

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (Inc)

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HAVELOCK NORTH.  
HON SEC.

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P.O. BOX. 6,  
HASTINGS.  
HON. TREASURER.

BULLETIN NO. 27.

It is with great regret that we record the death of Charles Higgs on Febry. 14th. 1941, at the age of 25 years. Chas. was one of the early members of the Club, was very popular, and it is with a sincere sense of our own loss that we tender our sympathy to his Wife and Parents. Of our debt to Chas the Club Captain writes as follows,

The death of Charles Higgs calls for an appreciation of what the Club has owed to his restless drive, enthusiasm and ability. There is little enough acknowledgement in ant Club records, so that it must come from the memory of those who were associated with him. The erection of the Kaweka Hut by Chas and Dave Williams in a fortnight of snow, sleet & rain was a feat of which there was no record for there were no spectators. True I was in with them for a few days, but I was kept far too busy to make any observations. He had the remarkable gift of while going two mens work himself, feeding the rest of his gang with jobs, so that the work went forward smoothly and remorselessly from dawn to dusk. The only rest I can remember was half an hour spent in a squall of sleet, steady-ing one end of that adzed ridge pole, while Chas tied up and secured the rafters. His eye for country and careful leadership were particularly valuable in the earlier days of the Club when nearly every trip was into unknown country, & the capabilities of parties were still unknown. The Clubs first heavy Bush trip No. 27, to Trig "K" was a particularly fine job, running to schedule the whole way with a large and not particularly experienced party. Later visits to the same area have not always been so successful. Before long Chas was characteristically roving further afield, putting in a trip up the Rakaia with Bern McLelland, in which they climbed several Peaks. His appearances with the Club became less frequent, but when work was to be done he was still on hand. On one of the Howlett's working parties he was an outstanding load-carrier over one of the rough river stretches. For the Waikamaka Hut he prepared the main plan and contributed valuable suggestions particularly that of cutting the framing to size before taking it up in order to make the actual erection as speedy as possible. His last outing was typical - Unable to get out with a weekend party Chas burst in on their camp site at the Hut in the middle of Break-fast. He had left Hastings at 4 am in midwinter and after a fast road trip, came over the saddle in 2½ hours or some such time. The site was approved, levelled and pegged in short order, then his surplus energy found vent in the erection & thatching of the bivvy, which after fulfilling many uses, still serves as a firewood shelter. We have had many stout citizens in the Club, but few such human dynamos.

### HOLIDAY TRAMPING.

There has been great tramping activity by a few and very little by many during the holidays. Many of our Members have their annual leave at Xmas time and take the opportunity to see other parts of N.Z. Four of our Members were with the Auckland Tramping Club at Great Barrier where they spent a memorable fortnight. Others were tramping in the S.I. mountains and Sounds, Kake Waikaremoana, and the lazy ones merely camped or beached and looked at the mountains

SUPPORT OF TRIPS. The Leaders and Organizers of trips can no longer be expected to conjure up cars and petrol out of thin air. The few remaining car and petrol owners of the club are having too much asked of them. In future, as a general rule, if numbers are not sufficient to warrant a lorry, the trip will be cancelled. You know what you can do about it.

NOTICE OF TRIPS. It is proposed to acquire a notice board and put up notices of trips, on which members can put their names. This will assist organization and it is hoped will result in increased attendances. If limited transport is available, late comers will have to be cut out.

DEER CULLING. Contrary to expectation the Ruahines are being re-visited this year. Mr. Davidson was in the district before Xmas but has since gone South. Operations have so far been from Herrick's to Sentry Box Huts. They are now reported to be moving into Shutes. Parties are also on Mangahane.

ROUTE CLOSED. Mr. Yeoman informed a party coming out down the Makaroro that since the fire through the milling area, the neighbouring State Forests have been completely closed to trespassers. The Mill have been made responsible for seeing that this is observed.

ABSENT MEMBERS. News comes to hand slowly but from various sources we gather that,

BILL HAYMAN is finishing his training at Blenheim (his boots and coat are still for sale, Apply to M. Templar Bank N.S.W. if interested B. BEECHEY is going to Canada as an Observer in the Air Force. We were sorry not to farewell him the Tramping Club fashion before he left Hastings.

NORA FINN, CLIFF HUNT & BILL BOYD all left N.Z. about the same time. The first two are actually on the same Transport and send their Greetings to the Club.

MAX McCORMICK. has finished his training but will not be going Overseas, having been posted to a N.Z. unit.

SAM HARALDSEN is in Egypt. He left N.Z. after being in camp a fortnight so no one saw him when he was on final leave.

LES HOLT & DAVE LYNCH. left together & are in Suva. Les is reported to be 100% but not enjoying route marches through swamps with mud to the knees and "Stinks enough the knock you down". It must be tough.

CAP COOKE. is on Final Leave now so will be going away any day. We were glad to see him at the Picnic looking as fit as ever and hankering after a visit to the Waikamaka Hut.

