

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.).

"POHOKURA"

BULLETIN NO. 59.

DECEMBER 1951.

PRESIDENT-

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Hon. SECRETARY -

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CLUB CAPTAIN-

R. Woon,
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Hon. TREASURER-

Miss H.C. Hill,
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To all members we wish a Merry Christmas and good tramping in 1952.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the H.T.C. was held in the Girl Guide Rooms on 11th. October, 1951. The following reports were submitted:-

MEMBERSHIP:

This year closed with a financial membership of 81, made up as follows:

Full	members	54.	(66)
Junior	"	1.	(1)
Absentee	"	21.	(14)
Associate	"	1.	(2)
Honorary	"	5.	(6)

PRESIDENT'S

REPORT:

This meeting brings to a close another tramping year. Looking back, in spite of the still small parties and proportionate heavy cost of transport requiring subsidy, very few trips were cancelled. The thanks of club members are due to those of our number who made available their private transport to enable others also to travel.

The big interest of the year has been the letters from our Club Captain, George Lowe, one of the four members of the N.Z. climbing party in the Himalayas; and their notable achievement of climbing seven unnamed peaks over 20000 feet gives us almost as

much satisfaction as he is entitled to feel himself.

Bob Woon is filling the Club Captain's vacancy more than capably, and the Club generally is slightly increasing its average number per trip and is getting that hard core of locally resident trappers steadily increasing their experience and knowledge of the country and forming the base for future development.

This meeting terminates also my personal activities, both tramping and executive, with the Club. During the last eleven years I have made many friends; and during my term of office as President I have to keep the traditional atmosphere of friendly informality which has always been a feature of the H.T.C. This friendliness and informality I consider is important as it makes for a sense of welcome to visitors and prospective members, many of whom are in a strange town.

I wish to record the Club's appreciation of the Radio Emergency Corps' efforts in testing radio conditions at some of our possible search bases, and for their spirit of co-operation generally. They will always be welcome to come on any trip with us.

We have established friendly and co-operative relations also with the Deerstalkers and the Club have been mutually helpful. I can foresee this co-operation being fruitful in extending hut accommodation and in stronger search teams.

The financial position of the Club is sound. Your committee is competent and we are blessed with a capable team to fill executive posts. The future is full of plans for new projects and interesting fixture lists.

In conclusion I wish to express my grateful thanks to the secretary in particular, who has been responsible in recent years for so much of the smooth running of the Chairman's job and the Club affairs generally.

CLUB CAPTAINS REPORT.

Club Trips.

Club Trips have been going out regularly this year, although the numbers in the parties have not been great, an average of approximately 11. Only two trips were cancelled, both because of adverse weather.

Easter at Mahia Peninsula was the only Club trip made away from our local hills, the suggested Tararua Southern Crossing for the King's Birthday weekend failing to win sufficient support. Outstanding trips this year were Waikamaka- 66- Hut-Eye; Log Cabin- Kiwi Hut- Kuripapanga; and Howlett's Hut.

Transport: Owing to the general increase in transport costs, the use of the truck for small parties has been found impracticable. Our transport this year has been mainly by the private cars, trucks and vans owned by various members, and our thanks go to these people. Thanks are also due to members of the Deerstalkers' Assn. for arranging transport for one of our trips.

Combined Trips: Labour weekend with the Manawatu T.C. at Cape Kidnappers was the only combined trip this year.

Private Trips; Both North and South Islands have attracted members of the Club on their own private jaunts. Egmont, Ruapehu, and the Kaimanawa and Rushine Ranges have been the main attractions in the North, while reports have come to hand of members being active in the Harper's Pass area, the Wanaka Valley, and also round the Hermitage in the South.

Naturally George Lowe's expedition to the Himalayas takes first prize and we are all waiting to hear more from George on his return.

Memorial Cairn; The stone cairn on the Kawekas was repaired by some members a week before the annual trip. This year's trip has been set down for 10th-11th November, and we call on all trampers past and present to keep this weekend clear and endeavour to make the trip. Last year a short service was held, conducted by Stan Craven, and we expect him to be with us again this year.

Search Organization; Once again search lists have been revised and contact has been maintained with the Radio Emergency Corps in Napier. Members of the Corps have been out twice with the Club, once to Kaweka Hut and once to Bog Hill. Radio contact was made clearly with Napier and also many other parts of N.Z.

One night at a Club meeting, members of the R.E.C. showed us a nice compact little and receiving set weighing a little over twenty pounds which could be divided among three or four for carrying purposes. This set would be ideal for an advance post in the event of a search.

Near Miss. Just after Easter two deerstalkers were reported overdue in the Big Hill - Herrick's - Ho Han's area, and club members were alerted; but fortunately the missing men were reported safe at Whakarara Hill before any of our parties were despatched.

General; At the beginning of the year some members were causing some anxiety by wandering away from the party on their own private excursions in search of photographic scenery etc., but a few words at the meetings seem (we hope) to have put an end to the practice.

Those members who have gone out regularly this year have enjoyed good tramping, good trips, fair weather and the grand feeling of comradeship that seems to come to all trampers.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE; We have had bright and interesting evenings this year, though we have not been able to get speaker for them all. Two speakers gave most interesting talks, one on London and one on Hastings, England. Mr. Burfield told us a lot about boots. Norm. Elder gave us valuable information about tramping gear; and also compared Scottish and N.Z. tramping from recent experience. Mr King of Napier gave a radio demonstration to a most appreciative audience.

A cheer and farewell evening for George Lowe was held during the year at the ever hospitable Craven home. We now look forward to a welcome home.

Several of our members have married during the year, and we wish them every happiness in the future.

"POHOKURA"
& PUBLICITY.

Our typists are again reduced to one, but thanks to her efforts the usual three numbers of "Pohokura" have been published this year.

Mr. Patterson has always given us excellent service with the duplicating. We take this opportunity to thank all leaders of trips and others who have contributed to the magazine, also all those who have so nobly helped to staple it together.

Reports of trips to the ranges have been sent to the Press throughout the year.

LIBRARY REPORT. During the year two books, one on Africa and one on Hawke's Bay were generously added to make our list total 99. Forty one were lent i.e. put into the care of the reader. A prompt return shows a spirit of consideration for the donors of these books, for other members, and also saves the librarian trouble. Two books were lost in 1949, one in 1950, and none in 1951.

The librarian is now engaged in indexing the 4 albums and 58 bulletins to allow quick reference to the past 400 club trips and items vital to tramping. "There's gold in them thar Books". He who walks may read, and learn much.

EQUIPMENT
REPORT:

Financial returns have been nil during the year owing to disrupted organisation and the fact that very few new members have joined the club.

Gear is missing and scattered, and a rough check has revealed that while ice-axes are on the increase, (we have two and one on loan from Holly Holineux) billies are on the decrease and there are more lids than billies.

Plans are under way to store gear in the clubrooms again, and the forthcoming year should show an increase in both efficiency and revenue.

HUT & TRACK
REPORT.:

Due to a very wet summer, most of our tracks are badly overgrown with pig fern and manuka. At the beginning of the year a working party was run to the

Kawekas. Although the Kaweka Hut track-cutting party was poorly attended a good job was done in the Hut re-sacking and tightening all the bunks. On the same weekend a small party carried a new camp oven in to the Kiwi Saddle Hut; this same party also painted the iron roof with orange paint which was already in the hut. Later on this year a new window pane was carried in to Kaweka Hut and put in place of the broken one.

In August an H.T.C. party helped to carry building supplies for the new Matthew's Hut which is being built by the Deerstalkers' Assn. The week-end following this two H.T.C. members went in with their track cutting party and cut a track along the top of the Ohara Stream linking up with the horse track running in to Matthew's Hut.

After being on the agenda for at least 3½ years, Herrick's Spur has at last been disced. A total of 158 orange discs have been nailed on the uphill side of trees to facilitate coming down the spur in fog. Also extensive track cutting and blazing has been done. The open snow grass patches at the top of the spur have been both poled and disced.

