

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (Inc.)

" P O H O K U R A "

Bulletin No. 80

December, 1958

PRESIDENT:

Mr. R.W. Chaplin, 14 McHardy Street, Havelock North. Phone 3308

HON. SECRETARY:

Miss N. Tanner, Te Mata Road, Havelock North. Phone 3943

HON. TREASURER:

Miss. B. Hare, Mangateretere R.D. 2, Hastings.

CLUB CAPTAIN:

Mr. Philip Bayens, St. George's Road North, Hastings.

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The Club has had an active year. Although our effective membership has remained about the same and the average size of parties is rather less, more trips have been run and as a result the transport fund has just about broken square, which indicates that we can continue to run on our present scale of fares.

The main feature has been the interest in climbing and the large number of private parties that have gone out looking for suitable rock and snow. We have not been able to give as much instruction in this as we should have liked, as our few experienced members have not been able to spare much time, but we are grateful to them for what they have been able to do.

In addition to working parties on all three of the club's huts we have assisted the N.Z.D.A. with track cutting and have recently been called on by the police for assistance in searching for a missing plane. Both in this and the subsequent washing-up operation which was essentially a trial search we have worked in close collaboration with both Napier and with the recently formed Hastings R.E.C.

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It has been our consistent policy in the past to introduce new blood into the executive, but this year the simultaneous resignation of the president, secretary and treasurer involves what amounts to a major transfusion. The replacements are well known to you and the blood typing of the executive will remain unaltered.

An account of the year's activities should include mention of our members in foreign parts, in particular George Lowe with the Trans-Antarctic party and Wally Romanes in the centennial ascent of Mt. Fairweather in British Columbia.

As I made my presidential farewell last year I do not feel called upon to add to it now.

#### CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT:

Trips: This year has seen a great activity as far as private trips are concerned. We had our usual number of club trips from which the day trips were the most popular. Twenty to twenty-five bods was nothing for the old truck. Let us keep it this way. The more the merrier, not only that, but it gives us a chance to run the truck on a more economical basis.

Private Trips: They have been organised mostly by the boys who are going down South for Christmas. Two went to Ruapehu for some advanced Alpine instruction. Others organised trips when there was a good coating of snow on the local hills, to practise their step-cutting, belaying etc., Another party made a winter crossing over the Sawtooth and spent some time up in Howlett's where they dug a snow cave and got some valuable experience out of that. A few outings have been organised round the Te Mata peak where some rock climbing was practised and belaying tried out. So it appears that our local hills give us plenty of scope to keep ourselves in trim for down South.

Club trips: Two trips I would like to mention - (1) Schorman's track, Northern Tararuas, in which all of us travelled over new country and got acquainted with real leatherwood and lawyer; and (2) an attempt at "66" from the east side under heavy snow conditions. Here we struck some real Alpine stuff. This trip had some after-effects (see accidents). This year also saw some working parties, tomato, bean and potato picking.

Search and rescue: Another club year went by, and until the last week nobody was hurt, nobody lost, to set S.A.R. in operation. Then came the Moeangiangi Search. A pilot working at Ridgemount Station towards the coast from Lake Tutira, failed to return to his landing strip. Alarm was raised within 30 minutes and air search commenced immediately until Sunday at 1 p.m. without any result. S.A.R. was set in operation at dawn on Sunday (trampers,

deerstalkers and locals). The area was combed pretty thoroughly without any result; Police carried on on the Monday with the same result. Until now nothing found. The search list has been brought up to date and given to various officers.

Accidents: Two minor accidents occurred. One person with slightly frostbitten toes, another with punctured ribs. They were not serious, although requiring treatment at home.

General: There seem to be two parties in the club, trying to outdo one another. Something like the song "Anything you can do I can do better". A little competition and rivalry is excellent. It keeps a man on his toes and makes life interesting, but do not let it get out of hand. Use your common sense. It is not only you who is involved but the Club's name as well.

Further, I like to thank all the kind people who put up with us and allow us to pass and make use of their property. And I am looking forward to another year's tramping.

#### FIXTURE, HUT & TRACK:

Reference to last year's report will be valuable.

Fixtures: The club runs fortnightly trips, these being alternately day and week-end affairs. This year a lot of private trips have also been arranged, most members having the forethought to embark on these during the free week-ends.

With the increase in Napier members the truck more frequently goes past that city. To encourage greater membership, hard and easy trips running from the same truck terminus are called for. Suggestions are always welcomed by the committee.

HUTS: Waikamaka: The lean-to (still open) is serving well for packs, wet clothing and firewood; thus 18 have recently slept in the hut. The major contribution this year has been the long-awaited chimney extension, prefabricated by Dick and carried in by a couple of stalwarts. It does attack the smoke menace too! But now cement is needed to repair the decaying stone foundation of the fireplace, and a new front door is needed. The river has eroded somewhat - let's hope groynes won't be necessary in a few year's time.

Kiwi: Came in for a roof painting, but the bright orange was difficult to apply in the drizzle. The technicolour-orange effect can be completed any time by some enthusiast carrying in a brush and applying it to the paint already in the hut. Semi-permanent repairs have been made to the paling porch and an excellent roof ladder is now in existence.

Kaweka: Bunks, chimney and door have been repaired. Now for the repiling! Of the three club huts this is by far the most popular with other groups visiting the ranges.

Shut-Eye: is a useful shelter on trips to Armstrong Saddle and its life would undoubtedly be prolonged with a roof scrape and coat of paint.

Howlett's: The standing dead beech trunks a hundred yards or so down the slope towards Daphne make excellent firing. With the heavy axe in the hut, these will solve the fuel problem for many years to come. The galvanised pipe for the fireplace is still available (in Hastings), and still needed (in Howlett's). We are grateful to the Manawatu T.C. for the use of Howlett's.

TRACKS: The problem here is that the fern and manuka grow too quickly and discs rust or are pushed off by the growth of trees. A disced pole has been placed at the point where bush meets the head of the Waipawa river on the Waikamaka track, but more are needed up to the saddle. Poles are also needed in the stream junction just below Kaweka, and on 4594 to replace the rusting tottering ones placed there after the last party strayed in mist in 1947. On Daphne Spur leading in to Howlett's much fern cutting and a little discing is needed. Discs have been placed from the top of the bush up to the hut - there are some discs in the hut but no nails. Very inconsiderately, trapped opossums have been left to rot on the track. A great improvement has at last been made on the Colenso Track, a mere 400 yards or so remaining to be cut from the shingle slide up into the tussock.

The cullers have cut the track cutting off Whittle's Clearing on the way to Makahu. The first section from the top of Black Birch to this needs sorting out. A combined working party with the Deerstalkers' Assn. has advanced their track into their projected hut overlooking the Makino river which flows into the Mohaka.

