

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)

"POHOKURA"

Bulletin No. 65

December, 1953

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To all members we wish a Merry Christmas and good
tramping in 1954.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the H.T.C. was held in the
Girl Guide 'Room on the 15th October, 1953. The following is
the annual report:-

MEMBERSHIP

This year closed with a financial membership of 86,
made up as follows:

| | | | |
|------------------|---|----|------|
| Full members | - | 68 | {59} |
| Junior members | - | 4 | {1} |
| Absentee members | - | 14 | {12} |
| Honorary members | - | 5 | {5} |

PRESIDENT'S
REPORT

We are a small tramping club with an enormous stamp-
ing ground. The real balance sheet of the year is not the one
that Helen works out and Alf certifies, but the number of active
bodies and the amount of country covered. The strength of a
tramping club lies in its home country. We could do with more
members - a glance at the search list will show you how thin on
the ground we should be in any emergency. We have done what we
can to call the attention of likely people to the existence of
the club by various forms of publicity, but we continue to depend
mainly on the recruiting done by our own members. However, the
proportion of active members is high which makes up for a lot.

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As regards the country covered we may claim a good year. A large part of the Ruahines skyline has been traversed on one occasion or another, we have broken new ground to the north in two or three areas, and, but for bad weather, would have done more.

Our distance from the ranges has always made transport a problem. Since the war the hire of lorries has become prohibitive and we have depended mainly on the generous help of members able to supply transport. With the purchase of an old truck we hope to have found a solution. The club owes particular thanks to Ian Stirling for the work he has put into its reconditioning.

We continue to work in close association with the Hastings Branch of the Deerstalkers' Association and have seen a little of the Tamaki and Kiwi Tramping Clubs. This year we have also broken new ground, working with the Forest Service and Catchment Board on a project of erosion control in the headwaters of the Tukituki River. We have also collaborated with the Lands and Survey Department in bringing out several new maps.

During its existence the club has had little experience of accidents, but the few that have occurred have given warning that the country we tramp in, though not particularly difficult, can present dangers. The tragedies of the past winter show that no club can afford to relax its caution in tackling high country. Correct procedure can best be learnt by experience on trips, but I think there is room for more talks at club meetings on the elements of good tramping practice.

As regards search and rescue work we have done little this year beyond keeping search lists up to date. The incoming executive should consider keeping contact with the police and arranging practice runs with the Radio Emergency Corps and the Deerstalkers' Association. We can expect to be called on to play an active part in the national campaign for safety in mountain country which will shortly be under way.

The main object of working parties this year has been to raise funds for the truck, and these were well supported in spite of arduous weather conditions. Only a minimum of maintenance work has been done leaving a good deal for the coming year. A large number of people besides our own members make use of our huts. They are welcome to do so and are usually appreciative and the huts are normally left in good order. In two of our huts this year we have been unfortunate to find rotting food left on bunks and in cooking utensils.

On the social side club meetings have been of exceptional interest. George Lowe's vivid letters, read fortnightly, gave a serial account of the Everest Expedition which was eagerly followed, and we have had a series of distinguished visitors, Geoffrey Winthrop Young, Geoff Harrow, George Lowe and Ed Hillary. All these events perhaps tended to overshadow the work of one of the most active social committees in the club's history. Between films, talks and the general business of the club, meetings have been full of incident and well attended. Old members will learn with interest and perhaps with regret that club meetings are now comparatively orderly.

The Ascent of Everest was great news to all club members, who shared in the reflected glory of George Lowe's part in it. In the hurly-burly of the civic reception to George on his return a strong contingent from the club formed part of the guard of honour at the entrance to the theatre. We were very glad to arrange a meeting with him and later a supper for him and Hillary after their Hastings lecture; but they were obviously very tired and from their point of view the fewer the functions the better, so we made this as simple and informal as possible.

The Federated Mountain Clubs asked us to help with the Everest Fund sponsored by them and our thanks are due to Mr. Rex Chaplin for undertaking to receive contributions and for assistance in getting out circulars; in view, however, of the greater claims of local funds for a presentation to George Lowe, we could hardly press our appeal. Even so, the proceeds amounted to over £70 - a fair result under the circumstances.

The backroom boys - and girls - continue to do their stuff with their accustomed efficiency. The Editor of "Pohokura" extracts trip accounts from leaders with her accustomed suavity and the black gang produces the Bulletin on time. The club gear has been collected and listed at long last, though two or three items of equipment have still to be run to earth.

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT:

Club trips: The club has organised and run 27 trips during the last 12 months, 17 being weekend trips and 10 being day trips. The average number per trip was between 12 and 13 for each week-end trip and 18 for the day trips. The largest number on any one trip was 35 - a day trip to the Forestry - and the smallest party was 6. Two trips were cancelled because of bad weather and one was changed to suit the weather conditions prevailing at the time. One of our club parties linked up with the Tamaki Tramping Club, but beyond this there were no combined trips with other Clubs. All of our club trips have gone to the local ranges this year.

Transport: As everyone knows the club owns its own truck now and since then our transport problems have been solved - so far. Before we purchased our truck we were very grateful for the use of private transport for all of our club trips.

Fixtures: Once again the Fixtures Committee have done their best to get the club parties into some new country, and if you like to take your maps out you will see that they have done a good job. Take the Ruahines for example; the range has been traversed from Howlett's to Waikamaka, Howlett's to Otumore, Waikamaka to Rangi and from Te Atiamahuru to Armstrong's Saddle. The Kawekas have been traversed from Kiwi Hut to the Cairn, while the Wakararas and the Tutira area have received their share of attention.

Memorial Cairn: As the repairs last year were only temporary, a party of three made a week-end of it and totally dismantled the Cairn and rebuilt it. Let's hope it is for good this time.

This year 18 made the trip as far as Kaweka Hut, 3 stayed there and this left 15 to make the trip to the Cairn where a short but moving service was conducted by Norm.

The 1953 trip has been set down for November 14th and 15th, so please keep these dates free and endeavour to make the trip.

Private Trips: Once again many of our members have gone off on their own private jaunts. The Wilkin Valley, the Routeburn, Stewart Island, and the Hermitage areas have been the Attraction down South, while Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe, the Northern Kawekas, the Tutira area and the Maungawaru Range north of Gisborne, have been the attractions of the North.

Naturally the trip of trips was George's little walk up Everest with the British team. We felt very proud that he played such a prominent part in the Expedition's final success.

Search Organisation: The search lists have once again been revised and again I would ask members to advise either the President or the Club Captain of any change of address or place of employment.

We have had several alerts for people who were overdue but all were false alarms. Contact has been maintained with the R.E.C. and Deerstalkers.

General: Once again we are beginning to get a tendency to get our parties scattered. Leaders should try to keep their parties together. I do not believe in "regimentation" of parties but leaders should keep the party in sight and should keep an eye on the newer members in particular. Perhaps a few talks on leadership of parties would not go astray - none of us, of course, are perfect. If you take "Pohokura" and look through the accounts of week-end trips you will also notice a growing tendency for late starts on the second day. 9 a.m. is really too late to get away from the huts. The reason for these late starts is not as one would believe, a reluctance to climb out of the sack, but is in fact due to the time wasted getting breakfast. I think it is about time we all got to work and thought of something that is quickly cooked and got ready to eat. Too often there are three or four standing around waiting for the frying pan or for room to make toast, so please try and think of something that you can get ready quickly. Although toasting may improve the taste of your bread, it does not add to the food value at all. Other clubs have a community breakfast, and, although I am not in complete agreement with the idea, it has its advantages.

Once again those who have been out regularly have had good tramping, and, in conclusion, I would like to say best of luck to everyone next year and good tramping for the future.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

REPORT:

The social committee have put in a big effort this year for the club's entertainment, and few meetings went by without incident of some sort. From the Forestry Department we learnt from films and lectures the meaning of "Keep New Zealand Green"; about the reproduction of our forests and of their national importance. Films from the National Film Library and various speakers (to whom our thanks), have given us a good deal to enjoy and think about, on such various subjects from near and far as flowers, forestry, mountaineering, deer-stalking and many others. Also many thanks to George Lowe for his wonderful slides of the Himalayas.

