



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

NEWSLETTER 1/78

Hon. Secretary: Janet Maesson, 73-421
 Membership Enquiries: John Williams, 84-925
 Newsletter Editor: Kevin Pearce, ph. 83-467.
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SPECIAL WARNING
OVERDUE HIRE EQUIPMENT.

A considerable amount of the Club's Hire Equipment including stoves, tent flies, billies, pack etc. has not been returned to the gear custodian, Peter Croad, 82 Featherston Street, phone 69-386. Tough new regulations governing the use of the Club's equipment were published in the November

Newsletter. Under these regulations a hire charge is payable on gear not returned within seven days of the trip for which it was issued.

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COMING EVENTS

ALL TRAMPING TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE SUPERSAVE CAR PARK, FIZHERBERT AVE. PERSONS WISHING TO GO ON ANY TRIP LISTED BELOW SHOULD TELEPHONE THE LEADER AT LEAST 3 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE TRIP. (NOT LATER THAN WEDNESDAY EVENING.)

4th-5th-6th February PILGRIMAGE TO FIELDS HUT

Waitangi Day means we get an extra long weekend this year. The Club's first ever trip was to Field's Hut in the Tararuas near Otaki and it is customary for the Club to mark the anniversary by running two trip to the area. Among the activities which are planned are a morning of river crossing instruction, a day trip to Field's Hut, a Main Range-Otaki Gorge round trip and a southern Crossing of the Tararuas. Ring Peter for details.

Names to: Peter Darragh, Fg. 5633

7th February COMMITTEE MEETING

7.30 p.m. Tuesday at Peter Croad's, 82 Featherston St.

11th - 12th February MITRE FLATS

Have you done the Mitre yet? Now here is your chance. (Mitre is the Tararuas highest peak.)

Leader: Kevin Pearce, ph. 83-467
 Grading: Medium
 Cost: \$3.50
 Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

12th February DAY NORTHERN CROSSING

This ego trip is a particularly demanding one.

Names to: Kevin Pearce, ph. 83-467
 Grading: F.E.
 Cost: \$5.00
 Depart: 4.00 a.m. Sunday.

14th February VISIT BY F.M.C. LIAISON OFFICER

The national organization which looks after the interests of trampers is Federated Mountain Clubs. The F.M.C. Liaison Officer, Fred Gallas will be visiting Palmerston North to explain the work of F.M.C.

7.30 p.m. Tuesday, 14th February in the Deerstalkers' Hall, college Street (not far from our own meeting rooms.)

18th – 19th February TRAMPERS" MARATHON & SPORTS WEEKEND

An annual event organized by the Wellington clubs and held in the Rimutaka Ranges near Wellington. Small contingents from our club have participated over recent years but this year we want a large contingent of participants and supporters. The premier event is the Senior Marathon which is (Heaven forbid) open only to males with a minimum age of 20 years. A less arduous Junior Marathon, billy boiling competition, novelty races and tug-of-war are among the other events.

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| Organiser: | Kevin Pearce, ph. 83-467 |
| Cost: | \$6.00 |
| Depart: | 10.00 a.m. Saturday. |

23rd February CLUB NIGHT

An interesting evening at the usual time and place, 227 College St., Palmerston North.

25th – 26th February IRON GATES – TRIANGLE (OROUA)

A pleasant enough river trip, with plenty of swims (voluntary) to make this a trip that shouldn't be missed.

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| Names to: | Peter Croad, ph. 69-386 |
| Grading: | Medium |
| Cost: | \$2.00 |
| Depart: | 6.00 a.m. Saturday. |

26th February OROUA RIVER

There's no need to miss out just because you had to mow the lawns. Remember your New Years resolution!

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| Names to Peter Croad, ph. 69-386 | |
| Grading: | Easy |
| Cost: | \$2.00 |
| Depart: | 7.00 a.m. Sunday. |

NOTICES

1. CLUB EQUIPMENT

The Club holds stocks of tramping and mountaineering gear which is available on loan to members, subject to certain rules which were published in full in an earlier newsletter (number 11/77). A number of problems have been experienced by the Committee and then Gear Custodian in looking after this gear. Often gear is not returned when it should be thus depriving others of its use. The loss of billy lids and billy bags has been very great. A billy without a lid is much less useful than one with and who wants to carry a black billy in their pack without a protective covering bag. A number of stoves have been damaged by placing very large billies on top of them, resulting in excessive heat build up, damage to seals and explosion. Damage has also been caused by use of excessive force when the control valve has been turned to the "clean" position instead of the "off" position.

