

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)

"POHOKURA"

BULLETIN NO. 52

AUGUST 1949

PRESIDENT-

L.H. Lloyd,
St. George's Rd. S.
Hastings.
'Phone 4346

HON. SECRETARY -

Miss U. Greenwood,
Duart Rd.
Havelock North.
'Phone 2569.

CLUB CAPTAIN-

W.G. Lowe
"Sunnybark"
Hastings.
'Phone 2951.

HON. TREASURER -

Miss Muriel Shaw,
116 Queen St. E.
Hastings.
'Phone 4428.

....

SOCIAL NEWS

Since we last went to print social news has been pouring in at a great rate .

First of all our strong, silent member BLUE MONAGHAN announced his marriage to HEATHER MacDONALD.

DAVE LYNCH followed up by taking time off chess to get engaged to NGAIRE POUNSFORD.

JUNE and BRUCE BAIRD produced a daughter, Christine by name.

DULCIE YULE and ALAN OULAGHAN announced their marriage .

Finally, MARY MORONEY and JOHN BREMNER became engaged .

To all of these we extend our hearty congratulations and good wishes for the future .

....

CLUB ROOM EVENTS

Cyril Davy entertained us one evening with a talk on military life and tramping in New Caledonia . An inviting range runs down the centre of the island, its highest peak just over 5,000 ft.; but when one has sweated one's way up the said 5,000 ft., the rain forest is so thick that there is no view, so, after all, why go to the top ?

Dr. Bathgate gave us a lecture on New Zealand's Sea birds . This was illustrated by coloured slides and was most informative . Nearly all migratory birds travel North and South . Most of ours go to Siberia and Alaska . But one, just to be different, merely trips across to Australia for the winter, thereby establishing a name for itself as the only bird that migrates from East to West .

Elizabeth Bennett gave us a most interesting talk on London . She was born there and lived there until she came out to New Zealand quite recently, so she was able to give us many intriguing details that the average traveller to England would miss . Appreciation of her talk was shown in the way she was bombarded with questions afterwards .

Pauline Tyers recently held a competition among her rangers to see who could make the best tramping gear, taking into consideration lightness, efficiency and economy . She gave us the results in a talk one evening and some of her girls brought along samples of their sleeping bags , etc. What they have accomplished was an eye-opener to all of us and we are very pleased to be able to publish a few pages further on an article by Pauline giving full instructions .

In view of the coming Club trips to the Chateau, Dr. Bathgate wrote up to the Ruapehu Ski Club to see if we could borrow some of their films . They responded by sending down two very good ski-ing films and one of Ruapehu in eruption . Our sincere thanks to the R.S.C. and also to Mr. McNair who brought along his projector and worked it for us .

....

CLUB TRIPS

No. 351.

KIWI SADDLE HUT - WORKING PARTY April 30 - May 1 1949.

Left Hastings at 7.15 a.m. on a cold Saturday morning . After passing Sherenden a break in the clouds gave us a glimpse of the Kewekas covered by a light sprinkle of snow . Arrived at the Willows at 9.30 and after a boil up at Swamp Hut we left for Kiwi Hut with practically empty packs, but 1 sheet of iron each made up for the weight we left behind . Half-way up the shingle-slide fog settled down on us and drizzle began to fall . A light lunch in the first patch of beech restored our energy . At 3.15 we had reached the last of the beech and decided to dump the iron and return to Swamp Hut , arriving there at 5.30 . Plenty of good stew and then into the sack .

Up again at 5 a.m. , cooking the odd sausage etc. 7.30 a.m. saw us rolling up another sheet of iron each . Back up the shingle slide and off to collect the iron that we had dumped the day before . Two pieces of iron each were then shouldered and the hut was reached at 12.30 . After hot soup and a rest we stumbled out into the mist at 2 p.m. A fast trip brought us back to Swamp Hut at 4.20 . Left for Hastings at approximately 5.30 and had a damp foggy trip over the Blowhard but fine the rest of the way . A very successful and worthwhile trip .

