



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

NEWSLETTER

7/75

Hon. Secretary,
Trevor Bissell, 71-955
Membership Enquiries
Peter Croad, 80-284 (evenings)

COMING EVENTS

31st JULY CLUB NIGHT INTER CLUB DEBATE

Thursday 7.30 p.m. in the Society of Friends, Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street (behind the West End Chemist).

This could be the event of the year! Our team, under the leadership of glib and quick witted Keith Margrain will be arguing for the affirmative that "The Mountains are no place for Women". The opposing team, from the Massey Alpine Club, will be desperate to avoid their third defeat in a row so who knows what tactics they will resort to? Seating is likely to be in short supply as a strong supporting case is expected from Massey.

A judge of renown will be in attendance to decide the issue. He has been instructed to allocate 50% of points to entertainment value and 50% to debating skill. If past performance is any guide this will be the event of the year!

Supper Duties: Ann Hayman (tea towels)
John Ogilvy
Mary Ryder

2-3rd AUGUST CONSERVATION WORK PARTIES

Although work has been known to cause severe allergies in sensitive persons such sensitive persons such sensitivity is extremely rare, contrary to popular opinion. The weekend will be devoted to tree planting near Rangi and to the erection of signposts over rubbish holes at different huts. Several trips will run, both day and weekend, both easy and hard. Let the organizer know your preference when you put your name down for this important weekend.

Organiser : Tim Short phone 76-906
Grading : Easy, Medium and Fit
Cost : \$1.00 - \$2.50 depending on area visited
Depart : Super Save Car Park 7.00 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday

8-10th AUGUST SNOWCRAFT 1B RUAPEHU

This, the second of the alpine Instruction Courses, will be held on the Chateau side of Mount Ruapehu. The New Zealand Alpine Club hut, the highest on the mountain, has been booked. Numbers are limited to twelve persons. The course is an introductory one, but greater fitness and dedication will be required than for Snowcraft 1A. Snow goggles, storm gear and a good torch will be required.

We tramp to the hut FRIDAY night. Breakfasts and dinner will be supplied. Names in by Wednesday 6th August.

Leader : Kevin Pearce. Phone 76-198
Grading: Fit
Cost : Transport \$5.70, Hut fees \$3.20,
Food, ice axe & crampon hire, about \$2.00
Depart : Super Save Car Park 6.30 p.m. FRIDAY

9-10th AUGUST MOUNT RUAPEHU

If climatic conditions are auspicious and if suitable transport arrangements can be made, this trip will traverse the slopes of Ruapehu from the Ohakune Mountain Road to the Chateau. Warm clothing including overtrousers, mittens and balaclava are required. (An alternative trip will run if necessary).

Names to Kevin Pearce phone 76-198
Grading: Medium
Cost : \$6.00
Depart : Super Save Car Park 6.00 a.m.

14th AUGUST COMMITTEE MEETING

7.30 p.m. Thursday at Mary-Ann Whitehead's, 3 Carlton Avenue.

15-17th AUGUST NO MANS HUT – RUAHINE HUT

In the extreme north east of the Ruahines. A new area for the Club. This trip was planned after a trip to a neighbouring area a little further south.

Leader : Trevor Bissell phone 71-955
Grading: Fit
Cost : \$4.50
Depart : Super Save Car Park 6.30 FRIDAY

17th AUGUST BURNS HUT

A day trip of the Tararua's near the Mangahao Dams. A small amount of tops travel so bring long socks and mittens.

Names to Time Short phone 76-906
Grading: Easy
Cost : \$1.00
Depart : Super Save Car Park 7.00 a.m. SUNDAY

23-24th AUGUST WAIIOPEHU

A vantage point near Levin.

Leader : Trevor Bissell phone 71-955
Grading: Medium
Cost : \$1.40
Depart : Super Save Car Park 6.00 a.m.

24th AUGUST WAIIOPEHU

A quick version of the above. Suitable for those not so sure of their fitness as they can be left behind and collected later if necessary.

Leader : Martin Speller phone 81-717
Grading: Fit
Cost : \$1.40
Depart : Super Save Car Park 6.00 a.m.

28th AUGUST CLUB NIGHT – FILM EVENING.

30-31st AUGUST OROUA RIVER

Please note the change of date. A Ruahine trip.
Leader : Lindsay Sandes phone 82-930
Grading: Easy & Fit
Cost : \$1.80 & \$2.00
Depart : 6.00 a.m. Super Save Car Park

31st AUGUST TUNUPO TENT CAMP

Please note the change of date. An easy day trip to the Oroua River, Western Ruahines. Bring a hearty lunch, mug, parka and also a change of clothes to be left in the cars.

Leader : Tim Short phone 76-906
Grading: Easy
Cost : \$1.80
Depart : 7.00 a.m. SUNDAY Super Save Car Park

6-7th SEPTEMBER SNOWCRAFT II. Mount Egmont

An advanced instruction course for those with previous experience of snowcraft. Details next newsletter. Approx. cost \$11.00.

6-7th SEPTEMBER MOUNT EGMONT

Details next newsletter.

