

5th – 6th May MANGAHAO – OHAU

A western Tararua trip crossing Girdlestone Saddle, beginning at the Mangahao dams and finishing at the Ohau Pipe Bridge. (Map NZMS 1 N152).

Names to: Heather Crabb, ph. 77-668
Grading: Medium
Cost: \$3.00
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

6th May NORTH OHAU

A river trip with some track and some river bed travel. (Map NZMS 1 N152).

Names to: Heather Crabb, ph. 77-668
Grading: Easy
Cost: \$1.80
Depart: 7.00 a.m. Sunday.

10th May COMMITTEE MEETING

7.45 p.m. at Kevin's, 7 Tern Place, P.N.

11th – 13th May MOUNT EGMONT

This trip may only be possible if car-less days come and Friday evening petrol sales are resumed. Otherwise an alternative will be arranged. A climb of Mount Egmont may be possible depending on weather and ice conditions. (Map NZMS 169).

Leader: Susan Cade, ph. 88-241
Grading: Easy and Medium
Cost: \$7.00
Depart: 6.30 p.m. Friday.

12th – 13th May SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION

Organized by the Pahiatua S.A.R. Committee. SAREX "Putara" is suitable for those without S.A.R. experience or with only limited S.A.R. experience. If interested please contact Kevin immediately.

Enquiries to: Kevin Pearce, ph. 70-217
Grading: Medium
Cost: Free
Depart: 7.30 a.m. Saturday.

19th – 20th May NGAMOKO RANGE (Weekend Trip)

20th May NGAMOKO RANGE (Hard day trip)

Deerford track, Toka Peak, Tunipo Peak and Heritage Lodge is the route. Storm gear is required. The weekend trip will be camping high. (Maps NZMS 1 N140 & 145).

Leader: Eric Van Toor, ph. 70-217
Grading: Medium weekend, F.E. day trip.
Cost: \$2.50
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

26th – 27th May MOUNTAINCRAFT I ROCK CLIMBING INSTRUCTION AT TITAHU BAY

The first of the annual mountaincraft courses and a prerequisite for the following courses. Suitable for novices. Please get names in early.

Leader: Philip Budding, ph. 85-936
Grading: Easy
Cost: \$5.00
Depart: 8.00 a.m. Saturday.

31st May CLUB NIGHT

Details in next Newsletter.

1st – 4th June RICHMOND RANGE (QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY)

As yet all details are tentative for this trip to the ranges East of Nelson. Names must be in early. If interested contact the leader before 19th May.

Leader: Kevin Pearce, ph. 70-217
Grading: Fit
Cost: Approx. \$38.
Depart: 4.00 p.m. Friday afternoon.
Return: Very late Monday night.

2nd – 4th June RUAHINES (QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY)

A medium trip. Details next Newsletter.

NOTICES

At the annual General Meeting held on 29th March, 1979 the following Officers were elected:

President: Kevin Pearce, who also holds the offices of
Search Advisor, S.A.R. Conservation
Officer and Executive Committee
Member, F.M.C. Phone 70-217.
Secretary: Susan Cade, Phone 88-241.
Treasurer: Sarah Godfrey, " 268-031.
Committee: Heather Crabb, Newsletter Editor and Typist, 77-668.
Eric Van Toor, Social Convenor, S.A.R. delegate, 70-217.
Nick Bishop, Gear Custodian & Librarian, 70-217.
Colin Hoare, Membership Convenor, 71-766.
Stephen Moore, Printer, 81-699.
Trevor Bissell, Trip Convenor, S.A.R. delegate, 73-543.

Search & Rescue Sub-Committee: Kevin Pearce, Russ Johnson, Eric
Van Toor, Trevor Bissell.

S.A.R. Callout Contacts & overdue trip enquiries:
Kevin Pearce, Russ Johnson, Heather Crabb.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1979/80 were set as follows:

Junior (still at school): \$5.00
Senior: \$8 00
Family: \$9.00

These amounts to be reduced by one dollar if paid before 1st June, 1979.

Anyone wishing to discontinue membership in the Club must resign in writing to the Secretary, or will be liable for fees for the current year.

Mr. John Cleland was elected an Honorary Member in appreciation for the help he has given us in our photography over many years.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to:

Kathy & Vaughan Crow, 127 Stanford St. Ashhurst, 268-781.
Lorraine Tremain, 216 Victoria Ave., P.N. 69-210.

GEAR HIRE

Nick Bishop is the new Gear Custodian and the Club gear is housed at 7 Tern Place, Palmerston North. Members are asked to refer back to the Loan-Equipment Regulations in the October, 1978 Newsletter. These regulations will be strictly adhered to, to ensure that gear is kept in as reasonable condition as possible and does not go astray. Borrowers' cooperation in the prompt return of gear in a clean condition will be appreciated.

TELEPHONE CALLS

When ringing Committee members or Trip Leaders on Club business, please do not ring after, 9.00 p.m. or at work unless the matter is urgent.

M.U.A.C. 50th JUBILEE

The Massey University Alpine Club will be holding its 50th Jubilee at Queen's Birthday weekend in Palmerston North.