Our biggest thrill was meeting our two Everest climbers, George Lowe and Edmund Hillary, at a supper party after their lecture in Hastings. We decorated the clubrooms with club colours in their honour, and two delightfully iced cakes illustrated their mountain exploits from Te Mata Peak to the top of the world, and thence to Buckingham Palace.

Our special thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Lowe for a most enjoyable evening spent in their home; also to Mr. and Mrs. Elder for their hospitality towards our social activities.

"POHOKURA": This year "Pohokura" reached what might be termed the peak of its publication when it was delivered by mail-runner to the British Everest Expedition Camp IV (21,200 ') in the Western Cwm.

Otherwise, progress has been steady. A band of stalwarts has always responded to the appeal to race round and round the kitchen table, while others have reasoned gently with the stapler and the more self-sacrificing have licked stamps.

In an account of a Christmas trip this year a sketch may was included. One of our typistes traced this on to a stencil and the result was very good. It helped us to appreciate the trip and also broke the monotonous appearance of type-script. Future leaders of new or unusual trips please copy. Our typistes can cope.

PUBLICITY: Advertising meetings of special interest has been continued on about the same scale as in previous years, but at greater expense. The club badge makes a conspicuous display, but of course adds considerably to the space and cost.

The notice board in Jack Charters' window has been kept up to date with announcements, and in spite of a somewhat intermittent display has served a useful purpose in acquainting members and potential members with forthcoming events.

Over the last year the practice of submitting summaries of the more important fixtures to both the local newspapers has been continued. These have been appreciated particularly by our country members, but attempts to reduce delay by phoning reports has given scope for errors, though the general opinion of the committee is that earlier publication is on balance an advantage. Short typed reports usually go in verbatim; fuller reports are more likely to be altered.

MAPS:

The Lands & Survey Department, Napier unexpectedly drafted two further sheets, Nos. 123 and 133, of their one inch topo survey series. These are only temporary helio maps to fill in the gap not yet flown between the Kawekas and the Ruahines where the Geological Survey is working. They are essentially simplified tramping maps, using our data, but only showing major features.

The assistance we and Mr. Tony Batley of Moawhango were able to give was so much appreciated, that Mr. Wattie, the Chief Surveyor, offered to replot our Central Kaimanawa map. This was a particularly welcome offer as the map covers three Land Districts, Auckland, Wellington and Hawke's Bay, and had been pieced together from a jigsaw of different maps.

In the course of this it turned out that obscure parts of the area had been recently flown, and with the welcome assistance of the Aerial Mapping Company, these were plotted for incorporation in the map which should be on issue in the next month or so. Some of this information will be also incorporated in the Northern Kaimanawa map.

GEAR:

Our 6' 8' tents have just about reached the limit of their useful life. One is still serviceable, another was ripped in the gale on the Moorcock ridge, and, though patched, is a doubtful asset; the green tent may be considered written off. The two 5' by 7' japara tents are giving good service and two more of somewhat heavier material are now on order from Piper.

The problem of a home for the club gear, scattered in various sheds and garages since we lost the use of the strongroom in the club-rooms, has exercised the minds of the committee for some time, but no very satisfactory solution has been found.

Kath Elder has now collected all but two or three stray items at Havelock North and a notebook has been drawn up listing everything, so that it should now be possible to check everything in and out. The disadvantage is that it is not central enough, but, at any rate, it will eliminate the sleuthing that has recently been necessary to locate any given item.

A japara fly, a day-pack, a sleeping-bag cover and a first aid tin are still outstanding.

HUT AND TRACK

REPORT:

There has been only one club working party to Kaweka Hut for the year. The roof was painted and a new window installed. Kiwi Slide was disced.

Immediate Necessities: Kaweka Hut - Two new kerosene tins are needed for water, the old ones being punctured and rusty. The piles must be replaced.

Kiwi Hut - Some bunks need repairing.

Waikamaka Hut - The roof needs painting. This would have been done, but had to be cancelled on the selected week-end owing to bad weather. The Chimney still needs attention to prevent smoke.

Kaweka Track - Needs slight trimming otherwise in good order.

Ruahine Spur Track -
Rather overgrown, could do with cutting back.

Smith-Russell Trak -
Could be disced at the bottom to prevent future confusion,
otherwise in good order.

A proposal to cut a track from Matthew's Hut (D.S.A.)
through the manuka and up the Golden Crown, with possible discing
of the Golden Crown at the top, is suggested.

New Huts: There are three suggestions for new huts:

1. On Makahu Saddle, servicing N. Kawekas and Black Birch Range.
2. Hut Ruin at the top of the Golden Crown.
3. On the Pohangina Saddle. At present the "Dog Box" is there, but very dilapidated and small.

From the club's viewpoint, the most useful hut would be on the Makahu Saddle, especially as I believe the Forestry Department may approach the club with a view to cutting a new track through the Mackintosh country to Makahu Saddle. When plans finally eventuate it is hoped to be able to arrange an air lift of material to the area, otherwise gallons of sweat and bent backs will be required.

LIBRARY: Not many books were taken out this year, 35 in all. The librarian again draws attention to the extra work entailed by members not returning books promptly. The co-operation of all members minimises the work of executive officers.

APPRECIATION:
Once again we wish to thank all kindly property-owners who have allowed us to pass to and fro on our various occasions.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Officers for the coming year were elected as follows;-

Patron: Dr. D.A. Bathgate.

President: Mr. N.L. Elder.

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

Club Captain: Mr. R.L. Woon.

Secretary: Miss U.M. Greenwood.

Treasurer: Miss H.C. Hill.

Auditor: Mr. A. Dixon.

Executive Committee: Mrs. J. Lloyd, Miss P. Bolt, Messrs. I. Berry, D. Conway, J. Gibbs, D. Reid and W. Romanes.

Social Committee: Misses P. Bolt, A. Coburn, Messrs. I. Berry, D. Conway, I. Stirling, and S. Woon.

SUB-COMMITTEES:

At the first meeting of the new committee the following sub-committees and officers were appointed:-

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|---------------------------|-----|--|
| <u>Fixture Committee:</u> | | Bob Woon, Ian Berry, Helen Hill. |
| <u>Hut & Track</u> | " : | Derek Conway, Jim Gibbs, Wally Romanes. |
| <u>Truck</u> | " : | Ian Stirling, Ian Berry, Helen Hill, Bob Woon. |
| <u>Editor</u> | : | Janet Lloyd. |
| <u>Librarian</u> | : | Edna Ansell. |
| <u>Publicity</u> | : | Norm Elder. |
| <u>Gear Custodian</u> | : | Kath Elder. |
| <u>Club Albums</u> | : | Derek Conway. |
| <u>Search Committee</u> | : | President, Club Captain, Secretary. |

KAIMANAWA MAP:

Since the Annual Report, an unfortunate hitch has held up the new Kaimanawa map. Amateur efforts to plot aerial data could not be squared with the few trig points. For the moment the job has been dropped as it is strictly speaking outside the Napier Land District. Efforts are being made to get Lands & Survey head office to take it on.

In emergency helio prints of the half-finished map could be made available, also probably photostats giving detail only roughly to scale of the northern part of the map.

SAFETY CAMPAIGN: The Internal Affairs Department has asked that a local committee be set up for the campaign for safety in the mountains. They suggest that it represent the various interested bodies with the president of the H.T.C. as convenor.

CLUB TRIPS.

No. 460.

Gwavas Forestry.(concluded)

August 9th.

Part II. The Trip.

In Bulletin No.64 we described the official "launching" of the CLUB TRUCK at Holt's. The following is the account of the actual trip:-

The truck behaved herself really well during the trip. She always seemed to have somewhere another gear left, to give us the final push to the top and she was not empty either (approx. 20 bods on it).