RONAGH BLACK. is well and sent the Club a Xmas letter. We miss her more as time goes on and the band of Trampers gets less & less. In camp at present and missed by us all are? DR. BATHGATE, RON CRAIG, HAROLD COOPER, & EZRA BARTLE.

SOCIAL EVENTS, of interest to the Club. Peter & Lesley Lattey have a baby daughter. Fred & Joan Green have a small Son. Freddy seems to have been in a number of Camps since he left Hastings and at present his whereabouts are unknown.

The following are the addresses of Men Overseas (all we know that is) If anyone else has any addresses please send them into the Sec. or the Editor. The Boys have all appreciated the Bulletin in the past and we want to keep them in touch with the Club. Letters from Members would be appreciated too.

Pte. W.E. Boyd. No. 37397, No. 11 Platoon, D Company, 3rd. Section,  
4th. Reinforcement, Overseas,  
Wellington.

Sergeant D.L Cooke No. 33559,

Staff Nurse N.E. Finn, No. 38194 N.Z.A.N.S. 4th. Reinf. N.Z.E.F.  
Overseas Wellington.

Cpl. L.M. Holt, No. 33777 B. Coy. 29th. Batt. 8th. Infantry,  
2nd. N.Z.E.F. O/Seas Wellington

Pte S. Haraldsen No. 37383 HQ Coy 2nd. N.Z.E.F. Base Middle East  
Forces.

No. 13266, 2nd. Lieut. Hunt G.C. 1st. Southern Inf. Btn 3rd. Section  
4th. Reinf. 2nd. N.Z.E.F. Overseas.

No. 37684 Driver D.I. Lynch N.Z.A.S.C. Base Training Depot, 2nd.  
N.Z.E.F. Middle East Forces.

No. 20235 Bom. K.A. McLeay 27th. Battery 5th. Field Reg. Overseas.  
Wellington.

Noone has any excuse for not writing to these lads anyway. Do something about keeping them cheerful.

We acknowledge with thanks Bulletins from the following Clubs.

Hamilton Tramping & Cycling Club.

Manawatu Tramping Club.

Tararua Tramping Club.

Hutt Valley Tramping Club.

Otaihape Tramping Club.

#### TRACK CUTTING.

Track cutting in the bush is not as easy as it looks if you want to make a good job of it. The Ranges are full of horrible examples of badly blazed tracks that are always giving trouble. If a permanent track is to be sited, careful study must be given to the ground beforehand, in order to select the best route which, as far as possible, should be direct and at the same time, on a steady grade. This means that it is no use dashing into the Bush with a slasher and hacking about. Go over the route carefully without making any cuts, picking up land marks and studying the grade.

Once the route is settled, the actual work of blazing falls into three sections and is best done by dividing the party into three groups. The first, with a small party, a single man follows the actual route, going ahead as far as he can be seen and then cutting a permanent blaze. The second, say, main cutting party, then cut through this as far as possible in a bee line, so that the finished track becomes a series of straight sections with blazes at their meeting points. The importance of this can be seen from the way in which the straight lines of old survey cuts can be seen years after second growth has obliterated any track. This makes following a track at night time very much easier. The rearguard, again a small party, a single man commences the blazing and attends to the back blazing, so that the track is as easy to follow in the opposite direction. Once I had the experience of having to find my way back to the main body along a route which had only been blazed by the advance party. It was unbelievably difficult and I was nearly benighted. A short-handled slasher is no weapon for fools. The inexperienced members of a working party should only be allowed longhandles slashers and should be encouraged to work at considerable intervals. On a big job, the individuals of the main cutting party might be ten minutes apart. One axe is usually sufficient for dealing with the smaller windfalls etc. If tracks are cut in this way, in the form of a series of clear tunnels through the second growth from point to point, much blazing is unnecessary so long as each blaze is visible from the one before it. The practised eye, following the blaze, will automatically lift to the next prominent tree, and if the practised hand has been before him there will be a blaze on it and there are no checks in casting about looking for a blaze. There is a certain code for blazing. A permanent track should be marked by one long blaze cut through the wood. Private blazes are an abomination and should be avoided whenever possible. They should be more in the nature of snicks, marking say an opossum trapping line. A double blaze is a warning, usually of an unexpected turn in the track, or perhaps a fork, but a good deal can be done to indicate turns or forks by the blazing on the side of a tree rather than on the direct face. Three blazes are definitely a danger sign meaning "Stop Look Listen". I can never go down one hectically marked track into the Tuketuki without feelings of nervous prostration. Blazes should be cut as far as possible, at eye level; that is to say on an up grade, about 3 or 4 feet from the ground and on a down grade as high as 8 to 9 feet, provided they are not obscured by intervening growth. Where windfalls have to be crossed a "V" should be cut on the top. An arrow usually indicates the direction of water. Where there are no trees big enough to carry a blaze, a good deal can be done by cutting the scrub in such a way that the cut face is visible from the direction of approach. A particularly good method is the one adopted by the Ruahine Tramping Club, of tying strips of coloured cloth at intervals through the scrub belt. These are very conspicuous. The Tararua Tramping Club are just adopting an elaborate method in the Wellington district of attaching painted metal tags to trees on their main routes. Above the bushline cairns are very satisfactory on open ground, provided they are so arranged that, in thick mist or in bad light, the direction