29th DECEMBER – 15th JANUARY CHRISTMAS TRIP TO ARTHURS PASS

This trip will leave Monday afternoon 29th December and return to Palmerston North on Thursday morning 15th January. It is envisaged that the party will camp at Arthurs Pass town for several days and do day trips before moving on to do the "Three Pass Trip". The basic trip will be done in short stages with frequent "rest days" for those who wish either to rest or to climb mountains.

Inquiries to Kevin Pearce Phone 76-198
Grading: Medium & Fit
Cost : (a wild guess only) \$50

Names plus a non-refundable deposit of \$5.00 must be in by 1st November and further \$20.00 installment towards the cost of the trip is due 1st December. The balance of the cost will be due at the beginning of the trip.

NOTICES

Trip Leaders for September

"Volunteers" are requested to contact Kevin.

Searches

The Club was involved in two calls. 27th June two members and 5th July five members.

Rangi

The Forest Service have offered us a new loo W.P.O.D. (work party on delivery) so "be prepared".

Welcome to:-

David Munro 30 Fitzroy Street, Palmerston North Phone 73-107

6th August Seminar

8.00 p.m. at Massey. Prof. McTaggart Cowan of Canada on "Rare and Endangered Species and Preservation of Wilderness Areas".

28th November

A Social evening at \$3.50.

Field Officer

New Zealand Mountain Safety Council Inc.

The duties for the above vacant position are to foster and assist the work of 28 local mountain safety committees throughout N.Z., to maintain liaison between the Council and these committees, and to promote mountain safety training and publicity measures. Further information from the Secretary of the above c/- Dept. of Internal Affairs, Private Bag, Wellington. Applications close on 11th August 1975.

Entries in Hut Log Books.

Hut log books serve three purposes: They provide information in the event of a Search and Rescue incident, they (provide) interesting topographical, historical and personal information. The first purpose is the most important. If the correct details are given much valuable time (and may be lives) can be saved. Remember, even if nothing happens to your party, your log book entry could be of help in the search for some other less competent party. Suppose you visit some hut. Unknown to you, another party is also meant to be going to the hut. Sometime later, the second party is reported overdue. A search party finds your entry in the log book. The Club is contacted. Did you see the other party, what were they wearing, what was the weather like, was the river flooded?

The second purpose, of advertising and promoting the Club, will only be fulfilled if your actions and behaviour reflect well on the Club. If the hut is left dirty, if your trip is badly organised or if your route finding is abysmal the Club's name will not be promoted.

The third purpose of log books is that they provide an interesting record. When was I last here? What diverse places have others come from or gone to? Is there a direct route to the back-of-beyond?

A correct log book entry includes the time and date or day, where you have come from and where you are going to plus details of route if this is not obvious. Details of weather in the state of the rivers, the existence of snow etc., should be mentioned if they are noteworthy all likely to affect your trip. Similarly illness or injury should be mentioned. If that is a club trip head up your entry with the Club's name otherwise include your club affiliations alongside your name. Keep your entry brief, free from obscenities and grizzles. If the huts dirty, clean it, don't just complain about it. Your actions will speak louder than long arrogant or boastful log book entries.

Telephone Number Correction

Please note that the Winter Trip Schedule card requires a correction. Ann Hayman's phone no. is 73-991. Please correct your card if you have not already done so.

Police Station List of Names

From time to time Club parties have been late returning from trips. During the eight years of the Club's existence the reasons for late return have been diverse but never serious. Never-the-less parents and spouses worry over the non-return of loved ones. In the past

Club Officials have been embarrassed by not knowing who has gone on a trip. Arrangements have been made for trip leaders to leave a list of names and phone numbers at the Police Station immediately before the trip leaves. It is important that the list contains the name and phone number of a responsible Club Official for the Police to contact after a certain time should the list not be collected. Even more important, the responsible Club Official should first be advised before his name is used. (Who wants to be run up in the middle of the night about a trip you know nothing about?)

Do not forget to call at or phone the Police Station upon your return. If you are seriously delayed for any reason, contact the Club Official on your list as early as possible.

PAST EVENTS

SAREX

Over recent months Club Members have been involved in a number of Search and Rescue Exercises.

In April the Club held an instruction course in the Police Station. It was designed for those new to SAR and drew an attendance of about 15 persons.

In May Kevin Pearce, Tim Short, Trevor Bissell and Glen Dixon took part in the Palmerston North Police District annual exercise. This took the form of a day of classroom and outdoor work and a one-day mock search. The exercise was held near Woodville in a shearing shed and shearers quarters and in the Coppermine Creek.

More recently Tim Short and Kevin Pearce took part in the Wellington District annual exercise held in the Northern Taranaki. This was a two day mock search held in rough country and stormy weather.

The difference in style between the Wellington and Palmerston exercises was marked. The former tend to be realistic (arduous) imitations of the real thing while the latter are far more instructional in nature. The success of the Wellington method is very dependent on the calibre of the instructors who are assigned to each team. However, the Palmerston North system could give some search volunteers a rude shock when they become aware of the hard work and the rigorous weather that sometimes has to be faced.

Generally it could be said that it has been a good season for SAREX.

