

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

Bulletin No. 13.

May, 1938.

Rain, hail, and floods, then more rain. Hawkes Bay has certainly been geeting it in the neck lately. Tramping members have been held up all over the country. This Bulletin would have been published much sooner if it had not been for the recent heavy weather we have been having. Humble apologies for the lateness. It will also be necessary to apologise for the brevity of some of the articles in this issue, but we have so many trips and talks to report on that it will be necessary to be brief to incorporate all of them.

SOCIAL NOTES:

Dr. D.A. Bathgate is at present in Royston Hospital making a slow recovery from a severe illness. Although he is not allowed visitors yet we understand from enquiries that it wont be long before he is up and about again. The Club sends you their best wishes for a quick and speedy recovery, Doc.

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Heading the list on our social side are Mavis and Rolf Keys. These two trampers have given us a son. So now we can say "Unto us a son was born, six pounds." Heartiest congratulations Mum and Dad.

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The sequel to the story of Tarzan and his Mate has now been written and Hillary Fendall and Norman Collinge have ended the story by becoming as one. The Wedding took place on the 7th. May and while regretting that Norman has taken Hillary away we send to them both our best wishes for their life-long happiness.

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J. W. Lincoln (Abe or Elmo) left us a month ago to transfer to Wellington. Although we didn't see much of Abe towards y e end of his stay in Hawkes Bay we can remember his pleasant company on many trips - even on the Working Party to the Kaweka Hut when Abe had a pane on his back. We wondered why he went away so quietly without saying goodbye to some of us - but we have heard that Abe took unto himself a wife during Easter and rather than tell anyone of his good fortune Abe hurried down to Wellington to make sure no one got in ahead of him. We send more of our best wishes to you Abe.

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Molly and Rod's engagement again - Molly and Rod wish to thank members for their kind words of sympathy etc - and to assure everyone that they sincerely appreciate the kind wishes for their future happiness.

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CLUB ROOM EVENTS:

By way of a change the Club's fortnightly, for the 4th March, was held at Haumoana and after some of the hardier members had enjoyed a swim a meal of savs, spuds and tea etc., was enjoyed under rather damp conditions. After the meal we were kindly invited to Max McCormick's home where Doug Callow endeavoured to give us a lecture on Astronomy without the aid of the starry firmament. The lecture was very good but unfortunately far above the heads of the audience. When the question - "What is a star?" was asked Les Holt replied telling everyone that a star was a heavenly body. (Who is dhe Les?) Someone also told us that a star falls because a baby is born/

On the 18th March Norman Davidson came along to the meeting with a Movie Projector and entertained us with a variety of subjects. Hell Drivers - cranks crashing Crysler Cars - views of the Sydney Harbour Bridge - a comedy on the inefficiency of second-hand cars - then concluded with a wonderful picture of the Springboks v Hawkes Bay Football Match. The evening was a very good demonstration of amateur movies..

Although Gordon Christies Talk on his trip to America was given to us on the 1st. April it had nothing to do with practical joking and was a grand description of how one can combine business with pleasure - providing one has the capital. All work and no play makes people dull, they say, but since his return Gordon is far from dull. Come back to the Club and come out tramping Gordon?

Jim Palmer's talk on Egmont on the 8th. April was very useful to those members who were able to go on the Club's Easter Trip and combined with his talk were the following historical and other facts. Egmont was called Taranaki by the Maoris and revered by them as a sacred edifice. They called him The Father and Provider who sent down streams to make the land fertile. The name Egmont was given by Captain Cook (the old original) naming it after the first Lord of the Admiralty at that time. It was first climbed by an Englishman, Dieffenbach, in 1839. The base of the mountain is a circle of 100 miles in circumference and there are 360 streams flowing doen - one to each degree. (Nearly as many relations as the Budd sisters have on Egmont !)



We know of men who build roads and bridges, we have heard of men who have build Empires ! Then there is the other type who build castles in the air and so on.

These have nothing to do with our Bulletin but YOU OUGHT TO SEE WHAT LES, ARCH, AND DOUG HAVE BUILT IN THE KAWEKAS. This is a feat worthy of special mention and is having a page all to itself.

The Kaweka Bivvy Hut was mentioned in our last Bulletin as a proposal - now it is an established fact having been put there by the untiring efforts of our heroes.

These men, assisted by a small working party carrying in some of the gear to 4915' packed most of the materials into the site, then set to work on the construction of what is one of the most useful bivvys we have yet seen.

To give readers a better idea of their activities we will quote from the workers' diary.

Saturday and Sunday 19th and 20th. March - Both days spent carrying in heavy loads of materials.

Monday - Good meals. Pick and shovel work. Rock tough adze curling up. Floor of hut cut back 9feet into the bank.

