



Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club

P.O. BOX 1120 DUNEDIN

BULLETIN

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MARCH 1987

**Catering for every man's wants
and for every woman's needs**



President	John Pohl	44.310
Treasurer	Jane Bruce	737.657 (She wants your money)
Chief Guide	Peter Mason	775.237
Gear Hire	Antony Pettinger	879.440

HI DI HI TRAMPERS

Welcome to this some what late edition of the March Bulletin.

A special welcome to all the Bushcraftees - hope you have enjoyed the course.

TRIP PROGRAMME 0000

CLUB BULLETIN : TRIP PROGRAMME



MARCH 22: SAREX exercise - (E) Stuart Mathieson 34 359



A basic instruction course for beginners in the club and those who want to brush up on techniques involved in Search and rescue. Everyone should turn up for this very important practice, who knows it could save lives. A barbeque will follow this exercise please BYOG.

MARCH 29: The pyramids (E-M) Mike Floate 739 780

Mike's favourite day trip on the Otago Peninsula, what is the mystery of these Pyramids? Explore with Mike and discover Pyramid Power.

MARCH 28-29: Hector Mtns (M-F) Bruce Mason 67-509

B.M. proposes to visit the left Branch of Doolans Creek and possibly South Branch of Wye Creek from the Rastus Burn. An infrequently visited area, looks like an ulterior motive here! Maybe he's sussing out the area for ski touring.

APRIL 5: Mystery trip (E-M) Bevan Blackmore 36 125



Even Bevan's mystified about this day trip, should be an excellent opportunity to confuse everyone somewhere in the hills.

APRIL 4-5: Caples - Greenstone (ALL) Anthony Pettinger 879 440



Round trips, wine and dine at McKellar Hut. Start at Elfyn Bay, and return there Sunday afternoon, sounds like a real sociable weekend. I guess the only way to find out is to sign up now. The round trip takes about 16 hours - Ed.

APRIL 12: Maungatuas Traverse (M) Jane Bruce 737 657



What better way to wear off the effects of the Pre-Easter Social the night before than this jolly jaunt up through tussock and sub-alpine scrub to gain splendid panoramic views at the top.

APRIL 17-21 EASTER: (ALL) Peter Mason 775 237



Albert Burn - Wilkin, Siberia, Young Valleys. 5 great days of tramping in 3 major catchments, Young, Wilkin Rivers, Albert Burn, with Pass crossing, jet boat transport up long river valleys. Dreadful, awful, like in Siberia! No, not descriptions of weather but towering mountains to be seen enroute.

TRIP REPORTS ...

ROCKCLIMBING



BY: Polly Stupples
Hermione Binnie

Smashing your head against a rock wall; hanging over a precipice (head down) with a rope round your ankle; gripping by your fingertips to a sheer cliff, while the sea pounds at your feet - these are the sort of thoughts that can go through our minds, as we crawled up the hill to Long Beach for the first time. Much to our disappointment.....we were proved wrong.

Rockclimbing with the Club takes place during the Summer, using the advantages of daylight saving. A group of mad enthusiasts meet at the Wilderness Shop at 5.30 on Wednesday evenings; jump into one of the available cars, and speed off to Long Beach for a spot of good light hearted climbing.

After a quick jog across the sandy and very seaweedy (?!) beach (which of course caused some particularly nasty scenes), we arrived at "The Rock", picked the seaweed out of our socks, shoes, hair, packs, pockets; in general, everywhere (thanks Susan), and prepared to climb.

And rockclimbing is fun, as well as a great way of exhausting yourself beyond the level of reasonable endurance. As for falling; well, thats a breeze; once you've hung off one rope, you can hang off them all. As well as Wednesdays, we had a few weekend picnics; which were also very enjoyable (despite throwing the sausages in the sand, and getting thrown in the sea!)

All in all, rockclimbing was really great and we can't wait to get back there next year. Heaps and heaps of thanks are due to our esteemed "instructors", who we couldn't have survived without ie. Garry Nixon, John Robinson, John Pohl and Andy Beecroft.

See you all next year!

-ooOoo-



TRAMPARAMA 8TH FEBRUARY

BY: Peter Mason

9am Sunday morning, myself and Mike Farrell wait in the bus at Dunedin's Visitors Centre for the booked passengers, and soon we leave for Leith Saddle, where to my surprise I find I have got as many guides as public.

