

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)

" Pohokura "

BULLETIN NO. 56.

DECEMBER 1950

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To all members we wish a Happy Christmas and good tramping in 1951.

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the H.T.C. was held in the Girl Guide Rooms on 26th. October, 1950.

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, L. Holt, N. Elder.
Mr. W.G. Lowe.
Miss U. Greenwood.
Miss H.C. Hill.
Mr. A. Oulaghan.
Mrs. J. Lloyd, Miss M. Shaw,
Miss P. Bolt, Messrs. J. Mitchel,
G. Couper, B. Woon, P. Finch.
Misses M. Shaw, P. Bolt,
Messrs. S. Woon, J. Mitchel,
D. Conway, P. Smith.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP

This year closed with a financial membership of 89, made up as follows:

Full	members	66	(69)
Junior	"	1	(2)
Absentee	"	14	(20)
Associate	"	2	(4)
Honorary	"	6	(8)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The past year has not been outstandingly eventful, and tramping activities have been beset with difficulties. These difficulties come under three heads - a floating population, common to provincial towns: insufficient active members who make tramping their paramount interest: and recently a very steep increase in transport costs.

We find that many members just reach the useful experienced responsible stage when they are transferred to Head Office, clutched by Holy Matrimony, or otherwise lost to the cause. Others who have multiple interests are available only for the odd trip which attracts them or where the shopping is a bargain; and no doubt increased transport costs in these cases means the entertainment budget has difficulty in spreading quite so widely, though charges are moderate enough.

We have quite an imposing list of financial members, but the dyed-in-the-wool trampers - people who never neglect a chance to get into the ranges - have recently for the above reasons been sometimes thwarted by the cancellation of trips. Too small numbers of regulars make the transport subsidies too tough.

However, as Confucius says, "Everything comes to him who goes and gets it for himself". The Club can do anything it wants - if it happens to feel collectively a sufficiently urgent want. Under present conditions, folk who really wish to tramp whenever possible, who thrive on difficulties and have a sense of responsibility to the duties they accept, are assured of a warm welcome.

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT:

Club Trips: Numbers have fallen off lately, but even so the average per trip during the year has been about 13. This has meant that most trips have been subsidised from a fund built up by volunteer working days (mostly in orchards). Last Christmas a Club party went South and tramped through the Spenser Mts. to the Lewis Pass Road. Other than this, all Club trips have been to the local hills.

Transport: Fares have increased considerably, partly due to the cost per mile but mostly because every mile travelled is charged for. That means if the truck returns to Hastings during week-end trips the costs are more than doubled. A decision will have to be made by the Committee as to whether the subsidy of trips is to be continued or not.

Combined Trips: Easter at Waikaremoana was combined with the Manawatu T.C. The successful week-end at Ruapehu during September was made comfortable and pleasant by the use of the new Manawatu T.C. hut. This privilege was greatly appreciated.

Private Trips: Club members have been active in small parties in many parts of the North and South Islands. In the North: Hikurangi near East Cape; Opawa and other bush areas near Taupo; two parties into the Kaimanawas, and two parties to the Chateau. In the South, members were active round Arthur's Pass, Hermitage, Hopkins, Queenstown, Greenstone Valley, Milford Sound and Te Anau; tramping in many valleys, ski-ing in the main centres, climbing several of the big peaks (Lendenfeld, Silberhorn, Teichelmann, de la Beche, Aspiring, Anzacs.)

Memorial Cairn: Part of the stone cairn on the Kaweka Trip has mysteriously collapsed. Neither lightning nor frost action seem to account for it. During November the intention is to combine the annual visit with repairs.

Search Organisation: The search lists have been revised. In October, Club representatives attended a meeting in Palmerston North to hear about the set up and procedure connected with the new and powerful organisation of S.A.R. (Search and Rescue). Headquarters for our area is based in Wellington, and co-ordinates the resources of Army, Navy, Air Force, Police, Civil Aviation, and the Federated Mountain Clubs. Contacts with the local Radio Emergency Corps and the Deer Cullers' Assn. are being made with the intention of asking their aid in the event of search.