Tuesday - Rain. Up to 4915' for balance of gear. Tough day. Doug received double ration of rum - cooked meal feeling very mellow. Used malthoid for galley etc.

Wednesday - More Rain. More digging finishing excavation. Timber erected and one sheet malthoid up. Meat stalking partyun-successful.

Thursday ~~and~~ Clearing. Walls cut and malthoid nearly complete.

Friday - Fine, sunny. Arch cook, Les worked on roof, Doug collected snow-grass. Went up to tops for iron left there last June. Banks of mist covered Hawkes Bay only high peaks standing out.

Saturday - Doug tar-papered inside of completed hut, Chimney built by Les and Arch. Fireplace 100%. Fire lit to dry Hut - nearly roasted party. Windy night.

Sunday - Left Hut 10.30 a.m.. Ridge above Kaweka Hut midday - met Press and inspection Committee. Down to Hut then out to road where to quote Les - "O Boy the beer waw good !"

General: Doug says the blowflies were terrible and thet he saw a couple pick up a meat-tin lid and fly off with it (That must have

been the night of the rum !) Les was flyblown all over.

However we still think these lads are wonderful and the Club is very grateful to them for the establishment of what should prove a very useful Hut.

PAST TRIPS:

Kairakau 6/3/38 ; As a beach trip the one to Kairakau was a glorious paddle in the rain interspersed with patches of sunlight there and here. The party left the usual place at 7.30 a.m. in weather that appeared to be fair to fine but at the beach it made up its mind and became decidedly wet.

Members had decided to have a good day so the weather made no difference and soon after arrival at the falls near the beach the billy was boiled while hardier members (?) enjoyed (?) a swim.

After lunch most of the party tramped round the coast-line and up the valley to Te Apiti Station where they were very cordially received by the Manager, Mr. Colin Nicolson who in spite of the number insisted that they had tea with him. The tramp back to the lorry concluded the trip except that a bell was won.

31. G. Piesse.

Kawekas. 20/3/38:

This trip was a working party to assist Les, Arch and Doug carry in food supplies and building materials for the Bivvy. It was scheduled to start at 6 a.m. but was delayed somewhat to pick up Mrs. Wellwood (Marg Diamond) who on account of being out of touch with tramping had slept in. Our arrival at Kuripapanga at 9 a.m. started the party tramping into the Tutaekuri then after a meal split up, the toilers going up the middle ridge laden with building materials etc., while the others went into the Hut. The weather was super-fine which made things sticky.

The three hut-builders who had been in then Kawekas since Friday waved them on from the skyline above the Hut then later both parties met at the Dump on 4915'. The Hut party spent a very pleasant day in and about the Hut and all parties with the exception of the builders were back at the road at 6.30.

16. Max McCormick.

Shut Eye Shack 3/4/38 : Trial Search. Lorry left Hastings 6.15 and collected Tubby at Waipukurau - arrived at track at 8.50. The party made an easy trip to Shut Eye while an advance party hurried on to boil the billy. After lunch, in company with three stalkers, five members went over the top to explore the basin on the other side while the remainder of the party went back to McCulloughs Mill. The search was abandoned on account of the weather which was wet and misty.

16. Ronagh Hoben.

Egmont. Easter, April 15-16-17-18:

Parties left Hastings at times ranging from 6.30 to 9.45 p.m. Jim Palmer's party was first on the road to be followed by Chas Higgs and Co. Then thundering along behind came George, the bus, and the main party all of whom left at 9.45. During the stop in Palmerston for varied refreshment etc some of the girls had difficulty in spending small change.

Chas Higgs and Co were met by a reception Committee formed by the Auckland party headed by Popeye Collett. Jom's party was already bedded down and after making preparations for breakfast the second Hastings party and the Auckland group crawled into bed, just as dawn was breaking, to await the arrival of the bus.

At 8.15 a.m. the guide woke the party installed to say that the bus was on the way up and a good representative gathering welcomed them on their arrival at 8.30 in heavy rain. The reunion between George and Popeye was very touching. Breakfast was first on the programme and the rest of the morning the party of thirty-four members etc settled in filling in most of the morning acting the goat in the social hall in the camp house (Some slept)

Thirty members moved out at mid-day in a drizzle to inspect Victoria Falls and Wilkie Pools (the sleepers kept sleeping). On arrival back at 2 p.m. late lunch was enjoyed and the party combined with several visitors filled in a damp afternoon dancing, singing etc. John von Dadelzen arrived from Wellington after having all kinds of mishaps on the way. After tea a large gathering was entertained by Mardi Budd and a visitor in duets on the piano. George Hasn't forgotten how to mouth a mouthorgan and we are also indebted to Ralph Mason, a Club visitor, for his fine work on a banjo.