Number in Party 8 - Janet Lloyd, Angus Russell, Walter Shaw, Steele Therkleson, Stan Woon, Ken Thomas, Des O'Neill . Leader: John Mitchel.

No. 352

KIWI SADDLE HUT - WORKING PARTY

May 14-15th 1949.

After gathering up about 11 at the meeting the party was increased by two members home from College, making quite a sizable working team. Left Hastings about 7.30 after the truck went back to Havelock to pick up bodies there. We had excellent views of the ranges which were heavily coated in snow, as we were to find out later. After arrival at Kuripapanga and the inevitable boil up, the remaining 11 pieces of timber were shouldered and the party moved off. After a long and tough haul up the shingle slide, which was over two feet deep in snow, we sat down for lunch at the top of 4100. From then on the leaders of the team were hard at it, breaking trail through an average depth of three feet of snow. It was hard, slow work. As the afternoon wore on it became obvious that the party would not reach the hut by nightfall. To add to the difficulties thick cloud came over from the east and cut visibility down to about 30 - 40 yards. By this time the party was beginning to feel tired and cold so the timber was stacked at the end of the beech forest for the night and the team pushed on for Kiwi. Arrived at the hut at about 6.30 to find the fireplace full of snow. All the bunks wet and firewood supplies down. However, we soon had a cuppe made and the stew on. After a meal the outfit settled down for the night. Those who were first up in the morning, at about 6.45, were treated to an excellent view of Ruapehu bathed in a pink glow from the rising sun - really a sight worth getting up to see. After breakfast three of the boys went off heavily clad to retrieve the timber. About halfway up 4594 coats, jerseys, gloves, scarves etc. were taken off, for by this time the sun was making itself felt. The first three were on their way back when the second lot arrived to rescue more timber. It was found that the best way to transport the wood was to drag it by a piece of rope over the top of the snow. All the wood was at the hut, which had 18 inches of snow on the roof, by about mid-day and the party was soon packed up and refreshed for the return trip. At exactly 1.5 we were surprised to hear an aeroplane over Kiwi Saddle. After flying back and forth over the Saddle about half a dozen times he waggled his wings and disappeared in the general direction of home. It was a perfect trip out on Sunday and certainly a trip which will live for many years to come in the minds of those who took part. The journey in on Saturday took 7½ hours and out on Sunday took 4 hours.

No. in Party : 13.

Steele Therkleson, John Mitchel, Norman Elder, Alan Oulaghan, Mark Elder, George Couper, Bailey Carrodus, John Bremner, Walter Shaw, Muriel Shaw, Betty Beckett, Dulcie Yule, Helen Hill.

Leader : Steele Therkleson.

No. 354.

RABBIT GULLY

May 29th 1949.

As rather dampish weather had prevailed overnight and the sky still looked threatening, only half the party turned out of their

beds to participate in an easy Sunday trip .

We left Holt's about 8.10 a.m. and collected three extra on the way . At Clifton, after an attempt to get around the coast with very high tides running, one member getting rather wet whilst battling with slippery papa rock and the wild waves, we returned to our starting place and climbed over the hills, trying to put toothy grins forward as a movie camera enthusiast went to work on us . (We hope to see these at Club sometime please.)

A boil-up at the stream at the top of Rabbit Gully was enjoyed by all . Later we meandered along grassy slopes above the Gully, enjoying the warm sun and fine views . A slight diversion was caused by a few kids and goats, but they were too fast for our party.

An easy walk around the coast to Clifton, a boil-up there, and by 4.30 we were home, just beating the rain by about ten minutes. A short day and enjoyable country .

A special thanks to Mr. Dunlop who donated this free trip to the Club . But for the threatening weather I feel sure we would have had a full muster .

Number in party 10.

Leader: M.D.Shaw .

...

No. 354.

KIWI SADDLE HUT - WORKING PARTY
King's Birthday Week-end.