Ignimbrite Saddle Search: During February the Club was alerted in connection with this search. Norman Elder was asked to co-ordinate the search teams. This was the first try out for S.A.R. and those concerned were very satisfied with the set-up. The shortage of party leaders with a knowledge of the country was a problem. A report on this search was issued by Norman earlier this year.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT:

The only event worthy of note was a social and presentation to Betty and George Couper on the eve of their wedding. Those who attended were taken out to a fireworks display and then returned to the clubrooms for dancing and supper. It was a most enjoyable party.

During the year we have had a good variety of speakers and picture shows dealing with various countries and places of interest. We are most grateful to all the people responsible for entertaining us in this way.

"POHOKURA" & PUBLICITY: The services of our last year's typist were lost to us, but two other members leaped into the breach and the usual three numbers of "Pohokura" have been published. Mr.

Patterson continues to render us excellent service with the duplicating.

We wish to thank all those who have assisted in stapling the bulletin together. Even a fault in the power lines didn't daunt members at our last stapling evening. We just carried on by candlelight and "Pohokura" was produced on time.

Accounts of trips to the ranges have been sent in to the "Herald-Tribune".

In an effort to attract new members a sub-committee arranged a display of tramping gear and photos in a shop window kindly made available by Griffith's Footwear Ltd.

LIBRARY REPORT:

The Club has 95 books, 4 photograph albums, and a full set of bulletins in bound volumes. A double record of books issued, now enables the librarian to locate them quickly. Generous donors have given valuable books, some irreplaceable, therefore refunding the cost of a lost book cannot compensate for lack of care by a member.

Our much-used photo albums are now of necessity, being indexed. The Bulletins, now numbering 55, also need indexing.

EQUIPMENT REPORT: A most useful addition to last year's list of Club equipment is two japara tent flies which we have at last been able to procure. We have also several pairs of boots for hire or sale.

HUT & TRACK REPORT:

There has not been extensive work on huts or tracks this year. Kiwi Saddle Hut needs its roof painted. If a couple of brushes are taken in any likely trip, the orange paint is in the Hut.

The track past Kuripapanga Lake has been cleared of scrub and the new up route alternative to the shingle slide has been cut through to the top of the Kaweka Ridge. There is water-supply and wood for boil-up, half way up the ridge.

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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NEWSLETTER NO. 3.

The last quarterly executive meeting was held in the Tararua Tramping Club rooms in Wellington on Saturday, 5th August 1950 and included the following business:

INCORPORATION: In the absence of Mr. Thomson through illness Mr. Haines reported that all necessary steps had been taken to incorporate the federation. This has involved a considerable amount of work and the executive's appreciation of Mr. Thomson's action was placed on record. Incorporation will protect members of the F.M.C. from undue responsibility and liability - particularly the executive.

NATIONAL PARKS BILL: Final discussions have now been held on this matter and we can report that the FMC suggestions have been favourably received. The federation will now have to justify its claim for representation by taking a responsible and very active part in national park affairs.

RADIO BROADCASTS: A sub-committee has been set-up to revise the subject matter of these talks and also to submit one on SNOWCRAFT, with special reference to avalanche dangers. It is also hoped that newspapers can be persuaded to print these talks and so extend the coverage of this important safety campaign.

TOURIST TRADE EXPANSION: In order to give practical help to the Department's efforts to expand tourist trade, both internal and external, the federation is submitting the following points to the Minister:

Chalet accommodation. An active programme of building chalets at suitable points to cater for the increasing numbers who are over-taxing both the facilities of hotels and club huts.

Overseas instructors. Provision of overseas ski-instructors each year. America has imported instructors from Switzerland with the outstanding results and the same could apply here.

Tourist literature. The federation would be happy to give all help in the compiling of pamphlets which would bring to the notice of would be tourists the attractions of our mountains, lakes and rivers. It is considered that there is a very large potential tourist trade from Australia and this should be exploited to the full.

SAFETY BOOKLET: The sale of this through commercial channels has been surprisingly good, partly realising (it is hoped) the ambition of the FMC to get the booklet into the hands of as many as possible (other than club members) who go into the hills.

S.A.R.: Mr. L.D. Bridge made a report and an appreciation of his work was placed on record. Details will be left over till November when a brief outline of the set-up and procedure of SAR will be given to refresh everyone's memory. In the meantime Search Officers can bear in mind the necessity of bringing their lists and organisations up-to-date.

