

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)

" Pohokura "

BULLETIN NO. 53

DECEMBER 1949.

PRESIDENT -

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HON TREASURER -

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To all members we wish a Happy Christmas and good
tramping in 1950 .

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the H.T.C. was held in the Girl
Guide Rooms on 13th October 1949 .

Office-bearers for the coming year were elected as follows-

PATRON:
PRESIDENT:
VICE-PRESIDENT:
CLUB CAPTAIN:
SECRETARY:
TREASURER:
AUDITOR:
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Dr. D.A. Bathgate.
Mr. L.H. Lloyd .
Messrs. S. Craven, N.Elder , L. Holt.
Mr. W.G. Lowe .
Miss U. Greenwood .
Miss M.D. Shaw .
Mr. A. Oulaghan .
Mrs. J. Lloyd, Miss B. Beckett ,
Messrs. D.T. Bathgate, G. Couper,
J. Mitchel, B. Wilkie & S. Therkleson
Misses. D. Torbett, S. Single ,
E. Cross, Messrs. B. Wilkie,
S. Therkleson & S. Woon .

SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

MEMBERSHIP

This year closed with a financial membership of 103 , made
up as follows :-

Full	members	69	(72)
Junior	"	2	{ 6 }
Absentee	"	20	{ 29 }
Associate	"	4	{ 4 }
Honorary	"	8	{ 9 }

PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION:

This has been an encouraging year to the old hands in the Club as it has seen a definite revival of the pre-war exuberance and enthusiasm and an ever-growing membership. It is not only a growing membership, but we are rebuilding the Club with new members who make us feel content that the Club's traditional reputation for friendliness and hospitality to guests and to other clubs' members will be worthily upheld and that this will be coupled with real tramping ability as has been also our tradition in the past.

The outstanding achievement of this year has been the high standard of the work of Club members co-operating with members of the Rover Scout crew in the Rushine aircraft search. It has earned the gratitude and unstinted appreciation of the Police concerned and has provided the Search Committee with much of use in recommendations to assist the F.M.C. and N.Z. Search Council in their work for an improved rescue system.

Another task which gives us satisfaction this year is the erection and dedication of the memorial cairn on the highest point in Hawke's Bay to our members who gave their lives overseas.

A very well-planned fixture list points the way to interesting tramping ahead. The Club can do with more members yet. From a purely business point of view, if each time the truck goes out it carries a number at reasonable fares sufficient to pay the full cost of the trip it will cut down the need for the present heavy subsidy. We want to build to the position we held pre-war with a transport fund building up from a steady series of small profits from trips.

The members we want are active friendly people who can make club trips with reasonable frequency after they have done their preliminary trips and thus qualified for nomination. We can promise new members journeys to country that the average pavement thumper never really sees; and travelling the tops where on a clear day you can get a seventy mile view right round the compass is, we can assure you, the perfect antidote to a week of being cooped up in school, office or shop.

The thanks of all of us are due to those in the positions where falls the brunt of the Club's work. Ever since its inception we have been blessed with willing and competent folk to fill such jobs as secretary, treasurer, etc., and the present little team is the backbone of the Club.

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT:

Club Trips: When I looked up last year's report and headed this "Club Trips"; I felt there was little to say, I was going to begin by counting up the number of Club trips and number in party and by complicated mathematics arrive at the average per trip and then base comment on this, as has been done in the past. I tabulated the trips and as the list grew I realised what a good year has passed. The annual stocktaking should I suppose give us some facts and figures,

but mention should be made of satisfying trips that have been accomplished and the quality of comradeship developed. I feel it has been a very successful year.

These are some of the highlights: Rushine to No-Man's and a night out: Cairn building: Waipetiki - a party of 44: Cairn Dedication with 47 to the trig: Pourere Beach picnic: and the Kiwi Hut roofing project in snow and in rain. In figures; 23 Club trips during the year with an average of 18 per trip. Only 10 of these were range trips. On no occasion have we cancelled a trip through lack of support; but we have had to abandon some weekend fixtures in favour of day trips which are more popular and better attended. The desire to tramp new valleys and explore little-visited parts of our ranges is not alive in the Club at present. We have lost many active trampers this year but have gained as many new members; these know their way to Kiwi Hut but not as yet to many other places.

Combined Trips: As usual we have tramped with the Rovers, Rangers and the Kiwi Tramping Club, but little contact has been made with other clubs. One exception was this year's Ruapehu trip when some members of the Manawatu T.C. joined us, and one Hutt Valley member. Next Easter a combined trip to Lake Waikaremoana with the Manawatu Club has been mooted; this is to be encouraged.

Private Trips: A healthy list to report - parties to many parts of our hills. Four parties went to the Kaimanawas, Norman Elder being on three of these with a botanical survey as his object; two parties to the Rushines and Kawhatau River basin; to the little-known Te Hoe tributary of the Moheke; to Ngauruhoe during its most violent activity to Lakes Waikaremoana, Tutira, and Putere Lakes near Maungataniwha Station; a beach journey from Waimarema to Clifton; a party to Ruapehu for ski-ing and a visit to the crater lake, and Stan Craven's party of High School boys and odd club members on the Rushine-No Man's Hut circuit. Muriel Shaw was a member of a T.T.C. party on a Rees, Dart, Matukituki journey. Another party again visited the Cook district and between them climbed about 20 peaks, including Mt. Cook and seven others over ten thousand feet. Two parties crossed the Copland Pass.

Kiwi Hut: The task can now be called complete; a pity in some ways as the working parties were popular. Roofing iron, lead-headed nails and purlins for the roof were packed in, one memorable trip being in deep snow, and the iron was put on and protected with bituminous paint. Steps are being taken to insure the hut.

Memorial Cairn: Last November the dedication ceremony was attended by forty-seven old and new trampers. As well as being one of our few sacred ceremonies, it was one of the most successful reunions that the Club has had. This was the most memorable Club event of the year, and I wish to recommend that at least once very year a trip be run to the Cairn, the site being treated with reverence and the circumstances surrounding its building be made known to members. A valuable report on this trip was made in a recent "Pohokura".

Howlett's Search: This was the most important search operation in the Club's history . A separate report has been prepared by the Search Committee .

Waikamaka Stretcher Party : Last New Year, Stan Craven and Dr. Bathgate and party visited Waikamaka, and found a Police party with a private shooter who was in a state of exhaustion after two days without food and warmth along the mist-covered tops . Their task consisted of nursing and feeding and then participation in an arduous carry from the Waikamaka Hut over the saddle and down the river bed to the roadhead . After only two nights out the man's condition had deteriorated so much that he could neither walk nor talk coherently even after three days of rest and attention .

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT:

During the year there have been very few social activities . The Committee have run two dances, one in November and of course the Annual Christmas Party cum dance . It was decided not to run further dances as we were not getting enough support from our own trampers . It would appear that the good trumper is not particularly interested in tripping the light fantastic .

The Club has been very fortunate this year in securing many excellent speakers, with the result that the meetings on the whole have been very interesting and varied . We have had several film evenings too and of course these have been voted a great success by all . We are extremely grateful to those kind people who were instrumental in giving us such grand entertainment and we wish to convey our very sincere thanks to them on behalf of the members .

Our last social gathering was a party held at Stan Craven's home , in honour of Peg Morris who has gone to England . There was a grand muster of old members, all anxious to wish Peg bon voyage . We all hope to see her back in the Club when she returns to New Zealand and we most certainly will look forward to all she will have to tell us of her trip . In conclusion may we thank Mrs. Craven for her kindness in giving us the use of her house for the occasion and thus making the evening so enjoyable .