Both Waikamaka and No Man's Huts need minor bunk repairs and Rushine Hut has just about completely collapsed; but all other huts either owned or used by the Club are in good order.

In the near future it is proposed to build a new hut in order to open up the northern end of the Kawekas for tramping. The Makahu Saddle has been suggested but has not yet been confirmed. Another suggestion is the headwaters of the Makororo River.

The committee also recommends that in the coming year the tracks be cut and disced up the ridge from McCullough's Hill to Shut Eye Shack in the central Rushines, and the Golden Crown ridge in the northern Rushines.

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.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

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

PATRON: Dr. D.A. Bathgate.

President. Mr. N.L. Elder.

Vice-Presidents. Messrs. E. Lloyd, E.S. Craven W.G. Lowe.

Club-Captain: Mr. R. Woon.

Secretary: Miss U. Greenwood.

Treasurer: Miss H.C. Hill.

Auditor: Mr. A. Dixon.

Executive Committee:

Mrs. J. Lloyd, Miss P. Bolt,
Messrs. D. Conway, J. Mitchel, D. Reid, K. Thomas
S. Woon.

Social Committee:

Misses P. Bolt, K. Cherney,
Messrs. P. Smith, S. Woon, J. Mitchel, D. Burton.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 1951.LIABILITIES

SEARCH RESERVE FUND:

Balance as at 1st. October 1950	£	16.	13.	7
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NEW HUTS RESERVE FUND:

Balance as at 1st. October 1950		36.	12.	6
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FOOD FOR BRITAIN RESERVE FUND:

Balance as at 1st. October 1951		16.	10.	9
		<u>69.</u>	<u>16.</u>	<u>10</u>

ACCUMULATED FUNDS:

Balance as at 1st. October 1950	115.	-.	9	
ADD: Excess of Income over				
Expenditure for year	<u>46.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>7</u>	161. 2. 4
	£			<u><u>250. 19. 2</u></u>

ASSETS

EQUIPMENT AND FORMS:

Balance as at 1st. October 1950		16.	4.	3
LESS: Depreciation @ 10% p.a.	1.	12.	3	
Sale of pack	<u>10.</u>	<u>0</u>		
		<u>2.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3</u>
				14. 2. -

HUTS:

Kaweka	5.	-.	-	
Waikamaka	5.	-.	-	
Kiwi Saddle	25.	-.	-	35. -. -

BADGES:

7.	1.	-
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MAPS:

3.	13.	6
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"SEARCH AND RESCUE" BOOKLETS:

1.	12.	-
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POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK:

Search Fund	16.	13.	7	
New Huts Fund	36.	12.	6	
Food for Britain fund	<u>16.</u>	<u>10.</u>	<u>9</u>	69. 16. 10

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK:

87.	12.	7
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BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES: Current Account

<u>11.</u>	<u>15.</u>	<u>2</u>	99. 7. 9
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SECRETARY'S PETTY CASH:

			6. 1
£			<u><u>230. 19. 2</u></u>

SIGNED H.C. HILL (TREASURER)

AUDITOR'S REPORT & CERTIFICATE: SIGNED: A.I. DIXON (AUDITOR).

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 1951.

EXPENDITURE

GENERAL EXPENSES:

Advertising		1. 17. 5	
Insurance Premiums			
Waikamaka Hut	9. 6		
Equipment	4. 9	14. 3	
Subscriptions			
Royal Society of N.Z.	1. 1. -		
Forest & Bird Society	7. 6		
Federated Mountain Clubs	18. 6		
Youth Hostels Assn.	1. 1. -	3. 8. -	
Repairs to Huts		2. 7. -	
Sundries		1. 16. 5	10. 3. 1

RENT OF MEETING ROOMS

11. 11. -

SOCIAL EXPENSES

1. 15. 8

23. 9. 4

BULLETIN EXPENSES:

Stencils and Duplicating	13. 16. 6	
Sundries	2. 8. 6	16. 5. -

Loss on sale of Maps

2. 11

Loss on sale of "Search and Rescue"

1. -

3. 11

COST OF TRANSPORT:

Excess of Payments over Receipts for year - Payments	82. - . 4	
LESS fares collected	69. 6. 11	12. 13. 5

DEDUCT: Credit Balance in Transport Fund 1/10/50:

4. - 3

8. 13. 2

DEPRECIATION: Equipment

1. 12. 3

50. 3. 3

Excess of Income over Expenditure for year transferred to Accumulated Funds

46. 1. 7

£ 96. 5. 3

INCOME

SUBSCRIPTIONS

62. 17. 6

DONATIONS

4. 16. 6

HIRE OF EQUIPMENT

8. -

INTEREST RECEIVABLE: Post Office Savings Bank

3. 3. 3

SUBSIDY RECEIVED from N.Z. Government on cost of erection of Kiwi Saddle Hut

25. - . -

£ 96. 5. 3

TO ALL CLUBS.

DEHYDRATED VEGETABLES: The Marketing Department wants to quit its stock of dehydrated carrots. Supplies are available at cut rates as follows:

Auckland:	six 9-lb. (4 gal.) tins "stripped" carrots. £1.5/- a tin.
Hastings:	8 cases of $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. pkts., stripped; 4 doz. pkts. per case (querv condition). £3.10.0 a case.
Wellington:	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ cases stripped in bulk; two 9-lb. (4 gal.) tins per case. £1.5/- a tin. One 15-lb. tin diced, £2.
Dunedin:	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ cases stripped in $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. pkts; 4 dozen pkts. per case, £3.10.0 a case.

The Federation is enquiring about service biscuits ex the British Army, which periodically disposes of its stocks and buys afresh.

OPOSSUM BOUNTY SCHEME: Many members of clubs have seen for themselves the ravages of opossums in our bush. These vermin are one of the most insidious pests ever imported into this country, especially where they are present in large numbers in conjunction with big deer or goat populations; the bush is then simultaneously attacked at ground level and in the upper foliage. As commercial trapping will never keep opossum numbers down to the desired level, the Government has decided to pay a bounty of 2/6 per token (a certain part of the skin) in an endeavour to bring the pest under control. The Federation is glad to assist by bringing the scheme to the notice of its members.

Enclosed is a copy of the explanatory circular issued by the Dept. of Internal Affairs and a specimen copy of the form of application for payment of bounty. The conditions originally imposed are now considerably relaxed, as follows:-

1. Minimum number of tokens acceptable is reduced to ten (10).
2. Width of tokens: to be approximately two inches wide and need not be cut with sides straight and parallel.
3. Length of tokens: will be accepted if approx. nine inches from base of ears if shortage caused by wrinkling. Tokens must include the ears.
4. Tokens will not be rejected which are -
 - a. Obviously genuine.
 - b. Of a size which ensures not taken from opossums the skins of which could also be sold, or so young that they would have died in any case.
 - c. Not maggot infested or in decaying state. Post Offices will not permit posting of offensive tokens. Drying is simple and effective.
5. Written permission of owner of land not now required by Department. Details of district and locality only required.

Completed declaration form must be posted to Department for each lot of tokens submitted before payment can be made. Forms obtainable from offices of County and Borough Councils, Catchment Boards and district offices of Forestry, Lands, and Internal Affairs Departments.

It would be appreciated if Clubs would publicise this among their members.

SAFETY BROADCASTS: For some time the executive has been puzzling over the question of how to present the three-minute safety talks in a new form without sacrificing their kernel of essential warnings and instructions. Since the rather unproductive discussion at the annual meeting, the broadcasting people have given us the answer - a series of fifteen-minute prepared question and answer discussions on each subject. At the executive meeting this month a

sub-committee was appointed to start work at once on four priority subjects with the intention of getting at least some of them over the air before the Christmas holidays. Other subjects will follow after that.