RUAPEHU SHELTER: The Auckland Associated Mountain Clubs suggest that a simple type of shelter be erected, say at the Motor Camp, for the use of those who arrive later in bad weather and those who have long waits for 'buses, trains etc. The idea is that the building be a joint effort of all clubs using the mountain. It is obvious that the project is fraught with many pitfalls but the federation is pledged to seek permission to erect such a shelter if required to do so. (Since the August meeting, however, the Auckland Associated Mountain Clubs have written direct to the Department of Tourist & Health Resorts requesting permission).

N.Z. DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION: The Annual Conference of the NZDA was held in Wellington on 18th and 19th August and an invitation was extended to the FMC to have a representative present.

MAPS: The following new maps have been issued by the Tararua Tramping Club:

Scotts Knob - Branch River - Leatham (Marlborough)
1 mile to 1" - helio print

Makawhio - Karangarua - Douglas (South Westland)
1 mile to 1" - helio print

The next meeting will be held in Wellington on 11th November, 1950 and the executive will be glad to receive from clubs any matters for discussion.

For the executive,

H.J. STEVENSON

President.

20/9/50.

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TO ALL TRAMPERS.

Your attention is drawn to the November number of the "Tararua Trampler". This is brim full of information re search control and organisation.

The October number of "Beech Leaves", the journal of the Manawatu Tramping Club, has a food list for four days, suitable for taking on a search; and also a list of essential.

For both these magazines, apply to the Librarian.

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PRIVATE TRIPS

SKIING HOLIDAY?

For some years now August has meant an attempt to rally interest in skiing which has always graduated to an annual ascent of some Ruapehu summit.

Last Christmas at the Hermitage Geoff and I crossed Graham's Saddle on a perfect day and wallowed across the great snow basin at the head of the Franz. We sank deeply into the morass, filled our caps with snow, sweated and groaned our way across the miles. In earnest we solemnly decided to become ski-mountaineers. "It's the only sensible way to move across the country," we said.

August 1950 came and found me on my way with a great ski plan - a week at Queenstown, to the famed Coronet Peak and a week at the Hermitage Mt. Cook. Now I would ski and become a ski-mountaineer. "The only sensible way to move across country." There were four of us in a friendly Ford, loaded above the Plimsoll mark with two of everything that might be useful. Under full power we leaped away from Lyttelton fully intending to reach Queenstown that night in order to start "this skiing business" without delay. We did get about half way and the following day we reached Queenstown having photographed the Lindis Pass, a puncture, an old stone house, some sheep, a gorge, a gold dredge, a visit to this and that. "Anyway, we said, skiing can wait. It would be a pity to by-pass this."

The next day we did go to the grounds and such a queue awaited skis that we waited politely until the "None Left" sign was hung out. "It doesn't matter," we said, "It's too icy."

In a pleasant pub that evening, we caught, by tales and gleaming samples, the virulent epidemic form of gold fever. So sudden was the attack that we left next day on a ten mile tramp up the Arrow river to the Ghost town of Macetown. "Skiing can wait to-day" we said, "lets get some gold colours." It was a long ten miles, but we found Macetown with many derelict stone houses, the old store with loose iron clanging in the wind, old harness, mining tools, ancient pear and apple trees bare and gnarled, dilapidated buggies and buckboards, rotting sluice races and many other signs of a dead past.

The tramp to Macetown was arduous and interesting, therefore the following day required a morning rest and an afternoon of recounting our adventures and hearing more Macetown tales at the friendly pub.

Gold fever abated a little and we decided to go skiing, but in rummaging through the molehills of equipment looking for our patent "Aching Hoofers Bindings" (home made) someone found the rifles. "Let's go and shoot something," someone said and so we did. Throwing all our gear aboard we thundered off over the

Crown Range (first winter ascent!) passing Wanaka and a distant nostalgic view of Aspiring, round Lake Hawea and off to the Haast Pass. But no, a slip on the road turned us back and we plunged north a hundred miles to Lake Ohau and walked up the Hopkins river on a perfect moonlight night. After a night in a hut in this beautiful valley we thought we would like to go skiing so we covered another hundred or so miles, arriving at the Hermitage full of enthusiasm. And so to Ball hut next day. Yes we hired ski and laboured on to the Ball Glacier. A tow and very easy slopes decided us to try. We spent a pleasant downhill day. "Ah, this skiing is fun. Why did we delay so long? Let's go up the great Tasman Glacier and ski on to Lendenfeld Saddle and make up for lost time."