After the launching ceremony we left Holt's about 8 a.m. and arrived at Gwavas Forestry about 10 a.m. Here we met a party from Dannevirke and had a look at the nursery where John Groome showed us the electric seed extractor, the way of sowing and protecting the small seedlings against sun and wind and the heeling in of the one and two year old pinus. From the nursery we moved across the Hynish country, mainly overgrown by rather high fern, towards the Wakararas. The forest service intends to plant this country in the course of the next 35 years with pinus and other tree varieties. After bashing through the fern for a few hours we struck a good horse track, which brought us to the Totara Flat. From here we had a good view of the Wakararas, Devil's Gully, Lake Hut and the two lakes. A good bulldozer track runs to the road, so it was just a matter of walking out. The more energetic ones walked to the "Look-out", from where we had a magnificent view over sunny Hawke's Bay. The truck collected the bodies while she was going along towards the "Look-out" and brought us without incident to Hastings after an easy but enjoyable trip. The weather was quite good, overcast but dry.

No. in party: 28.

Leader, Philip Bavens.

Ken Thomas, Brian Jobbins, Ray Thomas, Norm Elder, Derek Conway, D'Arcy Williams, Jim Gibbs, Peter Pattullo, Colin Timberhan # 1, Ian Berry, John Groome, Ian Stirling, Peter Wood, Edna Ansell, Kath Elder, Eileen Napier, Margaret Armstrong, Christine Caskev, Grace Dixon, Pat Bassil, Pat Williams, Pat Bolt, Barbara Maultsaid, Angela Mackie, Meg Tomkinson.

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No. 461.

HOWLETT'S-OTUMORE-MOORCOCK

August 22-23rd.

Nine of us left Hastings at 5.45 a.m. in darkness and bumped along a very rough road to Waipawa. The day dawned cloudy and the mountains were obscured, but by the time we reached Mill Farm (8.45 a.m.) the sun was shining and prospects were good. There was snow on the tops which we later found wasn't very deep.

We farewelled Ian and the truck, headed down the Moorcock, joined the Tukituki and turned upstream. We crossed the river 38

times in 3½ hours and arrived at the foot of Daphne Spur, renowned for its toughness. But we ourselves are toughies now, and we plodded up slowly with only one long rest. The swirling mist now upon us was not comforting and it soon gave way to sago snow on the edge of the bush line. Up and onwards we pressed regardless, out of the beech covered with a carpet of snow into the snowgrass, leatherwood, burned bush and sloshy wet snow. As we neared the top of the main divide the sun peeped through and then Howlett's at 3.30 p.m.

It was bitterly cold and a large billy of soup was very welcome. The wood was a little damp and all the water in the cans frozen hard, but we managed with an axe and a billy lid. Everyone must have been rather tired for 8 p.m. was bedtime. We were due to rise at 6.30 a.m. Helen and I had our hotties for which we were very thankful in spite of the extra weight. Everyone slept comfortably and kept warm in spite of the fact that wet socks froze hard and stiff, while boots coated with a layer of ice particles needed scraping before putting on again. All of us were inside the hut. There must have been a little ventilation somewhere.

At about 7 a.m. there was a good view of the plains, as far as Mahia Peninsular and well down the coast. With cold wet socks and knocking knees we left the hut at 9 a.m. and set out along the main divide south for Otumore (4966'). The going was fairly easy through snowgrass and leatherwood plus a few spaniards. The Oroua Saddle, easily missed in mist, drops down a long way and at a very sharp angle. Then a long pull up brought us to the Trig at 12.20 p.m. We pressed on to the dog kennel where we had lunch. The wind was bitterly cold. There was not much snow on the main divide, but plenty on Tiraha and Ohuinga.

We took the main tree planting ridge back to the Moorcock, re-planting several pines. The view was wonderful. A quick pace was held down the ridge, everyone complaining of heat for the first time and shedding jerseys. Ian was waiting at Mill Farm and the truck ran home very well. It was a good trip and we didn't need an ice axe after all.

No. in party: 9.

Leader, Pat Bolt.

Helen Hill, Edna Ansell, Brian Jobbins, Ken & Ray Thomas, Alan Berry, Jim Gibbs, Norm Elder

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No. 462.

TIN WHARE - BREAKHEART.

September 6th.

Fifteen of us left Holt's on Sunday at 7.15 a.m. After a cheerful drive we piled out of the truck at 8.45 and were soon ready for the hills. We picked up Lan and John at the Deercullers' hut. The day was fine with a few high clouds in the distance. After a couple of hours gentle strolling on an easy track and plenty of water crossings we arrived at Tin Hut at about 11 o'clock. A good place for lunch, the hut is set in a sheltered clearing with a tiny stream running through. With plenty of firewood we soon had the

billy boiling. We set off to climb the Breakheart at 12 o'clock going back to the saddle. The first pitch was steep and badly eroded and the wind blew a gale on top, but the view was good. We climbed the ridge some more, then dropped and climbed again and still the elusive Breakheart seemed as far off as ever. On one ridge we came to a miniature "Matterhorn" where D'Arcy tried some rock climbing. At peak 2460' our hearts must have been nearly broken for we looked with a jaundiced eye at the long dip down and climb up again to gain another paltry 8'. However the grassy slope seemed inviting so we straggled across it wearily. We were rewarded with a grand view of the country to the coast. After a welcome rest we set off on the long steep descent to the stream. Most of the way led over grassy slopes, but the last piece was down a shingle slide. The stream runs through a fairly steep gorge but we found a way up the long slope on the far side, coming out onto more gentle country back to the Deercullers' Hut about 4.30 where we had a bite to eat but decided against boiling up. After dropping Lan and John at their place down the road we set off for Hastings where we arrived in time for the Napier people to catch the 7 p.m. bus. A jolly good day.

No. in party: 17.

Leader, Edna Ansell.

Brian Jobbins, Ray Thomas, Ian Berry, Jim Gibbs, Colin Timberhan plus 1, John Mitchel, D'Arcy Williams, Bob Woon, Audrey Coburn, Pat Bolt, Molly Young, Barbara Vaultsaide, Lan Phelps, John Phelps.

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No. 463. MAKARORO - TE ATUA MAHURU - TRIPLEX CREEK. 19-20 Sept.

With the weatherman's promise of good weather still ringing in our ears nine of us left Hastings at 6.10 a.m., Ruahine bound. We set off down the main south road and eventually linked up with Bill Ingram and Graham Thorp at the Tikokino-Onga Onga cross roads. Two of us smartly answered Bill's invitation to ride in his Vauxhall and away we went to climb off the truck eventually at a woolshed just above the Kowhai Flats on the Makaroro River at 8.20. 8.50 saw us on the way down to the river and we arrived at Gold Creek at 9.10. Everyone gasped as the icy water found its way into boots, but this was to become the general thing rather than the exception. Bill and Brian both took a ducking before we stopped at the foot of Colenso Spur for a boil up at 10.10. The trip up the river had been very pleasant with bright sunshine, the songs of many birds, both native and imported, and the really beautiful bush. I think that this Makororo Basin has more to offer in the way of scenery than any other part of the range, on this side at any rate.

After having sunned ourselves and restocked our breadbaskets, we left the river and began our climb up the spur at 11 a.m.. An hour and a half steady plugging and we were at Colenso's Camp. Ten minutes rest, a drink of water and away we went again, uphill, always uphill. As we were to spend the night in tents up on the tops we cut some beech saplings, (sorry John), and our progress was

slowed considerably as we fought our way up through the leatherwood and then up a shingle slide to arrive finally on Te Atua Mahuru at 2.40. After insisting that the club come to his home on the way back for something to eat, Bill and his friend said "au revoir" and left us to it.

While the main party rested on Te Atua Mahuru admiring the view Derek and I headed off looking for somewhere to camp and finally decided on a position near one of the tarns south of Te Atua Mahuru.