June 4-6th.

The King's Birthday week-end saw a Heretunga Tramping Club working party once again heading for Kiwi Saddle in the Kawekas. Thirteen members made the trip . On this occasion the party climbed to the top of the ridge by a new route which had been prospected by two Napier members . All agreed that as far as the ascent was concerned this track was well worth opening up, but for the downward trail the big shingle slide will always hold first place .

The object of this particular working party was to roof the malthoid hut at Kiwi Saddle with second-hand corrugated iron salvaged from an old building . The extra covering was needed for protection from heavy falls of snow in the winter .

All hands had a busy time trying to get the iron on ahead of the bad weather they could see gradually closing down on them . The dusk and the drizzle on Sunday evening found Mr. Angus Russell, the club's oldest member, hammering the last nails in the ridging . The work was completed .

Monday morning was spent bracing the tall chimney and doing other odd jobs . The party left in mist at noon, arriving back in Hastings at 7.30 p.m. There were several new members on the trip .

Number in Party 13.

Leader , Lin Lloyd .

Shirley Single, Janet Lloyd, Lin Lloyd, Angus Russell, Les Crisp
Peter Lowe, Philip Finch, Steele Thorleson, Stan Woon, John
Mitchel, George Lowe, Merve Hawken, Walter Shaw .

No. 355.

MOKOPEKA CAVES

June 12th.

The morning was very fresh when we set off on our bicycle trip to the caves, but gradually superfluous clothes were discarded as the atmosphere changed. We arrived at the end of our cycle ride at 10 a.m. and boiled the billy. Smoke over, we decided to head for the higher spots and the caves. On top the wind was cold, so we took to the sheltered side.

Once at the caves, off with our packs and exploration followed immediately. With torches out we submerged down into the earth to see what was to be found. A few of us left our names on the walls and then we all surfaced to enjoy lunch with much banter and exchanging of food. Lunch over, six of the party went back into the caves to explore the second branch. This necessitated a descent by rope of about thirty feet. The party then travelled along for some distance on terraced ledges. There was a stream below and plenty of glow worms around, but no stalactites. Les Crisp took over the leadership of this part of the trip as he had been down several times before.

One of the girls did not want to go down into the caves, so while the main exploration was in progress two of the party strolled to the top of the highest knoll and had a lovely view of Kahurangi, Maseetotara and Hastings. They arrived back at the mouth of the caves to find the rest just coiling up the rope.

Another party of eleven arrived as we were about to leave for a stroll to see if we could find anything else of interest.

Back at our bikes again we had another boil-up before heading for home. On the way home Walter Shaw and his most welcome car relieved members of their packs and left them at the Havelock Taxis. The ride back was into the wind all the way which gave us quite a bit of walking uphill. We arrived back in Hastings after dark at 6 p.m.

Number in Party 8.

Leader, Bill Wilkie.

Shirley Single, Doris Torbett, Elaine Crosse, Les Crisp,
Steele Therkleson, John Mitchel, Merv Hawken, Bill Wilkie.

...

No. 356

HAWKESTONE - TE KOWHAI

June 26th.

A party of 23 including 11 Kiwis left Hastings 7 a.m. Sunday, 26th June. It was a cool morning with promise of a bright day.

An early boil-up was had at the site of the old homestead, we then headed through trees, scrub and later manuka of the very dense variety and by 2 o'clock a rather battered and bleeding party were nibbling sandwiches etc. on the summit of Don Juan. Blisters were attended to, cameras clicked, after which we wended our way back a short distance on our previous track, then dropped steeply, pushing

of reaching No Man's in the dark (or of pitching tent in the snowy tussock) made for a steady pace, the time between the huts being 1.15 to 4.30. Thirteen fitted snugly into the several bunks and floor space.

Wednesday was again warm and clear. A pleasant day was spent along the top without packs. The view to the East reached from the Mahia to Kidnappers including Napier and Hastings under fog until approaching midday. To the West, Egmont stood out clearly but the other volcanoes were in cloud down to the snow line. Three of the party reconnoitred the beginning of Herrick's in preparation for next day.