Parachutes: Two trips, to the Upper Makaroro and Pio Pio Saddle areas, have been included to retrieve parachutes after the dropping of new Forestry huts in these areas. The latter is near the old Hut Ruin site. We wish to thank the Forestry Service for the use of these and other new Forestry huts in the ranges. These will undoubtedly increase our range in the years ahead.

#### TRUCK COMMITTEE REPORT:

Better support for fixtures this year has enabled the truck to really prove its worth to the club, a total of about 2300 miles (more or less) - (40,000 passenger miles) having been covered in the course of transporting members to their tramping grounds.

Most of the Ford's earlier troubles have been ironed out now, although we must expect to be always faced with a certain amount of repairs to a vehicle of this nature. An analysis of the running costs for the year indicates that standing charges still represent a considerable part of our expenditure:-

	1957	1958
Petrol	£32.18. 3	£62. 6.11
Repairs & Maintenance	49.13. 9	32. 8.11
Licences, Insurance etc.,	40. 1. 9	41.16. 9
	£122.13. 9	£136.12. 7
	=====	=====

During the year the canopy was reconditioned and sheathed in iron, the draughts now being restricted to those necessary for ventilation. We are indebted to Mrs. Tanner for the gift of a tarpaulin for covering both the truck and bodies thereon, and to other friends of the club for tyres donated.

Although the Ford has given valuable service to the club during the past two years, we must recognise the fact that it is not a vehicle entirely suited to passenger transport, being equipped with mechanical brakes only and now 20 years old. Running costs are also heavy. Safety must be our prime consideration, and as a grant of £100 has been received from the Internal Affairs Department to assist us in obtaining more suitable transport, we are at present looking for a 1949-51 Bedford ML or similar type of truck. Information from any member as to the whereabouts of a suitable vehicle would be much appreciated.

#### SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

Thanks to all for the co-operation which made this year's club evenings very successful and interesting, with all the coloured slides, films and talks - and not forgetting our sing-song night. I hope that we will continue like this in the coming year.

We managed to build a float for the Blossom Procession in Mr. Attwood's garage. In my opinion it looked very impressive. I would like to thank all the helpers for their spare evenings, donations and interest which were appreciated.

#### "POHOKURA":

"Pohokura" does not write itself, nor do the written words do their own typing and duplicating. The magazine is the product of the efforts of many members who will be proud of the fact that this year it was delivered right at the South Pole.

PUBLICITY:

Our thanks are due to the local Press for publishing accounts of a number of club and private trips; care has been taken to confine these to the more interesting trips and to keep them brief, as in this form they are accepted readily. This year we have been free of the kind of interesting trips that make the headlines automatically. While it is doubtful whether press publicity adds to our active membership, it is surprising how many people, usually with some knowledge of the back country, read them with appreciation and follow the club's activities knowledgeably.

Progress with the route guide has been very disappointing. The text was modelled on that of one of the Southern Alps guides, but this does not conform to the standards of the Government printer; in fact it has largely been rewritten in officialese, frequently obscuring the meaning and involving an unbelievable amount of alteration. The typescript in fact became so illegible that it has recently had to be taken back and retyped, as the editors had reached the stage where they could no longer read it themselves. The opportunity was taken to bring it up to date as a number of new huts and tracks have appeared over the last twelve months, but it has been a most laborious job, and though it should now be approaching its final form there is still no certainty as to when it will make its appearance.

LIBRARY:

Of the 16 members who took out library books this year some paid in extra, thus for the 22 books read we have in hand 6/-, but it is less than last year. Some odd sporting magazines - overseas publications - have been stored in care of the Gear Custodian to make room for new books. Joan Smith, in memory of Clem, gave us his copy of "TREES & PLANTS OF NEW ZEALAND" by Laing & Blackwell. It would be appreciated if long outstanding books were returned. Thanking you.

GEAR CUSTODIAN'S REPORT:

There have not been any additions to the gear this year apart from gifts. We have to thank Mrs. G.O.K. Sainsbury for the gift of a sleeping bag cover, Rex Chaplin and Alison Proctor for boots, Maurie Taylor for a rope, and Allan King for 3 toasting forks.

On the debit side we have had to write off one large aluminium billy, which was left at Cullen's woolshed, taken to town for us and disappeared within a few days. That's the way things happen when a leader loses sight of gear.

The tin billies originally left at huts can now be entirely written off. That can be expected, as even when not in use they

rust very easily up there. May I once again ask leaders when they visit huts to inspect any camp ovens and see that they are greased and not rusting or left dirty by sundry visitors.

The gear has been in good use during the year by private parties as well as club trips, and hire fees have brought in £6. 3. 0. Some new aluminium billies are on order, but will not be available till next financial year.

The hire fees were made up as follows:-

Ice axes	£1.11. 0
Packs	1. 2. 0
Tents	1. 2. 0
Parka	16. 0
Billies	11. 0
Boots	8. 0
Goggles	7. 0
Cover	6. 0

£6. 3. 0 - in comparison with £8.15. 0 last year.

Members have been pretty good at returning gear promptly and in order. I have to thank them for their co-operation in this respect, for if tents are dried out immediately after use and Billies cleaned out it adds greatly to their lives and that of the Gear Custodian.

I have to thank Nancy Tanner specially for acting in my absence, for her scrupulous care of the gear and for replacing the First Aid.

#### APPRECIATION:

Finally, we would like to endorse the Club Captain's thanks to all the kindly property-owners who allow us to wander over their land.

#### P.S. CLUB ALBUM REPORT:

The album is behind at the moment, but I have hopes of getting it up to date in the near future.

It is difficult to get good photos for the album, so I ask anyone with any decent photos to give me a dekkko, as I do not get on all the trips.

MEMBERSHIP: This year closed with a financial membership of 82, made up as follows:-

Full members	57	(58)
Junior members	8	(5)
Absentee members	17	(14)
Honorary members	4	(5)
Life member	1	(1)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.

FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPT., 1958

INCOME.

1957

During the year, the Club received Income from:

68	Subscriptions	77. 0. 0
7	Gear Hire	6. 13. 0
-	Library Fees	6. 0
12	Meeting Contributions	13. 4. 1
7	Donations	1. 14. 3
51	Working Party Proceeds	39. 8. 6
3	P.O.S.B. Interest	3. 14. 10
2	Reunion Surplus	-

150

TOTAL INCOME being

142. 0. 8

EXPENDITURE.The following expenses were incurred  
in running the Club's activities:

28	Rent of Meeting Room	32. 8. 6
4	Advertising Meetings etc.	2. 10. 0
4	Supper Expenses	1. 11. 5
2	Hut and Track Maintenance	2. 10. 11
14	Bulletin Expenses	17. 5. 2
5	Equipment Maintenance	-
2	Subscriptions	2. 0. 0
4	Capitation to Fed. Mountain Clubs	3. 15. 6
3	Stationery	-
-	Blossom Festival Float (after deducting profit of £4.3.0 held from 1956 float)	6. 5. 0
5	General Expenses	1. 18. 4
	Transport Costs	154. 14. 2
	Truck Depreciation	23. 13. 6
		178. 7. 8
	Less fares received	156. 12. 5

75

Loss on Transport

21. 15. 3

146

TOTAL EXPENDITURE being

92. 0. 1

4

The SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE was therefore

£ 50. 0. 7

which sum has been transferred to Accumulated Funds.