is indicated. For instance at a bend on the tops there would be 3 cairns, certainly not more than a chain interval: a central cairn and one on each side giving the direction to be taken and that line should be followed for say, 100 yards and then you would expect to find another pair of cairns continuing the direction. In tall tussock, snow poles are the only satisfactory job. Their siting is the same as for cairns and they must be firmly driven into the ground as they are called upon to carry enormous weights of icicles and wind pressures. Knotting tussock is quite a useful substitute and under favourable conditions, knots will persist for years.

N.L.E.

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CLUB ROOM EVENTS.

Club nights have not been well attended lately. No doubt Home Guard and Red Cross activities account for several of our regular members being absent but it is a pity not to have interesting meetings for the ones who can attend. Good meetings mean fresh interests and bigger trips.

NOVR. 21st. 1940. A report of the Working party to Matapiro was given by Nancy Tanner. The party made ensilage all day and despite the hard work seemed to have enjoyed the day. Nancy also gave us a short talk on her life in Germany. Those present enjoyed chatting and asking questions. The Social Committee arranged a picnic as a Xmas treat, to take place on the 15th. December, but unfortunately it was wet and could not be held.

CLUB MEETING 16/1/41. 7.30 or rather 8.30 saw various assorted oddments of trampers arriving for the first meeting of the New Year. This took rather the form of a gathering of the clans, numbers of old familiar faces appearing after a lapse of several months. "Loose Talk" at least that is what our President called it, reigned supreme for most of the evening a groups of two or three recounted to each other all their dirty doings or other wise since either this one or that had last attended a club meeting. The sight of our Club Captain resplendent with his arm in a sling was eclipsed only by the President taking the air on a pair of Crutchers. The business of the evening was a talk by each of several Club Members who had been lucky enough to enjoy a tramping holiday.

Norman Elder - Botanical trip to Howlett's Hut & Elsewhere.

June Budd - Great Barrier Island with the Auckland T.C.

Frank Simpson - Godley Hut.

Jack Hannah - Lake Sumner.

CLUB MEETING 30/1/41. This was like the puzzle If a hen and a half laid an egg and a half etc. except that the hen and a half was the supply of cars, and the egg and a half was the supply of benzine. A had benzine for himself and his carload of 3, B had a car and no benzine. C might possibly be able to wangle some benzine in return for services rendered. D might be able to do the same but did know not how to render services - and so on. About this time the poor (very poor) reporter became lost and so did everyone else, so they started all over again and that was that.

FEBRY. 13th. Formal Business only.  
FEBRY. 27th. " " "

CLUB TRIP. NO. 136 NOV. 23-24th. 1940.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF HOWLETT'S HUT  
IN RUAHINE.

The Ruahine Tramping Club, (Headquarters Palmerston North) has just finished building a new Hut in the Central Ruahine Range and during the weekend the Official opening was held. Members of the Manawatu and Heretaunga Tramping Clubs who had assisted with carrying material were invited to attend and representatives of the two Clubs were there. An account of the trip is as follows:- The party assembled at the end of the road and spent a comfortable night in Mr. Thomson's whare, thanks are due to him and also for fresh milk supplied and much appreciated. 4 of the Ruahine Club set off for the Slab Hut but returned later with news that the Tuki Tuki was too high for them to reach the said Hut. With rain falling the prospects of a good weekend did not look bright. However the tops, snow capped, could be seen next day and an early start was made by the whole party. Moorecocks stream was higher than usual but quite clear and when the Tuki Tuki was reached it was seen to have dropped considerably during the night. The trip up the river was made in sunshine, the bush clad sides of the gorge showing N.Z. scenery at its best. A brief meal at the Slab whare, which has been partly repaired after being demolished by a tree and the party started on the steep pull up Daphne Ridge. The difficulty of carrying timber and iron up this ~~max~~ almost perpendicular bush clad spur was fully appreciated, by the party as it toiled up with weekend packs. A 2 hour climb and the Hut was reached. This hut has been built on the site of one which was built in 1888 by Howlett who was a botanist and mountaineer, and it is a very snug site, being in a hollow on the ridge yet with a grand view to the North. The builders set to work to finish the Hut, putting in windows and a door so that the party had another comfortable night. Wind blowing over the tops and a clear day greeted the party in the morning and 10 were away to climb Tiraha 5472 ft. From this point good views of Saw Tooth and Broken Ridge were obtained although Hikurangi was under cloud. There is new snow on all these tops which seemed strange in November. After admiring the view a quick return to the hut for late breakfast was made and at 12 p.m. the Hut was opened by the Ruahine President, Mr. Zeinert. In his speech Mr. Zeinert mentioned the fact that there was 2½ tons of material in the Hut and he congratulated all those who had taken part in helping to carry it to the site. It showed the real tramping spirit when such huts were built to help other people to enjoy the delights of the mountains. Mr. Zeinert then broke a bottle over the door and declared the Hut open. Speeches were made on behalf of Manawatu and Heretaunga Clubs, and then the party packed up and began the homeward trail. The leader of the trip was Mr. N. Johansen of the Ruahine Club, and the number of the trip