In spite of good intentions, breakfast and packing lasted till 10 a.m. on Thursday. The descent of the spur was begun at 11 a.m. Good visibility made the going easy and enjoyable, but everybody was pleased to reach the hut at the foot by 2 p.m. With lightened loads the track out to the Station was a picnic. There were signs of many more rabbits. An enthusiastic party climbed out of the stream to watch the mist coming over the tops, to have a leisurely cup of coffee while awaiting the truck and to recall the highlights of a very pleasant excursion.

Leader: Stan Craven.

Number in Party: 13.

.....

SLEEPING BAGS

(By courtesy of the Rangers)

Materials Required - 8 yds 36" material
or 10 " 27" material
or 5 " 56" Material
2½-3 lbs feathers or Down.

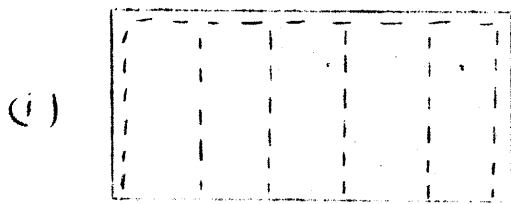
Types & Cost of Material -

Down Proof Satin 36" - 7/11 yd.
Black Italian Cloth 27" , 5/6 yd.
Black Italian Cloth 54" , 10/6d.

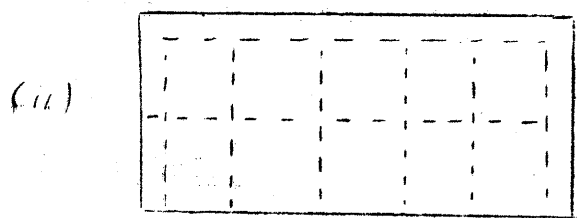
If Italian Cloth is used, this must be made "Down-Proof". Place the material, wrong side up, on a table and rub soap (sunlight is best) all over it; then with the fingers work the soap well into the material so that the small holes in the weave are completely blocked up. This is a long job, but done carefully gives a good result. Candle grease can be used instead of soap, but this must be ironed into the material with a warm iron, instead of rubbing with the fingers. This method is quicker but not so satisfactory as the wax is inclined to crack and so leave a weakness.

To make the bag: Each side of the bag is made separately and then joined together. Cut four lengths of material the size required, i.e. your own height plus 6 inches. Stitch two pieces together, soaped side inwards. Machine round the top, one side and the bottom, leaving one complete side open for stuffing. Now machine (double row of stitching) the bag from side to side, parallel to top and bottom.

at intervals of 6" to 8" , so making several pockets, the width of the bag by 8" (see diagram)



open side



Now fill each pocket with down to a depth of 8" , run a tacking thread the length of the bag to keep this stuffing in place, fill the next 8" and tack , so on till the bag is full ., Now machine (double stitching) along tacking threads . Make the other side the same way . Join the sides together, leaving about 18" opening at the top for zip or ties . Total weight of bag 4-4½ lbs.

Waterproof cover.

Materials required. 2½ yards 54"
 or 5 27"
 or 4 36"

Types of Materials. Black Italian Cloth .
 Japans Cloth
 (really too heavy) Unbleached Calico .

Materials required for waterproofing.

1 bottle double boiled linseed oil. (boiled will do if double boiled is unobtainable, but it takes longer to dry)
 Small tin Gold Size .
 Small paint brush.

Mix the oil and gold size well and paint onto the material ; turn the cloth over and paint the other side or rub with the hands, making sure that all of the threads are thoroughly soaked with the mixture . Hang in a cool airy shady place for about 3 weeks, turning every day . On no account must the material be put in the sun or rolled up , as the mixture generates a terrific heat and can catch fire.

This type of waterproofing lasts for 2 years and has the advantage of having practically no smell when dry .