True now to our original purpose we left for Malte Brun hut at the head of the glacier for bigger and better slopes. Alas for him who hesitates.' Alas for him who squanders the perfect day in the lust for gold and the desire to shoot something! For two days the sky pressed heavily on the hut, a foot of powder snow dribbled down and we had to plug our way back to Ball hut in a snowy morass in order to catch our boat.

Next August I must go skiing again.

George Lowe

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EGMONT

There were finally nine in our party: 3 H.T.C. (Muriel Shaw, Joyce Fuller and myself), several odd bods. from Wellington and 2 A.C. members. We arrived at the "Old House," North Egmont, about 10 p.m. tired, but pleased to see snow lying thickly about.

The Old House had one large living room with four bunkrooms opening off it. We shared it with several other parties. One lot informed us as we wearily unpacked that they were expecting a band up to farewell one of their members who was leaving for somewhere special. We had just unrolled our sleeping bags when the band arrived: the local Highland Pipe Band in full dress plus bagpipes. A vigorous and varied programme followed. When the last instrument departed at 4.30 a.m., we slept soundly for the rest of the night.

Each morning after that we seemed to find our way up to the Taurangi Ski Club hut, about 5000 feet up. One day was wet in Taranaki fashion, so was the next, but we were tired of being inside, and five of us faced blizzard conditions to tramp round to Maunganui hut above Dawson Falls. We could seldom see more than the next snow pole, and the temperature did not encourage

even brief halts. The strings of my parka were encased in solid ice, the drips from our caps froze into miniature stalactites, and hair poking out from under our caps turned into stiff white horns. When we arrived the hut was locked. We shivered on the porch while we ate a frigid snack, and returned as rapidly as possible to our blazing open fire in the Old House.

However, the storm left a layer of softish snow, reasonably attached to hard snow on the upper slopes of the mountain, as we found when we set out one cloudless day, to climb it. We climbed in two ropes of three, and found that in most places steps could be kicked or easily cut out: good conditions for winter.

There were three boys in the hut, aged about 16, 14 and 12. I hoped they would not wander far afield and get into trouble. Soon after we set out, they followed us. Where we followed our leaders timidly, they walked boldly. They soon caught us up and passed us, leaving our A.C. leaders murmuring admiration. We followed them up to the crater, and they were home $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours before us. They were certainly a credit to someone's training.

The view from the summit was lovely; glittering sea, the countless greens of Taranaki's chequerboard, and Ruapehu blue and silver in the east.

The summit rocks of the crater were plastered with ice in such a beautiful pattern of bunches of crocuses in diamond-shaped spaces, very regular, that I felt guilty at walking on them and breaking them.

Other days we spent in some amateur skiing, in hacking steps up snow banks and glissading down. We also found considerable interest in the visitors who came up to the mountain for the day. On our way home one day Muriel and I met, toiling up the steep track, first a man wearing two hats, one perched on top of the other; then a woman wearing, in snow, open strap sandals showing painted toe-nails; but in the third group, consisting of a woman towing three small children, the surprise was on us, for as we passed the small boy deftly dropped a snowball down Muriel's neck.

At the end of the week we reluctantly imitated the ten little nigger boys; each day our number was reduced until at last there were none.

Helen Hill.

KAWEKAS:

September 5th-6th-7th.

A party of senior High School boys made a leisurely three-day trip round the Tutaekuri, spending the nights in the Kaweka and Kiwi Saddle huts. A visit to the Cairn was planned for the second day but low cloud with poor visibility ruled that out. The high-light of the trip was an hour of

pleasant sunshine in the bushed saddle below Kaiarahi (4915) when tea was brewed from boiled snow. A few sheep and an odd deer were seen. It was a novel experience for most of the party and though relatively uneventful was voted a huge success.

E.S. CRAVEN.

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CLUB TRIPS.

No. 388.

LONGFELLOW TRIG.

August 20th.