We have been conscious of the shortcomings of the very condensed three-minute talks and will be glad to try another approach which should appeal much more to the public. To the extent that we are unable to prepare enough fifteen-minute discussions before Christmas, some of the three-minute talks will be used again. In all this, we are very grateful to the Broadcasting Service people who have been helpful and encouraging.

SEARCH AND RESCUE: Before the next Newsletter is sent out, clubs will have received copies of the S.A.R. booklet on organization. The purpose is to set out clearly the functions and responsibilities of all bodies concerned in S.A.R. work - clubs, police, Air Force, Army and so on. Careful study of the booklet should help all to be quick and efficient, and to avoid overlapping, omissions and the many failings arising from poor organization and lack of knowledge. Club secretaries and chief guides (club captains) will be especially concerned with the information in the booklet.

MAP OF RUAHINE RANGE: The Lands and Survey Department advises that the new map will be published this year.

ACCESS TO MOUNTAINS, SOUTH ISLAND: Advice in the last Newsletter about seeking permission to cross back country stations prompted one mountaineer to raise the question of legal right of access, irrespective of permission. I undertook to look into this, especially his suggestion that there is a right of way up any river. The Lands and Survey Dept. has replied:

"There are no areas reserved following the course of the rivers as suggested by you. Where a mountaineer desires to cross privately owned land then it is necessary for him to make arrangements with the owner, unless that owner has let it be known that he has no objection to mountaineers crossing his land.

With regard to Crown land, there is no objection to mountaineers crossing this land provided they do not do any damage. In many instances, however, land which it is desired to cross has been alienated by the Crown under pastoral licence. These licenses do not give exclusive possession of the areas over which they are granted but only give a right to graze.

The Crown is therefore entitled to give permission to mountaineers to cross land which is the subject of a pastoral licence and it is not necessary in a general way to get the permission of the Crown. It is, of course, essential that if mountaineers are crossing areas subject to pastoral licenses they shall not do anything to disturb stock of the licensee or to cause annoyance. It is thought unlikely that any licensee will cause any trouble. Should he do so the matter could be referred to this Department."

There it is, but we should still hold to the principle of goodwill and its corollary - permission to cross farm land under any tenure.

FOUNDATION of the F.M.C. and CHRONOLOGY OF CLUBS: A.P. Harper's summary in the last Newsletter has drawn some interesting comments from G.B. Wilson, a foundation delegate and a former President of the Federation.

"The progress of the F.M.C. since the war has been remarkable, as was the revival of mountaineering interest after the First World War. Great credit is due to the F.M.C. workers of recent years and to Mr. A.P. Harper and the N.Z.A.C. for the original work of foundation and since.

I do not wish to detract in any way from the N.Z.A.C.'s credit concerning the September 1930 foundation of the F.M.C. but the work of the Tararua Tramping Club as a forerunner of federation should not be overlooked. The March 1929 minutes of the Tararua General Committee record the formation of an arrangement between tramping clubs for joint Government action and for joint tramping trips. The October 1929 Tararua "Tramper" makes reference to the seven clubs from Auckland to Dunedin which agreed to co-operate.

The Tararua Club also laid down the 1933 safety rules and in April 1934 co-ordinated a search and rescue scheme for clubs operating in the Tararuas. The club's 1934 arrangement with the Police Department became the basis of the F.M.C.'s 1935 scheme, now the important S.A.R.

I remember well the September 1930 foundation meeting of the F.M.C. With the late J.W. Butcher, I represented a smaller club to which we also belonged, Levin T.C. Our report of 15th Sept. 1930 to Noel Thomson, President of the Levin T.C., stated:

'Eleven clubs were represented, the F.M.C. was founded, rules were revised and a provisional committee was selected. Discussions were most harmonious, although there was a line of cleavage between the larger and smaller clubs. We think it would be a fine thing for all clubs to join the F.M.C. at its foundation so as to function as a live body representative of all tramping and allied organisations. We note the apparent reluctance of the N.Z.A.C. to join the F.M.C. on the same basis as other clubs. N.Z.A.C. wants (1) Federation of all other clubs; (2) Right to appoint two members of F.M.C. Committee; (3) F.M.C. to apply for affiliation with N.Z.A.C.

I am (2) was turned down flat and N.Z.A.C. was simply invited to join the F.M.C.'

As my friend A.P. Harper states, many present considered that N.Z.A.C. should not join F.M.C. Just so, but the larger clubs, Tararua, Hutt Valley and Canterbury Mountaineering, refused to join the F.M.C. because of the N.Z.A.C. defection. N.Z.A.C. generously gave way first, a year later, and the other clubs followed suit immediately and also joined, C.M.C. somewhat after the others. My club, Tararua, had also quibbled about the number of delegates but was overruled by the club members.

A.P. Harper states that in 1921 there were only one or two clubs besides N.Z.A.C. But in 1919 there were only three active clubs in New Zealand: Greytown (since defunct), Ruapehu and Tararua. This brings me to the point that I must try to review the history of New Zealand mountaineering, that is by clubs. I know individual members of the Tararua and Auckland clubs who used to visit the Orongorongo, Tararuas and Auckland West Coast as early as 1888. Flagstaff, Dunedin and the Dun Mtn., Nelson also had their early devotees. Trampers, tourists and botanists from Wairarapa and Wellington established tent camps and visited Holdsworth and Quoin in 1900, 1907 and 1909. But pride of place as to clubs must be taken by Mannering and Harper's N.Z.A.C. of 1891 to 1897, then lost after a few short years, to revive again not earlier than 1921 and not effectively until about 1929, some time after the pioneer efforts of Greytown, Ruapehu, Tararua and C.M.C.

In the meantime between 1895 and 1914, the Greytown Mt. Hector Tourist Club in particular, helped at times by the Otaki Track Committee, the Mt. Holdsworth Club and the Wellington Philosophical Society, carried the torch and kept alive some public interest until the First World War. After this event, as after the last war, minds and bodies were stimulated. Ruapehu Ski Club, now the senior club, had been founded in 1915; Tararua Tramping Club followed in 1919, before N.Z.A.C. was revived in the twenties, the latter possibly preceded by Victoria University College T.C. in 1921. Hutt Valley followed in 1923,

" C.M.C. (then Christchurch Tramping Club) in 1924, Auckland T.C. in 1925 and then the Otago T.C.

The N.Z.A.C. bulletin of June 1951 states that the years 1920-1930 marked the revival of the club and in effect explains how and why the new club escaped being called the Otago Alpine Club. I think that one of the earlier movements in the Matukituki area had the unwieldy but interesting name 'Southern Lakes Tourist, Mountaineering & Alpine Sports Club.' The Otaki Track Committee also bloomed and died as the Otaki Tararua Mountaineering Club."

NEW CLUBS: Among the new clubs that have recently affiliated to the Federation is the Hamilton T.C., the only one of its kind in the whole of the populous Waikato. It has over 100 members and gives promise of being a very active club. There was a large attendance at L.D. Bridge's talk on S.A.R.

RUAPEHU SHELTER: As a result of representations from the Auckland Associated Mountain Clubs and the F.M.C., the old cookhouse near the Château is available for overnight accommodation by incoming parties who arrive late at night and find it inadvisable on account of bad weather to go on to their huts on the mountain. Note that it is to be used only in bad weather as an emergency shelter and will not be available when the staff need it as a social hall.

EVEREST: RECONNAISSANCE FROM THE SOUTH-WEST: Now that two New Zealanders, H.E. Kiddiford and E.P. Hillary, have been invited to join it, this expedition should be much in the news over the next few months. Two excellent background articles by the leader, Eric Shipton, appeared in "The Times" of 13th and 14th August, a few days before Shipton and another of the party left by air for Delhi. These are recommended to those who want to get this trip in proper perspective - it does not appear (as indicated in some N.Z. papers) that an attempt on the peak will be made. There are three objects in mind:

1. To see whether there is an alternative route to the summit from the "Western Cwm", a huge basin lying at 20,000 feet between Everest, Lhotse and Nuptse and linked by a 20,000 foot icefall to the Khumba Glacier.
2. To find out whether snow conditions on the upper part of the peak would preclude a post-monsoon attempt.
3. To see whether it is possible to climb to high altitudes in the cold of the late autumn.