Polly and Hermione have been busy with the information stall and soon groups of 6 are assigned 2 leaders and then the half day walkers are away (Leith Saddle to Swampy Summit and return).

At 11am the bus returns from town with the All-day trampers (Leith Saddle to Swampy to Flagstaff and Pineapple track). Again more leaders are assigned to small groups. By the time the first half walkers arrive at Swampy Summit, they will find a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits waiting - mysteriously the 'toffee pops' are the first to disappear. Rumour has it, there was an electric range installed in the tent as well, what a strange impression must have been created of 'rough it' trampers in the hills.

Where was I, sitting on Leith Saddle, so with my trusty 'CB' Radio I ordered some coffee and a packet of 'toffee pops', I duly arrived ¼ hour later. The radios were invaluable that day, I was able to keep in contact via relay on Swampy Summit to 2 other mobile units, one away with the group towards Flagstaff. By 4pm, the bus was waiting at Booth Road, and everyone had left Swampy Summit and met the bus here as well. The whole day was wrapped up by 5pm.

Thanks go to the following: Ross & Pania Flamank, Tom Adamson, Murray Kennett, all on Radios; Teamaking - Bevan Blackmore and Jeanne Mason; Information stand, Polly Stupples, Hermione Binnie and Chris Stewart, and Leaders, Mike Farrell, Spencer Walker, Jane Bruce, John & Alison Pohl, Bill Robinson, Michelle Williams, Pam & Wayne Hodgkinson, Ross & Pam Cocker, Kelvin Liggett, George Palmer, Stuart Mathieson and family, Anita Lesinski, Margaret Caulfield.



-ooOoo-

CHRISTMAS TRIP - NELSON LAKES



On Boxing Day 1986 some 22 people converged on the Lewis Pass from as far afield as Nelson and Ohai. After camping in the area overnight, 2 parties set off up Cannibal Gorge to the Ada Pass through the Spenser Mountains while 2 other parties went to Lake Rotoiti. These parties were headed for a round trip up the Travers and down the Sabine to Lake Rotoroa.

Mike's and Bruce's parties travelled more or less together (we became less unsure as the trip went on whose party Bill was in: he was always there when food was on the go!). We camped the first night in the basin below (and 5 of) Ada Pass. Meanwhile Muriel and co. took the spare cars around to Lake Rotoroa and organised the Water Taxi for the return trip out from Sabine - enroute they had day trips to Lake Daniells and the Lyall Creek Walkway.

At first the weather was great, and those of us who crossed the first pass (6,300 ft) on the second day enjoyed clear views all around - but a day later - up the E. Matakaitaki - it was a very different story. By that time the rain had started and continued all day Monday and Tuesday with snow down to 3,000 ft and around the hut. Clearly we were not going over the next 6,000 ft pass yet and spent the time in the hut and/or pit considering alternatives and possible escape routes.

Meantime most other parties were hut-bound in the Sabine or Travers Valleys. However, Dave and Co. had already climbed Mt Angellus (Dave with his trusty crutches!).

Hut book information told us that there was a better crossing at the head of the E. Matakaitaki than the known David Saddle route - an unnamed pass same miles to the E. This we made use of on the next day when clear skies and brilliant sunshine rapidly cleared most of the recent snow. About 700ft of snow climbing - led by Bruce plugging steps - brought us to the saddle by early afternoon and a fine view down the D'Urville Valley. After a steep descent on mean snowgrass, and narrowly avoiding a huge rock which tried to bowl me into the D'Urville, we camped near the top Biv.

CHRISTMAS TRIP Contd.

From there our trip down the D'Urville was enjoyable in real Summer conditions. New Year was spent in the bush, under Bruce's balloons, and beside a great campfire - which later saw the ceremonial burning of Dave's decrepit and crutchless shorts! Dinner came in about 5 courses and was accompanied by A-D mints, Bailey's, Dram etc etc - it really is amazing what OTMC members are prepared to carry over 2 high passes to enjoy New Years properly!


Unfortunately the tentative plan for all to gather at Blue Lake for New Year was foiled for us by the weather, but we understand that similar party spirit prevailed in the Sabine Valley where all the parties gathered.

With the aid of some friendly fisher-folk at the Morgan's Hut we were able to convey a message to the others at the Sabine hut. This meant that the Water Taxi which Muriel had arranged was able to divert to the D'Urville hut to pick us all up from there on the final Saturday morning.