"POHOKURA"

Three numbers of "Pohokura" have been published this year . We wish to thank those who have contributed articles of general interest and all leaders who have handed in accounts of Club and private trips . When all is said and done, it is the part about tramping that is most important to a tramping club magazine .

Special thanks are due to our typist, who saves the Club a considerable sum of money by her voluntary efforts .

Mr. Patterson continues to render us excellent service in doing the duplicating .

We also thank those club members who have spent the odd evening putting the bulletin together, addressing wrappers and licking stamps .

LIBRARY REPORT :

In the Club Library we have 89 listed books and four photograph albums. Two books have been missing since 1947, "Dangerous Islands" and "Jungle Lindsey".

During this year 25 members have taken out 41 books, an average of $1\frac{1}{2}$ books per club night, which is a small number. These books should appeal to any enthusiastic tramp, especially those desiring to be efficient in emergency.

Several new books have been added this year - "William Colenso" and "Waipoua State Forest" (both donated by Norman Elder); "Switzerland and the English" (donated by Heather Collins); and Moir's Guidebook, purchased by the Club.

EQUIPMENT REPORT : Financial returns derived from the hire of equipment for the past year have not been high. One of the main reasons for this arises from the tendency of members to take away gear without referring to the officer in charge.

During the year an ice ax previously believed lost was recovered, and repairs were effected to a short-handled slasher. The following is a list of the equipment held as at the beginning of the year :-

Tents :	2 white, 1 khaki
Rucksacks :	2
Sleeping-bag covers :	1
Ice Axes :	1
Slashers :	2 long, 2 short
Billies :	3 large, 5 medium, 2 small
Frying pans :	1 new, 1 old
Enamel plates :	6, and sundry items of cutlery etc.
White and orange signal strips.	

Suggestions for additions might include Air Force type signalling strips and signal mirrors. Another valuable item would be an equipment chest with a padlock.

Finally a list of charges :-

Tents :	Week-end	2/6d.	week	5/-
Ice Axe :	"	1/-	"	2/-
Packs:	"	1/-	"	2/-

Special terms to be arranged for longer periods.

HUT AND TRACK REPORT:

After a series of working parties in which the iron for the roof was carted up, the Kiwi Hut was finally completed. Angus's new route to Kiwi Saddle has been used on several occasions this year but it is in need of clearing through to make it a good route on the way up: the shingle slide will always have preference coming out.

The track into Kaweka Hut needs clearing in places and this should be done soon . Discing of Herrick's Spur during this coming year should also be effected .

APPRECIATION: Once again we would like to record our appreciation and thanks to those kind and hospitable people who have permitted us to wander over their land .

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HOWLETT'S SEARCH REPORT

This was the most important search task set the club in its history and was accomplished very satisfactorily .

Scheme of Operation :

Our ground parties did not begin to move until nearly forty-eight hours after the plane had been reported overdue, when the Police agreed to our representations in the face of Air Search disapproval . By this time the unusually heavy gale was showing signs of blowing itself out .

Acting on the Air Search assumption that the focus of the search was the Saw-Tooth Ridge at the head of the Pourangaki Valley and in view of the searchers available in the height of the seasonal rush, the Search Committee decided to limit the first stage to a pair of reconnaissance parties of four on the southern side of the saddle (Te Hekenga) , with the prospect of putting further reconnaissance parties in on the northern Hikurangi - Ohuinga at a later stage .

Search :

Two parties of four , (half of whom were Rovers) George Lowe, David Bathgate, John MacIntyre, Hugo McKay, Alan Oulaghan , Alf Dixon, Bruce Jenkinson and Rob Comrie , equipped with four days' food, maps, tents, compasses and light slashers were ready to leave Hastings within three hours . Norm. Elder came to co-ordinate ground parties, police and supplies . The parties moved into Howlett's along with three police and two wireless operators fully loaded with radio gear (P. 48 sets) .

On reaching Howlett's we talked with a deer culler who had heard the plane from Pohangine Saddle, which proved it to have been last located on the South side of Te Hekenga .

This shifted the focus of the search from the Pourangaki Valley to the Oroua River .

During that day pieces of plane fabric were found near the hut . A westerly gale had blown continuously since the search began so the search parties divided into four search groups to search all ridges and valleys due west of the fabric . The following is taken from the Club Captain's report to the Search Committee :-

2.30 p.m. Vern Stout arrived to report he thought he saw what looked

like a plane wing in a gorge stream off the side of Taumata-o-Mekura .

Four of us left with Vern immediately, and about 15 minutes' walk south along ridge from Hut, John Mac. picked up a piece of fabric 15" x 10" . It was silver one side and brown on the other, and we all agreed this was from the missing aircraft . We continued on to the point above Oroua Saddle and studied the suspected spot . We decided that it was snow . On the return a second piece of fabric was picked up .

6 p.m. We reported finding of fabric by walkie-talkie to the Mill . A piece was given to Bryan who was returning to the Mill . To this message Norm. Elder replied "Concentrate on Oroua Saddle" etc.

We decided to ignore this advice on the grounds that Oroua was out of the range of a due westerly and the fabric, and to localise the search in the Hut branch of the Oroua River Valley, by searching all ridges and creeks due west of where the fabric was found . A westerly wind had been blowing since the day of the crash .

Saturday Three parties set out to search Oroua River (12 strong):

6 a.m.

4th Dec. 1. Party of three from hut straight down a slip into the river to proceed downstream on the true left bank and face .

2. Party of three from hut, sidle under Tiraha and work face and ridge of long spur that comes off Taumata-o-Mekura .

3. Party of six from hut S.W. along Daphne ridge to point above Oroua Saddle and hence into river by a long spur . This party intended splitting into two when in the river bed .

WEATHER: Cloud down to 4800 feet, high wind about 40-50 M.P.H. and very cold on tops .

Party 1. found ply-wood and fabric along river bed and hillside . One made contact with Party 3 at 9.30 a.m.

Party 2. chased and shot deer on a side ridge at scrub level off Taumata-o-Mekura, and then found open parachute near top of ridge and some ply-wood and debris at 11 a.m.

Party 3. went to within a few hundred yards of creek where bodies and plane were finally found and returned up river to report at hut at noon, our pre-arranged plan . They had found nothing .

At 11 a.m. Party 3 heard regularly spaced rifle shots . Two of this party climbed on to Taumata-o-Mekura and saw and heard Party 2 waving parachute and yelling wildly .

Party 2 sent Vern (the fittest) as runner back to hut to report find .

1 p.m. Party 3 reached hut and reported debris of plane was being found over wide area .

1.30 p.m. Party 2 runner arrived and reported open parachute found .
Weather improved .

2 p.m. (about) four of us (Maurice Forward, Bruce Jenkinson, David Bathgate and George Lowe) started down a steep leatherwood and olearia face to inspect wreckage visible .

After two hours we reached the creek bed, having found debris every few yards . Another parachute with harness attached - 'chute open but no one had been in the harness .

About 2.30 p.m. we found bodies lying in and near a steep side creek near the main wreckage .

We took a letter from one pocket which identified one as Roper, the other had red hair, further identification ; the third we guessed .

We photographed a piece of wing bearing R.A.F. roundels and N.Z. 212 -

We returned to Howlett's at 5.30 p.m. and reported to base .

Sunday
5th Dec. Whole party returned to Mill Farm .

Note : On Saturday our party saw no aircraft until about 4.30 p.m. when a Harvard was seen circling Table Flat area.

FURTHER OPERATIONS.

