

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INCORPORATED.)

BULLETIN No. 43.

SEPTEMBER 1946

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Heretaunga Tramping Club (Inc.) will be held in the Red Cross Rooms, Hastings, on Thursday, October 10th 1946, commencing at 8 pm.

The following is the official ruling governing election of all Office Bearers:-

"Election of all office bearers shall take place at the Annual General Meeting each year and nominations in writing must be in the hands of the Secretary before the commencement of the meeting. Any financial members (other than associate members) shall be entitled to nominate or be nominated for any office, and the Executive Committee shall nominate suitable persons for the positions of Patron, Secretary, Treasurer, Club Captain and Auditor. Election shall be by secret ballot. The Executive Committee shall have power to appoint any member to fill any casual vacancy on the Committee and any member so appointed shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting."

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

"A Social Committee consisting of six members, (of whom not less than two shall be men) shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Social Committee shall be under the control of the Executive Committee who shall have power to appoint the Chairman, either from the members so elected or from the Executive Committee."

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Election to a Club Office or Committee carries with it a responsibility which cannot be shelved. People who are nominated should

consider fully whether they are prepared to give the time and attention such responsibilities demand. It necessarily follows that proposers and seconders should also give a little thought to this matter and satisfy themselves thoroughly that a person has all the necessary qualifications before they put him up for nomination.

Bring along your ideas for the development and welfare of the Club and air them at the Annual Meeting on October 10th.

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H.T.C. REUNION.

THURSDAY, OCT. 3rd. 1946

HAVELOCK NORTH TOWN BOARD HALL.

Club members - Attention please!

This is your night. You have the time and the place - the rest is up to you. After a lapse of many years it has been decided to revive the big event in the Club's social activities - the Annual Ball. This year it takes the form of a reunion, and in order to make it the success the Committee hopes for we are appealing to you all to back us to the limit.

So, get out your glad rags and keep the night of October 3rd. for the REUNION.

Transport will be provided, cars leaving Holt's timber yard about 8.15 pm.

Tickets: Single 3/-
 Double 5/-

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NEW MEMBERS.

We should like to welcome the following new members and wish them happy and successful tramping with the Club:-

Yvonne Burnham,	Ngairé Pounsford,	Barbara Naismith,
George Lowe,	Jack Nicholls,	Bruce Godward,
Peter Lowe,	Bruce Hannah,	Bailey Carrodus,
David Bathgate.		

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VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS:-

To Mr. and Mrs. Arch Toop, Havelock North, - a daughter.

To Mr. and Mrs. John von Dadelszen, Havelock North, - a son.
 Congratulations from the Club.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

Flight Lieutenant Bruce Beechey.

We record with deep regret that the Club has sustained yet another loss in the untimely death of Ft.-Lt. Bruce Beechey - "Beech" as he was familiarly known to us all. The news that he had collapsed while playing cricket and died before reaching hospital was a great shock to his family and friends. Bruce was due home some time ago but he accepted a temporary post with the R.A.F. in order to remain with his brother, Alistair, a former P.O.W. now recuperating in England. Bruce's association with the Club in pre-war years left him with many friends. Always a keen and active member willing to take his full part in the management of the Club, his chief interest was the Bulletin and as Editor he worked hard and enthusiastically to make it a success.

During the War years he was one of our most consistent correspondents and his witty and amusing letters helped to bring him very close to members at home.

To his parents we should like to extend our very sincere sympathy in their irreparable loss.

DEATH.

Jack Taylor.

It is with much regret that we have to record the passing from among us of one of our oldest and most respected members - Jack Taylor.

Although Jack had passed the allotted span of years, we could never associate the idea of old age with him. Such was the freshness of his outlook on life and so full of enthusiasm was he, that we could well think of him tramping with us for many more years. But it was not to be. We are glad for his sake that the call came so swiftly and so mercifully - that he was spared the tedium of a long illness with its irksome restrictions and suffering.

His birth place was in South Otago but a large part of his life was spent in Hawkes Bay working on back country stations - mustering rabbiting and packing. He was one of the men to whom the back country settlers and station owners and indeed the whole country, owe so much. Without his type, very little could ever have been done by our pioneers in bringing in new country.

