

7th – 9th December MIDDLE CROSSING

One of the Tararua classics.

Leader: Nic Bishop, 70-217
Grading: Fitness Essential
Cost: Approx. \$8 depending on transport arrangements.
Depart: 6.30 p.m. Friday night.

8th – 9th December ANGLE KNOB HUT

The track climbs from the Atiwhakatu Stream and the hut is to be found at the bush edge. If the weather is not too inclement we may traverse the range to Mt Holdsworth on Sunday.

Leader: Oz Patterson, 79-124
Grading: Medium
Cost: \$4.50
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

9th December ATIWHA KATU STREAM

River and sidle track travel in the Tararuas behind Masterton.

Leader: Alan Dunn, 80249
Grading: Easy
Cost: \$4.50
Depart: 7.00 a.m. Sunday.

15th – 16th December PARK PEAK – MAKARORO RIVER

Mostly bush ridge and river travel. A sortie may be made onto the main divide of the Ruahines.

Leader: Peter Darragh, 3-5633
Grading: Fit
Cost: \$5.00
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

15th – 16th December MAKARORO RIVER

The Makaroro River flows from the North Eastern Ruahines. Options include a climb of Te Atu Mahuru for the energetic.

Names to: Peter Darragh, 3-5633
Grading: Easy
Cost: \$5.00
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

21st – 23rd December RANGI – HOWLETTS CROSSING

One of the club's favourite crossings of the Ruahines.

Names to: Colin Hoare, 88-546
Grading: Fitness Essential
Cost: \$7.50
Depart: 6.30 p.m. Friday night.

22nd – 23rd December RANGI AND TRIANGLE HUTS

A nice combination of easy tops and river travel.

Names to: Colin Hoare, 88-546
Grading: Medium
Cost: \$3.00
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

29th December to Mid January, ASPIRING NATIONAL PARK

The trip will include a few days in the Wilkin River in the Mt. Aspiring National Park. Access may be provided by a jet boat to Kerin Forks from the township of Makarora on the road from Wanaka to Haast.

The remainder of the trip will be spent elsewhere in the Park. Transport will be provided by friends of John Carter from Christchurch on December 30th and will return approximately two weeks later. You will have to arrange your own transport from Palmerston North to Christchurch and back.

The overall cost of the trip will be in the vicinity of \$120 - \$150 including transport from Palmerston North.

If you wish to go please contact Bud Cade, 88-241, by Friday, December 7th in order to allow sufficient time for the organisation of food and transport etc.

24th January CLUB NIGHT - BARBEQUE

At 7 Tern Place, 6.30 p.m.

Alternatively, if wet weather puts a damper on arrangements, there will be the normal meeting at Society of Friends' meeting rooms, 227 College St., at 7.45 p.m., the theme being "What I did in my holidays", so bring along your Christmas trip slides.

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NOTICES

NEW MEMBERS

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Suzanne Deroles, | 30 Kingswood St., P.N. | Phone 63-338. |
| Ian Alach, | 30 Kingswood St., P.N. | " |
| Max Earby, | 542 Main St., P.N. | " Wk 75567 |
| Donald French, | 28 Carroll St., P.N. | " 73-543 |
| Ian Little, | 122 Lethbridge St., Feilding. | " 3-5703. |

We have pleasure in welcoming these new members to our club.

ENGAGEMENT

Best wishes to Margaret Nix and Garry Streater who recently announced their engagement.

RUSSELL JOHNSON has had a brush with a bench saw. The saw recovered quickly and wish Russ a speedy recovery too.

CLUB GEAR HIRE

Hire gear will be available from 7 Tern Place until Christmas Eve. Anyone wishing to hire gear over the Christmas/New Year period please contact Nic Bishop, 70-217, and discuss your requirements with him early in December.

FOR SALE

As new. Exodus Pack for sale. Full size. \$75.00 o.n.o.
Phone Cheryl Brown, 3-8324

FOUND

Primus in blue and red container, left in the van on the Shingle Slip Knob trip months ago. Phone 70-217 if you want it back.

TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 7 (From F.M.C. Bulletin No. 59

INSULATED RESCUE SHEETS

The Technical Sub-Committee was requested to comment on Insulated Rescue Sheets by a retailer and the findings may be of interest to members.

The sheets were tested and investigated in order to assess their suitability in New Zealand. The sheets are known to some as "space blankets" and they were first developed for use in space travel where dry, calm, cold conditions were encountered. They are also intended for use in road accidents as a suitable substitute for woollen blankets.

When purchased the sheet is found in a small, extremely light (50 grms) folded package and they are designed to be carried in a pack for emergency purposes. It has an appearance of being a package of silver paper. When opened out it is silver on one side and yellow on the other.

If a person is caught out and possesses a rescue sheet it is intended that he or she finds a sheltered location and wraps the sheet neatly around the body. Care is necessary to ensure the material is not ripped or punctured while performing the latter.

The sheets are of very thin metalised plastic and are designed to prevent loss of heat by radiation. In an alpine situation, however, heat loss is by bulk transfer, i.e. the heat is carried away by wind and water. The plastic is very tough, but once punctured, rips easily. When ignited, it burns freely. In short,

in the alpine survival situation, rescue sheets are of no greater value for insulation than cheap polythene film and considerably less robust. Being of a metallic material they tend to be "noisy" if attempting to sleep in the blanket.

In the 1977 "Alpine Journal" P. Marcus comes to much of these conclusions as a result of quantitative tests and, furthermore, finds that its claims to radar reflectivity exaggerated.

The sheet is impregnated with a bacterial agent thus providing a clean cover for open wounds and burns.

The Technical Sub-Committee does not endorse the use of metalised plastic sheets. It suggests that the cheaper plain large polythene bag is a suitable alternative.

However, the insulator of choice in the mountains is a sleeping bag and its cover. These should be taken whenever there is a possibility of a night in the open. If a rescue sheet or a plastic bag is carried for emergency use the limitations of both must be appreciated.

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PAST EVENTS

23rd – 25th February TARARUA MAIN RANGE

Marty and Nic were keen to do a more ambitious trip than the Middle Crossing of the Tararuas and raced off to Vosseler Hut accompanied by Eric. The Middle Crossing party followed at a slower pace and crawled into a derelict Vosseler Hut in the early hours of a miserable Saturday morning. Some stayed at Vosseler and others wandered over to Kime for a comfortable night.

Everyone travelled the main range to Maungahuka together after which the Middle Crossing party went down to Neil Forks Hut for the night. Next day they went out to Holdsworth Road end via Cone Ridge and Totara Flats.

Marty, Nic and Trevor walked on to Nicols Hut with intentions of doing a super Middle Crossing. On the way the new Andersons Memorial Hut (old Mid Otaki Hut) was found to be occupied by a team of shooters with a tonne of equipment. They had been brought in and would also leave by helicopter at a total cost of \$120 each!

A lone NZFS hunter was later engaged in conversation on Crawford and he was dismayed to learn that he would have to share Andersons for 4 days.

Next day we decided to go out via the Main Range to Butchers Knob and out to Levin by the Otaki and Ohau Rivers. Trevor suffered untold pain and grizzled constantly about the swelling his left foot but survived the trip O.K.

Main Range Party: Marty Robins, Nic Bishop, Trevor Bissell.
Middle Crossing: Susan Cade, Ian Hoare, Eric Van Toor, Don Scott.

13th – 14th October OHAU MANGAHAO

Great plans for a super F.E. version of the proposed fit Ohau to Mangahao trip slowly faded from our minds as it became clear that rain and high rivers would be the order of the weekend. The Gable End Ridge and Dora Track was the only feasible route to Te Matawai and by the time we got there nobody thought much of the idea of going on to Arete Biv.

We all sat around the kitchen table in our sleeping bags and tipped tea over each other for amusement.

After a night's heavy rain the Mangahao would obviously be in flood so the return trip was made via the Dora and Waiopehu Tracks.