At this stage we caught up with news from the other parties and learned, among other things that Dave and Ian had climbed Travers the hard way, and that Glenda had made it to Blue Lake despite having a real bad time with blisters.

The final tales were exchanged over beers in the Hammer Springs pub, and in the pools in the evening: a fitting end to a memorable trip.

Mike Floate for the 22 people (OTMC members and friends) who enjoyed the Christmas - New Year 1986-87 trip.



*** PRE EASTER SOCIAL *** 7.

FEATURING

*** LOST IN THE BUSH... The down-home Australian bush-band that have been a household name in Tramping Club circles since the epic Christmas Social. For those of you at the Bushcraft Barndance, you ain't seen nothing yet!

*** Real Live Easter Bunny, handing out Easter eggs.

*** Pot-luck supper.

*** THEME *** Red, White and Blue
- Dress for the occasion using any combination of the 3.

BRING: *Your own liquid refreshments- no alcohol please! wot!!
-The condition on which we got the hall. (You'll be too busy dancing to drink it anyway...)

*An Easter egg for the E.B. to distribute

*Contribution to a pot-luck, supper

VENUE: Morningson Presbyterian Church Hall
(Corner of Brunell and Laurie St, near the P.O.)

TICKETS: •Cost \$9 + an Easter egg each. (Just an Easter egg for under 12 yr olds)
•Available from Molly Sorensen or Jane Bruce at meetings, or phone Molly at 30 432.
•(Available at the door for \$10 + Easter egg)

There will be an informal rendezvous at the Morningson Tavern at 7pm. The Social starts at 8pm.

SATURDAY NIGHT THE 11th OF APRIL...KEEP IT FREE!!!



Didja hear about the Irish dog that was surrounded by 4 trees?
It didn't have a leg to stand on.

TRAMPERAMA ALTERNATIVE OR EARNSLAW REVISITED



Barry and myself set out for the Rees on the Thursday night of Waitangi weekend. Stopped in at Queenstown to try to persuade Andrew Powell to join us but when he found all we planned to do was the East Peak of Earnslaw, expressions like "it's a piece of p---" and "it's just a dawdle" left us in little doubt to his decision, so just the two of us carried on down the Glenorchy Road. We arrived at the Rees Road end with no mishaps. This was directly in contrast to my last visit here when by this time I'd run the car into a bank and at three in the morning had come across the varsity tramping club's bus hanging precariously over a bank blocking the Rees Road.

Friday morning dawned overcast and not too bad, so we had our fingers crossed that the expected clearance may be on its way - could we be so lucky?

Lunch at Kea Basin bivvy - "Looks like a nice sport to spend the night Barry" (?) "Proven you piker, there's no way we'll spend the night here!" Earnslaw was looking pretty clagged-in from Kea Basin but as we were only heading for Esquilant Biv we carried on. Onwards and upwards into the crud - soon it was raining, hailing, sleet, snowing and whatever, with spindrift blowing into our faces. Reduced visibility made navigation very difficult - "Do you know where we are Bill?", "Not a b----y clue, but I think we're going in the right direction" Better check the map Oops, . . . it was about this time we discovered I'd left the maps behind! We carried on the same direction but conditions worsened and if we didn't find the Biv soon we were going to spend a most unpleasant cold night out in this storm. (Clearance indeed - we should be so lucky!!)

Memories of my last visit to this area came to mind, being caught out for the night just below the summit of Earnslaw with no gear or food.

It was about that time we made a hasty retreat back down to Kea Basin. Unfortunately the bivvy had filled up somewhat since lunch time when we had had it to ourselves. Everyone had the sense not to carry on when they saw the crud above.

Earnslaw didn't look any more inviting on Saturday morning, but we set off in the hope that the promised clearance may eventuate. Quite deep snow had been dumped in the area over the last couple of days, so it made for quite a plod. (Realised we had turned back only about 15 mins from Esquilant the previous day.) After arriving at the biv a bit of a clearance showed Earnslaw plastered with snow and ice and not looking at all inviting. Even the Alpine Club members were piking on the 'easy' route as the rock was so iced up.