BALANCE SHEETAS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER, 19581957

At Balance Date, the Club owned the following Assets:

38	Bank of N.S.W. Account	114.13. 2
84	Post Office Savings Bank	187. 2.11
48	Equipment	48. 6. 0
	Ford Truck at Cost	170.14. 7
	less depreciation	
118	written off to date	<u>76. 0. 7</u>
1	Cash and Stamps on Hand	5. 5. 8
7	Stock of Maps	8. 1. 3
7	Stock of Badges	2. 9. 0
-	Stock of Bulletin Covers	4. 5. 0
	Huts valued in the Books as follows	
	Kaweka	5. 0. 0
	Kiwi	25. 0. 0
	Waikamaka (inc. additions)	20.19. 6
52	New Hut frame	<u>1. 0. 0</u>
1	Search & Rescue Booklets	19. 0

356 the total value of ASSETS being 517.15. 6

However, of this amount, there has been set aside as a Search Fund 14. 2. 7  
 Subscriptions in advance were 2.10. 0  
 and there were owed various accounts amounting to 16. 7. 0

58 a total of 32.19. 7

298 The total of the Assets available for Club use was therefore £484.15.11

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Balance as at 1st October, 1957	298. 2.10
Plus: Grant from Internal Affairs	100. 0. 0
Hut Fund no longer required	36.12. 6
Profit for year	<u>50. 0. 7</u>
	186.13. 1

Balance as at 30th September, 1958 £484.15.11

(Auditor's certificate signed C. Stirling appended in original - Ed.).

OFFICERS FOR 1958 - 59

At the Annual General Meeting held on October 15th 1958, the following officers were elected:

PATRON: Dr. D.A. Bathgate

PRESIDENT: Mr. R.W. Chaplin

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Mrs. L.H. Lloyd, Messrs. N.Elder and A. Berry.

CLUB CAPTAIN: Mr. P. Bayens.

SECRETARY: Miss N. Tanner

TREASURER: Miss. B. Hare

AUDITOR: Miss. C. Stirling

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Miss. U. Greenwood, Messrs. J. Landman, K. Garratt, C. Hargreaves, G. Hare, M. Taylor, H. Christian.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Mrs. E. Ansell, Miss E. Swann, Messrs. C. Hargreaves, K. Garratt, J. van Bavel, R. Boshier.

SUB - COMMITTEES

At a subsequent meeting of the executive committee the following sub-committees were appointed:-

FIXTURE, HUT & TRACK: P. Bayens, G. Hare, H. Christian.

TRUCK: M. Taylor, A. Berry

SEARCH: R. Chaplin, P. Bayens, N. Tanner. N. Elder, A. Berry.

GEAR CUSTODIAN: K. Elder - Assistant N. Thompson.

PUBLICITY: N. Elder - Assistant A. Berry

EDITOR: J. Lloyd

LIBRARIAN: E. Ansell.

ALBUM: C. Hargreaves.

LIFE MEMBERS:

The Annual General Meeting with great acclamation voted Norm and Kath Elder Life Members of the H.T.C. - for services rendered.

CLUB TRIPSROWE'S BUSH - POUKAWA SWAMP

No. 585

10th August.

We left Holt's soon after 6.30am and headed for Rowe's Bush. The driver took the truck to a point further up the road while the rest of the party went through the bush to the river - Tukituki - and up the river meeting Jack on the way. It was decided to have some food and a boil-up on an island in the river but we had to get there. The sensible types went upstream to a point opposite the island and jumped the narrow separating stretch of water. Other types decided they could cross the river. It was deeper, swifter and colder than they thought. Fortunately there was some distance between the two parties. We practised some rope work over a bluff on the island. We then went back to the truck and proceeded along the road for a couple of miles.

We left the truck which was taken round further, and climbed a hill near the top of which there were remains of earth works of an old Maori pa. There was a strong wind blowing, almost a gale. We then descended to the truck again and went to a farm near Poukawa Swamp. Here we attempted to find another Maori pa on an island in the swamp, but got a bit bogged and what's more, found we had a couple of pukekos in the party. A swan's egg was found in the swamp. We returned to the truck and proceeded back to Holts.

No. in party : 19

Leader: Elsa Swann

Nancy Tanner, Barbara Hare, Barbara Drummond, Pat Buchanan, Helen Williams, Keith Garratt, Nigel Thompson, Cyril Hargreaves, Graeme Hare, Jack Landman, Rex Chaplin, Walter Shaw, Allan King, Raymond Lowe, Hal Christian, David Brandon, Dick Brace, Colin Ridding.

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WAIKAMAKA WORKING PARTY

No. 586

23-24th August.

We all piled aboard the truck and were away from Holts at about 6.30am. After a typical Ruahine wet weather journey we arrived safely at the top of the hill overlooking the Waipawa River. We weren't too cheerful and consequently took more time than usual packing on the iron and departing. The party actually split up into three small groups in the end, the last arriving at Waikamaka just over an hour after the first. It was not bad going in the river until up above the forks where we struck stuff like the moraine on the side of a glacier which we couldn't dodge. The journey in was not extra long, only about three years or so ( $4\frac{3}{4}$  hours).

When we arrived at the hut the fast ones had a fire going and the billy on. We chopped wood till lunch was ready. Afterwards I went back to look for two who hadn't turned up, missed

them in a bend in the river, and found myself on top of Waipawa saddle whilst they were in the hut laughing. When I got back Dick and Graeme had put the prefab bit on top of the chimney and it now works quite well - for how long I don't know as they packed it there with snow grass. By this time it was fairly late so in about another half hour naturally enough it was stew time. Sing song and story telling finished off the evening. The night was spent with six in the attic, four on the middle bunks and eight on the maori bunk - a capacity load.

After general packing up next morning we finally left just after 11am. Some left earlier to climb "66"; at the saddle those who felt energetic left their packs and headed upward while the others wandered quietly back toward the truck. We arrived at the top of "67" to see Graham, Roger and Dick dashing up "66". I had my crampons and so clambered all over "67" in them for practice. We cut a hole in the ice on one of the tarns and found the ice to be approx 8" thick. We were leaving to come down when "out of the mists a voice came calling". It was the party returning from "66". We answered and carried on down to the saddle to see the others hooping past in a fast glissade - we couldn't because we were in shorts. Thence to the truck and home again. Arrived back in town about 7.30pm after a tiring but enjoyable trip.