We went back and got the rest and finally arrived at our chosen site at 3.50. It was while we were tramping to this site that we first sighted the Spectre of the Brocken and from then until the sun went down very low in the west the Spectre could be seen any time one chose to look. With the party broken up into smaller parties, getting the stew ready, pitching the tents, collecting snow grass for bedding and collecting firewood we were soon all shipshape and a mug of soup which was soon ready, had all in good spirits. The weather was still beautiful and promised a heavy frost. We turned in and were already on our way towards a good night's sleep at 7 o'clock.

5.30 and I was dragging everyone up with "Come on, we've got a long way to go today." Slowly they all rolled out to be met by a really icy wind and the sight of frozen socks, putties and boots. Tents too, were covered with ice. A billy of water hanging over the fire became covered with a film of ice before the heat of the fire took a hand in the proceedings. The sight of one of the most beautiful sunrises I have ever seen was one of the rewards of the party. The morning was cold but clear and after packing up we left our camp site at 7.45 with the four volcanoes, Egmont, Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro all in very clear relief. The goal being Armstrong's Saddle for lunch we moved steadily along the tops up over Marorareia and straight on. A short rest for some to remove jerseys and then on again to Maropea at 9.25. An hour and a half's tramping and we were almost half way to the Saddle. I was quite pleased and a quarter of an hour's rest was enjoyed by all. 9.40 and we were on our way again down into the deep saddle and then up on to Trig 50 for another breather and a bite to eat. On our way again down into the saddle in which Jim, Norm, Graham and I crash-camped one night last year and then up onto Armstrong Top with our goal now in view. The weather was still brilliantly fine although a few clouds had formed down over the Southern Ruahines. The wind, still blowing quite hard from the west, still had enough bite in it to make us keep our Parkas on. We arrived at the Armstrong Saddle at 12.10 and set about eating great quantities of food. A two pound tin of honey disappeared as did several great chunks of cheese. By the way has anybody seen fish in the tarn before? It may be the results of what he had scoffed, but one of our members is going up to Armstrong Saddle with a rod after some of the beauties he saw up there.

We left that fisherman's paradise at 12.48 and so on down to the Shut-eye Shack where the party was split in order that a fast party could head for the road and get the transport from the Makororo.

We went off down the track and then turned off the ridge and took a spur down into Triplex Creek.

By doing this we missed Wally and D'Arcy who were battling their way up the ridge and we also missed Norm and Jim McCahon (T.T.C.) who had gone straight up Triplex Creek on to Armstrong's Saddle. However we met Kath and Jim's wife and children on the bank of the creek and after a few words pushed on to arrive at the road at 3.5 to find Stan and Ian waiting for us. After directing them to where the truck was parked, we spread the tents out to dry and then spread ourselves out in the hot sun and patiently waited. We were on our way at 4.15 and were shortly at Mr Ingram's place where we were introduced to a really magnificent spread that the boys were unable to do justice to. They left quite a bit on the tables. "Thank you very much, Mrs Ingram".

One of the things that was the most noticeable throughout the trip in the bush was the amount of damage done by opossums.

No. in party: 11 plus 8.

Leader, Bob Woon.

Saturday Only: Graham Thorp, Bill Ingram. Week End: Helen Hill, Audrey Coburn, Brian Jobbins, Ray Thomas, Alan Berrv, Ian Berrv, Jim Gibbs, Derek Conway, Bob Woon. Sunday Only: Wally Romanes, Norm and Kath Elder, Jim, Joan, Olly & Rachel McCahon, D'Arcy Williams, Ian Stirling, Stan Woon.

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No. 464.

LAKE OPUAHI

4th October.

The truck left Holt's at ten to seven and after several stops to load up headed North from Napier with a party of twentythree. Turning left at the Tutira P.O. we headed up Pohukura Road and then up Heay's Access Road, parking the truck just past the Trig known as the Shark's Tooth. During a prolonged boil-up three of us went up to the Trig to look for signs of a pa which Norm said had existed in the days of Te Kooti. Apparently it was a convenient spot from which to raid parties on Te Kooti's track. We left the road at five past ten and set off along the ridge which we hoped to traverse as far as Lake Opuahi.

The route started through a belt of thick manuka and then a short climb took us to the top of the ridge, which we followed, stopping now and again to look at the country and to regain our breath after another period of scrub-bashing. As there were no volunteers to fetch a billv of water from the stream which we could see far below us lunch was a rather dry meal. Norm and Kath went in search of another pa through some burnt manuka and came back a somewhat different colour. At last we came to the eroded patch on the ridge, this patch being clearly visible from the road in, and it was here Doc. Bathgate pointed out a bell-bird which stayed long enough for most members of the party to examine it closely. Doc. also pointed out some country in the back of Mr G. Shine's farm where he said Kiwis had been found.

We pushed on and arrived hot, scratched and thirsty, at the lake at ten past three. After a long drink, even the Carlton fans admitted water was not such a bad drink after all. The billy was put on and three hardy boys decided on a swim. They went in, but, as the saying goes, they got out again so fast that they nearly met themselves going in. It looked decidedly cold. It took a while to bring the truck around to the lake and by this time it was raining and cold. No time was lost in getting on to the truck and into the car and we were soon heading for the sun that was shining over the rest of Hakes.

No. in Party: 23

Leader, Ian Berry.

Bob Woon, Ray Thomas, Jim Gibbs, D'Arcy Williams, Dave Williams, Norm Elder, Laurie Kelly, Peter Wood, Doug Napier, Doc Bathgate, Ian Berry, John Phelps, Alan Ansell, Brian Kemp, Helen Hill, Edna Ansell, Audrey Coburn, Meg Tomkinson, Kath Elder, Angela Mackie, Grace Dixon, Barbara Higgins, Joyce Stanley.

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No. 465. TE ATUA MAHURU - TUPARI - AKARANA 17th-18th Oct.

We left Hakes at 6.45 a.m. for Havelock to pick up Mrs Ansell and Alan. From there we had a clear run to Wakarara Mill in good weather. Arriving at the woolshed at about 8.15 we were away by 9 a.m. to the Makaroro Basin and Kowhai Flat. As we came to the top of the ridge above the river we were greeted with a really great sight. All the kowhai in Kowhai Flat were in full bloom giving a grand display, the river shimmering in the sunlight with Te Atua Mahuru clear and chilling in the back ground with the distinguishing "W" shaped shingle slide near the summit.

We descended to the river bed and began the twentyfour crossings to the foot of Colenso. The first two or three seemed rather cold, but having become sufficiently numb all feeling seemed to leave the body and the remainder were not so bad. The river was in good condition, the deepest crossing being only about thigh deep.

Arriving at Colenso's Spur at 10.25 a.m. we had the inevitable "boil-up" which took until 11.40. It was very pleasant in the river bed, basking in glorious warm sunshine, giving occasional venomous looks in the direction of Colenso's Spur.

At 11.40 we were away again, this time up the spur. The initial grind to the first flat took about twenty minutes, just sufficient time to loosen any cramped or aching muscles, in preparation for the final climb. Just before Colenso's Camp we stopped for a few minutes to watch two parakeets

perched in a tree directly forward of us. They were very tame and seemed to disregard us completely. At Colenso's camp we halted for a much needed drink from the nearby spring.

We pushed on from the camp over the next "bump" and started the final climb, reaching the shingle slide at about 3.5. By this time mist and fog had settled on the top which brought visibility to practically nil. Ray and I were the only two who had been there before, and that only once about 3 or 4 weeks previously. The camp site, we knew, was roughly West of the main peak, by a large tarn. We knew also that we had to pass a smaller tarn before bearing to the left for the camp site. There was a slight discussion on reaching the first tarn and we finally decided on following a good deer track, round the main peak, at the same time thinking that should it prove wrong we could always retrace our steps to the first tarn and have a night out. However all was well and we finally reached the camp site at about 4.45.