The articles are illustrated with two photographs and a sketch map. The expedition is sponsored by the Himalayan Committee of the Royal Geographical Society and the Alpine Club, London.

FROM THE KAIKOURAS TO THE RANGITATA: John Pascoe advises the following details about his guide book (for series 'Southern Alps, Part One') to be published by the Pegasus Press of Christchurch before Christmas: text of 30,000 words, about 112 pages octavo, including 8 pages holding 14 illustrations, some of them aerial photographs. Three folding maps (Havelock, Wilberforce and Rakaia), plus 7 single page maps (sections of 4-mile sheets for Spensers, Kaikouras, and Arthur's Pass, Perth, Poulter, Harper Pass and Arrowsmith). The scope of the book is outline information about the 200 peaks, 100 passes, and 50 river valleys that comprise the area. Price, between 3/6 and 5/-. The manuscript was checked by members of several clubs.

Will clubs please include this information in club circulars. The publishers will advise clubs direct when final details of publication are available. Also in preparation is 'Rifle Sport in the South Island' by Matt Grant (C.M.C.), an experienced deer stalker.

B.D.A. GREIG
President.

REPORT OF ACCIDENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF EXECUTIVE OF FEDERATED MOUNTAIN

CLUBS OF NEW ZEALAND CONCERNING THE DEATH OF DENNIS HOWE.

On March 9th a climbing party comprising Guide Peter McCormack and Dennis Howe on one rope and Ralph Warburton and Frank Newmarch on the second rope were returning from Marcel Col to Pioneer Hut. They were descending a frozen snow slope on the northern side of the buttress of Mt. Lendenfeld at the time the accident occurred.

Guide McCormack was leading downhill and cutting steps. Prior to cutting he asked the deceased to remain where he was until he cut down the length of the rope. The first indication of a slip McCormack had was when he heard a warning cry from behind. He immediately anchored, but it was of no use as Howe had fallen to the left of McCormack, sliding head first over a small rock bluff approximately 12 ft. high, striking an isolated rock partially buried in the snow beneath the bluff. As a result of the impact Howe suffered a fractured skull. It transpired afterwards that the warning cry McCormack heard was not given by Howe but came from Warburton and Newmarch who were both behind Howe. They did not actually see Howe fall. The first they noticed was his body sliding down the slope feet first. Howe did not at any time call out a warning to McCormack who was back on to him at the time.

The three men then assisted Howe to a spot where he was made as comfortable as possible, although he was unconscious. After a consultation it was decided that McCormack and Warburton would return to Pioneer Hut to procure blankets and food, while Newmarch remained with Howe. After returning from Pioneer Hut to the scene of the accident with blankets and sleeping bags, McCormack and Warburton assisted Newmarch to dig a site to place Howe in, then they returned to Pioneer Hut where they spent the night in order to get an early start for the Fox Hostel next morning. Newmarch still remained with Howe.

McCormack and Warburton proceeded down the Fox Glacier and arrived at the Hostel next afternoon where they reported the accident to Mr. Brooks, Manager of Glacier Hotel, Franz Josef Glacier.

In due course a rescue party was organised, leaving for the Fox Hostel the same evening and setting out for Pioneer Hut at 2.30 am. the following morning. This party reached Pioneer Hut at approximately 3 pm. the same day. The party had been in the hut a few minutes when Newmarch arrived with news that Howe had died early that morning. The rescue party spent that night in the Hut and recovered the body next morning.

On the above facts the Federation Executive has decided that the accident was due entirely to misadventure and that no blame is attachable to anyone. It is, of course, elementary that a climber who slips should immediately call out, thereby giving the others on his rope an opportunity of taking the necessary steps to hold him. In this case the deceased fell from above and sustained his injuries before he had reached the position where the anchored rope could assist him, so the absence of a warning cry had no effect on the result, but it is surprising that a climber of Howe's experience did not observe the usual rule. The theory has been suggested that as he had been subject to occasional blackouts prior to the accident he may possibly have suffered some such affliction at the time. If this is so (and of course this is purely conjecture) it may well raise a question as to the advisability of people so subject placing themselves in the position where an attack may have such serious consequences.

REPORT OF ACCIDENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF EXECUTIVE OF FEDERATED MOUNTAIN

CLUBS OF NEW ZEALAND CONCERNING THE DEATH OF DONALD DEMENT.

Donald Dement who could swim was drowned whilst attempting to cross the Orongorongo River on the night of Friday 1st June 1951, at approximately 11 pm.

The night was cold and dark and wet with drizzle from the south. It had been raining heavily during most of the day. The river was running high, although it had been crossed by at least three parties prior to the attempt by Dement, but at another spot.

Mr. J. Scott, an Honorary Ranger, had crossed the river with his young son at approximately 4 pm. the same day. He had first attempted the crossing just a little upstream from the junction of "Browns Stream". The width of the river at this particular spot was about 35-40 feet and it was running fast in the middle.

It was at this particular spot that the attempt was made by Dement. Mr. Scott considered that it was too rough at this particular spot for his son to cross, although he was of the opinion he could have managed to get across himself. The crossing was made, however, with his son about a quarter of a mile further upstream.

Mr. Scott, anticipating those arriving late at night might have difficulty in crossing the river, took with him a length of rope approximately 70 feet in length and went down to the river to give assistance if necessary. On arrival at the river he learned that Dement and three others had attempted to cross together by grasping a pole, but gave it up as the river was flowing too fast. Scott had made contact with the party by shouting across the river. One end of the rope was then secured to a large boulder and the other to a tree stump. Scott expressed the opinion that he himself would not have been able to hold Dement if Dement was swept off his feet.

Dement then attempted the crossing by holding on to the rope. His companions, however, had no need to cross and were only standing to give assistance if required. Their hut was on the western side of the river, and although they had invited Dement to stay the night with them he expressed the view that he was keen to cross to his own hut.

It was stated by one of the witnesses that when Dement was a short distance across he called out "I don't think I can make it. Let go the rope Jack and I'll swing back." Whilst Scott was loosening his end of the rope Dement lost his grip and was washed down stream. Scott became aware of this before the rope was released by the slackness of it. No cry whatever was heard to come from Dement either then or later.

His body was found in the morning about a third of a mile down the river on a shingle bank on the eastern side.

None of the witnesses heard Dement cry out after letting go and owing to the darkness could not see what caused him to lose his hold on the rope. Dement was known to have been strong in the arms, and it was considered by those who know him that his leg disability in no way affected his balance. It is possible that Dement may have been hit by driftwood, but there is no actual evidence of this and nothing was seen by the witnesses. The fact that he must have been numbed with cold no doubt had an effect on him.

In the case of this accident an inquiry was held by a committee from the two clubs of which the deceased was a member and the Federation Executive has decided to accept and to hand on to member clubs the findings of this committee which are as follows:-

"The Committee enquiring into the accident wish first of all to stress the

grave danger of attempting to cross a flooded river at night. Insofar as the Orongorongo River is concerned, there are huts on both sides of the river and it is advisable to take shelter in one of these for the night, rather than risk life for the sake of a little more comfort from a hut on the other side of the river.

Secondly, the committee reiterates the necessity of using the correct technique when crossing rivers that are running high or are in flood.

The only method that can be considered safe is the one in which the person crossing the river is fastened to the rope, either by a noose on a continuous rope or on one end of the rope. The fact that a man can easily hold another in a flooded river, when the correct method of belaying is known, should be stressed more publicly.

The fixed rope (handrail method) is not a satisfactory method of crossing a flooded river, and it should only be used as a safeguard to speed up a party crossing a river and to avoid any danger if a slip should occur in a river which is otherwise safe.