3rd-4th MAY POHANGINA -- TAMAKI CROSSING

Four victims of trappers disease visited the Ruahines. After the muttering under the breath of many four lettered words in battling through the bush lawyer in following the almost non-existent side track at the Pohangina. We piked and spend the night at Pohangina Hut.

Sunday the rivers had dropped and we waltzed up Cattle Creek to the hut. Meeting the day trip as we clambered over the saddle down into the Tamaki River. With lunch at Stanfield Hut, then out to the road end home ending a very enjoyable weekend.

Kathy Hindmarsh, Tina Strickson, Trevor Bissell and Tim Short.

24-25th MAY BLUE RANGE -- RUAMAHANGA RIVER

After a ride in Trevor's Magic Bus the persons found themselves at the Kiri etc, etc Road end where they danced in the forest for 10 minutes and then took off in the direction of, Blue Range Hut. Trevor and Mary Ann decided to stay at Blue Range as Trevor had a sore shoulder. The other brave bods carried on to Cow Saddle and battle their way down Cleft Creek to the Ruamahanga River which was in flood and uncrossable.

Rather than carry on to Cattle Ridge Hut we decided to camp on the river bank.

The rain was very friendly that night and kept offering us free gifts like wet sleeping bags and also rivers running through the middle of the fly. The river came with an optional extra; variable speed rapid in the middle Trevor was feeling greedy that night and accepted both these marvellous gifts with a smile and profuse thanks. Two hours later we moved camp.

After a hard nights sleep we got up feeling refreshed, tired and stiff and set to the Ruamahanga Road Bridge where we were to wait for the Magic Bus.

While we were waiting we met the daisy pickers who had lost Roaring Stag Lodge and had gone to Blue Range instead.

Due to circumstances entirely beyond our control we eventually, ended up at Palmerston North alive and well.

Trip Members:- Martin Speller, Kevin Pearce, Trevor Bissell, Trevor Stretton, Peter Hanratty and Mary Ann Whitehead.

14-15th JUNE "COMBINED" RUAPEHU TRIP

Or trip schedule advertised this trip as "Ruapehu with the Massey Club". The Massey notice board advertise "a weekend stir at the Massey Hut, with P.N.T.M.C." Neither remembered to mention the weather conditions that were likely to be encountered.

The Massey Club arrived at the hut on Friday night and they claim that the lock on the door was so cold it wouldn't open, so they had to enter by the upstairs door.

P.N.T.M.C. arriving on Saturday morning, were blown into the hut, and within 10 minutes were comfortably seated around various tables playing cards, although a small party braved the storm and spend a few hours on the mountain.

Later in the afternoon another small party left the hut for a breath of fresh mountain air, and pushed against the wind up to the top of the road and were back in time for a delicious dinner of stew and instant pudding.

We spent a merry evening, singing, dancing, playing cards and warming ourselves on Gluhivein. By Sunday morning the wind had died a little, so 2 trips were planned, one to Wanganui Tramping Club Hut, and one up the Mountain. Just before leaving the Park Ranger came and gave us a warning for another storm to come on Sunday afternoon. We were back before the storm, left the hut at 3 p.m. and drove through the storm on our way home.

21-22nd JUNE A MID WINTER WORK PARTY AT RANGI

The number going on this trip fluctuated, but at 7.00 a.m. on Saturday morning 3 people set off for Rangiwahia Hut in the cold and wet. The trip from the road end to Rangi hut took 3 hours and while one member slashed all the overgrown track and cut drainage channels the other 2 walked up and down to keep themselves warm.

We warmed up a little after lighting the hut fire and cooking soup and crumpets for lunch. Unfortunately the weather conditions were unsuitable for replacing some of the roof with novalite so only a few inside repairs were carried out.

After our banana fritter and stew dinner we filled the hut with cheerful song and succeeded in keeping our two hut mates awake.

Just as our morning tea scones were browning on the girdle the P.N.T.M.C. day party arrived, a little quieter and sleepier than usual.

By the time we were ready to leave, the mist had cleared from the snowy hills surrounding us and we could see Ruapehu also. We followed the old bulldozer track back down to the river and climbed our way back up to the cars.

28-29th JUNE MIKIMIKI -- MITRE FLATS

The Ranges made a very pretty picture on Saturday morning with snow down to 3000'. A little steering trouble was experienced on the drive down the Wairarapa due to ice on the road. At the road end the party was forced to abandon on K P's snug little metal cocoon and brave a frosty morning.

After an aborted attempt to sidle above the Mikimiki stream with dry feet the group made good progress. The area was obviously milled during the early days with a continuous network of old tram ways. Snow was met on Blake ?050' and the party descended from the Blue Range on the slopes directly above the Mitre Flats swing bridge.

An afternoon excursion to the top of Baldy gave great views of "white" in all directions including 2 or 3 inches of "white" on the ground.

Sometime during the afternoon Eric discovered the loss of his jersey but found it again on Blake when the party retraced its steps on Sunday morning.

Party:- Trevor Bissell, Eric Strachan, Kevin Pearce, Malcolm alias Ross alias Rory Wilson.