15 Ruahines.

5 Heretaunga.

4 Manawatu



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TRIG 66, or GONE WITH THE WIND (NEARLY)

Waikamaka Trips have been notorious for good intentions - that have faded overnight. Party after Party have gone in with the idea of returning via 66 and winning variety with a new traverse. Each time, rain snow, wind or just pure Hut comfort got in the way and the crowd wandered back on the time worn trail over the Saddle.

This time I decided come what may, it must be done. The Manawatu Party were rearing to go, and for a preliminary canter they got me to run them up Rangi in the morning. There the breeze began to sigh, and ere we gulped the midday billy at the Hut, the wind had already grown cheeky and rammed some of our own expletives back into our throats. Waterproofs flapped like cracking whips, clouds were tearing over to envelope us, and as we scrambled back for that brew, enthusiasm waned - conversation about the attractiveness of a 66 traverse strangely petering out.

But things were only starting - by 12 o'clock only two were still determined to give it a buck, so making our last wishes known to the rest Nancy Williams & I toddled off down the creek the attack the rear spur.

A half hour battle with virgin leatherwood and the fun began. First it was a ruffling, and gentle puffing that would sneak round corners, run up a yard or two of slope and then leave you. Then a more determined push, a bit a scattering shingle and a heave at the back to force you against a rock. After that in the spur itself it was the roar of a hurricane rushing skywards skimming all the looseness from the western faces, with every now and then an eddy to swirl you off your balance and see you make a staggering grab at Tussock.

Great fun really, this buffeting, because it was not very cold. Up on the divide ridge, things were at a climax. Just a solid thundering wall of air that you couldn't argue with. We would drop down in a hollow, pick out the next bit of shelter, brace up and dash for it. By creeping along the Dip of one or two long fault lines we made good progress.

It was funny once, when after skidding sideways towards the edge of the ridge I lay flat and looked round for Nancy. She was about 30 yards back on her knees embracing a boulder. Her affectation must have mounted quickly, because she did not want to leave it. In a matter of seconds they were like old friends. When at last we came to the final 50' of 66 we saw through the mist a bare shingle slope with rocks on top. There wasn't a hope of climbing the rocks, and nothing on the shingle slide to put your feet against so we just crept over the edge and slithered down to the Shelter of the Waipawa.

Phew:::::

F. Simpson.

TRIP NO. 137. This trip was scheduled as Wakarara Range via Kereru but as there were insufficient numbers to make a party it was abandoned.

TRIP NO. 138. POHANGINA RIVER 28th. Decr. to 2nd. Janry. 1941. A party of 6 went in by the Moorcock to the Makeretu, then up a Southern tributary, across a head of the Manawatu, making for a saddle, presumed clear of scrub on the divide. Punished for this presumption by being night bound in a narrow water course which afforded an easy route into the Pohangine next day. After one rock-gut the going improved upstream. A spur onto the Ngamoko proved a loser, very heavy scrub producing the slow motion record of 600 ft. in 3 hours. Eventually we found ourselves on Toka instead of Tunepo, having struck the Pohangina about 4 miles South of where we reckoned. The next operation was to cross the Oroua River to the Rangiwahia Hut, but the scrub belt appeared so deep on either side of it that we turned off and made a long trek to Howletts. New Year's day was spent investigating the basin across to Taumata. An attempt at Te Hekenga was turned in at the final gut and we returned home with halos round our heads. Tents and Oilskins were not used.

TRIP NO. 139. 19.1.41. WHANA WHANA, NGARURORO RIVERS.

By 7.30 a party of 14 had assembled at Holts. There not being enough to take the lorry the trip was made by private cars. Leaving Holts in 3 cars and having a pleasant drive we arrived at Whana Whana gates at about 9. After changing into tramping rig the party set out in perfect weather on a 7 mile tramp to the Whana outstation which was reached at 11. Here a short stop was made before setting off overland to the Omahaki Stream where the party had a most welcome dip before lunch. After leaving the Omahaki Stream we set off down the Ngaruroro River which had to be crossed and recrossed a considerable number of times before reaching the place where the cars were left. The afternoon turned out to be showery and with crossing the river and rain we had quite a wet time. All the same noone wore Oilskins. On reaching the cars the billy was boiled and the party had a brief meal before leaving for home. Thus ended another perfect trip.