It is obvious from this that had Dement been tied to a rope this accident would not have occurred.

Thirdly, the committee considers that apart from any of the safeguards used in river crossings, publicity should be given to the fact that the best method to safeguard one's life when a foothold is lost, is to swim with the current to the nearest side, or where there is least resistance. Fighting to regain a foothold is a hopeless task and a waste of energy.

Finally, too much emphasis cannot be placed on the fact that any time a person is swept off his feet whilst attempting to cross a flooded river, a potential drowning has occurred.

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S A F E T Y B R O A D C A S T S .

The sub-committee of the Federated Mountain Clubs has put in many hours in the preparation of four 15-minute discussions on:

1. Approach to the Mountains.
2. Route Finding.
3. What To Do If Lost.
4. Snow.

Recording will be completed soon and the talks, chaired by a broadcasting officer, will be broadcast over the YA and YD stations between 7 and 7.30 pm. over the month 14th November to 14th December. See the "Listener" for details.

Club officers, and members of the F.M.C. Executive especially, are asked to listen in and let the Federation have their opinions. These will be useful in preparing future broadcasts which may take the form of district, rather than national talks, based on the special problems of the local mountains. These talks and discussions would be prepared locally.

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C L U BT R I P S.

No. 409.

KAWEKA HUT.

August 19th.

The trip to the Waikamaka Hut and back via Rangi and Three Johns was cancelled on account of the snow conditions, so we decided on a day trip to the Kaweka Hut. A party of eleven left Holt's at 7.30 am., arrived at the pine tree at 10.05 am., and set off at about 10.20. The weather was fine but cold, and the creeks were normal despite recent heavy rain.

On arriving at Kaweka Hut we had a brew and lunch. Most of the party climbed the spur behind the hut, while others built snow men and experimented with skis. The snow round the hut was about two feet deep.

We left the Hut at about 3.15 pm. reaching the road about 5. We then had another brew and left for home about 6. A good day was had by all and no mishaps.

No. in party: 11.

Leader, Dick Burton.

Helen Hill, Dot Pickernell, Marie Persen, Norman Elder, George Pickernell, Peter Smith, Derek Conway, Allen Cowan, Philip Finch, Ken Thomas.

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No. 410.

POUTAKI HUT.

September 2nd.

After leaving Hastings at 8.20 we arrived at Eaton's at 9.30 am. A coldish wind made changing quite an ordeal, but everybody was ready to leave Eaton's at 10 am. We took the low saddle at the back of the homestead and then dropped to the horse track that follows the Poutaki Stream.

After an hour's steady tramp we reached the crossing where we stopped and had a cup of tea in a beautifully sheltered stream-bed. With the sun shining it was a pleasant spot and we were tempted to stay there. However, "to rest is not to conquer", so we were on our way at 11.45. We followed the horse track until we reached the top of the first saddle and then turned left (South) on to the ridge leading to Bald Hill. After an hour's climb we were on top and were rewarded with a magnificent view of the Ruahines under heavy snow. Waipawa Saddle, Sixty-six, Three Johns and many other points of interest were studied through the telescope that John had brought. The Kawekas also under heavy snow looked very good. However with a southerly blowing we did not tarry long and very soon we were on our way.

We reached the point where we had turned back last trip a few minutes after 2 pm. and pushed on to reach Poutaki Hut finally at 2.45. A boil-up and lunch and we were on our way out at 3.15. This time we took the ridge on the Eastern side of the stream and were making good progress when we came upon a nasty face of rock that had to be climbed if we continued along the ridge, so it was decided to drop down to the stream instead. We did this and finally reached the junction of the horse-track and the stream about 5 pm. Ten minutes' rest and then on again to reach Eaton's at 6.10, about 1/4-hour ahead of the sandman. A long way for a day trip but it was enjoyed by all.

No. in party: 10.

Leader, Bob Woon.

Janet Lloyd, Muriel Shaw, Helen Hill, Pat Bolt, John Mitchel, Allen Cowan, Derek Conway, Ken Thomas, Gordon Duckett.

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No. 411.

HOWLETT'S HUT.

Sept. 15-16th.

A party of eight left Hastings at five am. in very heavy fog. We were going well till some type said "turn to the left". We did, and about two miles further on ended up in someone's back yard. After a hasty retreat we arrived at the end of the right road at 7.30. There were great views of the Ruahines under quite heavy snow.

We started up the river at 8.30. After three hours of boulder-hopping and a few crossings we reached the bivvy and had a welcome boil-up. The weather was perfect with bright sunshine and clear sky. When everyone was satisfied we donned our packs and began to climb a spur named Daphne. This spur is covered in bush, is about 2500ft., and is "no lady". Near the top we struck heavy snow which made the going tough for one or two of us. We reached the hut at 2.30 pm. to find it almost covered in snow. After digging our way in we found the hut in very good condition. All the ridges up the back and around the Saw-tooth were covered in snow; with a blue sky for a background this was a great sight.

When the stew had been eaten most of us went to bed, but Doug and Bob went out to get us some venison for breakfast. Unfortunately the snow was too deep so we went hungry. In the morning Derek and Allen went up towards the Saw-tooth and they say it would be good skiing if one had the energy to carry the skis up there. Doug, Ian and Bob went stalking back towards the Oroua saddle, but didn't have any luck. Ken, Dick and Stan enjoyed a delightful hour sliding down the slopes.

At about 10 o'clock we started down Daphne to arrive at the bottom at midday, where we had dinner and then continued down the river. We arrived back at the cars at 4 pm. Some one said if he got home in time he would go to church, but this was not to be, as just out of Waipawa we were all gathered around a car watching the water pouring out of a hole in the radiator. We got a tow to Otane, then four went off to Hastings for a breakdown truck. The other four went to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Brooker where we had a very welcome cup of tea. We arrived home at 10 pm. all tired but satisfied. This was a great trip and, all agreed, one of the best.

No. in party: 8.

Leader, Stan Woon.

Dick Burton, Allen Cowan, Derek Conway, Ian Stirling, Ken Thomas, Doug Reid, Bob Woon.

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No. 412.

TE WAKA TRIG.

Sept. 30th.

For the first time in some months the numbers warranted the hire of a truck, so with 28 packed in like sardines we left Holt's bright and early for Te Waka Trig.

Arriving at the home of Mr. C. Ruddenklau we were met by that gentleman who said that as his wife was ill he could not present us with tea and hot scones as he had on the occasion of our previous visit. If we liked however, we could make use of the shepherd's cottage when we returned and have a boil-up there. We liked, so Alec Stafford and the two very little Staffords who stayed behind for the day, promised to have the billy ready for us.

A drop down into a gully, a plug up the other side and a meander along the top brought us to a stream where we boiled up and had lunch at the appropriate hour. After lunch we headed for the Trig which could be seen afar off. Some rather interesting caves were seen en route and these caused some speculation as to their possible depth, etc. A strong wind was blowing when we reached

the top, so after a hasty glance at the view we headed down through a patch of bush, quite pleasant going, to a stream some distance below. Here a rest was called for, and while we rested the Kiwis and sundry others amused themselves by throwing sticks and stones into the water thus wetting anyone who was either unfortunate enough or silly enough to come within range.

Mounting the last hill we arrived at our starting point and partook of the brew which Alec had prepared for us. We then climbed aboard the truck and proceeded to sing our way home to Hastings, which we reached without mishap at about 7 pm.

No. in party: 28.

Leader, Ken Thomas.

Kath Elder, Janet Lloyd, Barbara Higgins, Barbara Maultsaid, Jennifer Maultsaid, Esther King, Pauline Stafford, Pat Bolt, Norm Elder, Dave Williams, Angus Russell, Derek Conway, Dick Burton, Allen Cowan, Bob Woon, Ray Thomas, Rex Chaplin, Peter Smith, 8 Kiwis.