No. in party: 18

Leader: Keith Garratt

Nigel Thompson, Graeme Hare, Cyril Hargreaves, Hal Christian, Dick Clark, Graham Snadden, Roger Boshier, Dick Brace, David Brandon, Raymond Lowe, Allan King, Helen Williams, Sylvia Lee, Pat Buchanan, Gayel Hulford, Nancy Tanner, Barbara Hare.

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#### TITIOKURA SADDLE - TE WAKA CAVES

No. 587

7th September.

A party of 16 left Holts in six private cars at 7.15 am. On leaving Westshore the party numbered 22 and at 8.45 we arrived at Titikura summit where we left the cars. We set off across the hills in search of caves. There was only one large enough to explore and most of the party ventured into it. The party split for a while but we met again for lunch and a boil-up, and again at the Te Waka trig. After resting for a considerable time we wandered back to the cars. Manuka was collected for the club float for Blo. cm Parade before we left at 3.30. We wandered round Lake Te Pohue until 5 pm. Arriving at Napier we bought fish and chips which we took to the Marine Parade, after being mistaken by a policeman for a gang of bodgies! The Hastings party left Napier about 7 pm after having spent an easy day.

No. in party: 22

Leader: Helen Williams

Pat Buchanan, Sylvia Lee, Nancy Tanner, Barbara Hare, Helen Clark, Elsa Swann, Sue Neufeld, Els Bayens, Rosemary Brace, Nigel Thompson, Keith Garratt, Allan King, Richard Brace, Graeme Hare, David Brandon, Philip Bayens, Jack Landman, Raymond Lowe, Walter Shaw, Norman Elder, Angus Russell.

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MAKINO - TRACK CUTTING

No. 588

20-21st September.

Beyond Puketitiri the slopes between the end of the Kaweka Range and the Mohaka River have the historical name of Ranga a Tauhau and the plateau above the Hot Springs is now known as Caunce's Flat. In the early days of Pakeha settlement this and the slopes above the Makino River were in tussock and stock were run there from Patoka by Halletts. As recently as 1938 there were still traces of tussock but manuka was coming away fast.

In 1952 a club party made an unsuccessful attempt to get in from the Hot Springs and in 1955 a private party took the best part of two days to reach the Makino having practically to cut their way in. It was now really thick scrub.

The Napier Deerstalkers are now cutting a track in and a club party went in to assist. We were not as well represented as we had hoped, a number of scratchings reducing the party to ten in two cars. We walked in from the Makahu, though cars with chains had gone further and the road is formed to within sight of the "Frame", the Mangatutu.

The route leaves the Hot Springs track at the saddle beyond the Frame and plunges into the scrub at the end of Caunce's Flat. At first it is pretty dog-legged but improves as it goes and on the upper flat becomes a well cut 6ft. track. 3½ hours travelling saw us at the large brushwood bivvy at the start of the ridge joining Caunce's Flat to the Makino Spur. The Deerstalkers' party were still working back along the flat and we were put on to forming a 6ft track along the rough cut which continues to the Makino Spur. We worked with 8 slashers spaced from 50-100 yards apart with the two girls clearing the debris and seeing that a uniform standard was maintained. As each section was finished the cutter moved into the lead and took up another section and as the completion of our first section saw us pretty well out of the scrub and into open bush forest progress became much faster, so that the afternoon's work made quite a respectable showing.

The weather was misty with occasional showers but though we had brought tents there was little space to pitch them near the bivvy so most of us spent a damp night under a somewhat inadequate canvas fly. Next morning all hands went up the track and soon found ourselves overlooking the Makino through gaps in the mist. A rough cut sidled right along a scrub face towards the confluence, but a blaze ran left in the bush along the Makino spur, and while waiting for instructions as to the next move,

reconnaissance parties were soon spread all across the landscape together with one or two shooters. Eventually things sorted themselves out. An air drop site for a hut was cleared on the scrub plateau a little south along the spur, the H.T.C. party, by now reassembled, opened a track through a saddle to connect with the approach track, and water was located a few minutes below the junction.

That was as much as could be done within a week-end. A cut track now leads to the proposed hut site, which is on the Makino Spur about half a mile south of the Counce's Flat junction and access to the Makino Valley will probably be down the leading spur from the hut site and not direct to the confluence with the Mohaka River. The hut will probably have to depend on Rain Water.

No. in party: 10

Acting-Leader: Norm Elder

Dick Clark, Nancy Tanner, Graeme Hare, Nigel Thompson, Keith Garratt, David Brandon, Colin Ridding, Dick Brace, Kath Elder.

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### RIDGEMOUNT SEARCH

No. 589

27-28th September.

About 8.30 am a Tiger Moth spraying thistles took off from the airstrip on Ridgemount and vanished. The alarm was given about 10 am. and an improvised air and ground search began. Ohakea took over the air search at about 1 pm. but our first notification came at 4.40 pm. in the form of a request from Napier police for a search party of a dozen to start searching at dawn on Sunday. Police had already alerted Napier R.E.C. and were told to warn Napier N.Z. Deerstalkers Association. Few people were at home on a fine Saturday afternoon and it was well after dark before our tally was complete. Hastings N.Z.D.A. were even worse off as most of their active members were away at a meet at Big Hill.

Wally Romanes, Nancy Tanner and I went into a huddle over an army map of the country together with Nancy's knowledge of the country (she had been rabbiting there just after the war) and were joined by Jack Hall and Jim Williams of the N.Z.D.A. and later by a top-dressing pilot. Wally made several copies of the map and borrowed an aerial mosaic, so that we had a fairly detailed idea of the lay of the land.

There was a seething crowd at the rendezvous on Sunday morning and we were unable to learn much, but it appeared that the coastal half had been fairly well covered the day before, so that the area to which H.T.C. (14) and Napier N.Z.D.A. (16) were allotted at the top of the valley was the most urgent and the most difficult. We started near trig 1682 ft. and searched the scrub gullies on either side of the boundary fence with Kahika Station down to the river (Moeangiangi) where we met Mr. Lequesne the manager of the adjacent Arapawanui Station. He had a good

idea of what had been searched and the run of the unsearched area, so we worked under his directions, the Deerstalkers continuing south across to the Arapawanui valley, the H.T.C. fanning out from south to west to sweep the head valleys, then turning south to reach the Arapawanui valley upstream of the Deerstalkers.

As each party had a Radio Emergency Corps operator I handed over to Wally and went back to the airstrip from which I could keep in touch with the whole search and remain in communication with them. There was little to be done there. Parties were straggling in from the lower slopes, which were for the most part grassed with little cover and clearly visible from across the valley. An interesting incident was the sighting of some object on the slope below the access road by the N.Z.D.A. party. Ross Bickerstaff called a mobile radio car back to a point on the road immediately above it, four searchers jumped out of the following car and in a matter of minutes had come to a concrete culvert pipe which had rolled down the hill. At 11 am. the police sergeant announced the first definite clue. The previous morning a plane had been sighted over the sea flying towards the coast at a point seven miles south of Ridgemount and from a farm there a plane had been heard "in a power dive". A long delay followed. The airstrip party did not start to move till two hours later, while our two parties had to be extricated from the headwaters valleys, the Deerstalkers being directed to Arapawanui Station where their transport was waiting, the H.T.C. Party to the Wai-koau Bridge on the Gisborne Road.