Other types of waterproofing materials can be bought from Hardware shops but many tend to rot the material .

Make up the bag by stitching round the two lengths and bottom .

Either put a draw-thread through the top or shape it so that it pulls in close to the neck . It is a good idea to add a small 2' square piece of waterproofed material to the underneath of the cover, to keep head etc. off ground .

P. Tyers.

...

MAORI CURIOS FROM RANGAIKA

In the early days Rangaiika was a whaling station and also a Maori Pa . The remains of the windlass, which was used for pulling up the whales, may be seen sticking up out of the pape at this moment, if any one cares to take a walk over the hills . It appears the Maoris were surprised and slaughtered, because some of the articles I have found have been partly finished . In my collection, which is not very large, I have a greenstone adze, a sinker, fish spear, 2 parts of hair ornaments, a bone needle, fish hooks, two shark's teeth, an elliptical stone, bone that has been partly worked, bones of human beings, seals, whale, the Maori dog, tattooing instruments, fossilised shellfish and shells of various species .

D.G. Williams .

.....

REPORT OF THE 18TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FEDERATED MOUNTAIN CLUBS.

For the first time the annual meeting was held in the South Island and was well attended not only by South Island but North Island delegates . It is proposed that in future meetings will be held alternately in Wellington and Christchurch .

One of the problems of a federation is to secure a balanced representation of the interests supporting it . The incoming executive is equally balanced between climbing, skiing and tramping interests but as regards territorial distribution, the South Island is still relatively under-represented . On an executive of 16 , 4 may be considered as representing the South Island, 6 Wellington , and Taranaki, Auckland and North Island country districts 2 each, at least one representative of each outlying district , however, being resident in Wellington, and thus giving a strong central executive .

Representatives of the C.M.C. attended the meeting as observers. The activities of the F.M.C. this year have been considerable and have produced effective results, so that the meeting instead of discussing future activities and policy was mainly occupied in receiving and approving reports of the executives activities .

These comprised search organization, safety measures and national park matters .

The attitude of the authorities towards search organization

has altered diametrically as a result of the Ruapehu and Howletts air crashes and the Waikanae crash has added urgency to their deliberations. All the reports of the various bodies concerned are not yet completed but the general terms of their proposals are clear and there is little doubt that they will be approved. The complete scheme should be published shortly and it should meet all the recommendations of the report of the Howlett's search. Accordingly in putting forward the H.T.C. motion I confined myself to outlining the situation at the time the resolution was drafted and after the meeting had heard the reports of the President F.M.C. and Chief Guide T.T.C. I withdrew the motion and substituted one approving of the proposed sea, air rescue set up and of the action of the F.M.C. executive. I also withdrew the second H.T.C. motion about Rushine map in consequence of a meeting with the Surveyor General on my way through Wellington where it was decided to transfer Rushine data to Head Office and proceed with a simplified black and white map of the Rushines.

The third edition of Safety in the Mountains will be issued to clubs in the next few weeks. With a grant of some £300 from the Department of Internal Affairs this has been considerably enlarged and improved from the earlier editions and 10,000 copies are being printed. No progress has been made with the projected safety film. The safety broadcasts were generally approved but no definite action was proposed for the coming year.

The control of national parks was discussed at some length. At present there is no set organization, but the tendency is for the Lands Department or local bodies to be in control whose main concern is finance. Income varies from £200 to £5000 per annum.

The object of the F.M.C. policy is to secure a uniform policy for the control of parks which should put preservation before recreation, but at the same time to secure adequate representation of the users of parks on the control boards.

A central organization with statutory authority should lay down policy and allocate finance, leaving the individual boards to administer their areas.

Incorporation of the F.M.C. was brought forward by the Ski Council to whom it is a matter of concern as their operations incur considerable responsibilities. It was agreed that it would be difficult to insist on all clubs incorporating as a preliminary to incorporating the F.M.C., but that the Ski Council would be in a better position to secure the incorporation of all Ski Clubs. Generally the F.M.C.'s responsibilities are not of a nature that makes incorporation essential.