When the scheduled trip to Waikamaka was cancelled owing to lack of support it was decided to hold this day trip two weeks ahead of schedule. So it was Sunday morning when the party assembled at Holt's. Much to the annoyance of all there were only ten present out of the sixteen on the leader's list. We delayed our start, but still no more arrived so we finally set off at 7.15 am. 15 minutes late and 6 bodies shy. This, however, did not dampen our spirits as the party was entertained en route by hair-raising and at times amusing stories of camp life by Ken and Allen. We arrived at our destination in the good time of 1½ hours and without further ado began tramping at 9 am.

We had a map, but no one in the party had ever been to Longfellow before. The first part of the journey was mainly over farm land, but an hour's steady walk brought us to the junction of the Omahaki stream and the main Ngaruroro river where it was decided to boil up as the time was 10.5 am. 11 am. saw the party on the way once again somewhat happier after an extended boil-up. After crossing the Omahaki we found the going harder on the main Longfellow Ridge. However 12.25 pm. brought us on top to behold the Kawekas under a recent heavy fall of snow, the Ngaruroro river some 1500 feet below, and glorious views of the surrounding countryside. Unfortunately the actual trig could not be found, nobody knowing its exact location. We had lunch on top and at 1.15 pm. we left on the descent into the stream again.

An easier track was found coming down and we arrived in the stream bed at 2.30. After another boil-up, which lasted for 45 minutes, an easy hour brought us back to the truck 15 minutes before time. We left on the homeward journey at 4.30 pm., and 6.10 pm. found us back in Hastings with another enjoyable trip behind us.

No. in party: 10. Leader, Des O'Neill.

Pat Bolt, Betty Stringer, Allen Cowan, P. Davidson, Ken Thomas, Bob Woon, Alan Proffitt, George Pickernell, Steele Therklson.

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Sept. 3rd: Trip cancelled through lack of support.

Sept. 17th: Trip cancelled partly because everyone was saving up to go on the Ruapehu trip the following week end.

No. 389.

RUAPEHU.

Sept. 23rd-24th.

Amidst much talking and laughing fourteen of us left Holt's about 10 pm. on Friday Sept. 22nd. Three more were picked up at Greenmeadows, making a total of 17. With the last members aboard, comfortable (?) positions for the

coming journey were fought for.

The trip through was uneventful except for the occasional stop to revive the circulation.

It was daylight when we reached the Château at 6.30 am. on Saturday. Many made use of the hot water in the ablution block to remove signs of dust and lack of sleep. A cup of tea and a light breakfast brought the time to 8 am. when we joined the ever-increasing queue for tickets for skis and boots. Having obtained boots and ski tickets, we proceeded by truck up the road to receive the skis corresponding to the number on the boots.

Leaving this gear neatly (?) stacked outside we doubled back down the road a wee way and tramped to the M.T.C. Hut - truly a mansion to delight the hearts of any tramping club. Everything that opens and shuts, from a frigid-aire to fluorescent lights! Another snack, on with the stew, and away up to the snow.

One and a half miles up we endeavoured to master the elusive art of skiing. Some succeeded, others failed horribly. Most were back at the hut by 4.30 pm.; the two mountaineers returned just as we were about to sit down to 6 pm. stew and fruit. Bed was indeed welcome that night.

Up at 6 am., breakfast over and each away to his choice of occupation for the day: some to ski, others to tramp, while others just stayed and slept. All returned before 3 pm. On the truck again by 4 pm. after packing and cleaning up the hut. The boots were returned to the Château and we were away down the road into the sunshine by 4.45 pm. We reached Taupo about 7 pm., had a meal and were away in the last lap by 8 o'clock. Hastings was reached shortly after 1 am. on Monday 25th Sept.

It was a good week-end, though a bit strenuous through lack of sleep.

No. in party: 17. Leader, Philip Finch. Deputy, Helen Hill.

Pat Bolt, Muriel Shaw, Mabel Wyatt, Betty McLennan, Merle Beacroft, Marie Persen, Alan Oulaghan, Derek Conway, Peter Smith, John Mitchel, Pat Jaeger, George Pickernell, Graham Martin, Ray Pocock, Walter Shaw.

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October 1st: Trip cancelled through lack of support.

No. 390. HAVELOCK HILLS.

October 15th.

We left Hastings about 9.30 on bicycles for upper Duart Road, Havelock North. The day was rather warm.