Barry should have known better than to ask a wimp like me what I thought we should do. He overruled me of course, so we followed some of the others up the snow slope on the eastern side. The snow on the ice was exciting though, but when we got up to the iced up rock where everyone was having fun (a euphemism for s-----g oneself), it was time to pike as we hadn't brought a rope with us. It was about this time that Andrew came under fire with his remarks being recalled - "It's just a dawdle." →

We all wish Michelle Williams and Philip Jenkins the best of luck for their working holiday in the big Oz. We'll miss their smiling faces & Michelle's long legs!



→ Great views of the crevasses on the lower slopes on the descent, as believe it or not, the weather had finally started to clear and it had come out quite pleasant. 9.

Back down to Kea Basin where we were entertained by a 7 year old giving us a frame by frame account of 'Crocodile Dundee', the accuracy of which was confirmed the following week when I went to the film.

Barry hid his disappointment of not getting to the top (I's used to it) by eating cheesecake and drinking very weak tea (tea bags were rationed).

Of course Sunday was brilliantly fine for the walk out. After a personal tour by Andrew through the new high class tourist condominiums past Arthurs Point, it was homeward bound with the promise to return in the not too distant future.

Bill Provan and Barry Wybrow

THE ORIGINAL TRAMPERAMA

"A great round trip" we all agreed at the meeting to arrange Trumperama. Up the new Leith Saddle Walkway, across Swampy and back down the Burns Track.

Settled! A couple of weekends before, we realised no one had actually checked it out: so keen for an easy wander minus the bluffy horrors of Xmas Pam, Wayne, Alister and Michelle met for lunch, gathered up Andrew fresh home from the Streets of London Town and Michelle's Dad, a "retired" trumper of days gone by.

After meeting a fine collection of Dunedin who's who entrants in the parking area we finally made it on the track. The gradient is gentle, the bush left natural and so far no gravel just old fashioned mud. Great views from the tussocky tops before we arrived at the Post Office building for a gourmets afternoon tea. -Just Juice, chocolate, Moros and home baking etc...must be getting luxurious in our old ages. Now the real business. How to get these bods on to the Burns Track without getting them lost. Round the road, down the fence line then drop off into the saddle. At this point our neat formation collapsed with Albie and Pam on the saddle below while the rest floundered in head height flax and undergrowth. Now most of us had legs well hardened from Xmas trips but Andrew's fresh from England were reintroduced to gorse, lawyer and spaniard in the space of a few minutes. Meanwhile our "retired" member plunged off over the horizon in search of the illusive Burns Track. We knew where we wanted to go but a slasher or two would have come in handy. Great for a Bushcraft party but kiddies on Trumperama??? What relief to reach bushline we thought and escape the gorse. But alas there was still the hook grass!! Us putteeless people edged our way gingerly down the track holding day-packs in front of our legs.!

Home to tea a little later than anticipated and a few phone calls to Peter and Chris to let them know the Trumperama round trip was up the new Leith Saddle walkway and down the Pineapple track.

P.S. For the real trampers amongst you it's still a worthwhile day trip -in o'trou.

GARAGE SALE: Freezer \$270; Morrison Monark 10-speed \$350; Single bed and inner-sprung mattress \$60; Dresser with large mirror \$35; House plants, sundry items, clothing. Contact Molly Sorensen *9 Porteous St, Mornington, Saturday 4th April 9am. (Ph 30432)*

PS Plus STEREO \$400 o.n.o. Sonophone SE 2100

10.
BUSHCRAFT '87- A RUNNING REPORT

So far so good, except for the double booking at the clubrooms on the final evening meeting. An apology to Bushcrafters and club members for the mixup and to the the Alpine Club for delaying their talk. It was good to see that some Bushcrafters could get to club on Thursday to hear Bruce and Ken.

The response to Bushcraft '87 from the public has been good with 51 people enrolling, of whom 14 are school pupils. 7 sponsorships were offered (3 from the Alexander Mcmillan Trust, 1 from Nancy Munro, 2 from East Dunedin Rotary Club and 1 from Trustbank Otago) which were divided among the eligible people.

Last year's successful format with three evening meetings, Tirohanga weekend and Silverpeaks weekend was followed again this year. Tirohanga was blessed with the only fine weekend in February- hiring a church camp has some excellent fringe benefits! The barndance on Saturday night was a great success, with some Bushcrafters 'dead anting' and 'elephant walking' until one in the morning. Sunday's map and compass exercise was most enjoyable- we may not have found all the markers, but we got plenty of mushrooms.