We pitched camp, using the previous trip's tent poles, had tea and were in bed by about 8 p.m..... still in thick fog.

A little after midnight a Westerly wind got up and by 1 a.m. it was at full gale force. This lasted for the remainder of the night making sleep difficult, if not impossible. On finally emerging the next morning we were greeted not only with wind of full force and fog, but also a very heavy frost. Tents were covered, three or four guy ropes had snapped, and one tent was slightly torn. Outside everything was ice (including my bread!) At about 7.30 we decided on breakfast so I chiselled the ice off the bread and managed to hack a few hunks of bread from inside it and this together with the usual two raw eggs made a somewhat cold but satisfactory breakfast.

We decided after breakfast that, owing to the weather, Tupari and Akarana were best left to themselves, so retraced our steps to Colenso's camp. I thought that with the wind at full force it would be best not to tackle the shingle slide, so we fought our way through the leatherwood alongside and finally hit the disced track. Having hit the track at the first disc we promptly lost it at about the third and floundered through the bush for just over an hour, sidling the last part of the bush climb before the shingle slide, eventually contacting the track again just above Colenso's Camp. Another short halt at the Camp for "natural" liquid refreshment (in the form of water!) and on down to the river. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down we met Norm and a herd of Kiwis coming up. After a short "pow-wow" on the track we all returned to the river bed for a boil-up and lay on the shingle in glorious warm sunshine. We found that Kath and Mag, who had come out with Norm, had continued up stream to see if they could contact our party coming down from Ina's Rock, as we had intended. However Norm went off to retrieve them. We left Colenso foot at about 3.15 after a very pleasant two hours by the river, and, after an equally pleasant stroll down stream arrived back at the woolshed at about 4.45.

All told it was a very enjoyable trip. A pity we could not reach Tupari and Akarana. However it gives us a very good excuse to enter once again a really fascinating area of the Ruahines.

We left the woolshed at 5 p.m. arriving in Hastings at 7.15 p.m.

No. in party: 5 for week-end, 3 plus Kiwis for day trip.

Week-end: Edna Ansell, Alan Ansell, Ray Thomas, Wally Romanes,
Jim Gibbs. Leader, Jim Gibbs.

Day Trip: Norm and Kath Elder, Meg Tomkinson.

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No. 466.

Labour Day Week-end, 21-26 Oct.
MANGATEPOPO HUT, NATIONAL PARK

Taking advantage of the five day week-end the club decided to extend its activities to the Tongariro National Park and the following are the accounts of the respective five and three day parties.

Five Day Party.

Muriel Lowe left Hastings shortly after noon on Wednesday 21st with half our party and drove to Taupo where she was met at the camping ground by the remainder of the party who drove up in Bill Ingram's car early that evening. The following morning we left as the birds were rising and along flowering broom and gorse roads we wended our way to the Chateau, arriving there in sufficient time to make an ascent of Ruapehu possible, thereby bagging one peak before the traditional Labour week-end weather broke. We bade farewell to Muriel who was off to spend the week-end in Otorohanga, stowed our packs in a vacant hut, piled into Bill's Velox, and off up the mountain.

The climb to the crater was an absolute cake walk, except for the blistering heat and powerful reflected rays of the sun which shone through a cloudless sky. Some of the party contented themselves with the crater, while others climbed Tahurangi, (9,175') and Paretaitonga, (9,025'), atop of which there was not even a zephyr, but lack of fresh air was balanced by the panoramic views extending from the Kaikouras around to Egmont, Ngauruhoe, Taupo, Tauhara, Kaimanawas, Kawekas and Ruahines.

We left the top and were consuming tea in the A.T.C. Memorial Hut a short hour later, but our pleasing sojourn there was short lived for we still had a trek ahead of us.

After a stew cooked on a primus near the Chateau, the party was cajoled into a moonlight walk to Mangatepopo Hut, six miles distant. This turned out to be a very pleasant walk after the heat of the day, and it was an ideal temperature for carrying heavy packs. Night tramping could well be practised, provided the track is well poled or blazed as in this case. At 11.30 p.m. we collapsed into our bunks thoroughly satisfied with the excellent day we had had.

At 7 a.m. on Friday we left Mangatepopo Hut with prospects of

another excellent day, and wound our way up a stifling hot valley at the foot of Ngauruhoe (7515'). Signs of lava flows within the last fifty years were numerous, and the scoria itself was piled up in the most grotesque shapes. We clambered up an old lava flow to a low saddle between Tongariro (6458') and Ngauruhoe. To us people from the lowlands of Heretaunga with thick blood from the winter still flowing in our veins, the heat in this climate was almost suffocating and time and again sun lotion had to be applied because it either got washed off with perspiration or it fried under the sun's scorching rays. Two of the boys borrowed lipstick and adorned themselves with what they described as pleasing results!

Eventually lipstick, sun lotion, sweat and grime arrived at the crater of Ngauruhoe to be met by smiting vapours of sulphur, after 3000' of what can be likened to climbing a cross between a slag and coke cone.

There were numerous fumeroles surrounding the crater whilst in the main crater itself which was about 300' deep there was a continuous rise of steam and smoke. The degrees of heat down there must have been terrific as it was sufficient to cause large rocks to crack with a noise not unlike a rifle discharging.

The descent was rapid, in fact it took only two or three minutes all told, but care was necessary as large boulders would follow us down the mountain side being loosened by the sun. A slow walk back to the hut and the remainder of the afternoon was spent in rest.

Saturday morning several of our party left to climb Tongariro along with Ian's party which arrived earlier. The remainder had a full day's eating combined with siesta. That evening after an early stew we once more started on that six mile track with its $\frac{1}{2}$ mile pegs back to the Chateau where we spent a comfortable night under the stars in the camping ground.

The fourth day of our stay dawned as usual bright and clear so another look at Ruapehu's summit was the order of the day and some worth while time was spent roped up, belaying, and learning to trust a rope if you fell. From Te Heu Heu, 9075' we witnessed the crater Ski Race which was straight running down the Whakapapa Glacier - quite an inspiring sight with the competitors travelling at a reported 60 m.p.h.

A picture evening at the Chateau that night was quite hilarious. The look on several people's faces as they searched in vain for their sleeping place for the night, (namely the bus), which had been shifted into the garage along with all personal gear, beggars description.

Monday was spent in a leisurely drive back to Hastings via Taupo where a very lively turn out by the local brigade and a good hot bath were minor incidents. We arrived in Hastings at 7.30 p.m. having spent a week-end out of the box.

No. in Party: 8.

Leader, Derek Conway.

Muriel Lowe, Doris Torbett, Bob Woon, Bill Ingram, Philip Bayens, Wallie Romanes, Dave Williams, Derek Conway.

Three Day Party

The three day party left Holt's by bus at 9.25 p.m. Friday night and after a slow trip arrived at Taupo at 1.45 a.m. Taupo seemed very busy for this time of the morning and after making some enquiries we found that cars in a motor car rally were stopping for petrol and tea. As the generator on our bus was not working our driver had to dig up another bus. We shifted all our gear over and set off again eventually arriving at the Chateau at 5 a.m.

After a boil-up on a primus 15 tired people set out for Mangatepopo at 6.10 a.m. The first three miles took 1 hour, the second three miles took $1\frac{3}{4}$ hours. By the time we reached the hut the weather was quite hot and we had come to the conclusion that 6 miles is a darned long way. However, after some food and rest all but two of the party decided to climb Tongariro. They set off with a few of the five day party and after a successful trip returned to the hut tired and sunburnt but well satisfied with their day. That evening there was a beautiful sunset with Egmont standing out very clearly and the promise of some more fine weather.