We followed up Chambers Walk, and not being able to light fires in Te Mata Park, we had to drink cool, clear water instead of the welcome cuppa. We ambled up to the Peak (1302') stopping by the way for puffball fights or to view the Heretaunga Plains. We returned by a different route and boiled up at the first stream. It was a sunburnt party that returned to Hastings.

No. in party: 8.

Leader, Muriel Shaw.

Helen Hill, Pat Bolt, Betty Stringer, Mavis Wentworth, Bob Wallace, Lindsay Hill, John Hill.

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Labour Day week-end: Trip cancelled owing to weather.

No. 391. TE ARATIPI.

October 29th.

After a large number of cancelled trips we finally received sufficient entries to warrant an undertaking. Owing to excessive costs of transport,

private cars were decided on, and the time of departure was fixed for 9 am. At 9.45 we left Hastings and arrived at our destination at 11.15. Half an hour's wander brought us to a small stream and there we boiled up and partook of some lunch.

Appetites being satisfied and thirsts slaked we moved off through some bush and headed for the top of Te Aratipi which was visible some distance away. On the way an opossum was killed by three members who lagged somewhat behind the party. This unfortunate animal was then lugged to the top and displayed to the others.

After a spell on top we moved off at a leisurely pace over the hills and through the odd patch of bush to a line of rocks which somewhat resemble teeth from a distance. Another spell here and then we moved off in the direction of our starting point. Along the trail we found another convenient stream and boiled up once more. At the completion of the ritual we moved on.

Back at our transport we changed and headed for home, returning via Waimarama beach road. The first two cars disgorged their cargoes at Holt's between 6 and 6.15 pm. while the third arrived at 6.45 having suffered a minor breakdown on the way. This completed a leisurely and enjoyable trip.

No. in party: 14.

Leader, Ken Thomas.

Muriel Shaw, Betty Stringer, Helen Hill plus 3, John Mitchel, Bob Woon, Dick Clark, Ray Pocock, Walter Shaw, Geoff Harrow (C.M.C.), Derek Conway.

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No. 392.

KAWEKA TRIC & CAIRN.

November 10th-11th.

Twenty starters in all left the road at 11.45 am. and arrived at Kaweka Hut in several groups in the late afternoon.

With the weather forecast for "low cloud gradually lifting and weather improving from fair to fine", there was movement in the hut at 5 am. and fourteen made a start for the tops at 7.2 (two minutes behind schedule). A slow, steady pace was set to synchronise the arrival at the Cairn with the promised "fine" interlude. Low cloud and mist obscured most of the view, though short periods when the sun broke through maintained our hopes of better conditions; but the best we got were occasional glimpses of the base of Ruapehu as far as the snow line and of the plains as far as the Bay including Kidnappers.

A reluctant fire of small twigs was coaxed for an hour to yield a welcome cup of tea at the camp site near Studholme Saddle. We arrived at the Cairn at midday to find that the shattered top had been readjusted by a party of the preceding week. After a short ceremony a smarter return was made to the hut where more tea was awaiting us; and so back to the road and into the lorry shortly after six o'clock.

Several members were making their first visit to the Cairn, two of these making their debut with the Club. Three members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps were a welcome addition to the party of seventeen trampers. The main purpose of their visit was to test the serviceability of (their own development I believe) the "208" transmission and receiving set. They voted their results one hundred per cent successful, and certainly to us it was impressive to be in the Hut while messages were being sent out and received both verbally and in morse. Results were obtained from as far afield as Auckland, Faeroa, Wanganui and the South Island, while details of our activities were relayed to our President's home in Hastings. Their equipment should be of great service in the event of an extensive search. We trusted the trio enjoyed their outing as much as they appeared to.

No. in Party: 20.

Leader, Stan Craven.

A.R.E. Corps: Mrs. Geoff Gilchrist, Mr. Geoff Gilchrist, Mr. Jack King.H.T.C.: Helen Hill, Pat Bolt, Muriel Shaw, Betty Stringer, Jocelyn Simmons, Ken Thomas, John Mitchel, Walter Shaw, Angus Russell, George Pickernell, George Lowe, Derek Conway, Peter Smith, Allen Cowan, Rex Chaplin, Dave Williams.

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PRIVATE TRIP: KIDNAPPERS & THE CAIRN.