The Silverpeaks weekend looked like a good weekend to stay in bed. Leaving town Saturday morning it was still raining and we were almost envying those people with stomach bugs who had to drop out. People were generally well equipped, though, and most groups had no problem getting their trips done. One person was unfortunate enough to come down with the lurgy on Saturday night, but had had the foresight to have both a doctor and nurse in the party! The trip leader walked out to the nearest farmhouse and the runholder, Mr Perriam, very generously took the party out in his landrover. The weather cleared on Saturday night and we got good views from the main ridges. The parties leaving via Green Hut found a hungry dog lying in wait for their spare food, and ended up by taking it back to the SPCA. He got picked up there by the owner, who had left the family pet with a friend while going on honeymoon, and the friend took the dog pighunting and lost it!

The river crossing day trip attracted over 30 people. The Taeri was up, so instead of crossing we used our mutual support methods to walk in to chest height and back out again. Most people also tried pack flotation, and then we had lunch and dried out in the warm sun.

The Fiordland weekend is coming up next with a full busload of Bushcrafters and O.T.M.C.ers, so I'll sign off now and go and arrange the weather for us.

Spen Walker
Bushcraft '87 Coordinator

Welcome back Andrew Powell who's been off the scene for the last couple of years in Britain but Dunedin's climate has lured him back - or was it the prospect of the good life of varsity. Andrews new address is 17 Opoho Rd and Phone Number 730-351.

A word of warning regarding Andrews tramping vocabulary. "Intersting" means very tricky and you may have to change your undies after it.

"Could be tricky" means its probably a first route, nearly impossible and you will have to change your undies after it.

The trip to the Ahuriri Valley was uninteresting and we encountered no trouble at Birchwood Station. The view from the tent on Saturday morning didn't seem too promising. Breakfast finished and with light drizzle moving up the valley we left the vicinity of the Ahuriri Base hut, a NZ Forest Service 6 bunk, for the ridge above. We walked on up through the open floor beech forest until we reached the open tussock and the ridge. A bonus not counted on were the ripe white-coloured snow-berries - delicious. Our objective was somewhere below us and through the mist and light snow the bush was visible in the Dingleburn Valley. However it was sometime before we actually found the wide flattish face to walk down to the hut. The Top Dingleburn hut was another NZ Forest Service 6 bunk model, situated on the edge of the windthrown bush but was actually further south than located on the map. As the snow & rain still persisted we relaxed for the rest of the day, not venturing further than the wood heap and spent the time sharing experiences. Sunday, a completely different view with the clear tops and to the south peaks draped in fresh snow. The objective for the day - a climb to the pass into the Hunter River, flowing into Lake Hawea. Our direction of travel was the true left of a tributary of the Dingleburn but the going was slow in the wind-damaged forest especially a cut the valley floor. Above the bush it was spectacular and scary to observe the freeze and thaw action eroding rock precipices. No wonder scree develops as they do. Unfortunately, upon arrival at the pass we barely caught a view before the mist rolled back down to eat lunch in the sun below. On the return to the Ahuriri Valley we were blessed with a wonderful view of Mt Bath, to the north, Ken's destination on a few occasions but still beckoning him. An old bulldozer track slightly down valley from where we reached the ridge the previous day allowed for an easy trip to the car beside the Ahuriri Base hut.

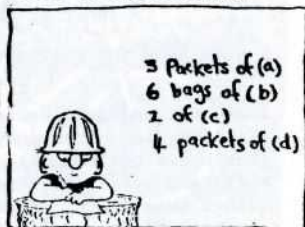
Doug Page on behalf of Ken Mason, Mike Farrell & Philip Jenkins.

TRAMPERS ANNUAL EXAMINATION

SECTION 9: SURVIVAL IN THE FOREST

QUESTION 3: YOU ARE ABOUT TO SET OUT ON A ONE DAY TRAMP THROUGH THE FOREST. WHAT WOULD YOU TAKE TO SUSTAIN YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY.

- (a) POPCORN?
- (b) WINE GUMS?
- (c) CHEESE SANDWICHES?
- (d) CHIPPIES?



LOUD BURPS AT LONG BEACH (CLUB PICNIC 15TH FEBRUARY) by David Peacock.