The Morangi S.C. and Wellington Association of Mountain Clubs brought up the unsatisfactory conditions of hut accommodation at the Chateau. The use of a common room has been lost, cooking facilities and hot water supplies are inadequate and the huts are not kept clean, the charge has been raised from 3/- to 5/- a night. It was agreed that the total levy from clubs to F.M.C. remain unaltered for though the safety booklet is now financed the increased activity of the executive has made travelling allowances quite inadequate. N.L.Elder.

THE VEGETATION OF HAWKE'S BAY.

(The following is the substance of a talk by Norm Elder, originally broadcast by Station 2YZ and reproduced here by courtesy of the National Broadcasting Service .)

I can remember as a child the grave tone of voice in which my elders spoke of the 40 Mile Bush . I did not realise when I paid my first visit to Dennevirke - that was 45 years ago - that the charred stumps , the rusty boilers and the chopping competitions represented all that I was going to see of that huge and legendary forest . What I want to do is to try and reconstruct for you something of this Hawke's Bay that you and I have never seen - Hawke's Bay before the bush and the fern and the swamps were broken in .

At any rate the setting hasn't changed - we still have the great sweep of mountains along the western skyline , the jumbled coastal hills and the broad plains between .

Perhaps when you have been born and brought up here these can be taken for granted - it is easier, perhaps, for someone who has come into the province from outside to see it with new eyes, and easier to imagine what it once must have been like . You see, a newcomer has something in common with the earlier explorers, who were also seeing this for the first time, and in their descriptions he gets vivid glimpses of the changes that have taken place .

Cook, lying off-shore in the "Endeavour" somewhere near the Penis Reef and noticing the tall pines standing up like the masts of ships from the swamps behind the beach . Cook again, somewhere down by Pourere, remarking on the scarcity of timber and the likeness of the coast to the English downs . This is interesting evidence , by the way, that they were in grass like the Sussex Downs of the South Coast, for Cook was a Yorkshireman, and fern or manuka would surely have reminded him of the heather-covered coastal moors of Gothland in his own North Country .

Colenso gives us most of these early glimpses . The thickets of raupo and toetoe at Waitangi, the dripping tall tussock of Rustaniwha, with its fierce wild boars, and the dun colour of the plains as you look back towards Kidnappers from the crest of the Rushines .

Then there are the early travellers who came through the Manawatu Gorge by canoe and, after landing at the Oringi clearing, plunged into the 40 Mile Bush, to come out with relief on to the Takapau Plains on their way to Ahuriri .

From these early accounts you get some idea of what Hawke's Bay was originally like, and by the patient unravelling of the clues that can still be found it is possible to reconstruct , fairly accurately, the native plant covering of most of the province . This might seem impossible. Most of the country is so changed by settlement that at first sight you would say that only the original settlers could have given you the true story, and that when they had gone the memory of the past had gone too - for they were too busy

making the changes to sit down and make notes. Lacking these it is still possible to find out by patient and cautious detective work, far more than you would expect - perhaps an odd gully or a patch of scrub up a cliff where stock can't get at it, or some old logs on a Kumeru hillside that might be useful for fencing timber - even an unexpected fern growing under a bridge. For plants are choicy and live in definite communities, so that when you see one you can safely assume, very often, a good many more, and it is not as ridiculous as it sounds to reconstruct a forest from a fern - Guthrie Smith uses just this evidence as part of his proof that forest had covered the centre of Tutira before the coming of the pakeha.

In fact the one outstanding job of this kind is Guthrie Smith's story of Tutira - the history of a sheep station and a reconstruction of its original state even before the coming of the fern. The reputation of this book extends beyond Hawke's Bay and, for that matter, beyond New Zealand.