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No. 413.

WORKING PARTY: WHANA WHANA. (No.1)

Oct. 14th.

Difficulties of week-end transport and the lure of good money led to the abandonment of the Golden Crown trip in favour of a Sunday working party. It should be explained that the use of tree kanuka for shelter on Whanawhana, which gives its paddocks their characteristic appearance, involves a good deal of extra work when scrub has to be cleared, as everything has to be dragged away into heaps or into gullies before burning.

Twelve set out, falling in with a K.T.C. truck near Omahu to form an impressive convoy as far as the Pukehamoamo turn off where they left us for the Inland Patea Road.

Square dancing at Haumoana the previous night had cut our number down and the survivors looked jaded, but the fresh air worked wonders and we got through quite a good morning's work. After lunch an incendiary gang was sent back to start burning, but mist was settling on the tops and drizzle threatening - as the afternoon wore on fires grew sulky and after a tea break there were some showers and burning became sheer hard work and we had to knock off rather earlier than we meant. Still the transport finances benefited by a substantial amount, everyone had a pleasant day, and we hope to repeat the outing. The Beamishes' hospitality was very much appreciated. (N.B.: amount earned - £20).

Dick's jalopy unluckily broke an axle and had to be left and we had to pile into the other two cars to get home.

No. in party: 12.

Leader, Norman Elder.

Helen Hill, Kath Elder, Pat Bolt, Kath Cherney, May Cushing, John Mitchel, Des O'Neill, Bob Woon, Allen Cowan, Dick Burton, Ken Thomas,

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No. 414.

HOWLETT'S - OHUINGA.

Oct. 20-21-22nd.

7 am. on Saturday morning saw four H.T.C. members leave Hastings to do the above trip. A wrong turning on the road put us back about an hour and added 10d. to our fare. 2 1/4 hours up the Tuki Tuki and 2 hours up Daphne brought us to Howlett's with plenty of daylight in hand and very light mist about. We cooked and ate our stew and hit the sack after noticing that the sky was clear and the stars were showing.

Up at 6 am. Sunday we ate a hurried breakfast and left the hut at 7.15 in rain, but only a light mist. Further up the ridge we had a light fall of snow, but Tiraha was reached under good conditions. After a short stop for eats we tackled the Saw Tooth Ridge and were suitably impressed by the slopes on either side. We also realised that it was a long way to the bottom if you were careless enough to fall.

Ohuinga was reached at about 12 noon, and very thick mist did not allow us to find the correct spur. The wind was blowing and it was very cold. We realised that we would not reach Waikamaka under these conditions, so with scowls upon our brows and oaths upon our tongues we reluctantly retraced our steps to Howlett's. At the beginning of the Saw Tooth we stopped for some refreshment but were rudely interrupted by a thunderstorm which approached rapidly with hail, rain, etc. as a forerunner. Very good time was made on the return journey and Howlett's was reached at 4 pm. Stew and bed.

Monday dawned overcast, but no mist. Up at 5.30 and away at 7.15. We reached the foot of Daphne in an hour flat and made rapid progress to the road head, where we had half an hour's spell and then tackled the five miles of road to White's and the telephone. We reached White's at 11.25, rang Des and then went out and slept by the side of the road until he arrived, at 2 pm. We arrived back at Hastings at 4.30 pm. We had failed to do the crossing - but "We Will Return".

No. in party: 4.

Leader, Ken Thomas.

Bob Woon, George Lowe, Allen Cowan.

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No. 415.

WORKING PARTY: WHANA WHANA. (No.2)

Oct. 28th.

The satisfactory result of the first working party led to the substitution of a second instead of the Craggy Range trip. There was a fair response with prospects of increasing the number out, but we were unlucky with a number of last minute withdrawals, ending with only nine effectives. Still, as these were worth some 30/- a head it was a good deal better than nothing. Conditions were threatening with intermittent showers from the SW, but burning started immediately and went a good deal better than on the previous occasion. Bob with a knapsack pressure sprayer and Derek with an oil torch tore up the hillsides with singed trampers, turkeys and rabbits bolting from the heaps of manuka in their course, and sheets of flame rising behind them. If anything they were too good, and the following parties trying to rake the fires together before they died down had a hectic time.

A little before six we were ready to call it a day, not having finished the paddock. There is rumoured to be plenty more and any member with a taste for arson would be well advised to put in for one of these trips.

The convoy, one motor-bike, one T-model Ford, one station wagon and one jeep, was a spectacle in itself.

No. in party: 9.

Amount earned: £12.10.0.

Leader: Norman Elder.

Helen Hill, Pat Bolt, Janet Lloyd, Kath Elder, Alec Stafford, Bob Woon, Derek Conway, Julian Bullock.

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No. 416.

THE CAIRN: TRIG J.

Nov. 10-11th.

This annual trip is becoming established as a reunion in some measure so arrangements were made to suit the more leisurely, the more industrious, the more normal and the more fully occupied.

Two left on Thursday to enjoy a night at Kiwi Saddle Hut and to experience another one in the open at Studholme Saddle, where they were joined by a quartet of Model T travellers who had left on Friday with the purpose of making necessary repairs to the Cairn. This advance guard managed to keep inside their sleeping bags, snatch a little sleep between the less violent gusts and arrive at the Cairn well before the scheduled time.

The main party had the novel experience of being complete and in readiness some half-hour before the lorry arrived. Interest to the trip out was added by our consideration shown to an approaching lorry on the sharp down grade before the willows. The timely arrival and efforts of a rabbiters' truck aided by the lorry's sturdy engine and the trampers, was just sufficient to get the front wheel away from the yielding culvert and back on to the road. After this a brew at the willows was essential; Clem and Joan Smith were there to welcome us but elected to wish us success from the Swamp House. A pleasant trip to Kaweka Hut was made to suit all tastes in gears, George Lowe and his three young accomplices well belying their misgivings over 'holding the party up'. The traditional stew saw the main party out and even outlived the late-comers who arrived at about 10.30 pm.

Sunday morning was full of promise. A start from the hut at 7 am. saw us on top shortly after 8, only to be met by strong wind that made the going unpleasant and slightly dangerous. From here some decided to reconnoitre Kaiarahi, Cook's Horn and so return, others pushed on to discuss further steps at Studholme Saddle. Here we met three of the advance guard who had been to the Trig and had decided that the rendezvous at 11 am. was somewhat dimly distant. At 10 am. the main party again divided, five to go on to the Cairn and the remainder to return via the 'bivvy' (new ground to most).

At 11 am. promptly a short reading and ceremony had taken place, when the five of the main party arrived with the wreath. It is thought that such a wreath fashioned with Anzac poppies should become a fitting part of the annual function. After photographs and a short rest the return to the Kaweka Hut was accomplished in good time, the wind doing nothing to encourage us to loiter. By contrast and due to the calmer evening, the trip to the road was pleasant indeed and without further incident we returned home.

No. in parties: 27.

Leader, Stan Craven.

Helen Hill, Pat Bolt, Joan Smith, Kath Cherney, Janet Lloyd, Colleen Fisk, Enid Mullay, Kath Elder, Dr. Bathgate, Angus Russell, Clem Smith, Bob Woon, Ken Thomas, Derek Conway, Peter Smith, Norman Elder, Stan Woon, John Mitchel, Jim Gibb, George Lowe (plus three), Dave Williams, Dick Burton, Alan Standeven.

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No. 417.

MYSTERY TRIP.

(KIDNAPPERS).

Nov. 25th.

The novelty of a mystery trip (only the second in the history of the Club) lured 23 of us on to the truck at Holt's. En route we picked up Dave and Ang, and our destination turned out to be Clifton. The tide was mysteriously right for a walk round the beach, so our lunch destination turned out to be Kidnappers. The gannets were not so pleased, but manfully retained their posts on their out-size eggs. We gathered in two nurses at the Cape, came back over the hills to Mr. Max Stanley's house, and Mrs. Stanley very kindly boiled the billy for us. Then we dropped down Rabbit Gully and so back round the beach to Clifton.