1.p.m. Conference of police, searchers and R.N.Z.A.F. was held . After George Lowe had given a detailed report of the finding of various portions of the plane and the identification of the bodies the possibility of getting the bodies out was discussed . Those who had been over the ground were positive that this would be a larger scale operation than was visualized by the senior police and air force officials present . It was finally agreed that three searchers should return with Sgt. le Fort to act as guides and to examine a route by which the bodies could be brought out .

The club took no further part in the operations for the recovery of the bodies . The plane had been found and there were no survivors . The urgent work had been done and our manpower was too small for us to play an effective part in the subsequent operations .

WAIKAMAKA PARTY:

In the absence of expected messages from Norman Elder (due we afterwards found to bad communications) and on account of a local

police message to the effect that Howlett's Hut area had all the people it could cope with, it was decided to send a party to Waikamaka Hut to work from there. Their object was to cover the tops in the direction of Howlett's Hut and make contact with the Ashley Clinton parties, as we were still assuming these parties were searching Pourangaki Valley. Two carloads left Hastings at 3 p.m. led by Stan Craven. The party were :- S. Haraldsen, G. Piesse, B. Piesse, G. Couper, J. Bremner, J. von Dadelszen, D. Sherry, G. Will and J. Crenko.

The party arrived at Waikamaka Hut in the dark, but by 7 a.m. next morning two parties of four left to search the tops and perhaps make contact with the earlier party at Howlett's. One group tackled the spur behind the hut to Rangi with the purpose of moving on to Ohuinga. The route through the bush was no picnic and mist around Rangi made any extensive tramping unprofitable. The second group got into the Kawhatau on to Hikurangi and on occasions when the mist cleared covered the slopes of the Pourangaki, turning back after reaching the last top before Ohuinga.

The parties reassembled at the Kawhatau at 7 p.m. to learn from the runner who had made the return trip to the road that the plane had been located and that we were to report to the Police Station at Waipukurau. We learned there, however, that reinforcements had been sent to Howlett's and that our part was over.

COMMUNICATIONS (N.L. Elder)

With our limited number of competent searchers available, careful planning of our moves to make the utmost possible use of our manpower was essential. The very success of our initial plan created a fresh problem, for the speed of developments gave little opportunity under the circumstances to keep the Search Committee informed of developments. The importance of communications is the main lesson to be learned from the search.

I was sent down with the first party to advise the police and to keep the Search Committee informed. In the upshot I was unable to perform both these functions single-handed. The main difficulty was that the police base at Mill Farm, four miles of hilly road beyond the nearest telephone (and that an overloaded party line on an indifferent exchange) was too far forward,

The most urgent tasks on arrival were :-

1. The correlation of information from local residents and unofficial search parties and the modification of our plans for a reconnaissance.
2. The problem of getting police and radio to Howlett's and assisting them to get their food and equipment in.
3. The establishment of two-way radio communication with Howlett's.

By the time these had been accomplished over 24 hours had elapsed and on ringing Hastings I learnt, however, that two parties had left for the Waikemaka - i.e. on the second stage of our reconnaissance plan. All I could do was to dictate a message for delivery to the Search Committee, to the effect that our information suggested that the Saw Tooth was a false clue and that we should consider concentrating on the Oroua Saddle.

Almost immediately after I had transmitted this, Howlett's reported the finding of a piece of fabric which was being sent out with a member of an unofficial party for identification. This runner was night-bound in the Tukituki and missed the track in the morning - a hectic twelve hours were spent on this minor search.

It was 11 a.m. on the third day before I was able to contact the secretary to say that it was urgent to recall the Waikemaka parties in readiness to concentrate on the Oroua Saddle.

Events now moved rapidly and the only other communication affecting the Search Committee was an urgent request to the police to put parties into the Oroua downstream of the immediate search area, when, for a short time there seemed to be the possibility of a survivor.

One further difficulty should be mentioned. Our function at the base was largely one of relaying messages between the police at Howlett's and at Waipukurau, and for part of the time being harassed, most inconsiderately, by reporters. Under these circumstances it was necessary to be circumspect and anything like the free discussion of possibilities and rumours was out of the question.

From the club's point of view the most urgent need was to have a direct two-way link between Mill Farm and Hastings - a job for the R.E.C. From the point of view of the search a small club base party at the Mill would have been invaluable - say a pair with a car. They would have had to act as runners, carriers, searchers for strays and cooks.

MAPS:

As the Survey Department had some time previously offered to bring out a Ruahine Map we had handed over our data to them and by this time our stocks were beginning to run low. As these were the only maps suitable for a detailed search most of our spare copies were taken down and were in great demand. The club is now almost without Ruahine maps, the Survey Department has not been able to get on with the job, and without maps search operations would be carried out under a serious handicap.

A motion was put before the F.M.C. asking them to assist us in obtaining maps, but this was withdrawn, as at the time of their general meeting the Survey Department were optimistic about getting the map out quickly.

SEARCH ORGANIZATION:

The Club put forward a second motion to the F.M.C. Annual Meeting aiming at better co-operation between the various search authorities . This also was withdrawn as a Search Council had already been set up and in the meantime the Kereru crash had led to general agreement on the point we wished to make .

In fact, the foundations of an effective search organisation appear, at least, to have been laid, and in future searches it should be possible for tramping clubs to participate to the limits of their ability in the tasks for which they are qualified .

FUTURE SEARCH PARTIES:

At present in the event of a search the club has about twenty men and six women who could be used . For some release from work would be difficult . But of this twenty-six there are too few who could lead a self-contained party beyond our Club huts .

The search list was revised during the year but names require continual addition and amending . One of the greatest aids to search list additions is the printing of names in "Pohokura" of those who were on each trip . Trip leaders should gather and publish this information with each trip report .

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MATTERS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS.SUB-COMMITTEES:

The following sub-committees have been appointed:-

FIXTURE:	Muriel Shaw, George Lowe, David Bathgate.
HUT & TRACK:	George Couper, Angus Russell, Steele Therkleson.
SEARCH:	President, Club Captain, Secretary, & Mr. N.L. Elder.

The following officers were also appointed:

EQUIPMENT:	David Bathgate.
Librarian:	Angus Russell.
Editor & Press Relations:	Janet Lloyd.
Album Custodian:	Betty Beckett.
Programme Organisers:	Social Committee.

CAIRN TRIP:

Acting on a recommendation in the Club Captain's report, the Committee have decided to hold a special trip to the Cairn in November of each year. On this trip there will be a brief memorial ceremony at the Cairn.

WORKING PARTIES:

It was decided to hold a few more working parties this year as an aid to the transport fund.

KAHURANAKI.

(The following is an extract from the Journal of the Polynesian Society. The author is Elsdon Best. Ed.)

"Owing to being attacked and defeated (the Maruwi and Ruatamore people) fled ... and settled at the Wairoa and Maungapohatu. They were driven from these places and so moved away to Mohaka. Again were they harassed by the Tini o Awa, by the Pananehu and other clans, by Rangitane and Ngai-Tara, and so retired to Kahuranaki, at Heretaunga.

Te Kawau, the principal chief of the Tini o Ruatamore, was slain by the Tini o Awa at that place, the old name of which was Kopunui-o-rangi, so named on account of food-products and the numerous population; Te Kawau died at that place, and so it was named Te Kawau. The place was entered by means of a ladder; the death of Te Kawau was due to treachery, men who had married women of those folk were responsible for it. Hence this saying concerning the energy and courage of the people of these fortified places - "Now let the snares of Maruwi continue to be fabricated".

These villages were not taken by the Tini o Awa; they were too well defended. It was hunger that caused them to fall."