Leader Arch Toop.

TRIP NO. 140. Horseshoe Bend. 2nd. Februry. 1941.

No Leaders Report is to hand for this trip but from what we have heard a pleasant time swimming bathing and eating in between was had by all. Perfect weather prevailed. N.B. An interesting point. There were a sufficient number on the trip to take the lorry. Why don't all people come Tramping?. No. on Trip. 18.

Leader E. Bartle.

TRIP. NO. 141. WAIKAMAKA HUT WITH MANAWATU. 7th. 8th. Feb. 1941.

One car load of 6 members left Hastings about 11 am. after a certain amount of reOarranging and general messing about (Members please note if you find you cannot go on a trip let the leader know at once. It saves much time & trouble). The weather was fine with light clouds which made the trip up the river pleasant. The Hut was reached about 5.30, a meal and tea at the Mill making us late starting. After a meal the first 2 of the latter party arrived about 7.30 having come in in 3¼ hours. The Manawatus and



the last of the Heretaungas arriving about 8/15 pm. After a pleasant evening chatting, yarning & eating we retired to bags, some sleeping outside where it was very warm and pleasant. Light rain fell about 6 am chased the outsiders inside to find most of the others sound asleep. Anxious to see the country the Manawatus were astir early and after breakfast were away for the tops with Frank by 8 am. From Mokai Patea Ridge they went along the ridge to the Rangisaddle and then up the Rangi-O-te-Atua. 2 other members scrambled up behind the Hut nearly to Rangi Ridge but the wind was unpleasant so that the return trip was made down a shingle slide to a creek which lead to the Waikamaka creek (west Branch) and down to the hut. The Rangi Party descended by the Spur leading right down to the Hut. Deer tracks are good about 15 mins up from the Hut but up to that point it is a scramble. The trip from Hut to Rangi and Back taking under 3 hours. Another meal for the early Birds and breakfast for the other and we were away by 11.45 for the Forks. (Waipawa). Frank & Nancy found a new route up 66. going from a point a little below the Hur and then straight up into a leading spur. The Leatherwood is very well grown and there are no deer tracks so that we gather that part of the route is not recommended; possibly a route from the stream above the Hut would be better. However they struggled on, the wind to say the least of it being unpleasant, and they managed to make all but the final peak. From there they descended by Shingle slide to a creek running into Forks stream and thence to Forks, the creeks being rocky and difficult. The main party reached the Forks about 1.30 pm. and after a halt for stragglers began the climb up to Shut Eye Ridge. There is no track up this spur and although full use was made of deer tracks the going was slow and heavy with weekend packs. The tops were reached in 1½ hours and here the wind welcomed us with a roar. We struggled along to Shut eye track and here Clem & Mollie went on to Buttercup Hollow and'long towards Armstrongs saddle in the quest of a boot. The wind was terrific there, but luckily Mollie walked right into the lost property so they came down to the shack in glee. Here we had tea & food and the downward trail was started about 6 pm. The track is getting overgrown at the top end and a slashing party could do good work there. The road was reached by the last ones at 7.15pm. and a pleasant trip except for the wind came to an end. The Manawatu party went down by the river having seen enough of the country to make them keen to visit it again. The enjoyment of the trip was enhanced for the Heretaungas by the presence of the Manawatu members and we trust there will be many more such meetings in the future.

No. in party Heretaunga 10.  
Manawatu. 4.

Leader. E. Lovel-Smith.

TRIP. NO. 142. 16/2/41.

Owing to difficulty arising through lack of transport the annual picnic of the Heretaunga Tramping Club, which was to take the form of a weekend trip to Waimarama on Feb. 15th. had to be take the form of a day excursion. A large party left Hastings soon after 8 stopping at Havelock to pick up Members. On arrival at Waimarama a swim was decided upon after which everyone foregathered at the cottage at present occupied by one of the Club Members. After an enjoyable cup of tea the party scattered to explore. Back to the cottage once more for lunch, the afternoon being spent in games

on the beach with bathing & surfing for those who felt inclined. An early start for Home was made, everyone arriving back in Town feeling satisfied with a most enjoyable day. The presence of 2 members on leave from Camp greatly added to the enjoyment of the occasion.

P. MORRIS Leader .No. in party. 31.

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PRIVATE TRIPS.

TRAMPING IN QUEEN CHARLOTTE SOUND. Decr. 23 - Jan. 7th.

