



7<sup>th</sup> December COMMITTEE MEETING

At Trevor Bissell's, 28 Carroll St., commencing 7.30 p.m.

9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> December RIVER CROSSING INSTRUCTION & WAITATAPIA – WAETEWAIEWAE – WAITOHU

Flooded or large rivers and drowning are a serious hazard to the tramp. Knowing if and how to cross rivers is an important skill. A morning of river crossing instruction on Saturday followed by a tramp (Map NZMS 1 N157).

Leader: Kevin Pearce, ph. 70-217  
Grading: Easy & Fit.  
Cost: \$2.50 & \$3.00 (Day & Weekend trips).  
Depart: 7.00 a.m. Saturday.

16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> December TRIANGLE HUT

Over the tops via Rangī then down the Oroua river. The last chance to get fit for Christmas trips (Map NZMS 1 N140).

Leader: Stephen Moore, ph. 81-699  
Grading: Medium  
Cost: \$3.00  
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

NO DECEMBER CLUB NIGHT

20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> January ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND – KAIMANAWAS

Leader: Stephen Moore, ph. 81-699.

26<sup>th</sup> January CLUB NIGHT – INFORMAL

27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> January FULL OTAKI

Leader: Trevor Bissell, ph. 73-543

XX

THIS LAND IS OUR LAND

1. Trevor discovered some interesting details about the early days of Rangī hut. The track up to Rangī was surveyed and built during the depression years to provide relief work. The Rangiwahia Ski Club, formed in 1935 – 6, was one of the first in the country. At first a small hut was built on the site and this was later extended to form a T shaped building.

During the heyday of the club the tussock grass was often shortened by burning to help make the field skiable with less deep snow. At one stage a bulldozer was winched up the old "bulldozed track" to smooth out some ski runs. Fortunately that sort of development is a thing of the past.

The club faded from existence in the late fifties due to competition from the better fields on Mt. Ruapehu. No one was responsible for the hut until the Forest Service offered it to our Club in April, 1967. At least one member of our Club at the time was a builder by trade and he and several others dismembered the T-shaped building and built the present hut from the materials.

2. SKI TOURING ON THE TASMAN GLACIER

Club members Kevin Pearce, Peter Darragh, Eric Van Toor and Keith Margrain have recently returned from a week at Mount Cook. After spending a whole afternoon on the Ben Ohau ski field learning to ski they flew into Tasman Saddle Hut. The weather wasn't kind. They skied down the Tasman after several days in bed and an adventure too terrible to relate in a family publication such as this. Skis provide a really great way of travelling in the mountains – they even work going up hill!

NOTICES

Dawn Ellis would like to know if anyone is interested in a walking holiday in the highlands of Viti Levu – Fiji's largest island. Accommodation will be Fijian style. Walks last 8 days and will take place from May to August, 1979.

For further information contact Dawn, ph. Marton 7269.

### PAST EVENTS

We eventually reached the Waipawa river in spite of Eric's mercy stops to rescue distressed damsels - sorry, cast ewes. We left the others, found high and dry parking and wandered up the shingle bed of the river to Waipawa Chalet - Mansion actually.

After morning tea we continued on up the deeply aggraded river channel. The extensive erosion makes spectacular scenery and it was interesting to note that older slips were well covered with self sown grasses and shrubs. The bush closes in for the final climb to the saddle and we pushed on into it. Jenny produced some interesting new names for the leatherwood and Spaniard which was rather thick in places and eventually we dropped, nearly literally, back into the creek bed noticing as we did so, a neat and prickly free track on the opposite side. Oh, well, at least we wouldn't be ascending and descending by the same route.

Warm sun and lovely views from the saddle, which had running water laid on, made it a perfect lunch stop. We stopped and stopped and two bodies fell asleep, one even snored.

The walk back was quickly over and a good fire was built up on the shingle, eats and drinks were cooked up and the evening was spent avoiding the smoke and enjoying the warmth. Don made interesting noises about sleeping out but the light frost and the short night made the comfort of the hut irresistible.

The next morning dawned brilliantly. The weather, views, bush, birdsongs were perfect. We returned via Armstrong Saddle track to the Waipawa Base Camp which appears to have been renamed Triplex Hut. Triplex Complex might be more appropriate. A short bush walk took us back to the cars.

'Us' was Don Scott, Jenny Smith, Peter Hanratty, Paul and Gill Davies.

### October 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> TOP MAROPEA

6 members formed themselves into a "fit" party and headed for the tops via Triplex Creek. Wishing to avoid the normal boredom and frustrations of walking along a well beaten track, it was unanimously decided to avoid these facilities (supposedly constructed for American tourists) as much as possible for the trip (i.e. we lost the track fairly early on!)

We continued in great weather up Triplex Creek, over rocks and under logs, with only passing references to mutiny and to bush bashing up the 500 ft. bank to the track. Anyway, the riverbed cleared for a while, with good going, until near the top, with only leatherwood and beech trees (spaced slightly closer than man and pack width) to stop us.

We got to Armstrong Saddle to find a big cloud over Te-O-Parapara, so we headed for Top Maropea Hut.

After a good night's rest we set off for Waipawa Saddle. Confrontations with Spaniard grass and leatherwood followed, and a climb down a waterfall, again because we preferred not to use the track (Ha ha!). Once in the river bed we had a very scenic and pleasant walk back to the road side.

The six pioneers were Nick Bishop, Sarah Godfrey, Grant Ramsay, Chrissy Williams, Philip Dawson and Eric Van Toor.