To meet Jack Taylor anywhere or at any time was always an exhilarating experience. He brought with him wherever he went a radiance of spirit and a freshness of outlook that had with it something of the wide open spaces and the high mountain ridges which he loved so well.

Although not a big man physically, he was renowned among the old hands for his strength and his endurance, and some of his exploits are still spoken of with awe by his old mates.

With it all, he had the true simplicity of character of one of nature's gentlemen. When the H.T.C. was formed Jack was brought into contact with the Club by Les and became one of its most enthusiastic members. Not only did he undertake strenuous club trips, but he was keen to go out on private trips also - one of the most formidable of the latter being a nine days trip with Les Holt from Rangitaiki via Poronui and the Mohaka to Puketitiri, through rough country and under arduous conditions. Only a few months ago he did the trip to the Waikamaka Hut. We met him on his bike with a large pack pushing home to Haumoana on his return from this trip - full of enthusiasm about it and for those with whom he went. Such a week-end tramp would surely have tested the fortitude and endurance of many a trumper half the age of Jack. But he loved the company of his fellow trampers and particularly the younger people because he himself remained young in spirit to the very end.

Surely his example must inspire every member of our H.T.C. to keep on tramping with a similar enthusiasm for our hills and our valleys, for our Club and for our fellow members.

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EQUIPMENT - A FEW HINTS.

The following brief notes may be of some use to members who are contemplating the buying of equipment.

BOOTS:

A good heavy sole is essential, making sure that the soles continue unbroken from toe to heel. The boot will last longer with a stiffened toe, but toe caps are to be avoided as continued rough use will invariably break the stitching. Boots should be roomy enough to allow the toes to be freely moved with two pairs of thick socks on.

A good system of nailing is to have clinkers closely grouped around the toes and say 8 to 10 clinkers on each heel. Clinkers on the sides of the boot are of doubtful value as with riverbed work they tend to rip the sole to pieces. Triple hobs or ice nails are a better proposition. Toe and heel plates are definitely to be avoided and are in fact a menace on snow.

PACK:

There is much to be said in favour of both the "Bergan" and the "Kidney Sweater" type of pack, the former probably being favoured by most. The following points however apply to both types: The materials, that is both canvas and leather fittings, should be as robust as possible as sometime or other a pack will suffer severe treatment. The flap should be adequate, at least 1 - 2 square feet, in order that large loads can be well covered. A waterproof extension to the main container which can be tied tightly at the

top is a very good thing and a similar extension on at least one side pocket of great use.

SLEEPING BAG and COVER:

There is nothing that approaches the down-filled bag as far as warmth and weight are concerned, the best substitute being laminated wool. Care should be taken to see that down bags are well quilted and strongly stitched. Sleeping bag covers should be well proofed and strong enough to stand such rough treatment as club brawls. Unless hut accommodation is an absolute certainty a sleeping bag cover should always be carried.

WATERPROOF COAT:

In ~~the~~ North Island tramping the half length oilskin takes a lot of beating as it can stand more rough handling such as a tussle with leatherwood than can the alternative, the parka. The hooded japara parka with large flap to go over the pack is however a more weatherproof coat and ideal for rigorous conditions. Care should be taken to see that the hood is very large of a stiff neck results when carrying a heavy pack.

CLOTHING:

Woollen clothing is essential as it is the only real insulator. Flannel shirts are ideal for warmth while a silk shirt is a good thing for when it gets really hot, and it weighs nothing. Long trousers should be able to be pulled over the boots with ease and these should always be worn when travelling in snow more than ankle deep. Much suffering from cut legs and sunburn combined has been caused by failing to do this on occasions. Goggles should also be worn when on snow, whether the sun is shining or not - snow blindness is a very painful business and some bad cases have result from neglecting to wear goggles in misty conditions.

These brief notes give only a rough guide to the building up of equipment and the best information can probably be obtained from thoroughly discussing the items concerned with other members before making purchases.

I.W.

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PRIVATE TRIPS.

Canterbury Pilgrimage. July.

After much beseeching the N.Z. Railways and Union Shipping Co. carried me to Christchurch. Youth Hostel privileges are not available on express trains.