Inflation has hit tramping equipment much harder than average and the Committee will need to adopt strong measures to protect the club's property unless there is a marked improvement in the care of gear. Please check that you have not got any club equipment in your possession.

2. SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

A quantity of equipment is to be given away in exchange for a donation to the club's funds at the January Club Night.

3. MINIMUM IMPACT CODE

A motion is to be put at the A.G.M. in March that all Club trips are to comply with a minimum impact code. A copy of such a code is attached to this newsletter.

PAST TRIPS

NELSON LAKES CHRISTMAS TRIP '77-'78.

GONE YONDER

Day 1. 28th Dec.

After many hours of preparation during the preceding months, anticipation was running high as a party of fourteen assembled at my house to load up the two vans that were to take us on a ten day tramping holiday to the Nelson Lakes National Park.

With the weather beautifully fine, some of the party took the opportunity of a swim at Paul's house before we headed down to Wellington and the 6.40 p.m. ferry sailing. With an uneventful sailing behind us and a few wrong turns, we finally arrived at the head of Lake Rotoroa about 1.30 a.m. to take a few hours' shut-eye. Unfortunately, about 4.30 a.m. one of the local drunks arrived on the scene and Don being the friendly person he is became the center of the drunk's attention which at least helped give the rest of the party some extra sleep.

Day 2. 29th Dec.

With up to 50 lb packs on our backs we found the going rather slow and painful on the shoulders. The track alongside Lake Rotoroa is long and tedious so we now know why the local water taxi is in such good demand at \$15 per trip (up to 6 persons.) We made camp on the beach towards the southern end of the lake.

Day 3. 30th Dec.

The third day dawned wet and miserable as we completed the last leg of the track to the Sabine Hut. As we were wet through we unanimously agreed to bunk in. Funny how the existing occupants decided to leave at the first sight of our large party. Four of us decided to take a quick trip to the D'Urville and back which we did in four hours to arrive back in time for dinner. Tina, Julie, Paul and myself took a refreshing dip in the lake with Harry displaying his bared torso but chickening out at the sight of cold water. Later, we were to find out what a really cold swim feels like. With the hut full, four of our party slept outside with their little biting friends. If you want to know what it's like to be eaten alive then try the Nelson Lakes and flies!

Day 4. 31st Dec.

Two of our party decided to spend the next few days at the Sabine Hut as they considered they were not up to further tramping. We set out up the Sabine Valley and into further wet weather. 5 p.m. saw us at our day's destination, the confluence of the East and West Sabine Rivers. The two huts in the area were full to overflowing so with no option we pitched our 3 tent flies on the forks of the two rivers. With some difficulty we managed to get a campfire going which cheered up the party. Being New Year's Eve we had a special dinner of salami stew followed by Christmas pudding and custard. Only three of us saw the New Year in.

Day 5. 1st Jan.

After a heavy frost, the morning turned out to be a beauty with snow capped

mountains back dropping the green river valley making a picture book effect. We broke camp and made our way up the valley enjoying the breathtaking views. By 3 p.m. we were at the Blue Lake Hut which was full, so we made our way to the end of the lake and the perfect campsite. Nestled in the tussock grass it had views, shelter, firewood and a built in fireplace. Even the sandflies were absent. Although the lake was freezing, myself, the two Peters, Julie, Bud, Tim and Dawn showed our metal (or stupidity) by taking the plunge before dinner. Now a word of warning to anybody like myself who carries an inflatable pillow on a tramp. If you have two fun loving girls on the trip like we did (Tina and Julie) then be prepared to hide the said pillow before retiring, otherwise it can disappear. With spirits high, we had one night that was particularly bad with not only pillows going missing but sleeping bags as well. Conspiracy countered conspiracy.

Day 6. 2nd Jan.

It was painfully obvious that a large blister on Tina's foot was going to prevent us from returning to the Sabine Hut via Moss Pass and up the D'Urville Valley as intended. As we were enjoying our camp so much, we decided to spend another two nights at the Blue Lake and take ½ day trips around the area. Six of the party climbed up through the morning mist and up the scree to a point overlooking Lake Constance. By the time we had dropped down to the lake, the skies had cleared and we were afforded some fantastic views. We spent an hour soaking in the scenery, before we descended to our campsite and lunch. Meanwhile Harry and Peter C. had been busy climbing one of the high peaks near Mt Franklin. The rest of the day was spent washing clothes, hair and sunbathing etc.