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FINDINGS OF THE FEDERATED MOUNTAIN CLUBS ON THE ACCIDENT
ON THE COPLAND PASS TRIP, 22nd. FEB. 1949.

(The following is quoted from the report of the F.M.C. The accident was a mountaineering one, but the same principles are involved in tramping. Ed.)

FINDINGS: The party was quite legitimately unroped for the purpose of sending down the packs over a bluff and in the ordinary course of events the members of the party would have remained immobile on safe ground while this was being done, after which they would have again roped up and descended. The deceased was moving about unroped on what proved from the result to be dangerous ground, slipped and fell, and no blame is attachable to anyone in the party for this unfortunate occurrence.

We would, however, be failing in our duty if we did not draw attention to certain lessons to be learned from the circumstances surrounding this accident.

1. As a general rule the different ropes of a party should keep in touch in order to afford mutual support, and this is especially so in bad weather. In this case there was a fast mobile rope of two and a slow one of five. The rope of two was ideally suited for route finding and might to better advantage have adopted this role throughout the descent and by route finding, waiting for and keeping in touch with the larger and more cumbersome party or rope, have assisted its descent. It is appreciated that the rope of two probably did not lose touch altogether with their companions until most of the descent had been accomplished and that they went on to the hut for the sole purpose of having tea ready for the others when they arrived, but it is felt that in mountaineering it is wiser for mutual support to be given and continued throughout the whole climb, which in this case and under the weather conditions prevailing, would mean practically right to the hut.
2. In descending into valleys of glacial origin by an unknown route it is wise to stick to the ridges. A glance at the walls of one of these valleys will

show to what a large extent the faces and creek-beds are broken by bluffs and waterfalls which often cannot be seen from above.

3. A party should carry at least thirty feet of rope for each member and allowance made for loss through double roping and other causes.

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HITCH-HIKING THROUGH AFRICA.

JOHANNESBURG TO NAIROBI.

The following is an extract from a letter written by Vera Peplow to Molly Molineux. "Pep" was an active member of the H.T.C. during some of the war years. Ed.

.... I left Johannesburg on May 31st, allowing myself 6 months to get here (Nairobi), but I did it in 3 months. I had a very interesting trip, coming most of the way by car with, as usual, unknown people, so that I only actually had two train journeys over the 3,000 miles, and two short trips by air. As I came further up country it became more and more primitive and the roads were terrific, I thought I'd been over some pretty bad ones in N.Z. but they were nothing compared with these. My first stop was the Victoria Falls, certainly an amazing sight, and a very expensive hotel. I got to know some folk, whose car I had stopped on the way for a lift, and had a very pleasant four days with them. From there I went on to Salisbury in S. Rhodesia and spent some time with T. Cooks trying to decide which way to continue my journey overland to Kenya, being advised by them not to go thro' Nyasaland since there was no transport of any kind if I got stuck for a lift. However I went 100 miles out to contact a sister of a friend of mine in England and whilst staying with her had the offer of a lift well into Nyasaland so decided to take it. Had to wait a fortnight, but that I spent in the Vumba Hills not far away, a beauty spot of S. Rhodesia.

Getting onto Nyasaland I really felt I was in darkest Africa for the country is very wild, most primitive, so many natives and very few white people. I had a happy ten days on the lake and except for the taste of the water when swimming it was just like being at the sea. I went sailing with a fellow I met there and up a crocodile river croc. hunting, which was rather like things I'd only seen in films before.

From there I got 2 lifts by car and lorry another 300-odd miles into about the middle of Nyasaland and there I was stuck in a little cottage for 5 days and having to supply my own food with a native boy to cook for me. However I didn't starve, but none of the white folk came near me. It was an outpost of the British Empire and for the first time I was simply disgusted with my own people, for they knew I was there and there were at least 4 white women in this little village. Certainly something I couldn't have done. I was finally taken on by, amazing to relate, the ship's doctor of the ship I went out to N.Z. on 4 years ago. He is now in N. Rhodesia and he and his wife were on a month's leave. They took me about 300 mls and I had 3 days in their company, so quite missed them when they started on their return journey.

I went right across Tanganyika to Dar-Es-Salaam and flew to Zanzibar. Here I was very disappointed, for having travelled all across country to get to Zanzibar I wasn't able to stay. It was a fascinating and intriguing place, but I only had a day to look around, so I flew again to Tanga, there I had 5 nice days but I had to share a room and it was very hot. Very tropical of course with lots of palm trees, but swarming with natives and Indians and I find it very difficult to get used to them being in authority.

From Tanga I got another lift of 300 mls. to the mountain hotel at Kilimanjaro. Having gone with the hope of attempting the mountain, I immediately go

down with some obscure complaint, and spend 3 days in bed. Fortunately I made a rapid recovery and 2 days after set out on the 5 day trip, thinking to go to the second hut at 12,500 ft., but to my amazement I went on and attained the summit and the highest point, 19,500 ft. There was no difficult climbing about it, it was a test of endurance really. The last 200 ft. got me and I was very breathless and it was an effort to put one foot in front of the other. The 3,000 ft. up to 19,000 is a scree slope and you go one step and come back two. At the beginning I was doing 80-90 steps without a stop, but at 19,000 was only doing 12. It took us 9 hours to do the last 3,500 ft. and we left at 3 a.m. We had an hour's rest at the 16,000 ft. hut and then did the 10 mls back to the 12,500 hut and next day 20 mls back to the hotel. At the last hut you are crowned with a wreath of the everlasting flowers that grow on the mountain, if you have attained the summit. Quite a thrill. I came back feeling like "Here the conquering hero comes!"

I intended to stay a few days more at the mountain hotel, but again out of the blue came the offer of a lift for the last 300 odd miles into Nairobi and taking me through the Tsavo Game Reserve, something I felt I shouldn't miss. It is about 200 mls from here and is now being opened up to the public. I spent a night in the Warden's camp in the heart of the reserve. He was very nice and plus moon, stars and a huge fire to keep away the wild animals, was quite romantic. He had a Lion cub of 6 mths, about which I wasn't too happy at first but got used to after a bit. We had a few drinks round the fire and in the night I woke and thought I saw two bright eyes staring thro' my mosquito net. I was too terrified to put my hand outside the net thinking it might be nipped off, and longed to call for help, but then thought I should look such a fool if there was nothing there, and of course there wasn't. Next day we went many miles thro' the reserve seeing all kinds of game. This trip I did in a lorry and arrived in Nairobi looking like a sweep, the roads are terribly dusty.

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PRIVATE TRIPS.

NGAMATEA - LOG CABIN - ROCKY POINT.

Aug. 30th-Sep. 1st.

On Tuesday Aug. 30th a party of four set off for a three day trip of no definite purpose, but vaguely bent upon looking over the country between Log Cabin and Manson Hut. The original hope of spending the first night at Log Cabin and the second at Manson went by the board when an elusive puncture and a slippery coating of snow added a couple of hours or more to our time in to Ngamatea station. Mrs. Roberts's warm hospitality offset this sudden return to winter. On the Wednesday a trip through snow-covered tussock and the still-colder Taruarau landed us at Log Cabin in time to appreciate a much needed lunch. In the afternoon we travelled without packs, having abandoned the prospect of Manson ridge up from the Ngaruroro. The track to Bush Camp was "straight going" only figuratively; the long detour being now corrected on the map. From Rocky Point the spurs up to Manson were studied for future reference. On the return trip our botanist's sharp eyes picked out some rarity which was eagerly pounced upon; but there seemed to be acres of the stuff - or something very like it.

After a comfortable night (there was no wind through the open spaces between the logs) the party returned to the station without injury to man or beast. The government cullers appear to have done a great job.