At 6 am. on Saturday Nov. 4th, Geoff Harrow (C.M.C.) took Don Irvine and me to Clifton. The low tide was abnormally high, and waterfalls, mud and rocks came down the cliffs at intervals. The return trip was over the sodden grasslands. The whole walk took seven hours. We saw a captured grey nurse shark 8 ft. long at Iron Hut near the Cape; and I was astonished at the disappearance of much of the Black Reef and other rocks since my last visit a year ago.

On our return from Clifton we picked up Dick Clark at his hospitable Waiohiki home and set out for the Kawekas, arriving at the Kaweka Hut after dark, wet from contact with dripping manuka. To bed at 11 pm. after the usual stew.

Sunday at 8.30 am., away to Kaweka Trig. The party of four C.M.C. members had perfect visibility in every direction. The old guide on the last slopes pointed out the summit and returned to the Kiwi ridge. The three fit men repaired the Cairn and beat their guide to the Kiwi Hut.

A boil up, then a return by the scree route to the road at 7 pm. after an encounter with a kicking horse. Trampers, beware of a friendly young horse! After a welcome supper at Dick's, Geoff delivered his weary parcels in Napier at 10.30 pm., his memory enriched with wonderful views of Hawkes Bay.

ANGUS RUSSELL.

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SUB - COMMITTEES.

At a recent committee meeting the following appointments were made:

Fixture Committee: George Lowe, Muriel Shaw, John Mitchel.Hut & Track Committee: Angus Russell, Ken Thomas, John Mitchel.Search Committee: Lin Lloyd, George Lowe, Ursula Greenwood, Norman Elder.Equipment Officer: Ken Thomas.Editor of "Pohokura" & Press Relations: Janet Lloyd.Librarian: Angus Russell.

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NEW MEMBERS.

George Pickernell has this paragraph all to himself. We welcome him into the Club and wish him many years of good tramping.

CLUB ROOM EVENTS.

17/8/50. Philip Finch showed us some of his movie films. These included a colour film of Cornwall Park, various local Club trips, and the photos he took on the Club trip to the Spenser Mountains in the South Island.

31/8/50. We celebrated Ang's birthday with musical honours and a cake with how many candles?

28/9/50. Tom Neill gave us an entertaining account of his brief trip to England and America.

12/10/50. George Lowe showed us some awe-inspiring slides of Cook and Tasman as well as Mt. Aspiring. It was very interesting to be shown the actual ridges climbed and to have the tricky spots pin-pointed.

9/11/50. Mr. King of the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps in Napier brought out one of their new wireless sets to show us. These sets both transmit and receive, weigh only 25 lbs., and can be pulled to pieces (more or less) and distributed among the party.

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S O C I A L N E W S .

Betty and George Couper have a daughter - Anne. She is coming out with the Club on the first picnic trip available.

Dulcie and Alan Oulaghan have added another tramper to the family. Our congratulations to them and a welcome to the small daughter.

Kath Nelligan and Les Tocher were married at the end of August. We wish them all future happiness.

At the beginning of September Kath and Norm Elder left on a six months' visit to England. This is the first time since the Club was formed that Norm has been away from Hawkes Bay for more than a week. We miss his guiding counsel badly. A letter posted somewhere at sea rather bemoans the fact that there were no trampers on board. A Land & Highway pack discovered in the baggage room proved a false clue. Still, there was one couple who told him at great length how tramping should be done!

Peg Morris is now in Dorset at a place which has black sheep with four horns. In her last letter she was on the point of dashing up to London to help open Parliament.

Huck Finn writes from Christchurch that she will be in Hastings from Dec. 28th to Jan. 4th., and would like company up to the Cairn. She suggests a New Year's party at the Kaweka Hut for all Old Timers. Would anyone interested please get in touch with Ursula.

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NAPIER BRANCH AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY CORPS.REPORT ON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS USING PORTABLE EQUIPMENT ON
TRIP KAWEKA HUT WITH HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB.

The tests took place during the week-end of the 11th - 12th November 1950, and two operators accompanied the party.

The object of the tests was to test fully under actual search conditions the capability of the portable sets owned by the Club.