Sat. July 6th. 20 bussed to O'Rourke's hayshed beyond Lake Coleridge. Pans and billies hissed among the firelit tussocks; Then, after retiring to rest and earthquakes, we arose as the stars paled, to breakfast and frost. Up the frozen sided Mt. Oakden to the snowy top we climbed, though only seven reached it and many reverently prostrated themselves as they climbed. The headwaters of the Rakai

lay far around, enclosed by the gleaming mountains. Pained by borrowed boots and cramp, one man was unworthy of the higher realms.

"Trains at Arthurs Pass blocked by snow". The old skis turned up their toes and yearned for Temple Basin, so I reached the Canterbury Mountaineers hut at Arthurs Pass on July 11th at 1 am. For three days I chopped wood between showers, ate and bunked, when all the weekenders had to leave. Then followed three glorious windless, sunny days on new skiing snow, spent amongst the backsliders, some of whom dug their own graves in the snow.

On July 18th at 1.35 am. - deep sleep; but in 10 minutes boots, skis, pack found their places on the body which collapsed on a carriage seat after a hillside dash of 300 yards. While I gasped for life a solicitous drunk breathed smoke into my lungs saying "You need a doctor."

The trip was arranged for "keeping in step with the moon." No dark camps or unlit scenery with her as a pal. It was great to be out again with the hill boys and the spirit of the mountains.

Angus Russell.

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KIWI SADDLE. July 21st.

As the club trip fell through a private party of nine went up the following Sunday to study the route and to examine the site for a possible bivouac. Two cars left Stortford Lodge on the stroke of six, met the dawn near Waikonini and the party was on the track at 8.15. The burnt spur above the Lakes proved pretty rough with second growth but fairly quick, and we were sidling Kuripapanga Hill (4100') at 10.15. The day was perfect, calm, cool and sunny with a heavy plaster of snow above 5000'.

The rearguard reached Kiwi Saddle just after midday and we lunched and sun-bathed till 1.45. A return route across the Tutaekuri and down the Middle Ridge was discussed and a leading spur located, but the climb out on the other side was turned down as being rather strenuous at that stage of the day - besides we wanted to mark the turn-off from 4594', so we cut marker poles, climbed to the top and ran a line of double-disced poles across the flat top.

A soft shingle-scrree gave a quick and enjoyable descent from 4100' into the usual manuka thicket at the bottom, but we hit a small clearing and picked up an overgrown track that led out to the cars, 3 hours to the tick. As there were some soft patches in the road we crossed the Blowhard in daylight and boiled up at Willowford, reaching Hastings at 8 pm. after a day out of the box.

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After a record number of telephone calls and the leader having nightmares wondering if the trip would once again have to be cancelled, nineteen set off from Holts just after seven. The weather wasn't very promising but after a quick change we left Big Hill Station at 9.10. We had decided to go round Big Hill instead of over it, but there was a certain amount of discussion before we ~~were able to persuade some of the party that it was the best route.~~ were able to persuade some of the party that it was the best route.

The yards were reached just after eleven where most of the party rested and refuelled, as the hunger pangs had been gnawing rather deeply for the last few hours. The Kiwis had to be reminded by Nancy that there was still another meal to be had when we reached the Hut. This wasn't achieved until we had lost the way twice, and been travelling for nearly four hours. After a quick lunch during which the ex-soldiers read about the correct way to obtain their gratuity money, we set off on the return trip at 2 pm. Just outside the Hut the Club Captain's eyes rested on a Surveyor's Peg marked with an S. There was a quick rummage into a pack and a map was brought forth which showed that it had probably come from Pio-pio, a trig across the other side of the Makaroro River.

We reached the summit of Big Hill just as the thunder storm burst and arrived at the truck at 4.30, where we changed among mud and tain before setting off on the road. The truck ran out of petrol at Stortford Lodge, so while the Havelock people waited patiently for help, the Hastings ones took to their good old legs and walked home.

No. in party: 19.
Leader : Heather Baird.

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With a light westerly blowing, the lorry left Hastings at 6am. collected two at Napier and reached Titikura before 8 am. Five minutes later we began our 2½ hour tramp to the hut, where we dined well. Then a climb of 1½ hrs to Taraponui, where a few pockets of snow afforded revels. This is our most successful trip here as all 17 made the ascent. On our way back to another lunch, Janet found the shell of a big brown snail, some visited the sulphur spring and three went astray down the valley.