Party: Bob Comrie, Norman Elder, Graham Will, Stan Craven.

TE MAHANGA - LOG CABIN - TE IRINGA.

Sept. 9th-10th.

Another party of four made a two day visit to Log Cabin in from Te Mahanga, this time in almost perfect weather conditions. The track through the bush was a pleasant change from rock and tussock, bird life being richer than usual; numerous whiteheads and a pair of kaka were enjoyed. In spite of all warning the grind out of the bush and along the Hogget was harder than anticipated.

After a short circuit of the Log Cabin bush next morning an early midday return was planned. At the Hogget Trig the party split up, Doc Bathgate returning to Te Mahanga for the car and the remainder making for Te Iringa and so to Gentle Annie. It was a matter for mild surprise that the time for the Te Iringa route was $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours longer than the more direct one.

Party: Ian Campbell, John Bathgate, Doc. Bathgate, Stan Craven.

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C L U B T R I P S .

No. 359.

MAORI ROCK - KOHINERAKAU.

Aug. 7th.

This trip was cancelled owing to bad weather, but was done later on.

No. 360.

CHATEAU TRIP.

August 10th-20th.

Aug. 10th - Wednesday:

Party of 8 left Hastings by bus at 7.15 am to catch the 8 o'clock bus from Napier to Chateau via Taupo. Bus left on time - weather overcast and visibility poor. Morning tea was enjoyed by all at Terawera Hotel. On our way once more we arrived at Taupo at 12.30 in time for lunch. At 1.15 pm we started on the second leg of our journey - weather turned out fine and all enjoyed the views of Lake Taupo and Rotoaira with the mountains in the distance. We arrived at our destination at 5 pm to begin our new life for the next ten days.

Aug. 11th - Thursday:

Everybody was up early to enjoy the view of the mountain as the sun rose. All went up ski-ing on first day (no casualties).

Aug. 12th - Friday:

Day spent by gang ski-ing on nursery slopes (1 casualty - Angus hurt his neck).

Aug. 13th - Saturday:

Steele, Merve and Bill tramped to Tama Lakes and Taranaki Falls Trip 12 miles. Rest of gang ski-ing. That evening one of the Chateau's well-famed wild parties and dance took place much to the merriment of all, bringing the end to a perfect day.

Aug. 14th - Sunday:

Our party now numbered 12, having been enlarged by 3 M.T.C. and 1 H.T.C. Merve, Steele and Alma tramped to Tawhai Falls. Dave and Angus climbed 20 peaks, total height less than 500 ft. Ski-ing as usual.

Aug. 15th - Monday:

Ski-ing on nursery slopes held quite an experience for us this day in the form of a blizzard which only lasted for about four minutes, but those who were caught without gloves or coats found it most uncomfortable and will not forget it for a while, I am sure. That evening Angus showed his talent by forming an orchestra of all sorts.

Aug. 16th - Tuesday:

Steele and Des tramped to Waihothonu hut - round trip of 22 miles but

uninteresting. Dave Williams started out for Mangatepopo hut but turned back owing to camera trouble. In the evening we were entertained by members of the M.T.C. with lots of singing.

Aug. 17th - Wednesday:

Dave Williams and Merve tramped to Mangatepopo hut - place was in a mess so they tidied it and returned home; round trip 12 miles. Alma cooked some scones which were the cause of many retiring to their bunks from over-eating. Sing-song in evening by M.T.C. & H.T.C. We all did justice to Alma's cooking.

Aug. 18th - Thursday:

Ski-ing as usual. Some stayed back and went for short walks. Snowed all day on the mountain. Several members of M.T.C. & H.T.C. went to the pictures at the Chateau.

Aug. 19th - Friday:

Our enjoyable holiday was coming to a close, and everybody was making the most of the last day on the mountain. There were preparations for departure such as packing, cleaning etc. Some went dancing, others retired to bed.

Aug. 20th - Saturday:

Everybody piled out early so as to be packed and breakfasted by 7.30 am in readiness to catch the bus at 8 o'clock for our return journey. Having said adieu to our new friends, we caught our bus and arrived back in Hastings after ten days' wonderful holiday.

No. in party: 12.

M.T.C.: Betty Mathews, Dave Mathews, Bob Valentine. H.V.T.C.: Alma Quinsey.

H.T.C.: Walter Shaw, Mervyn Hawken, Dave Johnson, Dave Williams, Des O'Neill, Angus Russell.

Leader: Bill Wilkie, deputy: Steele Therkleson.

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No. 361.

MAORI ROCK - KOHINERAKAU.

Aug. 21st.

(This trip was substituted for the original Silver Peak Range trip on account of transport difficulties).

We left Holt's at 9.30 on Sunday morning. There had been a frost, but it was a fine, sunny morning. We arrived on our bikes at the turn-off for Meori Rock and followed up the hills till we came to a good stream suitable for a boil up, where we had lunch. We then went on up over rather damp, boggy ground seeing many lambs till we came to Maori Rock. We climbed all over this, taking photos, etc. Some of the more juvenile members then stayed behind to catch rabbits by digging in their burrows while the rest of the party went off along the tops to Kohinerakau. Well, we walked till I am sure we were nearly level with Waipawa - well Paki Paki anyway. Then we crossed over the gully and came up the other side along Kohinerakau and had a marvellous view on both sides. We finally rejoined the others who had caught several rabbits including a baby one which caused quite a lot of excitement among the girls. The boys put the rabbits around their necks like fur stoles.

We finally arrived back at our bikes and set off sailing down the hills in great style arriving at the Blue Moon, which we had been talking about all day, at about 5.30.

No. in party: 11.

Pat Bolt, Muriel Shaw, Doris Torbett, Les Crisp, Allan Cowan, Steele Therkleson, Philip Finch, Stan Woon, Ken Thomas, John Mitchel.

Leader: Shirley Single.

No. 362.

BLACK BIRCH & KAWEKA SADDLE.

Sept. 4th.

The fascinating sight of hundreds of blazing firepots was a bonus for early rising, but by the time we left the truck the air was warming up and the day was perfect.

The hungry party insisted on a boil-up at the Gorge Stream and were thirsty enough to call for another on their arrival at Whittle's Clearing. These rather puckerfaced the schedule and we were not able to make the saddle, though we were able to run a light blaze from the corner of the clearing along the Makahu face for most of the distance. The Kawekas were a glorious sight under heavy snow and the Memorial Cairn was conspicuous on the skyline.

Manuka is growing up in the clearings and along the track and the undergrowth is becoming thicker in the bush, though pig rootings are still conspicuous and traces of deer common. Two very dark deer were seen and a wild merino, also a very noisy kaka. Bellbirds were heard frequently.

No. in party: 17.

Leader: Norman Elder.

Muriel Shaw, Kath Elder, Alison Elder, Pat Bolt, Doreen Smith, Helen Hill, Ken Thomas, Allan Cowan, Peter Elder, David Sherry, Tom Neill, Steele Therkleson, Godfrey Rodgers, 3 Kiwi T.C.

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No. 363.

SILVER PEAKS RANGE.

Sept. 18th.

(On account of bad weather this day trip was substituted for the scheduled week-end trip to Herrick's Spur, No Man's, Ruahine.)

17 bods left Holt's at 9 am for the Silver Range which, according to Dr. Brown, a geologist, is the best example of a razor-back in the world. We got off the truck a few miles past Kahuranaki and headed westward. There are several peaks in the range and they are in a straight line running approximately north to south. The Northern peak was climbed first. After a very steep climb we reached to top but visibility was very poor owing to rain and odd patches of fog. We then proceeded along the narrow top. One side was steep and grassy. The other side was even steeper, but it consisted of sandstone. Then we went down to the Hawea Stream where we had lunch.