The location used was the Heretaunga Tramping Club's Kaweka Hut about 38 miles NW by W air-line from Napier in the Kaweka Ranges. The elevation was about 3000 feet. The hut was surrounded by scrub and birch trees. We were fortunate enough to have room to erect aials clear of the trees.

The sets used were modified 208 type sets run off dry batteries. The set used mostly was modified for cw or phone use and had a power of about point 8 of a watt. The weight of the complete station was 25 lbs and was split up in three main parts, the heaviest being the wireless set weighing nine pounds fourteen ounces. In an emergency a spare set of batteries would be desirable though we have good reason to believe that the batteries would have a life in excess of 24 hours' operation or say 3 days.

The tests were conducted over 2 days and communication with Napier was the main consideration though contacts further afield were made. The aials used were as follows - Saturday and Saturday night the normal 208 aial (66) feet long; on Sunday an aial 130 ft. long was used with greatly improved results and its use was fully justified.

SUMMARY OF CONTACTS MADE:

Contact was maintained with Napier at all times both at the road-head and at the Kaweka Hut. Cw and phone were used. It would have been possible to use phone on all contacts but power leaks in Napier caused considerable interference at times and cw had to be used. Phone signals from Napier could be copied easily at all times. On Saturday night a phone contact was made with Wanganui but this was marred by interference from other stations. If this interference had not been present one hundred per-cent copy would have been achieved. On Saturday and Sunday contact was made with Paeroa on cw and 100% copy was made. Several contacts here were made and one at midday the most difficult time for communication. On Saturday night a report was received that our cw signals were copied 100% by a station in Henderson.

CONCLUSIONS:

The sets proved satisfactory in every way and we have complete confidence in their use in an emergency. They are small enough to be carried in a pack and the set and accessories can be split up between three or more packs. The modifications proved very successful and we will modify further sets for AREC use. The trouble in converting the set for phone as well as cw proved well worth while though cw proved to be a more reliable method of contact. In an emergency it would be desirable to have a road-head station say a ZC1 and reliable communication would be assured and further, communication between a search party and road-head seems very desirable.

The co-operation of the Tramping Club contributed in no small measure to the success of the tests.

GEO. C. STUDD,
Section-Leader,
Napier Branch Amateur Radio Emergency Corps.

(The above report, we think, will be of great interest to other Clubs. We

(Continued from last page-)

feel that if similar tests in other parts of the country were undertaken with Tramping Club - R.G. Corps co-operation, using sets adapted to the specifications of the Napier AREC, much could be accomplished in improvement of communications and resultant lessening of the hard work of search.

L.H. LLOYD.)

FIXTURE LIST.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Place:</u>	<u>Leader:</u>
Jan. 21st.	<u>Hawkeston Gorge.</u>	John Mitchel
Feb. 3-4th.	<u>Club Picnic, Waimarama.</u>	J. & L. Lloyd.
Feb. 18th.	<u>Horseshoe Bend - cycle</u>	Ken Thomas
March 3-4th.	<u>Kaweka Hut & Track, working party.</u> George Lowe & (New Window, renew bunks, also Stan Craven paint roof Kiwi Hut)	
Easter, March 23-26th	<u>Mahia Peninsula</u> (Train).	Bob & Stan Woon.
April 1st.	To be arranged.	
April 15th.	<u>Craggy Range to Clifton via</u> <u>Maraetotara Stream.</u>	Pat Bolt.
April 28th-29th	<u>Gull Stream, N. Ruahines.</u>	Helen Hill.
May 13th.	Mystery Trip, cost about 7/6. Leave 9 am. return 6-30 pm. Sunday. A brand new trip to everybody.	M. D. Shaw.

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Maps. We have recently managed to get reprints of the out-of-stock Ruahine maps, to tide us over until the official map comes out.
The following may be obtained from the secretary:-

CENTRAL KAIMANAWA:	(helio)	Price to members:	3/6
NORTHERN KAIMANAWA:	(helio)	" " "	4/-
TARARUA RANGE:	(Lands & Survey)	" " "	2/6
NORTHERN RUAHINE:	(2 - Sheet, duplicated)	" " "	1/-
CENTRAL RUAHINE:	(2 - Sheet, 1 copied)	" " "	1/6
SOUTHERN RUAHINE:	(" " ")	" " "	1/6
KAWEKAS:	(2 - Sheet, duplicated)	" " "	1/-