next on the agenda was an attempt to fix our position. After coming to an amicable agreement we started searching for a camp site. We eventually found a suitable area (which turned out to be one of the last flat, dry areas probably to Mangahua) and set up both the tent and fly for experience.

Once lunch was very efficiently dispensed with, one of our members promptly fell asleep while the rest did some map and compass exercises. We lit a small fire, prepared tea and then retired to our sleeping bags.

Sunday saw us following the river up to the Impassable Waterfall. To bypass we took to the bush which seemed to be concentrated bush lawyer diluted with hookgrass, cutty grass and other types of offensive vegetation. We eventually got onto the track but dropped back down to the river just above the bridge. We followed the river down to our waterfall where we attempted to reroute the waterfall. We found a much easier and less masochistic route around the waterfall. We continue down the river to our camp where we cleaned up and headed back home.

Trip members: Trevor Bissell, Peter Croad, Kent Horsfield, Ross Meder, Kevin Pearce, Michael Triplow.

RIVER CROSSING INSTRUCTION -- OTAKI FORKS – 1st February.

A good turn out of keen, conscientious, attentive pupils attended and diligently applied themselves to the task at hand. The chief instructor was thrown into the coldest wettest water available by way of thanks. Those taking part included Glenn Dixon, Tim Short, Keith Margrain, Kevin Pearce, John Knox, Eddie? Johns, Peter Croad, John Ogilvy and also weekenders.

8th-9th FEBRUARY. OHAU -- FULL WAIOHINE.

“And then there were two.”

An odd way to start of trip account of an odd trip. A phone call from Kevin at 5.30 on Friday evening assured me the trip was on and was to depart from the Izadium at 6.30. Definitely time to start packing. On arrival at the Izadium I was introduced to the other members of the trip. For a start there was Tim, and then there was myself and Tim,; in fact there were two of us Tim and myself.

Apart from the never dull ride and Kevin's car the next part of the trip held no surprises so 10.00 p.m. saw us at South Ohau much to the annoyance of the residence. Saturday morning after we had woken the same residence we awoke the night before we set off to Pukematawai. Atop Pukematawai there appeared to be a gathering of the masses; there were two N.Z.F.S. personnel involved in a vegetation survey, 3 deerstalkers from Arete biv, and Tim and I. “Oh, what fun we had.”

From Pukematawai we plunged into the glacial Park valley and paddled (on one occasion we swam) down to Park Forks, or was it a station on the Tararua main trunk line? We met three Tongue and Meats at the Forks and three Tararuas five minutes down the line. Tim and I being on board the south bound express rolled on past.

At Mid Waiohine we pulled in for the evening along with Kevin and Trevor and the Medium party. A clear calm morning awoke us on Sunday; “a good day for the gorge perhaps?” So off we went with all three parties on board. Tim and I had little choice but to

carry on down the line. Into the very throat of the Tararuas we rumbled in on to Hectors Forks where the express uncoupled from the Limited and rolled down.

Unfortunately Tim stuck his head out of the window on the way down and bumped his ear on a sleeper. After sticking Tim's ear back on we continued on to Wall's Whare where we were met by Kevin and Trevor waiting patiently to shunt us home.

The train of events related in this passage do in fact closely resemble the "Facts".

Trip members: Keith Margrain, Tim Short.