Past members are asked, if interested, to write for information to:

Miss Jane Mackersey, "Jubilee", M.U.A.C., Private Bag, Massey University

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PAST EVENTS

3rd – 4th February MAKARETU – POHANGINA SADDLE

A very friendly farmer assisted us by offering us parking space and wishing us well as we set off in fine weather up the Makaretu River. Easy river travel led us to a much appreciated swimming hole where we had lunch. This was followed by a protracted climb to the tops, where we met Peter Darragh, who was on a hard solo trip. He decided he couldn't handle our pace so he disappeared into the scrub.

An hour or so later we came to a swamp. It was tea time, so we quenched our thirst and set up camp on the driest, flattest part of the swamp.

The next day saw part of the party heading for Pohangina Saddle for a look. On their return, we headed back down the same route, stopping for lunch again at the swimming hole.

Participants were Margaret Smith, Rosemary Dixon, Sarah Godfrey, Jenny Smith, Owen Gurr, Graham Hart, Christine, Eric Van Toor.

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SAREX - 16th – 17th February

Six Club members were involved in a search and rescue exercise in the Otaki region, Kevin as Field Controller and the rest of us as pawns.

We arrived at the Otaki Scout Den on Friday night and set up camp to withstand the forecast storm. Next morning we rolled up our wet sleeping bags, attended our briefing and headed up to Knobs. We, along with six other teams, were looking for two "missing" deer stalkers, while Kevin was organising a simultaneous search for two missing trampers in the Otaki forks area.

We arrived at Waitohu hut at lunch time to find a message from the "missing" party indicating their intentions, radioed in and headed towards Mick. There are several unmarked four wheel drive tracks in this region which make for speedy travel, although sharp lookout had to be kept and all spurs investigated.

We got onto the tops and were democratically deciding which way to go, when a shot rang out. We followed it to Taungatu and found the missing party safe and sound.

We were taken back to base by army truck and after a short night's sleep we were treated to a contact search and a helicopter ride.

Transport back to town was again by army truck. The five brave rescuers were Chrissy Elliott, Don Scott, Keith Miller, Nick Bishop and Eric Van Toor. Kevin Pearce was a Field Controller.

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FEBRUARY 16th – 17th HOLDSWORTH

DORSET RIDGE

We left Holdsworth Lodge at 8.30 a.m. in drizzle and wind and sometime later met Marty at Mountain House hoping he would be providing fish for tea. However, the rivers had been high all week and the fish were presumably keeping low, so no luck.

We continued on and had a brew and lunch at Powell Hut to fortify ourselves against the weather ahead. It was wet and gusty but not impossible and the peaks passed steadily - Holdsworth, Jumbo, Angle Knob where we decided to continue along the top as the Waiohine would be too swollen to ford. Marty knew of a route from Cairn down to Dorset Creek which we followed as far as it went, then Marty's navigation took us to the creek only a few metres from where the track continued on.

The rain stopped, we put up the fly and spent a good night leaving at 8.00 a.m. the next morning. We reached Dorset Ridge via the hut in clearing weather and continued on to Pinnacle, Girdlestone, Adkin and the Three Kings having splendid views all the way. After a short lunch stop at Cairn and a brief reconnoitre on Baldy we decided to drop down to the Atiwhakatu and follow the track out ensuring a daylight exit. Trevor, Susan and one or two other day trippers were waiting at Holdsworth Lodge to help with transport.

Those on the trip: Marty Robbins, Chris Saunders, Colin Hoare,
Lucy and Gill Davies.

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17th - 18th March RANGI, SAWTOOTH RIDGE MOKAI PATEA, COLENSO STATION

We made the traditional gloomy Friday night start, but as we climbed towards Rangi some good views of various town lights were had.

On Saturday morning Kevin started commenting on what 'a good leader' should be doing. After a respectable time I casually asked 'Who is the leader any?' I was quickly informed by Nick and Kevin in unison 'You were the fool who thought of this trip, so you are the leader.' The harassment on the duties and responsibilities of a good leader continued.

We made an early start from Rangi and headed into the cloud. Progress was good throughout the morning, traversing Sawtooth Ridge before having a lavish lunch beyond Ohuinga. About this time Nick amended his E.T.A. for Waikamaka Hut. Nick learned quickly to keep his E.T.As to himself or at least until they were proved correct.

With the three of us navigating no errors were made. We arrived at Waikamaka Hut just before dark after a long but satisfying day in which we climbed 14 marked peaks greater than 5,000 ft.

Sunday saw us with a less strenuous day in which we travelled quickly down the Waikamaka River to Wakelings Hut. From Wakelings we trundled up Rongotea and lunched by a large tarn. Fortunately we were spared the navigation problems posed by the broad tops of the Mokai Patea Range owing to a general lifting of the cloud. The route to Colenso station which lies about 700 yards north of the Miracle Campsite was easily found and lost etc. The farmland was a welcome sight as were the cups of tea at the farm.

Those participating: Nick Bishop, Kevin Pearce, and Marty Robbins.

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The F.M.C. recently made submissions to the West Coast United Council concerning matters to be included in the proposed Regional Plan. These submissions generally proposed the preservation of much of the remaining indigenous forest in the region as a recreational resource. It is likely that income from businesses catering for the recreationalist will be greater in the long run than could be gained from timber milling industries, that must die once all the millable timber has been extracted, along with the recreational potential. In order to emphasize the recreational aspect, the West Coast section of the recreational Plan has been given top priority and should be published shortly.