After lunch we sidled around the western side of the middle peaks and tackled the razor-back edge of the Southern peak. It was now raining quite heavily and was also very hot, so one got wet whether a waterproof was worn or not. We went down the eastern side of this peak and straight back to the road, but we had to walk a mile or so down the road to get to the truck again. After a small snack we scrambled on board and arrived back home in good time.

A very enjoyable day trip for winter.

No. in Party: 16.

Leader: John Mitchel.

Muriel Shaw, Pat Bolt, Doris Torbett, Ngaire Usherwood, N. Elder, S. Therkleson, M. Hawken, D. Sherry, D. O'Neill, B. Wilkie, P. Finch, W. Shaw, Alf Dixon plus 2.

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No. 364.

KAWEKA HUT - KIWI SADDLE.

Oct. 1st-2nd.

Nine members made their first pleasure trip for some months into the Kaweka ranges. The object of the tramp was to do the round trip between Kaweka Hut and Kiwi Saddle Hut. After the usual boil up at Kuripapanga the party moved off in brilliant sunshine for Kaweka Hut. The foremost members of the party disturbed a wild pig in the scrub and it was through the depredations of these pests that the track was lost for a few minutes. After the track was

found the party proceeded to cross a washed-out stream and so pushed on to arrive at the hut at about 1.30. After settling in, two groups of boys went to climb Cook's Horn, three going along the top of the ridge and four coming up the shingle slide underneath the pinnacle. Honours were about even for time of arrival, the slide party having stopped on the way to photograph a frozen waterfall. Three of the boys climbed to the top of the Horn, after which the group descended by way of the slide back to the hut and tea.

On Sunday morning, after the party had climbed 700 or 800 ft up a very steep ridge behind Kaweka Hut, it was decided in view of prevailing conditions to cancel the trip round the tops to Kiwi Saddle. The alternative route was taken; this entails descending to the Tutaekuri Stream and climbing from there straight up to Kiwi Saddle. Arriving at the Hut at about 12 o'clock the trampers had a quick meal, filled in the log book and set off for the road. From the tops the party saw the sun shining over Hastings, but where they were there was a cold icy wind blowing. After a quick descent of the shingle slide and a cup of tea at the roadside, these merry types climbed on to the truck and to the accompaniment of much singing and hilarity arrived back in Hastings at 7 o'clock with another very enjoyable trip behind them.

No. in Party: 9.

Leader, Steele Therkleson.

Janet Lloyd, Pat Bolt, David Sherry, Des O'Neill, Merve Hawken, Philip Finch, Ken Thomas, John Mitchel.

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No. 365.

RED BRIDGE - BLACK BRIDGE.

Oct. 16th.

A party of fourteen left Holt's shortly after 9 am and gathered up three more members plus nine Kiwis, in Havelock. At the Red Bridge, Bill explained points of construction to us and then we wandered downstream and had morning tea at the first willows. We had lunch at the Havelock ford, where three went swimming. Continuing down the river on the Hastings side, we found parts of the Red Bridge that had been washed down in the recent flood. On arriving at the Black Bridge we had another boil-up and swim. We were home by 5 pm.

No. in Party: 17 and 9 Kiwi T.C.

Leader, Walter Shaw.

Muriel Shaw, Shirley Single, Pat Bolt, Ngaire Usherwood, Barbara Hill, Des O'Neill Bill Wilkie, Philip Finch, Steele Therkleson, Ken Thomas, David Sherry, Merve Hawken plus 1, Walter Shaw plus 2, Angus Russell.

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No. 366. (a). LABOUR WEEKEND: 1949.

HOWLETT'S TO WAIKAMAKA.

Oct. 22-24.

Last year some of us devised a cunning plan with two cars and two parties of five for an attempt on this journey, viz: to follow the open tops of the Rueshine Range along their central and highest portion. We accomplished nothing more than a visit to each of the huts at either end of the journey - Waikamaka and Howlett's. It snowed.

This year we again planned the attempt - a party of ten from Howlett's. The usual Labour Weekend weather tried to stop us, but some of us made the journey by a determined dash between storms.

We left by truck at 6 am. on Saturday morning - the first all-male trip I can remember. At Thomsen's Mill we touched down in cloudy weather and moved off without much ado. It was not long before our feet were wet and we joined the main Tuki Tuki valley and headed up the wide stony bed on the first of our forty-eight crossings of this stream. The sun slanted warmly into the valley as we moved along. The travelling was easy and pleasant. It gave me time to reflect

on our journeys up and down this route during the Oxford crash search. Some 2½ hours in the river - a boil up at the foot of Daphne spur - some relics of the search (boots, a police serge trouser-leg, and tins) - a snooze, then a steep pull up the ridge brought us to Howlett's Hut in the early afternoon. We managed a good meal from the camp oven and after several rounds of bed-time stories we dropped off to sleep.

Sunday was a disappointing day because cloud covered the tops and some rain pattered on the roof. We resigned ourselves to returning the way we had come. Allan Cowan and Des O'Neill went off despite a flurry of rain along the ridge to the Oroua Saddle and further, returning early after route-finding adventures in the mist.

About midday the clouds lifted and I decided two or three of us might make the dash along the ridge. If we did get benighted I had a primus and petrol for a bivvy. At 12.30 pm. Cyril Davy, Merv Hawken and I left. The others came with us to Tiraha except John, Ken and Peter, who went down to the telephone with instructions for the truck.

An hour's going found us on top of Tiraha with good views of the Saw Tooth Ridge and down the Pourangaki Valley. We wasted no time, traversed most of the pinnacles and moved over Ohuinga, which was covered with a fair amount of late snow. We saw a mob of eight deer. We glissaded part of the way off Ohuinga (5330'), ran down into the saddle and climbed up and along Broken Ridge. The wind was cold and strong, but the views were good. Down steeply into the saddle and around a difficult pinnacle, and then up slowly to South Rangī. Over South Rangī and at 6 pm we paused on Rangī just to look about, catch our breath and compliment ourselves on being so quick. The rest was easy - a fast walk to the Waipawa Saddle - a run down the scree and river-bed to reach Waikamaka Hut just as dark really closed in.

The fire burned brightly and we drank, fed and were content. The stars were bright and the evening was still as we bedded down. Next morning it was raining coldly, and we slept in until 10 o'clock. It only took two hours in rain to the road. We dried out and drank tea at Foulds' house, while Mr. Foulds told us of mustering the Big Hill country, with horses along from Rushine Hut to the Makaroro and the finding of Armstrong's plane.

The truck journey was wet and miserable, but the tramp was one of the best.

Stan Woon found a large moth in the bush on Daphne Ridge. It was green and about 4 inches long with a wing-span of 5 inches. I sent it to the Entomological Division of the Cawthron Institute. Their reply was:-

"The moth sent in for identification is *HEPIALUS VIRISCENS*. This large, conspicuous insect is the largest moth that occurs in N.Z. It is generally distributed throughout the North Island. It has a wide range of food plants including wineberry, manuka, beech, willow etc. The larva tunnels into the stems of these trees, feeding entirely on the wood which it bites off with its strong mandibles. The adult insect appears from September to November."

Our times along the top were fast but may serve as a guide. From Howlett's to Waikamaka 6½ hours: Howlett's to Tiraha, 1 hour. Tiraha to Ohuinga, 1 hour. Ohuinga to Broken Ridge turn off, 1½ hours. Broken Ridge to South Rangī, 1 hour. South Range to Waikamaka Hut, 2 hours.