After a very wet Saturday, it was a delight to wake to a Sunday promising fine weather. A rushed three-hour breakfast and then a rollicking trip in Susan Harding's stunning Starlet to the beach. We, Susan, Polly Stupples, Anthony Pettinger and yours faithfully, arrived at about 11-45 being met by Doug and Glen Forrester and Hermione Binnie. With two barbecues, hundreds of sausages, salads and other assorted goodies we skipped lightly along the beach to the Rock.

So for the next couple of hours all of us, now including John and Alison Pohl, gambolled around and over the rock with mixed cries of success and frustration. About two o' clock, Anthony and I threw caution to the wind and fearlessly battled sharks, rips and enormous waves to have a paddle. Then out with the barbecue and a welcome feast of crunchy sausages (they fell in the sand) and other delectable delights.

This was followed by more rockhopping, a game of tip-it-and-run (Polly is appalling), several unscheduled and unexpected swims (fully clothed) and then a leavetaking at 6-30.

A great time was had by all. My only disappointment was that so few people turned up, it was such a glorious day that it was a pity there was such a poor turnout. But that doesn't detract from the fun had by all present and we look forward to the next picnic.

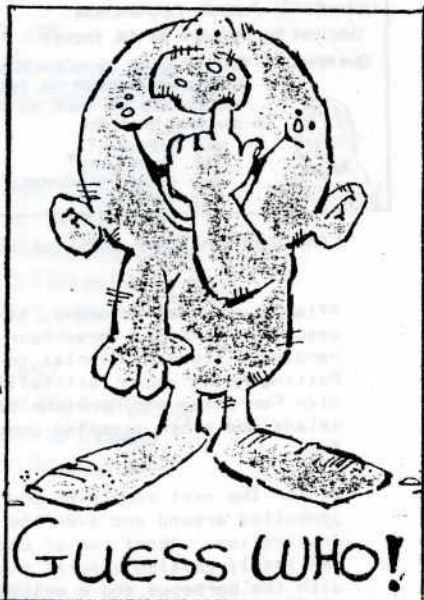
SOCIAL PROGRAMME

12.

- MARCH 12 Rockclimbing talk by Simon Cox - Sorry - it's been!
- 19 Weather. Yes, there really is a better way than asking Bill and going the other way. A repeat of Ken Mason's excellent Bushcraft lecture.
- 26 Trampers' Bric-a-Brac Auction. We've moved with the times and re-named the Chinese Auction, but the bargains are just as good and once again Bruce Mason will be 'expounding' them.
- April 2 Dave Levick will be taking us on a quick tour of the Rockies and the Grand Canyon.
- 9 For those of you who couldn't get away to the hills last Christmas, Wayne and Pam are putting together a slide show of their trip.
- 11 (Saturday night) PRE EASTER SOCIAL!!
More on this in the Bulletin, but the theme is Red, White, and Blue, there will be a cute Easter Bunny, the venue will be in town, and admission is @ \$9 + 1 Easter Egg.
- 16 Day before Good Friday, so no official meeting.
- 23 Mark Hanger will be speaking about Alpine plants and has some excellent slides to show us.
- 30 A chance to see the selection of trampy gear available, as Don unloads half the Wilderness Shop's stock into the Clubrooms. (Another auction, perhaps....?)

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

Ewan, our regular (or irregular) editor is still missing - probably up Aspiring (eat your heart out Doug F). So it's been up to Molly and myself to throw something together this month. Sorry we lack the artistic flair and imagination of Ewan but hopefully he'll be back next month. Bushcraft has dominated the club scene for the past month with many club members devoting a large amount of time to the cause. I'm sure Spen would like to thank everyone who has been involved and I know the club would like to thank Spen for his excellent organisation and coordination of another successful Bushcraft. By the time this bulletin comes out we would have also shared a brilliantly fine weekend's tramping in Fiordland on the optional Bushcraft trip! Hope to see lots of Bushcraft participants round the club and on trips.



Thanks for everyone's contribution this month. Lots of trip reports - those that haven't appeared this month will be carried over to the next month. We want lots of contributions for next month - cartoons and jokes, recipes, letters to the Editor, juicy gossip and of course trip reports. Also thanks for the typists who helped with this edition.

Happy tramping.

Bill Provan & Molly Sorensen.

P.S. Hurry back Ewan.