There was further delay and it was 4 pm. before all parties reached the rendezvous south of the Waipatiki. No further serious searching was carried out that day. We have since learned that following a photographic reconnaissance a party of 24 searched a scrub area north of Ridgemount on the Wednesday but we were not informed of this.

Our sector of the search was too extensive for a contact search, but the patches of bush were covered and the scrub was blighted and for the most part fairly open. The Napier Deerstalkers method of traversing scrub gullies with one man up the bottom and one on each slope was the most effective.

No. in party: 14

Norm Elder

Nancy Tanner, Wally Romanes, Phil Bayens, Dick Clark, Keith Garratt, Nigel Thompson, Hal Christian, Jack Landman, Graeme Hare, Cyril Hargreaves, Alan Berry, Graham Snadden, Roger Boshier.

#### FURTHER SEARCH

No. 590

5th October.

Although we were satisfied with the coverage of our own sector there did not appear to have been any organized search of the area from which the only definite report of the plane had come so to satisfy our own minds an H.T.C.-R.E.C. party paid a visit to it on the following Sunday. It is similar country, but lower,

almost free of scrub and much more closely settled with at least four homesteads on the flat ridges overlooking both the gullies and the coast. In addition we learned that docking was in progress and that in addition to any specific searching this involved a close muster of any scrub patches likely to hold sheep. Beyond a trial run through the largest scrub-gully system and trying out a number of 38 sets manned by young R.E.C. recruits little was done <sup>the</sup> here, and we went on to Arapawanui and Ridge-mount to discuss ~~the~~ search with the respective managers. Each is satisfied with the cover of his own area. Incidentally it was then that we first learned of Wednesday's operations. While our main party was following the coast from Arapawanui to Ridge-mount another party went in the opposite direction towards Wai-patiki and found some pieces of painted driftwood which could have been part of an air frame. These were handed in to the authorities but no further word has been heard of them.

No. in party: 14

Acting-Leader: Norm Elder.

Rexi Chaplin, Nigel Thompson, Maurie Taylor, Graeme Hare, Keith Garratt, Cyril Hargreaves, Jack Landman, Elsa Swann, Nancy Tanner, Kath Elder, Barbara Hare, Barbara Drummond, Jill Oswell.

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#### LAWRENCE HUT

No. 591.

18-19th October.

The scheduled trip was to Log Cabin, but as we neared the Blowhard the weather was so filthy that after much discussion we settled on Lawrence Hut. We left Maurie homeward bound from the Blowhard and made a quick trip in to Lawrence Hut. The track was flooded from heavy rain though we ourselves missed it. We arrived, had lunch and cut wood; after which some of the more enthusiastic took a pole and did some river crossing. The river was discoloured and up a bit. We awoke late next morning, had a good breakfast, selected a longer pole than last time and the whole party went up the Tutaekuri until stopped by a gorge. We came back, the boys running down the river testing for holes with a pole as they went and the girls carrying the big pole. We arrived back about 12. Had lunch, mucked around, packed up and left at about 4 pm. arriving at the road 10 minutes late. We had arranged to meet Maurie at 6 o'clock.

No. in party: 8

Leader: Cyril Hargreaves

Nigel Thompson, Graeme Hare, Dick Brace, Dave Brandon, Barbara Hare, Sylvia Lee, Helen Williams.

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NORTHERN RUAHINES - ROUND TRIP

No. 592

Labour Weekend  
25-27th October.

By using two cars and leaving one at Big Hill and one at Mangleton roadheads we were able to complete the circle for our round trip. While waiting for our drivers to do the first shuffle the rest planted five boxes of trout ova in the Big Hill stream. The steady climb up the Blind spur was rewarded by a boil-up at the top of the spur before going to the ruins of Ruahine Hut. Three hours and twenty minutes later after a half hour stop at Lessong's we reached No Man's. The cullers have been renovating this hut with shingle floor, wood-pile, four bunks instead of six and a wire cable for shooting logs down the hill.

Instead of going around the plateau to Hut Ruin, the party dropped down a spur off Ohawai into the Ikawatea stream which is good travelling except for bluffs at the foot. Eventually we reached the river, boiling up and sunbathing in a very sheltered spot. A two thousand foot climb, some of it in the open with the sun at our backs, brought us onto an arm of the plateau protruding from Hut Ruin. Our early arrival gave us an opportunity to locate the take-off of the spur into the Makaroro and put two discs on the Pio Pio track to indicate the direction.

On the last day we split up near Apias creek, Norm and Kath going down the Golden Crown and rest over Pohatuhaha. As the new track from the Makaroro Mill has only reached the trig, we had two hours Coprosma Crawl while trying to keep on our ridge. An early lunch at the trig and another at the Sentry Box ruin fortified us for the journey out. Two bulldozers with crushers and giant discs were mowing down tall scrub on the Mangleton as we came out. Norm and Kath drove up when we came out of the Terapatiki saving us a three mile slog. Another car shuffle to Big Hill and we were away home.

No. in party: 7

Leader: Graeme Hare

Norm and Kath Elder, Nancy Tanner, Barbara Hare, David Brandon, Dick Clark.

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TUTIRA - WATERFALL

No. 593

2nd November.

When we left Napier at 7.45 the party numbered nineteen. We left the truck at about 9.30. After a not very exhausting trip over the hills beside the river we finally reached the waterfall and most of the party had a swim before lunch. Half of the party then disappeared downstream and the rest of us sat around for a while before deciding to climb to the top of the waterfall where we threw a few logs and things over the edge. When we had made our way back again it was discovered that the other half of the party had reached the top. On the way back to the truck some went

the way we had come and became thoroughly entangled in rather ferocious types of nettles, and the others did a little boulder hopping down the river and, I believe, a few of them got rather wet. We left for home at about 6.30 after an enjoyable if not very energetic trip.

No. in party: 19

Leader: Pat Buchanan

Nancy Tanner, Barbara Hare, Helen Williams, Gayel Hulford, Sylvia Lee, Elsa Swann, Barbara Drummond, Helen Clark, Eileen Banks, Jackie Graham, M. Mackay, Jack Landman, Graeme Hare, Cyril Hargreaves, Dave Brandon, Dick Brace, Roger Boshier, Colin Ridding.

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# WORKING PARTY - WAIKAMAKA HUT

No. 594

8-9th November.