The greatest event was the re-discovery of *Myosotis saxosa*, a forget-me-not, only found once before near Te Waka 99 years ago, and "born to blush unseen ever since." (Born, not germinated.) Norman arrived just as our first brew was ready, carrying his botanical scalp with elation, to the pleasure of us all.

After nearly becoming involved in a search party for an overdue goat-shooter, we returned to the lorry as "the moon came out in the gloaming." It pays to follow the highest track below the escarpment.

No. in party: 17. Leader: Angus Russell.

TRANSPORT.

With a truck available we can now make regular trips as before the war, but transport costs are up, so that to make fares reasonable we must average 16 full fares to each trip, while if this average can be raised to 18 or 19 we shall be in a position to lower fares. With the number of junior members, only paying half-fares, it means that we shall have to fill the truck pretty well to capacity for the next year or two. Most recent trips have been well attended and the prospects are promising, but a possible Kiwi Saddle trip fell through from lack of support.

Leaders, club officials and club members themselves should make it their business in their own interests to recruit parties in advance, so that names are not limited to those who may be present at Thursday meetings.

Not enough private cars are available to permit of all club members getting out on trips, and, in any case, the use of private cars can only mean that some are enabled to get out as much as they want to, while others, and particularly new members, are placed at a disadvantage.

RUAHINE MAP.

There is a possibility if evidence can be produced of a sufficient demand that the Survey Department might bring out a map of the Ruahines, on the lines of their very successful Tararua map. It would be a first rate job, costing say 5/-. The committee wish to be able to say that so many copies would be purchased upon publication, and have already circularised other clubs for this information. It will assist them if those who would take copies would notify either the secretary or the club captain.

TARARUASTORY.

The Club has been privileged to receive a copy of "Tararua Story", which will be a valuable addition to our library.

The Tararua Tramping Club is the oldest tramping club in New Zealand, and this book has been published in commemoration of its Silver Jubilee. What a splendid effort it is! One might say that that whole history of organised tramping in New Zealand is covered in this volume, starting as it does, with the original meeting in Wellington on 3rd July 1919.

The T.T.C. has been fortunate in having able historians in its ranks, and every angle of club activities has been fully covered.

There are chapters on exploration, the flora and fauna, winter trips skiing, trips in both Islands of N.Z., women trampers (Bless 'em) etc., and each chapter is interestingly written. A chapter on various searches, some of them with tragedy in the background, makes interesting reading.

However, grand as the text may be, pride of place must go to the many photographic illustrations. Anyone who has tried to make successful photographs on tramping trips will admit that such an undertaking is not easy. All I can say is that the T.T.C. must have some good photographers as well as trampers. The illustrations cover the whole gamut from beautiful views to the inevitable "Young persons dressed like tramps". The line drawings are also excellent.

Our own club will be interested to read of the prominent part played by Norman Elder in T.T.C. activities. We've always had suspicions that Norman knew a little about tramping.

No review of "Tararua Story" would be complete without reference to the chapter on the Club's war activities. It is done without frills, and it is nice to see the Club paying tribute to its members who lost their lives in the war.

We suggest that you read "Tararua Story" kids. It is well worth it.

THE DUTIES OF A LEADER.

This deals mainly with the more or less automatic chores of a leader of day trips. The second part touches on the psychological and moral obligations of a leader.

For day trips, or weekend trips, the leader of a party should attend to these items.

(a) Arrangement of transport. i.e. the carrier, or private cars. Give times of departure, etc. Obtain permission from property owners whose land has to be traversed.

(b) Equipment. i.e. Billies and tea. If a working party then slashers, discs, nails, etc.

(c) Collection of fares. The price of trip can be supplied from a scale of charges (per mile). Apply to Secretary (Nancy). The rule now is to collect it on the club night preceding the trip.

(d) Knowledge of route. The leader must know the ground. A map is always good, essential at times. Someone in the party is always interested in the topography. "What's that stream?" "What knob is that over there?" These are repeated questions. I was surprised at the lack of knowledge of peaks, ranges, valleys and rivers evident when I joined the club.

(e) Hut Duties. This is guided solely by "do unto others-". First is permission and thanks. The only huts under club control are Kaweka, Upper Bivvy (Kawekas) and Waikamaka (Central Rushines). All others require permission. The Secretary or Club Captain (Norm Elder) can give you this information. The other "unwritten" laws are cleanliness, supplying dry wood and ready kindling, and seeing that the door is safely closed.