Next morning ten of us left the hut at 6.10 a.m. Object, to climb Ngauruhoe and for some of us Tongariro. One hour took us to the foot of the mountain. We followed up the right hand side of a recent lava flow and then got on to the flow itself. The going was fairly easy, mainly climbing up fairly large boulders which we had to take care not to dislodge. The speed at which loose boulders travel down the slopes of Ngauruhoe has to be seen to be believed. A few steps had to be cut in a patch of ice near the top and 3 hours from the hut we were at the crater. One hour was spent on top peering into the crater, exposing reels of films and climbing to the highest point. Here we were much surprised to spot a white butterfly. General impression of Ngauruhoe:- A dirty big slag heap, with a dirty big crater, out of which came dirty big stinks - also an uneasy feeling that life would be safer off the thing. After waiting for a few minutes for mist to clear we moved down the shingle slide onto the saddle, keeping close together because of loose boulders. From the saddle five returned to the hut and five of us set off up the ridge of Tongariro. After an enjoyable trip up rock and snow slopes we spent a leisurely hour on the top and then down to the stream and along the track to the hut, arriving at 2.45.

We had an early stew and then the whole party packed up and left for the Chateau at 4.50. Some of us went to the pictures at the Chateau. We all eventually settled down for the night in the camping ground.

The next morning we set off to climb Ruapehu. The main party boarded a Chateau bus at 8 a.m. and travelled in it to the end of the road. Ken, Ray and John left us in Ken's car half an hour earlier. They climbed beneath the pinnacles and up the glacier. The rest of us went up the ridge. The snow was soft, but most of the way we were able to use the steps of earlier climbers, so the

going was pretty good and we caught up with Ken's party near the crater.

The wind on top was very cold, so after a good look at the crater we headed back, coming down beside the ski tow. The top tow was in operation. We reached the end of the road ahead of time, so we rang the Chateau for the bus which came immediately and took us down to the camping ground. There we had a clean up and boarded our own bus for home.

The weather was fine for our climb, but had been steadily clouding over. On our way round the lake between Turangi and Taupo we struck a first class thunderstorm. In Taupo itself there was a tropical deluge coming down and although it was only 6 p.m. it was so dark that everyone would have had their lights on if the power hadn't been cut off by the storm. The five day party who had gone through earlier had arranged for a meal to be ready for us at the Grill Room at 6 p.m. We drove up in eager anticipation only to find that a busload of Ice Follies who had arrived a few minutes ahead had been mistaken for us and given our meal!

We finally arrived back in Hastings at 11 p.m.

No. in Party: 16

Leader, Ian Berry

Helen Hill, Edna Ansell, Pat Bolt, Peter Wood, Walter Shaw, Jim Gibbs, John Mitchel, Peter Pattullo, Brian Jobbins, Jack Landimer, Peter Erickson, Ken Thomas, Ray Thomas, Ian Berry, Alan Ansell, Ian Phelps.

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No. 467.

HUKANUI

1st November.

With the intention of breaking new ground we went down Potter's road, but a matter of mustering stray sheep prevented us from following a bull dozed track up a long scrubby ridge. So we came back and went in from Carswell's, boiling up in a gully short of the crest. It was a good day for views, and a couple of top-dressing planes doing split-second landings on Turner's air-strip made quite a show. From the top we dropped into the boggy end of Ball's Clearing, then through the bush track, which is as impressive as ever, to find Bob and D'Arcy comatose, never believing we would run to schedule.

No. in Party: 12

Leader, Norm Elder.

Jim Gibbs, Laurie Kenny, Rex Evans, Dick Clark, Jimmy Trumper, Helen Hill, D'Arcy Williams, Bob Woon, Audrey Coburn, Edna Ansell, Brian Jobbins, Norm Elder.

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No. 468.

CAIRN TRIP

14-15 November.

With what the weather office calls "a westerly air-stream" blowing across the Kawekas towards the end of the week prospects of reaching the Cairn looked a bit chancy. John Groome and Ross Smith had gone in before the week-end party intending to go round the Southern Range, but the force of the wind put Kiwi Saddle out of the question and they were waiting for us at Kaweka Hut.

With some 30 starters transport was a problem, till Ian Berry volunteered to make a run out on Saturday morning. Nora took her car out then, the club truck with another car left at 1 p.m. and Bob and Pat came out late, arriving at midnight. Cooking for so large a body was the most difficult problem, bunking less so as it was a fine night and tents were available.

Breakfast was again a bit of a scramble, but the vanguard moved off at 6.50 and the rest caught them up at the bush edge - 24 in all. The wind was easing so we made steady time, reaching Kaiarahi, still wearing its bleached skeleton of a wreath (1949) a little after half past eight. At Studholme's Saddle it was calm but mist shutting down, which turned to quite a sharp shower along the top. In the mist all bumps seemed peaks, an interminable number of them, but at 10.20 we were on the trig. The cairn was in perfect order, not a stone out of place, though frost had worked one or two loose.

The ceremony at 11 o'clock took the same form as in previous years, Nora Finn laying the wreath.

Soon after the mist cleared, giving good views down into the Bay and across to the Kaimanawas, so we boiled up in comfort. Dick, John's Great Dane, put up an old ram down by the spring, and had an enjoyable rough and tumble. Just before noon we set off down by various routes and at varying rates of speed.. One party who should have known better, made a detour to visit the bivvy and failed to locate it. The rearguard were back at the hut to find a good deal of spring cleaning had been done, and Clem had taken some newcomers up onto the ridge. 1741 names in the hut log including this party.

No, in Party: 32

Leader, Norm Elder

Sat. a.m. Derek Conway, Brian Jobbins, Angus Russel, Clem and Joan Smith, Nora Finn, Alan Ansell, Peter Wood, Rex Evans, Dave Williams, John Mitchel (sub leader)

Sat. p.m. Edna Ansell, Audrey Coburn, Helen Hill, Bob Wallace, Jin Trumper, Meg Tomkinson, Grace Dixon, Barbara Higgins, Shirley Geraghty, Joyce Stanley, Jim Gibbs, Philip Bayens, D'Arcy Williams, Kath and Hugh Elder, Nancy Tanner, Norm Elder (Leader)

Sat. evening. Pat Bolt, Bob Woon.

Also John Groome, Ross Smith.

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THE FEDERATED MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

The main matters discussed at the committee meeting of 5th September were a safety campaign, national parks, rescue organization, Himalayan expeditions, and ski-ing organization.

NATIONAL SAFETY CAMPAIGN: This is being developed under the Minister of Internal Affairs as a large scale three-year programme of radio talks, films, lectures and displays. In general it is aimed at those outside regular tramping and climbing, but it is a matter in which both clubs and the F.M.C. are deeply concerned. A call has recently been made for questions to be answered by a radio panel. An important part of it will be an enlarged 4th edition of 'Safety in the Mountains', the typescript of which will soon be ready for final revision. A less pessimistic title has been suggested.

NATIONAL PARKS: The organization is now getting down to brass tacks and the report of the last meeting of the central Authority covers several matters of interest. In Fiordland, Wild Life Control have decided that the deer population is static and can be kept in balance with vegetation. Consequently they are no longer considering the extermination of wapiti, but will continue culling deer in heavily-infested areas. The suggestion of reserving areas for the Deerstalkers' Association has been turned down.

The Tuhoe National Park will be limited initially to an area of 83,000 acres in the Waikaremoana catchment. A further 400,000 acres in the Whakatane catchment may ultimately come under the Park Board as a wilderness area, but this depends on the exchange of blocks of Maori land within the area for outlying blocks of equivalent value and this is likely to take some time.

A Tararua National Park had been recommended at a previous committee meeting, but a report from Noel Thomson, the F.M.C. representative on the National Parks Authority, after summarizing the position recommended that the proposal be left in abeyance. From prolonged discussion it was clear that local clubs were very evenly divided as to whether its present status as a protection forest should be altered or not, while the Deerstalkers' Association were definitely against any change. Ultimately the previous resolution was rescinded by a substantial majority.

RESCUE EQUIPMENT: The RNZAF proposal to establish depots of high-altitude equipment for aircraft rescues has been modified from its original lavish scale to cover 24 cot cases, half the equipment to be held at Ohakea and half at Wigram. Equipment suitable for rescue work in bush areas is held by the police, but only in Hastings and Masterton at the moment.