No. in Party: 10.

Leader, George Lowe.

Stan Woon, Allan Cowan, John Mitchel, Ken Thomas, Des O'Neill, David Sherry, Peter Lowe, Mervyn Hawken, Cyril Davy.

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No. 366. (b). KIDNAPPERS.

Oct. 22-24th.

On Saturday we were collected at Te Awanga by approximately 23 members of the Tararua Tramping Club and transported to Clifton in their super-de-luxe model truck (sleeping accom. elect. light & buzzer communication to the driver.)

After re-arranging tents, loads etc., we ambled around the beach, stopping here and there for photos, oranges, or just to sit in the sun. It was a beautiful sunny day and definitely not weather the Southerners were used to.

We arrived at the hut about noon. Lunch was had, then a huge billy of stew and another of potatoes were put on to cook slowly for the evening meal. Thirty odd is quite a family to cook for.

The afternoon was spent in swimming and sunbathing, and later a visit to the Gannet Sanctuary where chicks, eggs, "Muvva" and "Farva" birds were studied, photographed, etc. etc. After tea at night the party gathered around a huge bonfire on the beach, but a very poor sing-song resulted, most people being too sleepy after the long journey of the previous night.

Next morning trampers were cooking breakfasts from 5.30 am. until 10 am. Later, at Dave's suggestion, the tide being very low, we scrambled around the foot of the Kidnapper cliffs. A smart piece of step cutting by Angus was a great help in one difficult place, and eventually we all gathered at the nearest point to the Sugar Loaf and studied the Gannets from a worm's-eye view. Shellfish in the rock pools were most interesting, especially one or two Pauas seen in action.

After lunch at the rest hut it was decided to visit Rongaika and the whaling pots. The day was really one out of the box. Never have I seen the sky or the sea such a gorgeous blue. We explored Flat Rock where we saw a large fish swimming around (the size varies from 6ft. to 10ft.) The Tararuas were most impressed with Rongaika, which certainly did look perfect. Quite a few were heard to murmur something about coming back to spend a few days ...

Monday being Labour Day it just HAD to rain. The day started as "cloudy" but gradually turned to "squally". We left the hut at 10.30, had lunch at Clifton, and were in Hastings by 1 pm.

A very enjoyable weekend with a bright lot of people. Thank you, T.T.C.

No. of H.T.C. in party: 10.

Leader, Muriel Shaw.

Pat Bolt, Shirley Single, Angus Russell, Dave Williams, Walter Shaw, Bill Wilkie, Joan and Clem Smith, Jack Templeton (Rover Scout).

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No. 367.

HORSESHOE BEND.

Oct. 30th.

Two carloads left Holt's at 9.45. On arriving at Horseshoe Bend we found a party of Kiwis in possession. Rain fell, but did not last long, and the weather for the rest of the day was perfect. Swimming was good as the water was quite warm. We found some baby ducks in the river and two young magpies in a nest in an old pine tree on top of the hill.

No. in Party: 8.

Leader, Bill Wilkie.

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(Continuation of page 21):

After awaiting the arrival of the Puketitiri party till 4 pm. the last of the party left for the road and home.

Party: H.T.C.: Kath Elder, Janet Lloyd, Rob Comrie, Doc Bathgate, Kim Bathgate. Nine Senior High School girls and boys.

Leader: Stan Craven.

No. 368.

OHURAKURA MILL.

Nov. 13th.

With 23 aboard, the truck left Hastings at 7.15, the weather being overcast. A minor party followed by car and the cortege arrived at the mill in fine driving rain. A tricky drive in the truck, followed by a boil-up, and the party moved past the old hauler, up the ridge into the bush. Visibility was limited by heavy mist and dripping foliage did not improve conditions. Faulty navigation resulted in a deviation from the intended course and we emerged from the bush on the Titikura side some time later, wet and hungry.

We boiled the billy and with appetites somewhat appeased the party moved off down an old tram track, eventually emerging near the mill. The more hardy souls called for a boil-up, and after a wet trip in the truck we arrived in Hastings, concluding a trip which, I am sure, will not be soon forgotten by those who participated.

No. in Party: 25.

Leader: David Bathgate.

N. Elder, Kath Elder, D. Williams, S. Therkleson, M. Clark, P. Finch, W. Wilkie, N. Hargreaves, M. Dewar, A. Russell, D. Torbett, S. Single, P. Bolt, A. Cowan, M. Shaw, W. Shaw, and eight Kiwis.

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No. 369.

ANNUAL VISIT to the MEMORIAL CAIRN.

Nov. 26-27th.

ATTEMPT ON TRIG FROM PUKETITIRI.

The party of 13 left Hastings at 8 am., reaching Whittle's at 10.30. We left at 11 am. - weather hot and fine, and reached the top of Birch Range at 1.30. We crossed Little's Clearing (that's what Whittle's call it), picked up the blazed trail and followed it to opposite the foot of the ridge which runs to the trig. This we reached about 4 pm. We chose a camp site near water in the bush fringe about 100 yds. from the Donald-Makahu Saddle. I consider this camp site is only 2½ hours from the Cairn.

As we pitched camp rain began from the south and it rained steadily and bleakly all night and the next day.

Next day we rose at 5 am. but after breakfast, decided to retreat to puketitiri. This took us 4½ hours. A small party of 3 or 4 could have rushed the trig, if necessary, for the ceremony, but this party was too big.

No. in Party: 13.

Leader: George Lowe.

Muriel Shaw, Doris Torbett, Margaret Dewar, Des O'Neill, Mervyn Hawken, Allan Cowan, Walter Shaw, Steele Therkleson, Philip Finch, Brian Petersen, Ken Thomas, Angus Russell.

ATTEMPT FROM KURIPAPANGA:

Another party of 13 (nine High School and four H.T.C.) left Hastings at 2 pm. to run into a cloudburst near Sherenden. After a short respite of warm sunshine, light rain recommenced and continued over the week-end. Kaweka Hut was once again a welcome haven by 7.30 pm. and even more so to two late arrivals (Doc and Kim Bathgate) at 10.30 pm. The track on the hut side of the Tutaekuri has been badly scoured.

To meet the Puketitiri party at the Cairn at 11 am. an early start (7.30) was made. Buoyed up by the prospect of a "first ascent" for most and a forecast for fine weather the party travelled well. Conditions however did not improve: doubts arose on Kaiarahi and at Studholme's Saddle the mist and cold wind prevailed. A return to the hut and warm clothes and sleeping bags was made in fair time.

SOCIAL NEWS.MARRIAGES:

Dave Lynch - Ngairi Pounsford.

George Couper - Betty Beckett.

NEW MEMBERS:

The following have completed their preliminary trips and have been elected members of the Club:

Mervyn Hawken, Tom Neill, Elaine Cross, Doreen Smith,
Allan Cowan, Pat Bolt.

We welcome them to the Club and wish them many years of good tramping.

CLUB ROOM EVENTS.

4/8/49. Mervyn Hawken gave us a talk on climbing in Tasmania. This proved so interesting that we asked him to serve it up as an article for "Pohokura" Turn over a few pages and you will be able to read it for yourselves.

18/8/49. Mr. O'Meara very kindly brought along some of his movie films. We enjoyed pictures of trout fisheries, Cape Kidnappers, Tonga, Fiji. A coloured film of Taupo with all the broom in flower was especially admired.

1/9/49. We celebrated Ang's birthday with a cake bearing the appropriate number of candles.

In between times we farewelled Peg Morris who has gone off to have a look at England. We are waiting hopefully for stirring accounts of her doings overseas.