The Otaihape Alpine Club joined us for the evening which developed into a dance-musical etc. Popeye turned on a fine line of Hawaiian entertainment and wriggled a very mean umbilicus. He was assisted by Jim Palmer and Doc Bathgate when the entertainment went all Maori. Supper was turned on at 8.30 but it was like the porridge in the Poorhouse - it didn't go far enough. The party turned in at 9 p.m.

Easter Saturday:

The appointed providers for the day were up sharp at 6 a.m. and the rest of the party rolled out shortly after to see the mountain standing out clear in the early morning light. After a good meal it was decided to attempt to climb the Peak 8260' which was obscured by mist shortly after dawn. A start was made at 9 a.m. heading for Syme Hut on Fanthams Peak and after a fairly tough climb with many stops arrived there at 11.10 a.m. On nearing the Hut two figures on the sky-line roared out that they would put on the billy - they were our guests of the night before. The meal at Syme Hut was a scratch affair, everyone being fed by hand. Popeye was all behind with the butter so the party mostly did without. Leaving there at 12/15 thirty-two members of combined Clubs set out for the top led by Lee Osborne of the Egmont Alpine Club. Ossy is

one of the best and as a Leader is superb. The way he handled the large party on the stiff climb up earned the admiration of all. Half way up came the development of the two-to-one step in the scoria - Two you come back to one you go up. Although it was still definitely up it was a relief to get off the scoria onto Mackay's Rocks then shortly after that came the stickiest part of the climb - negotiating terraced blue ice on the northern side of the crater. This was done successfully, then on to the top, in 1 1/2 hours from Syme Hut. Ossy says that this is good going! Unfortunately the view from there wasn't - and as a stiff breeze was blowing the idea of going down to Stratford House was abandoned and the party returned the way they had come. Some of them made the trip down to Fantham's Peak in 15 minutes, - the rest coming down in easy stages and everyone was back by 5 p.m.

As the evening meal was being cleared away someone noticed that the sky in the South was coloured a beautiful pink and as it was well after sunset we dashed out to find that Nature had turned on a wonderful display of the Aurora Australis which lasted for some considerable time. (Chas Higgs and Geoff Piesse had been down painting Kaponga red - this may have had something to do with it!) Although the party was fairly tired that night the suggestion of a tug-o-war was greeted with approval and several bouts in which everyone took part were carried out. Popeye and Cookie started off with Blindman's Bluff, then Ronagh and Tubby took over and a draw was declared on a foul. Next to entertain was a maiden from Nippon, Georgina Ngagosaki who introduced spectators to the mystic art of Geisha-ism. Again the melody-makers did some fine work and after several dances the party retired early.

Sunday:

Some of the party were up at 5 a.m. the idea being to make another climb to the summit for a view of the plains. Other more deserving male members were treated to breakfast in bed. The first small party were away by 6.30 a.m. proceeding around the foot of the mountain via Maunganui Gorge to North Egmont. From there they climbed to the summit and were fortunate in having some fine views of the surrounding country. Prior to descending they made an ascent of the Shark's Tooth. During the day other parties made trips to Maunganui Hut, Stratford House, Hasties Hill and Syme Hut. The Syme Hut party was fortunate in being led by Rod Syme after whom the hut is named. Altogether this was a very successful day - the last party coming in from a traverse of the mountain from North Egmont to the Summit and down via Syme Hut, at 6 p.m. At the summit many of the Club were fortunate in seeing the Spectre of the Brocken in which they could see their reflections vaguely outlined against the mist on a neighbouring ridge in a circular rainbow.

That evening over 70 people were gathered together in the camp-house and as this was the last of the holiday the entertainment was lively. Thanks again to the musicians many enjoyable dances were had. The Otaihape Alpine Club entertained with two fine sketches - the Volga Boatmen Ballet by Poe - and the Taihape Plunket Society Sketch. George did a knife-throwing act which was breathtaking.

A further wrestling bout in the World's Series was staged and apart

from Popeye biting a lump out of George's shoulder the contest was fairly clean until in the third round the referee was picked up and dumped out on his ear.

Dancing went on until well into the night until one by one members went off to bed as tiredness overtook them. Easter Monday saw a tired but happy Tramping Club packing up and preparing to leave Dawson Falls and the many new friends they had made.

Everything was in readiness for the departure at 9 a.m. and those who had not seen the Falls went down the bush track to have a look at them.

At 10 a.m. came the parting of the ways - the main party and the bus, with the Wellington and Auckland cars. While the party unanimously regretted saying Goodbye they realised that by keeping together it would be necessary on arriving home to say - "Mum or Dad, look what we've won (or adopted)." In some cases this might have caused trouble.