The prolonged departure and 2nd. final leave for Nora gave us the opportunity of a holiday in the Nurse's Cottage Opua Bay, Unepua. 2 hrs. by launch from Picton brings one to the Bay, and ideal spot for fishing, launching swimming and tramping. The Bay is entirely encircled by hills which rise straight up from the Seashore and provide opportunities for enjoyable and interesting trips. Magnificent views of Queen Charlotte Sound, Tory Channel and Port Underwood are obtained from the ridges with a clear view of the coast of the North Island on a clear day. The weather being ideal for tramping we made some good trips. The highest point behind Opua Bay was Rahatoi, and this we attacked booted and sparmed and ready for action. Don't imagine from this account that the height of this so-called mountain was anywhere in the vicinity of that of Everest, but it proved a satisfactory and enjoyable trip. There was no preliminary wandering about as we were able to start up the ridge directly behind the homestead in the next bay. From the top of the ridge we could look directly down on Port Underwood on the Eastern Side with a very haze view of Blenheim, or the place where Blenheim ought to be. A further climb of an hour brought us to the top of "MT"?? Rahatoi with an even better view opening up before us. The cool drinks which awaited us on our return to the Homestead were more than appreciated by all members of the party. 2 trips were made to Tarakawa on the Northern Side of the Bay and short tramps along the ridges on the west. The country at that particular part of Queen Charlotte is grassland with patches of scrub and bracken and more than abundance of bidi-bidi. This being Norahs last fling afore she said "Kia Ora" to N.Z. we made the most of it so that she would add a little more to her store of tramping memories.

Members of party, Nora Finn, )  
Peggy Morris. ) H.T.C.  
"Scottie".

NORTHERN RUAHINE 18 - 23rd. DEC.

A party of 4 went in by Matthews Hut to the Cullers track along the plateau. The second day out the weather turned dirty so they dropped off into the Makaroro below Poipoi and followed it down to Tupari Spur. The last day in ideal weather was spent on Tupari Te Atua Mahuri and Remutupo.

RANGIWAHIA HUT 4 - 6th. Janry.

A pansy trip for a change. We were driven up from Feilding in the evening and started up the track at 7.45. It is a broad, easily graded sidling and torches were unnecessary.  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour up a suspension bridge (even more impressive by daylight) crosses a rock gut to the next spur & zig zags up it to the hut  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hrs from the road head at 4200 ft. An Auckland party were in residence. Sunday we spent ~~xxx~~ botanizing on Maungahuia and Maungamahue,

returning down one of the creeks. The main ~~road~~ bridge up and the route to Te Hekinga are well marked with poles. Charges are levied for the use of the Hut and the Bunk house is for use of the ski club only.

NORTH WEST RUAHINES. 7 - 12th. Janry.

Reached Taihape on a troop train, spent a night in the domain and reached Mangaohane Stn the following afternoon on a crowded lorry. Climbed Aorangi next day an impressive citadel, but too thick on top for much of an outlook and nearly got nightbound on the featureless Reporoa Bog. Found we were in the head of the Makirikiri and spent next day exploring the tussock down to the bushline at the head of the Mangatera. Spent the best part of 2 days battling down the curious river with its enormous limestone cliffs & ledges & disappearing water courses. Didn't sight Davidson's Lake but struck a couple of dams formed by recent slips. Up the Moropea, where we had some deep wading, put in a wet night at the forks & came out to Shut Eye along the tops in a high wind, striking a spot of bother approaching Buttercup. Reached the road down to  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb rice, to be unexpectedly greeted by the sight of a Waikamaka party waiting for us with a car.

TAKAPARI 4 - 6th. Feb.

Party of 4 met at Dannevirke & left truck where the Tamaki Stream leaves the range, only about 12 miles up country. Magnificent Rata and Rimu bush with a disused tractor track running several more miles up the valley. There are two routes in here; one directly up the second spur to the divide at about 3700'; the other up the valley, which is choked with shingle at the upper end & continues up a scree to the skyline just below Takapari Trig. Camped at the foot of the first track & went up as far as the scrub in high wind & drizzle. Next day up the creek & on to the Takapari shoulder. A short tour up a side creek completed the trip.

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As the main object of these trips was botanical they were so arranged that no large area of the Ruahines now remains untraversed by Club Members. A lot of this interesting country is out of reach of Club Trips, but the Upper Makaroro, Makeretu & Upper Pohangina will be practicable with a little route finding. The Cullers have cut a sidling round the head of the Kawatea, from Trig U to the bush line North of Potae. The remains of a small hut with some good pieces of iron were discovered at the extreme southern end of the N. Plateau.