Day 7. 3rd Jan.

Don, bud, Paul and Philip were up at the crack of dawn so they could make their way up through the morning mist to the top of the Moss Pass with the hope of some good photographs. The day turned out to be a real sizzler. The two Peters, Harry, Susan and myself ended up doing some unscheduled rock climbing (leaving me in a very difficult and dangerous position at one stage) on route to the Moss Pass. The two parties returned safely to camp but nursing sunburn and blisters. A jaunt up to Lake Constance (with swims) ended a perfect day.

Day 8. 4th Jan.

My birthday! We broke camp too early (according to Harry) at 8.30 a.m. and made swift progress to a campsite along the Sabine River, arriving during the early afternoon. Some of the party went adventuring up a nearby stream in the hope of some good photographs. We spent an enjoyable evening talking around the campfire.

Day 9. 5th Jan.

With light rain falling, we broke camp and made good time back to the Sabine Hut where we were reunited with our two ladies whom we had left some six days earlier. Far from being bored, they had enjoyed themselves enormously. With a large volume of trampers using the hut they had plenty of interesting people to talk to as well as providing first aid to a young man who had had an accident with an axe. Nancy and Marjorie had also tramped around the area as well as giving the hut a spring clean. The party decided to use the water taxi back to the head of the lake, so while we waited we swam in the relatively warm water of Rotoroa until it arrived. Back at the other end of the lake, we loaded ourselves into don's van and drove to St Arnaud camping ground where we made a perfect nuisance of ourselves by larking around. One more word of warning. Dehy onions and desert prunes make ideal tramping food but tend to develop untold volumes of natural gas, especially upon retiring for the night, so if you smoke (God forbid) and strike a light, then be warned.

The gas also makes it very difficult in getting off to sleep with everyone sniggering and giggling (and I'm the worst for that.)

Day 10. 6th Jan.

We were all rather sad to be packing our things for the last time, but with our packs safely stowed on don's new roof rack, we started our drive up to Picton, first stopping at a shop and gorging ourselves on apple pies and buns etc. We were lucky enough to catch the 2.20 p.m. ferry back to Wellington and finally reached Palmerston North about 9.30 p.m.

Footnote:

Although we didn't accomplish the trip we originally intended we enjoyed ourselves enormously and already have several starters for a Christmas trip next year but to a different part of the Park, probably the D'Urville. May I extend sincere thanks to the following people: Susan Cade and family for preparing the large quantities of food, to Bud for doing most of the cooking, to don for the use of his van and to Trevor Bissell for the use of his tent fly and transport down to the Park. Also to all the other members of the party for making a terrific trip.

Those on the trip were: John Carter (nicknamed Yonder Teddy Bear), Bud, Nancy, Julie, Susan and Philip Cade, Majorie Pollard, Tine Hermans (chuckles), Peter Croad, Harry Verway (Grasshopper), Dawn Ellis, Paul Thomas, Peter Hanratty and don Scott.

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MINIMUM IMPACT CODE

The aim of this code is to minimize your impact, both on the environment and for other visitors to the area. Your cooperation will help keep the hills and mountains pleasant and unspoilt for all who venture into them.

1. Plan your trip to minimize rubbish, avoid bottles and cans.
2. Pack out what you pack in; carry out all unburnable rubbish.
3. Keep to formed tracks where provided, avoid taking short cuts or trampling the vegetation alongside a track.
4. Keep party sizes reasonable, large groups create degrading pressures on the environment, particularly at campsites.
5. Minimise campsite construction:
 - + carry your own tent poles or use only dead wood for poles
 - + avoid cutting the vegetation for mattresses.
 - + respect the privacy of others when selecting campsites and if possible locate them away from tracks or huts.
6. Toilet wastes – dig a hole within the top soil layer, well away from open water. After use, cover with soil and tramp sods in.
7. Streams and lakes are everyone's water supply, avoid polluting them with detergents, wash water or food scraps from cleaning utensils.
8. Use portable stoves rather than fires. Dead wood is an important part of nature's cycle and is scarce in many places, particularly in sub-alpine areas.
9. If you must use wood fires:-
 - + keep small to conserve wood,
 - + use only dead wood,
 - + completely extinguish after use and bury ashes.
 - + Dismantle your fireplace after use, returning rocks to their natural places. Dirty fireplaces tend to increase in number.
10. Activities should be carried out without undue noise or disturbance to others.
11. Do not blaze trees.