After a certain amount of preliminary organising a party of eight assembled at Holt's on Saturday afternoon. Three bags of cement were transferred into 21 plastic bags, sealed with sellotape, and put into oatmeal bags. We left Hastings about 4.30 and ran into steady rain after Waipawa - a puncture near Ongaonga added to our joy. When we asked Mr. Cullen for permission to spend the night in his hayshed he offered us two spare rooms in the shepherd's cottage. We cooked our meal in style on an electric stove and a wood range while Selwyn Toogood entertained us on the radio. Four beds and mattresses on the floor gave us a comfortable night.

Up at 4.30 on Sunday, we fed, packed the cement and the minimum of food and clothing and were away from the truck at 7.45am in mist and drizzle. The lightest pack weighed 34 lbs and the heaviest 77 lbs. At the Waipawa forks we called in on the Deer Cullers in their comfortable fly camp and were provided with steaming hot coffee which was very much appreciated. The packs were heavy, the pace was slow, and rests were fairly frequent. We made the Waipawa Saddle at 11 am and, as it was Remembrance Sunday, we observed two minutes silence there in an appropriate setting.

At last the Hut appeared round the last bend and was hailed with pleasure after a five hour trip. A number of tools etc. had also been brought in, and as the weather was unsuitable and the time too short for the cement job, a new door post was put in and the door made weatherproof with tin; bunks were repaired and the floor cleaned up. In spite of the top of the chimney having blown down, the fire went well. We had a second boil-up and left for the truck soon after 4pm. Light packs made pleasant travelling and the slowest were out in just over 2 hours. The rest of our gear was retrieved at the cottage and after a snack we set off in the rain for home, making the 10 o'clock Napier bus with 10 minutes to spare.

No. in party: 8

Acting Leader: N. Tanner

Dick Clark, Graeme Hare, Allan King, Dave Brandon, Barbara Hare, Helen Williams, Sylvia Lee,

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CAIRN TRIP via MAKAHU STREAM

No. 595

15-16 November.

The truck with three left Havelock at 5.45am on Saturday and picked up a couple of bods in St. George's Road, a couple more in Hastings, also Mangateretere, and seven in Napier, total 16. At the Whittle's farm, Puketitiri, five left us to go in the usual route over the Black Birch to Makahu Hut. From there Nigel and Cyril continued in the heat up and over the Kaweka trig and down to Back Hut for the night. The rest of us left the truck at 10am at Cook's Cottage on the Makahu and took a leisurely course up that stream. It proved an ideal route on a hot day and the 104 crossings kept our feet from overheating. We had hoped to follow the stream right up to the Hut but the map seemed to have swung itself round a bit and we eventually arrived on the ridge and hit the track in the bush about 10 minutes from the Hut. The fourth stream coming in on our right should be the one to take. The Makahu provides very good and easy going though we had to sidle after taking the wrong fork, due largely to dead falls etc. across its bed. 8 hours was the time we took, though it couldn't have been much more than 5 hours actual easy tramping time. The stew was soon under way and before 8pm the ravenous party was dining in style - by candlelight. The night was fine but windy. Four slept on the bunks, one on the floor and the rest under the stars.

Graeme had stated his intention of leaving early for the Back Hut and was out of his sack before 3am. Eventually he departed, duly chaperoned by the six girls in the party, at 4 am. 45 minutes later a red sun rose out of the sea near Kidnappers. Lack of a substantial breakfast and the extremely strong wind as we climbed higher did nothing to speed the party. Many times it was necessary to throw oneself down and cling to anything handy to remain on land. The weather was otherwise fine with hurrying clouds not far above us. 2½ hours to the Cairn and then a slow hour down to Back Hut. On the way we saw Cy. and Nigel going up the ridge north of the Hut making for the Cairn via North Kaweka. They had no watch and estimated it was at least 9 o'clock, whereas it was only 7! They were therefore somewhat mystified by our movements, but it was too windy to converse. Our 8am breakfast revived our spirits wonderfully and fortified us for the pull back up to the Cairn. The faster party took 1½ hours for this trip.

A day party of 7 left Hastings at 4am on Sunday in two cars and made a fast trip in to the Makahu Hut via Black Birch in 2½ hours. The rest of the weekend party made the ascent from the Makahu in their own time, the day party speed-merchant took a mere hour and twenty minutes. Eventually 21 were gathered together near the Cairn in readiness for the Memorial Service, conditions being too bleak on top. Doc Bathgate made introductory remarks and Rex Chaplain read the usual lines and the names of those we were honouring. The youngest member present, Sylvia Lee, laid the wreath on the Cairn, and we left for warmer altitudes without delay. Time of descent varied from 45 minutes to 1½ hours.

Bernie and Peter Anderson, Graeme, Nigel and Cyril humped their packs and fought their way across the tops, down to Kaweka Hut, and out to join the Swamp Cottage members for the homeward journey. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$  hours from Cairn to Cottage with a stop at Kaweka. The rest had a meal at Makahu and wandered off down the Birch to Whittle's farm. Jack and Phil drove round to bring the truck up for us and by 7pm we were all on our dusty way home. It was very pleasing to have such a large party at the Cairn for the Service.

No. in weekend party: 16                      Leader: Nancy Tanner  
Doc Bathgate, Rex Chaplin, Bernie & Peter Anderson, Ron Morgan,  
Maurie Taylor, Graeme Hare, Cyril Hargreaves, Nigel Thompson,  
Stan White, Barbara Hare, Helen Williams, Pat Buchanan, Gayel  
Hulford, Sylvia Lee.

No. in day party: 7  
Phil Bayens, Alan Berry, Jack Landman, Allan King, Ian Malloch,  
Barry Donkin Terry Jonas.

## OLD MEMBERS PICNIC

Seventeen adults and six children reached Swamp Cottage about 10.30am. We were unable to link up with the Cairn party so had our own service. This was taken by Lin Lloyd and Norm Elder, both ex-presidents.

After lunch, an urge to botanise round the lakes, plus an urge to fish in the lakes, plus a general urge to get out of the cold wind that was blowing round the front of the Cottage, moved most of us to meander up the track. Some of us went as far as the top of the rise just before the Tutaekuri and saw a stag on the same side of the river as ourselves. Back at the Cottage we had another boil-up. The wind had dropped, the sun was shining and we lolled on a grassy bank while waiting for the five coming down from the Cairn.

No. in party: 23 Sub-leader: Janet Lloyd  
Norm and Kath Elder, Anne Mackersey, Kath Berry, Bruce, June,  
Christine and Belinda Baird, Pat Bolt, Lee and Elizabeth Ring,  
Norman Boutell, Doreen Truman, Rae, Susan and Christine Anderson,  
Janet and Lin Lloyd, Joan and Brian Smith, Mrs. Lovell-Smith,  
Ian Larrington, Angus Russell.

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NO DOGS or FIREARMS:

Members are reminded of the rule that no dogs or firearms may be taken on Club Trips without the leader's permission. This is generally given only when rifles are needed to obtain meat on long trips.