The presence of the grave of Ralph Wood on the Twin Peak of Waiopehu provides a reminder of a less fortunate trip out during a freak storm in 1936. The story is recounted in "The Story of a Tramping and Skiing Club" (i.e. the M.T. & S.C.) edited by M. Fuller. Ralph died of exposure while the party battled against hurricane force winds to cross Twin Peak.

Two of the party spent the night in the shallow depression between the two peaks but three others managed to force their way across Waiopahu to spend the night in the bush beyond. Large areas of bush were laid waste in the storm and the Waiopahu track was obliterated by fallen trees. The Ohau Hut was crushed by a fallen tree and the Waiopahu Hut was completely blown away.

Fortunately our trip was far less eventful.

Party: Don Scott, Kim Davies, Owen Gurr, Don French, Max Earby, Trevor Bissell.

14th October MANGAHAO

Starting off from No. 1 dam in a fairly heavy downpour, our small party proceeded towards Harris Creek Hut. After an hour of muddy tracks we decided it would be easier to follow the 'river'. Unfortunately it was some time before we realised that this was not the Mangahao River, but 'Roaring Creek' (which on this particular day certainly lived up to its name!!!)

Following the creek back was more difficult than we had anticipated as the creek had swollen rapidly. Sidetracking into cutty grass and swampy riverland (where our leader disappeared into a backwash of the river) we eventually reached the bank where we bush-bashed back to the proper track.

From here a bedraggled splinter group pushed onward through continuous torrential rain and knee high mud in another attempt to make the hut. However, the rain got heavier and the river higher, so common sense told us to return, especially after our only remaining male member got into difficulties initiating a waterfall crossing.

Retracing our steps along the track which was now a running stream, we soon arrived back at the dam, grateful that the flooded river had not demanded we spend the night in the bush.

After sitting in the car for a further three hours, waiting for the weekenders to show their faces, darkness, cold and hunger finally took its toll and we headed, once again; back towards civilisation and the comforts of home.

Participants: Cheryl Brown, Alan Dunn, Keith Miller, Margaret Nix, Margaret Smith & daughter and Anne Hersey.

4th November MOORCOCK STREAM

A car that almost didn't make it - a scheduled Tukituki River trip that went down the Moorcock Stream - showers but clearing, the man said (almost constant rain in reality) - sometimes over farmland and sometimes in a very pleasant river - that was the trip enjoyed by Susan Cade, Margaret Smith, Rosemary Dixon, Robert Bruce, Margaret Matheson, Rosemary and Ken Hall, Dianne Stanley and Heather Crabb.

TRIP SCHEDULE

JAN. – MARCH

JANUARY

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| 19 – 21 | Anniversary Weekend, Kaimanawas | F.E. & M. |
| 31 | Club Night | |

FEBRUARY

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| 2 – 3 | Waipawa Te Atuaoparapara Wklings Waipawa R. Waikamaka Hut | F. E. |
| 9 – 10 | South Mitre Stream – Full Waingawa R. Blue Range – Waingawa R. | F.E. M. |
| 16 – 17 | W.A.M.C. Sports Weekend & Marathon | F.E. & E. |
| 17 | North Ohau | E. |
| 23 – 24 | Full Otaki Waitewaewae – Otaki | E. M. |
| 28 | Club Night. | |

MARCH

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| 1 – 2 | Aborta Contorta Tongariro | E. |
| 8 – 9 | Pourangaki Sawtooth Hikurangi Wooden Peg – Pourangaki Hut | F.E. M. |
| 15 – 16 | Mangahao – Dundas Ridge Burns Hut | F. E. |
| 22 – 23 | Devious Middle – Atiwhakatu Stm. – Angle Knob Ck. Crawford Ck. – Kelliher Ck. – Murray Ck. – Makeretu Stm. Kaitawa – West Waitewaewae | F.E. M. |
| 27 | Club Night | |
| 29 – 30 | Blue Range – Bannister Miki-Miki Stm. | F. E. |