No. in party: 25. Pat Bolt, Muriel Shaw, Barbara Higgins, Jennifer & Barbara Maultsaid, Janet Lloyd, Norm Elder, Bob Woon, Jim Gibb, Walter Shaw, Dave Williams, Angus Russell, Don Viggers (T.T.C.), Ian Berry, Ken & Ray Thomas, 9 Kiwi T.C.

Leader ?

) Bob carried the billy.

) Angus produced the tea (fortunately).

) Dave guided us over the hill.

J.L.

S O C I A L N E W S .ENGAGEMENTS:

Muriel Shaw to Sandy Lowe.
 John MacIntyre to Judy Beatie.
 John Cranko to Marie Hamber.

Our congratulations and best wishes to all of these.

DEPARTURES:

Philip Finch to Bloomsbury, and Alan Standeven to Woodville.

We hope they like their new positions.

GEORGE LOWE is now back with absorbing tales of India and the Himalayas.

DOUG REID has been spending quite a while in hospital - the result of a collision with a wild boar which charged uphill instead of down. We are glad to have seen him back at a club meeting, and hope it is not long before he is out shooting again.

CLUB MEETINGS:

30/8/51: Mr. Harvey, ex-London Police Force, told us many stories illustrating the courage, humour and pathos of Londoners during the blitz. At the same time he unconsciously gave us a very vivid impression of the courage and initiative of the Police themselves.

At this meeting, also, we celebrated Ang's birthday with a many-candled cake and musical honours.

11/10/51: This was George's first appearance at a Club meeting after his return from the Himalayas, so we had another cake. This time the decorations included a panorama of snowy peaks, all illuminated.

22/11/51: George Lowe showed slides of his last Christmas trip in the Southern Alps, when Earle Riddiford, Ed Hillary, Ed Cotter and he made the first ascent of Elie de Beaumont from the Burton Glacier. They knew the climb up from the Burton Glacier might be very difficult, but getting on to the glacier itself from the Tasman proved just as difficult. Much of their route had not been travelled over before. The slides were magnificent. Plenty of the scenery was plain terrifying. Even after his Himalayan trip George still says that that particular ascent of Elie de Beaumont is the most exciting climb he has ever done.

SUB-COMMITTEES:

At a recent committee meeting the following sub-committees and officials were appointed:-

Fixture Committee:	Bob Woon, Helen Hill, John Mitchel.
Hut & Track "	: John Mitchel, Ken Thomas, Derek Conway.
Search "	: President, Club Captain, Secretary.
Equipment Officer:	Ken Thomas.
Publicity "	: Norman Elder.
Librarian	: Angus Russell.
Editor	: Janet Lloyd.

21.
P R I V A T E T R I P S .

DISCING HERRICK'S SPUR.

SEPTEMBER 9th.

Five workers, 160 orange discs, a couple of tomahawks and twelve hours were all that were needed to make a job of the top end.

We went out to Herrick's on Saturday afternoon where we dispossessed a coy party of shooters, who after one look at us dragged their sleeping bags out into the scrub, in spite of our remonstrances.

We were away in good time and on arrival at the bush edge split up into pairs, with Kath scouting ahead. Our scheme was to back-disc on the way up, the first pair marking the general line and the rear pair filling in any awkward gaps, but it was straightforward going and the job pretty well organized itself into walking along and hammering up the odd disc. We reached the first tussock clearing about noon and boiled up, reconnoitring and putting up a few snow poles while waiting for the billy.

Bob and John then went on to mark the take-off from Ohawai while the rest of us went down clearing some of the undergrowth and adding occasional discs. Bob was taking no chances and did a good deal of back-blazing on the way down, as we had used most of the discs to show the downhill route.

Mist had shut down and shortly after leaving the bush we ran off on a side spur dropping to the Gull, having to pull out the compass and retrace our steps. It was after dark when we reached Big Hill - quite ready to call it a day and make for home.

Party: Kath and Norm Elder, John Mitchell, Ken Thomas; leader, Bob Woon.

P.S. DISCS and DISCS ...

An agricultural contractor, on being told that the H.T.C. had disced Herrick's Spur, was frankly incredulous and asked coldly if we had done it by 'plane

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HERRICK'S - NO MAN'S.

October 3rd-7th.

Stan and I had a few days' leave so we decided to spend them in the mountains. The Herrick's - No Man's area seemed to attract us both so off we went.

On the first day we lugged heavy packs as far as Herrick's Hut where we arrived about 11 am., after chasing a few pigs on the way in. During the afternoon we roamed around Herrick's Hut, shot one pig and found that by following a track up the ridge behind the hut we could get on to Herrick's Spur without ploughing through all the pig fern that you get on the usual route.

We left the hut on the 4th at 8 am. for No Man's. A hot, windless day saw two very dry trampers reach the top of the spur at 11.30. We spelled for half an hour and then pushed on towards No Man's. Bad weather had been building up in the west and now it came over. However we reached the hut at 1 pm. just ahead of the rain, so we were quite happy. We were both in bed at 5.15 and fast asleep by 5.30.

We awoke next morning at 6.30 to find that we were surrounded by thick mist. We decided that there was no profit in staying up there, so at 7.30 we left for Herrick's. We had no trouble finding the spur and in the mist the discs showed up like headlamps on a car. We reached Herrick's at 11 am. where a heavy meal was consumed. After unsuccessfully looking for deer we gathered a pile of wood. Conditions became miserable with a drenching drizzle setting in, so we remained in the hut for the rest of the afternoon and read. We were supposed to meet two other trampers on Saturday, but as they did not turn up we headed home. Quite a nice trip spoilt by RAIN.

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BOB WOON.

THE TAMING OF THE SMOKE: WAIKAMAKA.

Oct. 27-28th.

On a rather dismal morning two of us set off for a week-end visit to Waikamaka. As we approached the Ruahines the mist began to clear but on our arrival at the mill thick, black clouds began to pour over the tops and we did not get time to finish our cuppa. For at least an hour we sat in Dick's Commer watching the rain absolutely pour down. As quickly as it began, it stopped, and the sun shone brilliantly, so we grabbed our packs and tore away before the weather changed its mind. It did though, and we trudged along in another downpour. Just as we took to the leatherwood leading to the saddle a shower of hail pelted down, but over the other side it was just windy.

The hut was reached in $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours from the mill, and after a boil up we put the stew on. For a while the fire smoked in true Waikamaka style. Then Dick took an old billy, cut the front out, put the fire in that and the stew on top. The stew boiled merrily and there was VERY LITTLE SMOKE IN THE HUT!

On Sunday morning it began to snow at 8 am. so we stayed in our sacks till a very late hour. The snow continued to fall until 12 o'clock, but at 12.30 as we said farewell to Waikamaka the sun came out and shone brilliantly - only as far as the saddle though. On reaching it, the snow came down thicker than ever, and we reached the forks in the river absolutely covered in white fluffy snow. The mill was reached safely and we boiled the billy. After a snack we retraced our wheeltracks homewards, arriving there at 6 pm.

Although the weather was the most variable we had ever struck, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

DICK BURTON & JOHN MITCHEL.

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NEW MEMBERS:

The following have been elected to the Club:

Kath Cherney, Alf Dixon, Jack King. We wish them many years of good tramping.

TRANSPORT COSTS OF WORKING PARTIES:

The committee decided that for a wage-earning working party, transport costs should come out of wages earned; but for a non-wage working party (e.g. track cutting) half the transport should be paid by members and half by the transport fund.

CHINESE PROVERB: 17th Century. (Translation by Lin Yutang).

"Living in the mountains has eight advantages over living in the city: no strict conventions; no strange visitors; no mulling over wine and meat; no fights over property; no concerns over the treacherous human heart; no quarrels over right and wrong; no pressing for literary articles; no gossip about officials."