HIMALAYAN EXPEDITIONS: What may be called a jurisdictional problem has cropped up between the NZAC and the FMC as to who should sponsor overseas expeditions. The administration of the Hillary-Lowe Everest Fund is also involved.

SKI-ING ORGANIZATION: The N.Z. Ski Council propose the reorganization of the present set up on the lines of two bodies, a federation limited to mountaineers and trampers and a N.Z. Ski Association, with representatives from each of the others forming a third co-ordinating body. This did not meet with the approval of the meeting, particularly as many member clubs are interested in both mountaineering and ski-ing and would be likely to continue their membership of the F.M.C. whatever ski-ing organization were set up. This appeared to be a domestic problem of the purely ski-ing clubs, possibly soluble on the lines of the Deerstalkers' Association.

PRACTICE SEARCHES: Some interesting information came from a practice search in conjunction with the RNZAF in the Auckland district. The

dependence of the Air Force on gridded maps, the value of observers who knew the country and the difficulties of making full use of these, were points of general interest. (Some of these have a bearing on the more recent search in the Tararuas.)

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EXTRACTS FROM ACCIDENT REPORTS FROM FEDERATED MOUNTAIN CLUBS.

THE DEATH OF JAMES WILD ON THE TASMAN GLACIER:

On Tuesday March 24th 1953, a party of two women of the Hermitage staff set out from the Ball Hut for Malte Brun Hut. Three men employed at the Hermitage as porters who were at the Ball Hut for the day decided to accompany the party for a couple of miles up the glacier.

When opposite the Hochstetter Glacier two of the three men returned to catch the Ball Hut bus, the third, James Wild, decided to go with the women. As Wild was not equipped for the trip, one of the women tried to persuade him to return to the Hermitage as was originally intended, but Wild was insistent and went on to Malte Brun Hut against their wishes. Wild was dressed in shirt and trousers only, and was wearing rubber soled shoes.

The party left Malte Brun Hut at 9.30 am. next day for the return trip in deteriorating weather. A Nor-west storm developed during the day and Wild made slow time in his rubber soled shoes. The women gave him a parka and socks for gloves and supported him on the ice. Because of Wild's footwear and inability to cope with the ice, the party were forced to travel on the moraine wherever possible and made slow time.

The party arrived on the moraine opposite Ball Hut at about 4.30 pm. Wild was then in fair condition, but tired and wanted to rest, so the women went on to the hut to get the billy boiling. This point was about twenty minutes' walk from the Ball Hut and when in an hour Wild had not arrived, one of the women went back to look for him, and searched the area till dark.

The other woman telephoned the Hermitage and summoned Guides Bowie, Mall, and Ashurst. They searched the area in a full Nor-west storm until midnight. A second search party consisting of inexperienced porters and barmen arrived but could not be used until daybreak because they were not fitted to operate under such conditions. After an intensive search Wild's body was found at 2 pm. the next day, about a hundred yards from the edge of the glacier and about ten minutes' walk from the hut. It appeared as if Wild had had a minor fall on moraine covered ice, had possibly been stunned by the fall and then died of exposure.

Findings of Accident Sub-Committee:

It is the considered opinion that the deceased was inexperienced, inadequately clothed, and equipped, for the journey undertaken. Wild was not appreciative of the suddenness or severity of the storms that can develop at high altitudes on our mountains. From the medical report it would seem that the deceased had eaten very little food and due to this factor may have suffered from loss of strength. He may have had a minor fall, was stunned, and then died of exposure.

The mistake of leaving the deceased when so near the hut is understandable, and it must be said that, prior to leaving him, the women did more than could really be expected of them. However, it should again be stressed that parties must keep together, and that the speed of the party should be that of its slowest member, and that they must all be adequately clothed and equipped.

The conduct of the two women in carrying out a preliminary search, and reporting the incident to the Hermitage, is beyond reproach. Also the guiding staff at the Hermitage did all that they could under such difficult weather conditions.

ACCIDENT REPORTS: THE DEATH OF VINCENT SIMMONSEN, DROWNED IN THE TUKI TUKI RIVER.

Vincent Simonsen, a married man of 23 years, lost his life by drowning in the Tuki Tuki River which he attempted to ford under flooded conditions when returning with two companions from a deer shooting trip on 31st May, 1952.

He was not a member of the N.Z. Deerstarkers Association. The party carried no rope and were negligent in that they did not attempt to overcome this disadvantage by crossing under the 'Pole method' which would have been possible in this locality and which would have afforded the men mutual support.

The deceased was carrying his pack in such a way that it could not be released readily when he was washed over. This is against the most elementary rules of river crossing.

The deceased was the leader of the party and the most experienced member and his companions were prevented from rescuing him since, weighted down by his pack, he was held under water by the branches of a tree.

Findings of Accident Sub-Committee:

This fatality could have been avoided, had the elementary rules of river crossings been followed. If a party is likely to encounter any river work a rope should always be taken. If there is no rope in the party the 'Pole method' of crossing should be used.

When weighted down with a heavy pack extra caution should be taken and the pack should be so affixed that it can easily be removed.

THE DEATH OF SIX CLIMBERS ON MT. EGMONT, ON 26th JULY, 1953.COMMENTS:

It is the opinion of the Federation Executive, and this is supported by the Coroner's findings, that the primary factor in this accident was that the Taranaki Alpine Club, having been approached by the Nurses' Tramping Club for assistance with a winter climb, failed to give adequate help in preparing and conducting the expedition. The Taranaki Alpine Club, as the experienced body, undertook to assist this mainly inexperienced party and should have carried out the necessary organisation for the safe conduct of the climb. Directly attributable to the failure to make detailed plans, were the following faults in the organisation:-

1. Personnel: The ratio of competent climbers to novices was far below that required by safe alpine standards. The Taranaki Alpine Club should have refused to take such a large number of inexperienced climbers past the Tahurangi Hut.
2. Time: The party was too late in setting out on the climb.
3. Equipment:
 - Axes - There was a shortage of axes which should have been carried by all climbers.
 - Rope - Insufficient rope was available and this, combined with the absence of sufficient leaders resulted in too many climbers on some of the ropes. Under the icy conditions which prevailed on Mt. Egmont that day, the only safe way to climb would have been in small parties of three or four, with no more than one inexperienced climber on each rope.
 - Gloves - Some of the climbers should have had more efficient protection for their hands, as shown by the fact that a number suffered from frostbite.

In regard to the actual leadership of the party, the Chief Guide of the Club, who lost his life in the fall, was among those who responded to the duty which the club undertook, but too much was left to him. Yet his was the final responsibility for setting out from the Tahurangi Hut with a party which showed the faults mentioned above. Also it was an error of judgement on his part that a decision was not made to turn back at a stage which would have enabled the party to avoid the icy conditions and darkness which prevailed for much of the descent.

This accident serves to emphasise once again the fact that under icy conditions in winter, Egmont is a peak the climbing of which calls for a high standard of mountaineering in regard to leadership, equipment and experience, and its difficulties should never be under-estimated.

The work of the Federation's Accident Sub-Committee has been assisted by the full reports made available by the Coroner and the Police Department who carried out the enquiries and the inquest in a very thorough manner, and also by the detailed report forwarded by the Taranaki Alpine Club following its enquiry.

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

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND.

This island is somewhat remote. The Strongman Shipping Co.'s vessel the "Coromel" leaves Auckland once a week on Mondays at 7.30 a.m., visits the inlets on the western side and returns the same day. Tea and sandwiches are served en route. Port Fitzroy is 5½ hours' run from Auckland.

A holey road goes from Fitzroy over the hills to Okiwi on the east side and continues south to Tryphena over another hill. A branch from this goes to Okupu on the west side also. There is no store, only approved paying guests are provided for, and the population of 400 (50% being pakeha), live in old farmhouses.