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PRIVATE TRIPS.A Winter Crossing of the Central Ruahines

23 - 30 August

Four of us headed in to Waikamaka Hut on the Saturday with the working party, each of us carrying about 50 lb. packs and as little or as much extra as we possibly could.

About 3 p.m. on Sunday, after a long-drawn-out lunch, we staggered out of the hut and climbed up onto the Mokaipatea Ridge. Looking down into the valley we could see the new shiny prefabricated chimney Dick had made. With dusk falling we levelled out a tent site, gardening with our ice axes and then using them for tent poles.

A little snow fell during the night and, though we lit the spirits burner at 5 a.m. it was 9 before we had eaten and thawed out sufficiently to pack and depart. Flying cloud which obscured the tops in the early morning cleared with the sun, and came down again at the close of the day. We roped and cramponed up the steep slope of Rangī (5590'), had lunch above the narrow saddle leading to Paemutu (5367') and knocked off for the day by digging another tent site at 5200'. This spot has all the advantages of high altitude, a fine view (including Ruapehu) and shelter, but would probably be a fair step above water in summer.

Another 9 o'clock start on Tuesday took us down on to the scarp-like saddle which the mists had hidden the previous night, and up on to the fine snow peak of Ohuinga (5530'). Photographing delayed our stepping onto the Sawtooth, where presently we had a scratch lunch.

A major preoccupation in the traverse was water supply. We had melted snow at both camp sites and consequent on the physics of latent heat and the need to conserve white spirit, had set out each morning semidehydrated. Graeme solved the problem on the Rangī-Paemutu Saddle by tracking down an elusive gurgle and filling a 2 pint billy. This icy water, laced with lemon crystals and sugar, we polished off - down to the indigestible sediment. On the Sawtooth Keith got the sack because his body heat was insufficient to melt the hip flask of snow carried three layers out from the central heating system.

Eventually we struggled up, almost seasick after being tossed up and down on this turbulent ridge, to admire the view from Tiraha (5472'). A trot down to Howlett's Hut (4400') followed - 6.30 p.m. So, discounting the 90 minute sideshow onto Mokai Patea Ridge which we could have avoided by heading straight up the creek onto Rangī Saddle, we had taken two full days. (This crossing has been done by a fast, light party in one long summer day).

The weather held on Wednesday, so, somewhat tired, but considerably lightened we returned to Tiraha and headed via Taumatomekura (5520') for Te Hekenga (5562'). On the narrow razor-back Nigel led the 4-man rope, cutting steps up onto the rock summit. This manoeuvre took about 1½ hours. Returning we were taken aback to hear the crash of shattered rock off the disintegrating rock summit of our lunch site. Erosion is causing an increasing scar on this fine peak.

Fortunately for 'The Old Man of the Mountains' but unfortunately for the twosome, Snad and Boshier, the weather deteriorated on Thursday. They called in at Howlett's about dusk, were refuelled, trudged on up to establish a snow cave on Tiraha and were blown back to Howlett's at 2 a.m. Foolishly we all essayed up the peak on Friday, dug furiously for 2 hours, then we four gave up, left the brave two in possession of their snow cave and got blown back likewise to the hut. We pulled out on Saturday leaving plenty of dry beech from the lower slope for firewood, and headed via the Tukituki River for Farm Mill, Mr and Mrs Garratt, their Chev. and copious supplies of very fresh and very welcome food - and drink.

Party: Graeme Hare, Nigel Thompson, Keith Garratt, Hal Christian.

### ANOTHER BAD WEATHER STORY

28th-31st August.

After carrying the chimney into the Waikamaka the previous weekend a two man party left on the following Thursday for Farm Mill, starting point for Howlett's Hut.

Instead of contending with the long walk up the Tukituki it was decided by unanimous vote to follow the possum trappers' track up the Moorcock and thence up a clear spur to the ridge overlooking the Tukituki. We followed the trappers' blazes down to the river which proved to be a rather circular sort of route.

However we finally reached the river and after a short trudge we started on the long grind up Daphne. By carefully following the blazes and staying on the track we arrived at Howlett's in time to find four bods (members of the H.T.C. I believe) engaged in the favourite hobby of cooking. After exchanging news (e.g. results of first test) we pushed on up Tiraha in what was then perfect weather.

However by 7 o'clock a rising wind, iced up slopes and descending darkness forced us to make an unscheduled halt for the night on Tiraha. The tent was pitched but by 11 o'clock it was being buffeted by winds of up to 90 mph. In fear of the tent being blown away we collapsed it about midnight. The prospects of lying on the snow holding the tent down for another seven hours were not very bright. We retreated to Howlett's at 1.45 a.m.

Next morning the weather had improved and by nightfall it was decided to put in a snow cave somewhere near Taumataomekura (try pronouncing it). Again high winds forced us to retreat back on to the lee slopes of Tiraha where the snow cave was duly constructed. Lack of digging implements held up progress but by nine we were safely in our sleeping bags while the storm raged on outside.

Next morning after several vain attempts to light the primus it was found that the entrance was snowed up. The morning was spent digging ourselves out, getting out by noon only to find it snowing at the rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " a minute (results of exhaustive tests).

Faced with the prospect of having to open up the entrance every hour we once again headed back to Howlett's thus abandoning changes of making the intended crossing to Rangiwahia.

A comfortable night was spent in Howlett's but on awakening we found it -- need I say -- SNOWING AND BLOWING. We then decided to return home (a day early) so we left at midday arriving at Farm Mill by 4 after a pleasant walk down the river.

Party: Roger Boshier and Graham Snadden.

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KAWEKA HUT - COOK'S HORN. 23-24 October.

On showday two enthusiasts headed for the Kawekas in perfect weather and after lingering awhile studying fault lines and trying to make radios fluctuate finally reached Kaweka Hut at about 2 p.m. It was intended to spend the night on Cook's Horn but huge black clouds and drops of rain forced us to adopt less strenuous activities.

The rest of the day was spent in erecting an aerial for our radios which proved very satisfactory that night. That night it rained but next morning we got away to Cook's Horn in perfect weather. Three quarters of an hour later we were atop the horn trying to bang in pitons.

The rock on the hut side is not very rotten so we spent most of the morning scrambling up and down there. The face is vertical and overhanging in places and really is a good rock climbing place.

After taking a few photographs we headed off down the scree and thence back to the hut, wrote up the book (new book needed) and then proceeded back to the car.

Party: Roger Boshier, Graham Snadden/

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FORESTRY TRIPS

Black Birch. 20-21 August. A sudden offer of a tour of the plantings from Ben Thorpe, Bob Jackson's successor, a hurried pack and away to the woods before dawn. Kath and I stopped along the track to cut out a dog leg and were overtaken by a culler following our discs. Did some work in the nursery and poked down the stream for a little.