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Doug Callow who has been keeping the Tramping Flag flying in Hamilton has done some interesting trips in the vicinity of the Waikato. He sends this account of the Gt. Barrier Island. Xmas. 1940. To anyone expecting Bush down to the waters edge and miles of trackless wilderness, the Barrier will be a disappointment. Most of the spurs running out to form the coastline and the many islets, the southwest of the main island are devoid of bush and are covered with grass & bracken. On the East coast there are broad sandy beaches with much flat land behind them. This is being farmed more & more extensively, though an Aerodrome takes up much of the sand dunes in one bay. The high country is certainly well covered with bush, but milling tracks and tramways in the various conditions run through the best of it. Roads now link the main settlements & Harbours. From the Kaitoke Aerodrome 4 roads branch

to Tryphena in the south, Blind Bay (or Okapu) in the South west, Whangapara rather more to the west and to Fitzroy in the North west by a circuitous route which takes in several open East coast bays before skirting round the north of Mr. Hobson. What the northern part of the island is like I do not know - beyond seeing high bushy ridges from the top of Mt. Hobson which is almost at the geometric centre of the island. Fitzroy Harbour in the west is formed by a large islet which shelters the entrances to several narrow Bays the Northern one of which is Port Fitzroy itself. There are many more islets to the Southwest, and on the seaward one is a gannet colony like Kidnappers only smaller. Chicks in various stages of growth were numerous at the time of our visit. We were told that the gannets stayed there all the year round, and that the colony was growing in numbers. Our base was at Whangapara, where used to be situated one of the biggest Mills in the country. There is not a sign of it now except the sawdust in Mill Bay. However it is the port from which Kauri logs have been rafted across to Auckland  $\frac{3}{4}$  60 miles direct, but the rafts used to drift all over the Hauraki Gulf before reaching port. Now all the huge Kauris have been cut out and the Kauri Timber Co. is removing all its plant. There are huge stumps everywhere round Hobson, and there are numerous young Kauris up to say 2 ft. in diameter growing in their stead. Some of the Milled areas have been fired and gone back to bracken & Manuka. There was a fire which had been burning for some weeks before we arrived, and it was still burning when we left a fortnight later. It had travelled across several gullies in that time. In the gullies on the slopes of Hobson we encountered fine timbered dams. These were used to wash the logs down the creeks and as far as we could make out each one was used only once. The earliest of them was 15 - 20 years old. Some were quite huge for the type of structure and considering what little water there is in the creeks one can well imagine that it was a providential cloudburst which enabled the Millers to release three dams simultaneously after they had actually abandoned the idea of using them at all. I suppose the biggest of them would be about 100 ft. wide and 25 ft. deep in the middle though one in a rocky Gorge was easily 30' above the bottom shelf or 40 ft. above the creek bed. It would have been about 60ft. wide. Our Headquarters being at Whangapara were admirably situated since all the more recent mill hauling lines radiated from there. They had a disconcerting habit at times of running across the ridges instead of along them in good tramping fashion, but we were able to cover the ground. There are Huts and old camps dotted all over the central portion of the island. Off the tracks the bush is just a jungle, and just not worth while (not even to a botanist). Water is plentiful, but tastes a little owing to the volcanic rocks and the thick carpet of rotting vegetation, but mostly of the former. There are hot springs - rather small - at the foot of some of the South Eastern spurs from Hobson. There is an amazing variety of trees and shrubs. The Hamilton & Auckland hills had prepared me for it but I think a Hawkes Bayite would feel well away from home. However I am no botanist. Trampers & Swimmers were well catered for, the former by the bush & scrub clad ridges and gullies improved?? by the early efforts of the Company and the latter by the many Bays & creeks, though the Western Bays terminate in tidal mud flats &

are reputed to contain many stingrays, while the open Eastern beaches are reputed to be dangerous owing to the rapidity in which they slope at the water's edge. The Nautically, piscatorially and socially minded people were taken under the wing of the Whangapara residence and visitors. The residents are fortunate in that they find it quite unnecessary to measure time and this has a bearing on the entire absence of detail in arranging social and other gatherings. One point on the island is the *paspallum* grass which in January excretes a sticky secretion which covers one's legs (esp. hairy, who would be a boy) and clothes. It washes off readily but is very unpleasant. Its virtue lies in its maintaining a luxuriant green growth in the heat of summer and is much used in the Waikato and North Auckland. In glancing over this I think I have elaborated on the drawbacks of the place that on its attractions, but for a summer holiday, whether tramping or not, it is almost ideal, and we found the fortnight all too short.

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MOUNT HOBSON (KIRIKIMATA) 2030 ft. GREAT BARRIER ISLAND.

29 - 30th. Dec. 1940.