29/9/49. Norm gave us one of the most amusing talks we have ever had. He once spent a week tramping in the Appalachians. In that short space of time loaded revolvers, bootlegging expeditions and Klu Klux Klan raids were only a few of the adventures he encountered. What can we do to brighten up tramping in New Zealand?

5/11/49. This was the occasion of a special party for Betty and George. A truck load of us went out to view the firework display at the Aerodrome. Then we returned to the club room where we danced, played games and generally enjoyed ourselves.

24/11/49. Dr. Brown gave us a talk on the geology of Hawke's Bay. This was especially interesting to us as several places he particularly mentioned are favourite haunts of the Club. Hawke's Bay is apparently a geologist's paradise as far as faults are concerned. Te Mata Peak, Kahurangi, the Whakararas and Silver Peak Range provide perfect examples. These fault lines all run parallel to the coast and to the ranges and the rivers follow the same direction.

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WALKING IN TASMANIA.CRADLE MOUNTAIN to LAKE St. CLAIRE - NATIONAL PARK.

After hearing a talk on Walking in Tasmania the 1st Bulli Rover Crew ambitiously determined to complete some time the famous National Park Walk. Unfortunately, however, four only of the crew were to realise their hopes. This they did in the Spring of 1948.

After many months of planning and preparation, we set off for the "Isle of Mountains", and as we approached the coastline excitement ran high, for at last it seemed as if our ambitions were to come true. After resting at Launceston for a day we journeyed on to Waldheim, Cradle Mountain. Here we spent the night at the Chalet, being entertained by the Ranger of the Cradle Mountain Reserve. Although we possessed a map of the district the information supplied by the Ranger proved to be invaluable.

Having mentally traversed the walk over and over again we set out in beautiful sunshine at 7 am. the following morning. We climbed 1000 ft. to the shoulder of Cradle Mountain, but before the climb was half completed, a dirty Nor-wester threatened to stop us from even reaching our first objective, Cradle Mountain (5060 ft.).

Telling our inexperienced selves that it was just a passing cloudburst we skirted the North-Western edge of the Mountain overlooking Fury Gorge. Here we deluded ourselves with the belief that the weather was clearing up, so John and I set out to climb to the summit. However, we were frustrated by the weather changing for the worse, and quickly descended to rejoin our companions on the glacial cirque below. Without further delay we proceeded along the left-hand side of Barn Bluff (5114 ft.) wistfully gazing at its imposing summit. Descending into the protection of Waterfall Valley the Walk was discussed and it was decided to carry on with the initial plan.

Following the track over old moraines we came into a second valley, and then gradually ascended to a moor, where on a clear day a fine view of Lake Wills could be had. A little later on Lake Windermere was reached and there, hidden away in a pocket of gum trees, was the snow-covered Hut.

During the night the blizzard did not abate, and by morning the hut was surrounded by 2 ft. of snow. Shortly after breakfast the sun peeped through, and we were fortunate in getting a picturesque view of the Lake with its sunlit snowy surroundings. Shortly after the sun disappeared and the storm came down again with all its fury. This further onslaught confirmed our decision that we should move on and attempt to reach Du Cane Hut that night. Not being familiar with these climatic conditions, and not even expecting them in the Spring, we were far too inadequately equipped to spend the night between huts as previously planned. So, with hope in our hearts we set off at a fast pace gradually rising to a wide moor. Here we journeyed through numerous tarns, and deviated for a look-see at the Forth Gorge. We saw where it should have been, and then continued to the Forth River.

Here we met our first obstacle, as the log bridge had been practically washed away. Norman, our leader, volunteered to risk a ducking and attempted to ford the river by jumping. Much to the amusement of the three onlookers, his boots failed to grip on the slippery surface, and he slid backwards into the icy water. Profiting by his mistake, the three of us followed and forded the river lower down.

Proceeding across Frog Flat, we saw the misty outlines of the surrounding

Peaks, i.e., Mounts Doris, Thetis, Achilles, Ossa and Pelion West. Climbing steeply we reached Pelion Hut about 1.30 pm. and stopped for lunch. Directly in front of the hut stood Mt. Oakleigh, calling to all to admire the view from her summit, but time did not permit, so we hurried off, just as the snow again began to fall.

From the shelter of the Forests we ascended to the top of the Plains and crossed the border of Cradle Mountain and Lake St. Claire Reserve. Here the going became very heavy and the leader was changed every quarter of an hour. Not a word was spoken, but the strain of the continuous slogging was felt by all. To make matters worse, the mist which had been remaining above our heads all morning decided to descend, not improving the visibility. Time and again the track was lost and much valuable time was spent in locating it again.

During one of these sorties "Tich" our Assistant Rover Leader disappeared through some thin snow and ice. Although, at first, we saw the humorous side of it, we quickly helped him out. It was some time later that the "Digger" in him overcame his Rover Scout ideals, for which we duly excused him!

After another two hours' slogging we crossed the Kia Ora, which by this time was only a name on a map to us. Racing against time we reached the Hut at 8 pm., having travelled the longest 18 miles of our lives. Sleep came easily that night, but by morning we were not even refreshed enough to set forth at our usual time.

Three hours late, we got away in reasonable weather and detoured to view the D'Alton and Hartnett Falls. Regaining the Overland Track we caught a glimpse of Falling Mountain and Traveller Range, before our old friend "Hughie" sent it down again! Passing through "Du Cane Gap" we descended into much clearer weather, obtaining a fine view of the Mersey Valley. With only occasional rain to hamper us we reached the Narcissus Hut some three hours later.

The next morning, as our party was tired and leg-weary, we chose the shortest route around Lake St. Claire. Even though we were not 100% fit physically, we could still appreciate the 14 mile walk through the Myrtle forest.

In the tree-tops the Bell Birds and Robins seemed to echo their notes of welcome, and gave us new heart to finish the Walk.

Gazing at the shapely peak of Mount Ida standing in all its isolation, we silently thanked God for taking care of us throughout the journey.

MERVYN HAWKEN.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due. REMEMBER THAT YOU SAVE 2/6 IF YOU PAY
MURIEL BEFORE THE END OF DECEMBER.

FIXTURE LIST, 1950.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Place:</u>	<u>Leader:</u>
Jan. 22nd.	<u>TITIOKURA and TARAPONUI.</u>	Doc Bathgate.
Feb. 4-5th.	<u>CLUB PICNIC - POURERE BEACH.</u>	Janet & Lin Lloyd.
Feb. 18-19th.	<u>MAKARORO RIVER - NORTHERN RUAHINES.</u>	Norman Elder.
March 5th.	<u>KAIRAKAU BEACH.</u>	Pat Bolt.
March 18-19th.	<u>WAIKAMAKA HUT, downstream, then up WATERFALL CREEK, OVER 66 to SHUT EYE.</u>	George Lowe.
April 2nd.	<u>WAIMARAMA and RED ISLAND.</u>	Shirley Single.
April 7-10th.	<u>EASTER AT WAIKAREMOANA WITH OTHER CLUBS.</u>	
April 16th.	<u>HORSESHOE BEND.</u>	Ken Thomas.
April 29-30th.	<u>KERERU and POHATUHAHA.</u>	Philip Finch.

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"SAFETY IN THE MOUNTAINS."

The Federated Mountain Clubs have published a new edition of this valuable handbook. Copies may be obtained from the Secretary.

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Whara e koe te iti kahurangi; ke te taoko koe,
me maunga tei tei.

"Seek you the little treasure of your heart; if
you bow your head let it be to a lofty mountain."

---ooOoo---