SAVE YOUR MONEY:

Remember the discount you get if you pay your sub. before the end of December!

(Extracts from a letter written by George: July 14th 1951).

... On 9th July we rested at Camp 11, and I told you of the recce and success in getting up the 2000ft. icefall. 10th July we carried our camp to an ice terrace at 21,000ft. and pitched our two tiny tents out of the wind in the shelter of an ice cliff. Only a few peaks in sight were above us as we went to bed. Our tents were pitched on snow with 2,760ft. of steep windswept ice ridge between us and the top.

Our beds consisted of a thin sleeping-bag cover on the waterproof tent floor, then a short neck-to-knee lilo air cushion (that leaks and lets you on to the cold snow). Over the lilo I spread pyjama trousers, spare shirt, scarf & parka. Next my two sleeping bags, one inside the other; pillow consists of boots, camera, gloves, woolly underpants, spare socks, wind jacket, and Archie's ex-army kit bag. Five of us (including Pasang our head Sherpa who wanted to try the climb) crushed into the two tents.

Awake at 5 am., having slept in shorts and long gabardine trousers with windproof trousers over that; woolly singlet, polo-neck jersey, thick shirt & balaclava to complete the ensemble. Breakfast on one primus took three hours. It consisted of a plate of porridge, sugar & dried milk, followed by tea - which boils at about 160deg. F. due to the height, consequently the tea is not good. A pot of snow - our only water - takes 1½ hours to make into water! The inside of the tent was covered with icicles of condensed breath; touching the sides brought a shower. My boots had a film of ice inside from the condensed air. We ate - not heartily - and booted up. We left 8.15 am. just as the sun hit the tents. The cold was bitter. We had everything covered except our faces and this was covered with beard, snowglasses and thick vaseline on my lips and under nose (but still they cracked and burnt in the wind).

Big Ed and I led off, cramponing over an ice bulge and on to the Tibetan Col - then up a very steep snow face, crossed a crevasse by a long step and a pull up on the axe, then on to the steep hard ice ridge into which only the points of our spikes bit. We cramponed and cut slowly for an hour, then stopped in the shelter of a rock to pull off our boots and massage our feet, which had frozen. Earle, Pasang and Young Ed came up and joined the rub which lasted half an hour. Earle asked if he could lead the climb and he continued on up and over a prominent peak on the ridge - height about 22,500 ft.

We followed slowly, having tried to take the odd photograph, but the focussing screw on my camera had frozen stiff and the wind shrieked and rocked us, and we couldn't remove our thick windproof gloves to push the release. We topped the peak, the rope between us billowing out over Tibet, to see Earle and the others in a little hollow cutting slowly away at some green hard ice. They turned this in ten minutes as we waited and gradually froze. Ahead was a steep rib of snow and ice that curled over in a cornice. The side we had to climb was sheathed in hard green ice. Big Ed and I reckoned it would take 3 or 4 hours to cut up this, and the chances of getting to the top were almost nil. Above this cornice was a blade-thin ice ridge and then a long level bit with a steep snow rib to the summit. At 12 noon and about 22,500 ft. we turned down out of the cold wind and raced down to camp by 2 pm. At 2 pm. we looked back and saw Earle, Pasang and Young Ed high above us but only 200ft. further on after two hours' work. They decided to avoid the green ice by creeping up the very crest of the snow rib. We saw them cross the cornice on the dangerous side (they didn't know they were on it), then they disappeared.

I spent the afternoon reading "Wuthering Heights" and Big Ed Shaw's play "Major Barbara". At 5 pm. they were not in sight: at 6 pm. they were still

absent. The sun began its evening glide and we put down our books and began to worry. 7 pm. and still no sign. A mist wrapped the tents for an hour and hour frost and long icicles formed on the tent ropes. 7.30 pm. left less than half an hour to dark and I thought they must have fallen off the mountain. I put on my storm clothes and cramponed alone on to the col, flashing a torch. Just as the dark pressed in I saw the three of them come over and crampon down the 22,500ft. lump at a great speed. They were too intent to see my light. In half an hour they were within shouting distance. "Are you all O.K.?" "Yes!" - a laconic reply. "Did you climb the bugger?" "Yes!" - another laconic reply. "Bloody good show!" replied the search party. They slid on their seats down the snow face to the col and sank in the snow and had their first drink for the day from the freezing water-bottle at 8.30 pm. After a spell we trudged back to camp at 9 pm. by the light of a half moon. I shouted news of safe and successful return to Big Ed who was working for their return over a fuming primus.

There was not much elation - only hollow exhaustion. The boys didn't object to my unstrapping their crampons and untving the rope and even taking off their boots. "What time did you get on top?" I asked. "Quarter to six!" said Earle. "Hell, you took a risk", said I. "I reckoned we could get down in 2½ hours, and Pasang kept saying 'Top very little time, long way come', which indicated that we'd have no strength for another attempt" said Earle. "The struggle became so intense that even 50 feet from the top we couldn't be sure we'd get there. Unfortunately we took no photographs on the ridge, but it was sensational. I took a few on top and we almost ran down thinking how fatal to be caught in the dark. We saw a very easy snow route on to Abi Gamen from a Tibetan glacier - I'd like to have a try at it!!" (What enthusiasm!) "My God!" he continued, after half an hour in bed, "my toes are still frozen!"

About midnight Young Ed asked me to put drops in his eyes - he was snow-blind. We had a bottle of cocaine in castor oil with eye-dropper, and every three hours for that night and the next day I forced his watering, burning, swollen lids open and squeezed in the thick oily local anaesthetic. Soon after midnight Earle asked me to try to restore his feet. His toes were cold and stiff. I rubbed and banged and worked for over an hour but the tips stayed dead. Today his feet are sore and slightly frostbitten, but I'm sure they'll recover.

On the 13th after three inches of snow in the night and in bitter mist and wind, Big Ed and I had a go for the summit. The rocks were covered in ice, the wind was worse than the 11th July and Big Ed suffered from altitude by feeling faint. We returned, packed up and staggered down to Camp 11 and then on to Camp 1 at 5.30 pm., quite exhausted by altitude living, heavy packs of 40 lbs. plus, the soft & sometimes thigh-deep snow, and an adventure with two crevasses into which I fell. The second held precariously just below the surface by the rope and my feet jambed against the far side with a black dripping abyss beneath me. And now safely and warmly nestled amongst the flowers and butterflies of Camp 1 we rest and eat.

GEORGE LOWE.

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FIXTURE LIST.

<u>Date:</u> 1952	<u>Place:</u>	<u>Leader:</u>
January 20th.	<u>Horseshoe Bend.</u>	Pat Bolt.
February 2nd-3rd.	<u>Club Picnic.</u>	Janet Lloyd.
February 17th.	<u>Maraetotara Falls.</u>	Angus Russell.
March 1st-2nd.	<u>Undercliff or Tuki Ford - Rabbit Gully.</u>	Derek Conway.
March 16th.	<u>Hawkston Gorge.</u>	Norman Elder.
March 29-30th.	<u>Scrub-cutting, Kaweka Track.</u>	John Mitchel.
<u>Easter:</u> April 11-13th.	<u>Howlett's - Waikamaka - Herrick's.</u>	George Lowe.
April 27th.	<u>Donald River.</u>	Ken Thomas.
May 10th-11th.	<u>Black Birch - Whittle's - Makahu.</u>	Helen Hill.
	<u>Trial Search.</u>	(President & Club Captain.

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THE FIRST CLUB MEETING IN THE NEW YEAR WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 17th 1952.

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POSTSCRIPT: (Important)

Kindly appreciate the full value of this copy of "POHOKURA". You will perhaps have noticed that it has not quite the same professional touch as previous copies? Your publishing staff, with their own fair hands (now black), have run it off themselves on the club's newly-purchased second-hand duplicator. Look for the improvements in our next one.

(Ed.)

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