We had been at the Barrier just 5 days when it was decided to climb Mt. Hobson. Looking at it in comparison with our Ranges, I was rather amused at the remarks of the inhabitants to whom we spoke about it, re its toughness. They had stories of tangled undergrowth and steepness etc. which would make one's hair stand on end, and when we told them we were going to climb Hobson they thought we were well????? I might add that after having climbed the Peak and seen its unusual surroundings I have the greatest respect for it. We were rudely awakened at fourish on the morn of our departure. After breakfast and packing up 9 of us bid our camp and those who were awake adieu. Our path led us over tramtracks and old log hauls for some time. There were about a dozen of these hauls which resemble a switch back or scenic Rail way, and they differ in height. There is bush on both sides except for the straight pull out of them, it was easy, not having to push a way through undergrowth. At lunch time we had nearly finished with these ups and downs and came across a broken down hut, and we boiled up and rested. As Hobson is supposedly unclimbable from Whangapara, the part of the island where we were camped, we had to spend most of the first day getting to a place called Kaiarara Bay, which is an inlet of Port Fitzroy. We were not long getting to the ridge which led down to the Kaiarara Bay but we all nearly died with gorse. A couple of the party very sensibly found the real track down and had a more or less easy way down to the beach below, but the majority of us got entangled with this excrescence, and we had to pull out towels & waterproofs and every available garment to wrap round us to save us from the pricks which were pretty savage, especially after 4 days sunburn. We eventually got down to the Bay after a most unenviable 20 minutes or so. We followed a stream up from the Beach which gradually became narrow & rocky with high boulders, which took some scrambling over. On a plateau above this gorge about 1200 feet above sea level was an old milling site where we stayed for the night and had a marvelous sleep, some sleeping on springy fern and others on an old mint bed. The kind of fern makes the softest outdoor bed that I have ever experienced. The next morning we were up bright

and early an away for the last part of the climb. We made our way upstream again with high rocks on either side and huge rock pinnacles towering above us. The stream got particularly rough & huge boulders and fallen trees made the going rather slow. At this stage we came across a dam, which was one of four which had been built by the Kauri Timber Co. They are in a great state of preservation & most interesting. We had investigated 2 the afternoon before lower down the valley, and came across another which was the largest one being built approx. 700 ft. below the summit of Mt. Hobson. From the top of this dam we commanded a great view of the valley & bushy Ridges with open sea and Little Barrier in the distance. After we had examined the last big Dam we scratched through the undergrowth and crawled over old fallen kauris for approx. 700' and at about 10 we arrived on top of Hobson. The day was hot, but unfortunately the view was not as clear as it might have been, but all the same we were rewarded with a marvelous view of the complete Island, and the beaches on the Eastern side of the Island showed up to perfection. We also were lucky enough to see an aeroplane land on the Aerodroms, just off the Kaitoke Beach, and take off again just in the 20 minutes we were on top. Reluctantly we left the top and made our way back to the camp site and after lunching we made for home which took the remainder of the day. It was a great trip & although we were all thoroughly tired, it didn't stop us from celebrating in the true Tramping style on New Year's Eve. J.B.

WORKING TRIPS. Several parties have been out on working trips, making ensilage, thistle grubbing and carrot thinning being among the jobs tackled. Here is a report of one such trip.

WHANA WHANA 23rd. Feb.

An unprecedented series of misfortunes reduced a working party of 14 to 6 starters who could take it. However, as arrangements had been completed we decided that we had better carry on, and partially filled the lorry by the addition of Hereworth party. The first spell went well, except that the boys were obviously suffering from shock at the realization of what work, in the term of ovrking party meant. The 2nd. spell was pretty hot, except for the boys who had been taken off to a bathing hole. The sight of albino carrots in serried rows began to get monotonous. Lunch in the shade of the Beamish's garden was far too pleasant and the carrots suffered. The boys, tired of asking when are we going to start tramping? organized a trip of their own to the Fort. The 3rd. spell was definitely tough but the back of the job wa broken and we werent long in reaching the last row and started on clearing up the rejects. This proved harder than it looked, so at 5 pm. with about  $\frac{1}{3}$  cleaned up we called a halt. The mob would have gone on after a spell, but as the noys had to be back at nightfall, we packed up and started, stopping only for a short dip at the bathing hole.



FUTURE TRIPS.MARCH / JULY 1941.

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|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 144. 16th. March.                  | Tuki Tuki via Middle Rd.<br>or Tauroa.   | L. Hodgson.               |
| 145. 29/30th. "                    | Don Juan. A Camp at Old<br>Homestead. General<br>exploration of area.  | A. Toop.<br>4102.         |
| 146. 11/15 Apl.<br>EASTER<br>Trip. | Mahia Morere. Camp at<br>Mahia; East trips, exploring<br>Bush etc. (Botanists think of<br>it, miles of Bush) For old<br>times sake turn out kids and make<br>this one worth while. | L. Hodgson.               |
| 147. 27th. Apl.                    | Explore Big Hill Station.  | A. Toop.<br>4102.         |
| 148. 10/11th. May                  | Waikamaka Hut, Rangi -O-Te<br>Atua.  | J. Lovell Smith.<br>3621. |
| 149 25th. May.                     | Kidnappers via Cliffs.   | D. Williams.              |
| 150 8/8th. June.                   | Kaweka Hut & visit Bivvy.  | Lindsay Lloyd.            |
| 151 22nd. June.                    | To be arranged.  |                           |
| 152 5/6th. July.                   | Waipatiki & Arapawanui.  | C, Smith.                 |
| 153 20th. July.                    | To be arranged.  |                           |