The wonderful success of the whole trip was entirely due to the untiring efforts of our Ronagh not only in the organisation but in the management of every detail; Those who were ~~prepared~~ appointed to prepare meals deserve special mention for the wonderful way in which they performed their tasks; then last but not least come the musicians and entertainers whose efforts made every evening such a success.

To all these people the members of the Easter party are more than grateful for making the trip one of the most enjoyable holidays that many of us have ever had.

34. Ronagh Hoben.

Kaweka Hut. 24-25/4/38; It isn't often that bad weather necessitates the alteration of a Club fixture, but on Anzac weekend the weather went wrong properly and the small group who were going wet or fine went to Puketitiri instead. Little did they think when setting out for the weekend that the trip would last $4\frac{1}{2}$ days. Most members are familiar with the details of this trip, which can be rightly termed a "washout" and it will, therefore, be unnecessary to go into detail. Tramping was out of the question except on the last day when the party walked back from the trip. They covered thirty two miles of road and slips (52) from Puketitiri to Puketapu and were quite prepared to carry on from there to Hastings. True Trampers.

9 Arch Toop.

Whakararas 1/5/38: No Leader's report to hand yet !

Mangatutu Gorge 15/5/38: As the present bad state of the roads made it impossible for the Club to get into the country south of Te Kowhai an alternative fixture to Mathews and Herricks Huts was arranged. Making a leisurely start at 7.45 a good crown went out to Kereru then two miles up the Tikokino Road from where they tramped towards the Ruahines arriving at Mathews Hut for lunch. En route Dave collected some water which was raised for his benefit

by heaving a boulder into the Ohara. The reception wasn't too good. After the meal the party headed north along the foot of the Ruahines past the end of the Three Fingers' Spur as far as Herricks Hut, from whence they followed the track down Big Hill Stream to Big Hill Station arriving there about 6.30 p.m. The country covered during the day was new to most members and this fact made the trip very interesting.

X X 17. Fred Green.
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The following entries were discovered in the Syme Hut Visitors' Book on Egmont recently - presumably left there by Popeye Collett and Doug Cooke:-

16/4/38: "My colleague Cooke and I deliberated for about 2½ hours on a polyantalogical study of the igneous rocks between the Hooker and Syme Huts, sometimes being troubled by misty conditions and occasional cardiac arhythimia."

17/4/38: "Collett and I continued our polyantalogical studies being troubled not so much by weather conditions as by the old complaint cardiac arhythimia. Conditions rather better than our 1938 trip."

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On Anzac Weekend our Ian Powell and two other Hutt Valley trampers, Len Beere and Fred Eggers, went into Kuripapanga from Taihape spending Saturday night in the Kaweka Hut. They came out on Sunday afternoon and on account of the Tutaekuri being flooded had to cross it on a rope 200 yards further utstream than our usual ford. They managed to get as far as Willowford that night Monday night they spent with Bob Ensor and on Tuesday came out as far as Black Bridge from where they were given a lift into town.

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TRAMPERS PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL FUTURE TRIPS WILL LEAVE
F R O M

H O L T'S Y A R D

FUTURE TRIPS:

No. 70.28-29/5/38 Howlett's Hut Cancelled.

No. 71. 4-5-6½6/38: Kaweka Hut? A good opportunity to go into the new Bivvy: Leader Jack Hannah
Phone 2242

No. 72. 19/6/38. White Pine Bush:

Inspect the flood damage.
Tongoio and Pukaratahi. Meet
Mr. Sinclair.

Leader. D. Callow.
Phone, Napier 496.

No. 73. 2-3/7/38 Howlett's Hut

Leader. N. Elder.
Phone. 2968.

No. 74. 17/7/38 Black Birch Range:

Details to be arranged.
Leader; Les Holt.
Phone 2071.

No. 75. 30/7/38 "66"

Winter ascent via Shuteye or
Forks.

Leader. Chas Higgs.
Phone 2201

No. 76. 14/8/38. The Mackintosh

Tackle a route into new country.

Leader. Arch Toop.
Phone 4102

No. 77. 27-28/8/38 Boyds Bush

A Meeting with the Otaihape Club
to be arranged.

Leader Geoff Piesse
Phone 4140.

No. 78. Te Waka:

Leader Mim Laing.
Sub-leader to be appointed.

No. 79. 25/9/38 Cattle Hill:

Details to be arranged.

No. 80. 9/10/38. Mangatutu Gorge:

Leader Fred Green
Phone 2242.

No. 81. 22-24/10/38 Kaweka Hut

Labour Weekend
Leader Doug. Cooke.
Phone 3613

Some of the fixtures in this list may be altered to
week-end trips when the Saturday half day becomes universal.

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