It would be a fine long day's sea trip from Auckland, for the sea coast is scenic. Trampers could find plenty of good surfing, fishing and climbs of great variety, from bush rich in botany to precipices and outcropping crags that would delight a real rock climber. Strong winds and frequent rains produce very inter-laced scrub, so old hand trampers keep to the tracks connecting the various places.

I climbed Mt. Hobson, 2038 ft., a really good trip in steep bush country, traversed the roads mostly by lorries, and visited the graves of those drowned in the wreck of the S.S. "Wairarapa".

Returning at 10 p.m. on August 24th from a fortnight's stay to Auckland wharf, I slept in the board, visited an early café and caught the Napier car at 8 a.m.

ANGUS RUSSELL.

WAINUI: 5th September. A trip with the MOLLYANNER TRAMPING CLUB.

Wainui, 2630', is a prominent forested peak lying well out towards the coast behind Paekakariki. We understand that a previous attempt up the face opposite Paekakariki Hill had foundered in dense kiekie and supplejack. This time the Wellington and Paraparaumu contingents met about half a mile north of Paekakariki and acting on instructions from Wainui homestead followed a grassed valley to a derelict woolshed and yards in a saddle to the north, with a view down the Wakatika valley to the Rimutaka tops across the Hutt Valley - unbroken bush apart from some milling roads in the foreground.

Kapiti and the curve of the beach showed in the opposite direction but soon after entering the bush we were into the mist.

Quite a fair track, a bit squelchy, through supplejack tawa and kohekohe at first, but higher up the bush became windswept and scrubby with quantities of ferns and moss. Round the trig was mostly mountain flax. Not much prospect of boiling up, so a dry lunch and down again, running off onto another track while still in the bush which dropped us into the next valley south draining direct from the trig.

Here we mislaid Frank, who dropped into the stream while the rest sidled. While a search party combed the stream unsuccessfully the rest botanized and boiled up, then returned to pick Frank up at the cars.

Molly Molineux, Nancy Tanner, Hugh Elder, Frank Bodley, Norm and Kath Elder, Milly (Czech), Teunis Plomp (Dutch), Professor and Mrs. Padovan (Italian). (This is a small group in Wellington formed by absentee members of the H.T.C. and friends - Ed.).

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OBITUARY: NOEL THOMSON.

The sudden death of Noel Thomson on Ruapehu at Labour week-end is a great loss to the administration of mountaineering in New Zealand, and particularly to the small country clubs.

The Federated Mountain Clubs tends naturally enough to be run by representatives of the major clubs, who though kindly disposed to the smaller fry tend to have their eyes fixed on far horizons. Noel Thomson was not only a mountaineer and skier, he was prominent in the Levin-Waiopahu Tramping Club, which is, I believe, the oldest of the 'country' clubs; and without being a partisan he could give weight to the point of view of smaller clubs such as ours.

In fact his main value lay in a judicial attitude which could weigh opinions and summarise arguments. He was slow to take anything for granted, but once he had made up his mind he was a hard man to stop.

When the National Parks Authority was set up he was the obvious choice for the Federated Mountain Clubs' representative, for he had the integrity that gave everyone confidence in him and the commonsense to recognise what was essential and what was feasible.

In a new organisation with a big job to do it was especially important to have a first rate representative - and he will be hard to replace.

N.L.E.

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LETTER FROM GEORGE.

(The following is an extract from one of George's letters to his family) -

..... I have spoken somewhere of the trip to Genoa - at least the start of it. We visited Milan cathedral, La Scala, and Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper" which is painted as a mural on a wall and is fading and cracking but still a wonderful bit of work. We motored by autostrada to Genoa and had a terrific time - never went to bed. Heard Paganini's violin played on - met 60 guides from Courmayeur, Cortina, Etna and Engadine and they sang mountain songs to us. We missed a plane and had a variety of exhausting things to do - it was all fun - in the wild Italian way they have of doing things. Just to let you know how fast we moved I can tell you we left London on Monday morning, touched Brussels and then by D.C. 6B to Milan with a wonderful view of the Alps. From Milan by car 200 miles to Genoa in 3½ hours! Then back to Milan on Tuesday, saw the sights, flew via Geneva and back to London

where I lectured at the Festival Hall in the evening!

Thursday 15th to Birmingham and lectured, Friday over the Spode china works and lectured in Stoke on Trent - the Lord Mayor was a wonderful character. The Spode works was a wonderful visit - we are experts on china and earthenware now!

Then the week-end was spent in Wales. We trained across to Conway Castle, down to Snowdon, traversed Llewllid, climbed Snowdon, had a dinner with the Climbers' Club and climbed on the terrific slabs of "Cloggy" and did a "very severe" (the top standard), and motored to London in the night. On Monday 19th I went to the Australia and N.Z. concert for the Queen and Duke. She looked really radiant.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we had a round of dinners where I met many interesting and famous people including Neville Duke, Mike Lithgow and others. Went to Farnborough and tested a new tent design in the wind tunnels there. This was great fun. I've been on B.B.C. and T.V. programmes for the film people. On Wednesday 21st we met the Queen and Duke again at the Film Premiere. On the 23rd I lectured in Bournemouth, the 24th I went to the Motor Show at Earl's Court. This morning I went to Ipswich and lectured there. Came back this evening, washed my clothes and now am rushing this letter through before I get to bed. This week I'm off to Hull, Leeds, York, Manchester and Norwich!

It's a great life.

GEORGE.

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SOCIAL

NEWS.

Ken Thomas has gone to Ardmore Training College, but managed to join the H.T.C. party at National Park for Labour Day week-end.

Philip Finch is now at Hokitika surveying in bush so thick that he has to resort to astronomy to check the work!

Molly Molineux, Nancy Tanner and Nora Finn all came to Hastings for the party we had for George Lowe and Ed Hillary. Molly has since reappeared in Havelock N. convalescing after a spell in hospital, while Nancy and Nora came up again for the Cairn trip.

George Lowe writes that he has been made an honorary member of the academy of film technicians, which enables him to do professional film work if he wants to.

Hugh Elder has left for England to gain further experience in connection with electrical contracts.

John Groome has been temporarily transferred to the Nelson district to work on a forest plan for the Rotoiti area. He hopes to be back in March.

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CLUB EVENINGS:

A party for George and Ed; a talk on ice-axes, ropes and river crossings; a film evening; a talk on Holland and its floods; a view of some of George's slides; and a fireworks party. The social committee is to be congratulated on its programmes.

MISSING GEAR:

The gear custodian repeats that a tent fly and a sleeping-bag cover are still missing. Have you got them?

FIXTURE LIST.

| <u>Date:</u> | <u>Place:</u> | <u>Leader:</u> |
|------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Jan. 24th. | <u>Undercliff?</u> <u>Ngaruroro?</u> River & rope instruction. | Doris Torbett. |
| Feb. 6th-7th. | <u>Kairakau Beach.</u> | Dave Williams. |
| Feb. 21st. | <u>Matthew's Hut.</u> | John Mitchel. |
| March 6th-7th. | <u>Waikamaka:</u> painting roof, discing Shut-Eye track. | Jim Gibbs. |
| March 21st. | <u>Three Fingers Trig, 4135'.</u> | Norm Elder. |
| April 3rd-4th. | <u>Makaroro:</u> bushcraft instruction. | Wally Romanes. |
| April 16th-19th: | <u>EASTER:</u> <u>Waikaremoana.</u> <u>Northern Kaweka.</u> | Derek Conway. Bob Woon. |
| May 1st-2nd. | <u>McIntosh.</u> | John Groome. |

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NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome the following new members:-

Pat Bassil, Meg Tomkinson, Ian Phelps (absentee), Barbara Higgins,
Grace Dixon.

BOOTS:

That pair of no-longer-used tramping boots. Is it any good?
If so, what about bestowing it on the gear custodian for loan to
prospective members?

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

You pay less if you pay before the end of December!

THE NEXT CLUB MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 21st, 1954.

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