I should like to say for myself at this point how much I owe to Frank Hutchinson of Rissington, whose interest in the back country and knowledge of the odd corners where evidence of the past still lingered, was inexhaustible. I owe something, too, to E.W. Andrews, whose teaching of geography made the pattern of the province come alive - and that was nearly 40 years ago, before the "New Education" had become fashionable.

To give you the pattern of the vegetation of the province the best thing I can do is to take a line across Central Hawke's Bay from the top of the Ruahines to the coast and then work from this to show how the pattern changes as you go south - or north - from this line.

You can divide Central Hawke's Bay into five main belts - two on the ranges, two on the plains and the fifth on the coastal hills. These depend either on temperature or upon rainfall. In the ranges as you go higher it gets colder, till at about 4,500 feet you are, so to speak, in the latitude of Cape Horn, and you get the same wind-blown, snow-battered beech forest with its gnarled branches and dense roof of small dark leaves.

Above this it is too bleak for trees, and snow tussock gives the higher ridges their characteristic tawny colour, although actually much of the ground is open, like a great scattered rock garden with many alpine plants, some beautiful, some rare and many strange.

These two mountain belts, though more affected by deer, wild sheep or goats than it is easy to realise, have still kept most of their original character unchanged. The damage is partly due to the low temperatures and short growing season which mean that high country plants take a long time to recover from grazing, but perhaps the way the hooves of the grazing animals strip the top soil from steep slopes is even more serious in the long run. In the mountain valleys of most Hawke's Bay rivers you will find areas where bare rock and shingle chutes show yellow under the surviving trees

and every visit shows fresh slips and rock falls piling into the streams .

By the time you are down to 2,000 feet the conditions are mild enough for mixed forest, and in Central Hawke's Bay a belt of rimu, matai and maire ran along the foot of the Rushines from the 40 Mile Bush to Kereru - hence its alternative name "the 70 Mile Bush" . This forest has gone, but you can still trace it in the belt of totaras that has sprung up on the edge of the plain from Ashley-Clinton to Tikokino . The name "Forest Gate" marks its former boundary and you can still see a splendid remnant of it at the Gwaves Bush .

As you get clear of the ranges the rainfall drops still lower in their rainshadow - below 40 inches . Now 40 inches is about the limit for forest, so that the Ruataniwha Plains were formerly in tussock, and the low hills towards Argyle in fern and light bush .

East of Waipukurau you reach the coastal hills, and as you approach the sea there is less risk of frost or drought although the total rainfall does become more patchy . From Captain Cook's account there appears to have been grassland, but there was also a good deal of fern and patches of coastal forest of titoki, ngaio, karaka and kowhai . There is one interesting area of unusually heavy rainfall - about 80 inches - on the Te Aratipi plateau behind Waimarama . These are the conditions for tawa forest - and here is an island of dense tawa forest with rimu and matai, some 40 miles from the nearest belt of the same kind . This is a remarkable example of how in the course of time a locality will be found to have collected the plants suitable to it, by whatever chances they came .

That is the pattern for Central Hawke's Bay, and the patterns north and south are modifications of it . As you go south the ranges drop away and allow the wet westerly winds to sweep through the Manawatu Gorge almost to the coast . Here was the 40 Mile Bush, stretching right across the plains, and from the fragments that remain it was a wet forest of rata, tawa and nikau like the forests of the west coast . Even in the ranges the forest is different, for the beech stops before you get opposite Norsewood and its place is taken by dense leatherwood scrub, which even deer refuse to penetrate . Changes in temperature and rainfall will not account for this, so you have to find another reason . This turns out to be lack of sunlight, for beech will not thrive without a certain amount of light, and the cloud on the ranges increases about three times south of Apiti saddle.