The second part of leadership is not so much duty (although should become routine in a leader) because it deals with personalities and is ever changing.

First under physical well being, I think comes:-

- (a) Standard of fitness (for that day).
- (b) Food - only necessary on longer trips.
- (c) Clothing - dealt with by separate article.
- (d) Thirst.

(c) Walking. Has its own manners. Pace is an art to be learned only with practice. The leader should keep his party in touch, otherwise this leads to discouragement and overtiring of some. It also leads to disappointment and so bad tramping. If some are to go on, then make it a definite arrangement. It seems that the greatest obstacle to be overcome by new members and younger trappers is that of walking and pace. Some think they will "hold up" the party or will find it "too much". Many people think that trappers are a club of super-walkers. The leader's job is to see that this does not become a reality. The way to do this is to get in front and stay there.

It is well to know that younger people (under 20) can tramp well if they have an interest or an incentive, but they will crack suddenly and seriously if overtiring, and discouragement is excessive. They have not the reserve of older people.

A question that should be settled by a club meeting is that of control. Is the leader to have "ship's captain control". I think the leader should, above the bushline. On Winter and snow trips someone has to have the responsibility. Most people are ignorant of the danger of snow travel and are not capable of judging their fitness or ability. The margin between what can be done and what can't be done is narrowed until there is no such thing as "what might be done", but this is a club and not professional guiding so the control will be by personal manner and personality. It's the leader's judgment to know what hardship is required to give experience and not overstep safety and health rules.

Leadership besides being an art, and learned only by doing, has its mundane duties; they can be seen in the first part of the article.

With post-war planning going on in a big way, the Federation has had a busy year stating its views on the development of the mountain areas of New Zealand to various authorities, but it is slow work hacking a way through the leatherwood of departmental policy, and member clubs can give great assistance by doing all that they can to see that the requirements of trampers and mountaineers are put before the public, for what we are after is something much wider than the interests of our members alone, and, in the long run, it is public opinion which will determine policy.

The Federation's troubles are the old ones, two of them. The commercial development of national parks for the mythical rich overseas tourist pays scant attention to the preservation of the natural characteristics, though it is these that give the park its ultimate value, or to the requirements of the unregimented New Zealander, who may prefer, or who more likely is compelled, to make his visit the hard way. There is a tendency to look on trampers in a state forest or national park as, at best, an unavoidable nuisance.

The other is still the question of guides. Not so many years ago there were about 20 experienced guides. Now there are only perhaps half-a-dozen, casual employees of the Tourist Dept. with an official status little better than roustabouts. This appears to be a by-product of the development of mountaineering resorts in the interest of the sedentary type of tourist and has a connection with the frequency of mountaineering accidents.

Accidents. Clubs are also asked to give publicity to reports on accidents, as the number of accidents due to neglect of normal precautions is rising, and it is of the utmost importance, in our own interests, that we should take every opportunity to educate public opinion on the need for sound training in bushcraft and mountaineering.

Finance. During the year expenses have been kept to a minimum, but as considerable activity is likely in the next year or two, the delegates have decided to reintroduce the subscription of 2d per member, which is the Federation's sole source of revenue, and to charge a levy of 1d per member, for the travelling expenses of provincial members of the executive.

Council of Sport. With little addition to last year's discussion, delegates decided that the Federation should apply for affiliation. While there is no obvious advantage in doing so, and some doubts about the set-up still remain, the delegates were satisfied on the whole that the constitution of the Council did not prejudice the status or integrity of member organisations and that it was preferable to join in good faith than to remain in isolation.

FIXTURE LIST SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 1946.

Subject to confirmation by incoming Committee.

No.	Date.	Fare	Trip	Leader.
287	8 Sept.	6/3	Taraponui	A. Russell
288	22 Sept.	5/6	Te Kowhai	O. Allison
289	13 Oct.	4/3	Kahuranaki	Dulcie Yule
290.	26-28 Oct.	6/9	Kiwi Saddle	Les. Holt
291	10 Nov.		Kidnappers	Edna Steele
292.	23-24 Nov.	7/6	Waikanaka Hut	George Lowe
293.	7-8 Dec.		Horseshoe Bend	H. Bond
294.	New Year			
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