Now for the other end of Hawke's Bay . As you go north from Waipukurau the conditions change again . You approach the belt of low rainfall which runs across the North Island opposite Napier, and the area of porous pumice soils . Towards the northern end of the Rushines all leatherwood scrub stops and the beech forest becomes patchy with stretches of tussock between . In the days of fern crushing this tussock was grazed by merinos, and Te Koa, the Blowhard and the Kawekas as they stand at the present day are the result of burning and grazing . The pumice topsoil has largely sloughed off

and the tussock either been destroyed or replaced by manuka . On the Kawekas the effect has been devastating . Whole mountain sides have become bare faces of rock and shingle, feeding into the Ngaruroro, Tutsekuri and Mohaka Rivers, as we know, and shall have further reason to know . Manuka is the main safeguard here, and a blight that would really exterminate manuka is a grim thought .

As you come out from the ranges there was a discontinuous belt of rimu, matai and maire forest . The Puketitiri Bush once covered 10,000 acres , and those who were fortunate enough to have seen Ball's Clearing before civilization struck it will have an unforgettable picture of what this bush must have been like . It was hard to realize the scale, for the clearing dwarfed the trees and the trees dwarfed the clearing . The tall trunks standing close together formed a wall round it, supporting a close roof of foliage, perhaps 120 feet above the ground, with the pointed tops of kahikatea rising even higher .

Near Te Pohue there were other patches of heavy bush, and north of this you came to forests of the Urewera with their higher rainfall.

As you went down towards the Heretaunga Plain you came to fern country which stretched north as far as Tutira (where it had not long replaced forest) . North of the Mohaka tawa forest came in to close the gap between the ranges and the coast .

The coastal forest, too, changed with the addition of nika and kohekohe, with their tropical foliage .

I confess I do not know much about what may be called the "Pan-handle" of Hawke's Bay - the narrow strip of coast from Wairoa to the Mahia , but along this northern boundary new trees begin to come in - Inland towards Maungataniwha, there is tanekaha and ixerba with its showy flowers and puriri is reported as its southern limit, on the Mahia .

N.L. ELDER.

NEW MEMBERS

At a Committee Meeting held on June 2nd the following members were elected :-

Shirley Single, Barbara Hill, Helen Hill (absentee) Des O'Neil, Les Crisp, Ken Thomas, Stan Woon, Philip Finch .

We welcome them to the club and wish them good tramping .

FIXTURE LIST

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Leader</u>
August 7th (day)	Kohinerekeu	
August 10th - 20th	<u>CHATEAU SKIING</u>	Bill Wilkie
August 13th - 14th	<u>CHATEAU WEEKEND</u>	
August 21st	<u>SILVER PEAKS - FROM ELSTHORPE ROAD</u>	Shirley Single.
Sept. 3rd - 4th	<u>HERRICK'S SPUR - NO-MANS & RUAHINE HUTS</u>	John Mitchel
Sept. 18th	<u>BLACKBIRCH RANGE FROM WHITTLES & THENCE TO DONALD - MAKAHU RIVERS SADDLE</u>	Norm. Elder
Oct. 1st - 2nd	<u>KIWI HUT TO KAWKA HUT or VICE-VERSA</u>	Steele Therkleson
Oct. 16th	<u>TUKI TUKI RIVER - FROM RED BRIDGE TO BLACK BRIDGE</u>	Stan Woon
Oct. 22nd, 23rd, 24th (Labour Day Weekend)	(<u>TWO PROPOSALS</u>)	
	<u>WAIKAMAKA TO HOWLETT'S HUT (RUAHINE)</u>	George Lowe
	or	
	<u>PUKETITIRI VIA TRIG J TO KAWKA HUT</u>	Muriel Shaw
Nov. 12th	<u>MAUNGAKARARUS FROM OHURAKURA MILL (TAUPO ROAD)</u>	David Bathgate
Nov. 26th - 27th	<u>WAIPIATIKI BEACH - CAMPING</u>	George Couper & Betty Beckett
Dec. 11th	<u>MATARAU TO OCEAN BEACH</u>	
CHRISTMAS - NEW YEAR TRIP - 10 - 14 days	<u>- SPENSERS MOUNTAINS - LAKE ROTOITI - TRAVERSE - MOLESWORTH LEWIS PASS ROAD</u>	Muriel Shaw.