Next morning back to Little's Clearing, where we met the Puketitiri field officer who had just put up a mob of 9 Jap deer. The whole gang then rambled south along the Birch, miles of bare ground with pines contour planted through the scrub on the slopes. Unlike our Moorcock planting practically none of it eaten.

The two cullers off down a spur after some goats while the rest of us went on till we looked down on the Donald. N.L.E.

Makaroro Mill. 10-11 September. An intended reconnaissance of the Waipawa headwaters which are to be hunted intensively was foiled by mist, rain and flooded rivers, so visited the cullers' base hut on the flat across from the mill. A lot of track cutting is being done, the latest starting at the upstream end of the flat, almost opposite Gold Creek, and running slap along the top of the Pohatu-haha Range, crossing the track to the upper Makaroro and will

eventually meet the main plateau track at Apias. The mill has stopped logging across the river and the broken spans of the bridge are now washed away.

N.L.E.

### TARARUA SOUTHERN CROSSING

21-23 November.

After some months of talk a party of five eventually left Hastings at 7 o'clock in the evening of 21st November. The warmish evening made travelling very pleasant and Palmerston North was reached at 9.25 after a game of tag in the gorge. Railway coffee and Hare nut loaf was the menu while waiting for Jack, Maury's brother, to arrive from Wellington on the Limited. Jack was transport officer as he was to take the van from Otaki Forks on to Wellington and then up to Kaitoke on the Sunday.

On arrival at Roaring Meg in the Otaki Gorge it was decided to spend the rest of the night or morning as it was by then at the cottage, the weather was holding fine and the party new to the area would get a better idea of its layout in daylight.

6.20 saw us up and consuming our own ideas of breakfast, 7.30 hopping across the Waiotauru Stream 100 yards from the Cottage and up the long grassy spur leading to the bush and Field's Hut. Good time was made and the hut reached at 10.30 (all times include stops required for the catching up of breath and scenery gazing). At the loud cry of "Boil up" (our war chant), the tea was soon made and five dry hungry bods were stoking up for the journey ahead.

Leaving Field's at 11.00 we were soon out of the bush and Kime Hut was reached at 1.30.

Tiffin finished, Kime was behind us at 2.40 and Mt. Hector (5016') was gained at 3.30. After a good look at the surrounding area including Ruapehu, Egmont, and the South Island we said "Alpha Ahoy" at 4.05. Over the "B" hives, Atkinson and a stop at the tarn on Aston, the junction of the Dress Circle on which we were travelling and the Elder-Renata ridge which connects the Mawmorn to the Tararuas. Travelling slower now we reached Alpha at 6.00 when our crossing was celebrated by broaching Nigel's tin of peaches.

On reaching Alpha hut at 6.40 we were offered the use of a primus by a party of 8 Tararuas who had also done the crossing.

A good sing song, stew, stewed fruit, another sing song maybe more raucous than melodious and the sack was hit to the accompaniment of that evergreen favourite "Life".

Saturday had been brilliantly fine with the sun blazing down but Sunday dawned with typical Tararua mist around and we bade farewell to Alpha hut at 9.20, through Hell's Gate, over Omega to arrive at Block XVI on the Marchant Ridge at 11.00. Down the block track to arrive at Alloway Dickson Memorial Hut at 11.55, where of course a boil up was the order of the day. A leisurely lunch and away at 1.15 to follow the Tauwharenikau river to the old hut site, thence to the new hut on Canyon Creek and after a quick look at the W.T.M.C. hut on Smith's Creek took off for Kaitoke via the Puffer. On reaching the road at 4.20 the lack of one Bedford van on the landscape was a little discouraging.



But after a change and a bite to eat the transport arrived at 5.10 with a welcome ready made "boil-up". Departure time for the Bay was 5.40 and after a longish stop at Masterton to stoke up our boilers Hastings saw our headlights at 10.50 after a drizzly misty trip.

The party which appeared quite happy if a little jaded consisted of :- Jack Landman, Graham Hare, Nigel Thompson, Cyril Hargreaves and Maury Taylor.

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### OUR BLOSSOM FLOAT.

Mountaineers wearing layers of jerseys, trousers, parkas etc. and standing on top of an icy peak look a wee bit different from the sweet-looking, silk-clad maidens usually seen on blossom floats. Our float stood out in contrast.

Plans for this entry began to take shape last year (remember that gap in the 1957 parade?). After much deep thought we decided to make a model of part of the Ruahines. Someone suggested '66' and the Waipawa Saddle, and we went ahead.

For those who don't know, a mountain is made of a frame of timber covered with scrim, wirenetting and several layers of plaster. Mr. Hill of Percival Rd. was kind enough to let us use his yard while we made the framework, and in two Saturdays this was built over the cab of the truck and part of the deck. An immense crowd of trampers assisted in covering it with wirenetting and scrim.

The plastering needed to be done under cover, and Mr. Attwood very kindly allowed us to use part of the sheds of Attwood & Reid Ltd.

The journey from Mr. Hill's place to the sheds in Pakowhai Rd. was made in the dark and took some organising because (1), The mountain turned out to be slightly wider than the gate; (2), the driver had only a slit to see through; & (3), the headlights were covered by scrim. It was like a naval manoeuvre. The main body of the fleet was the embryo float with Cy as pilot (and "dashing" good he was), able body Nigel as lookout on the upper deck, Phil at the wheel (the so-called dog watch), Keith in command of his sleek grey chevrolet minesweeper (opening gates), and yours truly bringing up the rear in Phil's M.T.B. loaded with manuka (shutting gates). In tight spots our commander ordered all hands on the corners and we literally squeezed the truck through the gates.

The last stages of building our mountain were gay sessions of slap-happy plastering, while qualified manuka "banger-onners" completed the job.

I suggest that this mountain be mapped and go down in history as Mt. Pohokura.

J. van'Bavel.

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### SOCIAL NEWS.

Birth: To Els and Philip Bayens - a son.

Marriage: Doreen Fletcher to Jim Glass.

ARCTIC TO ANTARCTIC:

After climbing on the borders of Alaska, Wally Romanes is now an assistant mountaineer in a survey party which expected to arrive in Antarctica about Dec. 2nd. They plan to be helicoptered inland some 30 miles at two different points along the coast, Wood Bay and Terra Nova Bay. The two parties of six will then work inland to the Victoria Land Plateau (about 30-40 miles) and return through their base camps to the coast where it is hoped that withdrawal will take place at the end of February or the beginning of March.

His address is:- N.Z. Geological & Survey Expedition,  
U.S. Navy Special Mail Delivery Facility,  
Christchurch.

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THE LAKE DISTRICT:

The following is an extract from a letter from Helen Hill:-

... "Then we came to the Lake District. Used as I am to our wild and untouched ranges, I was struck not by the ruggedness of the hills, but by their peaceful, ordered and cultivated beauty. Everywhere neat stone walls ran up the slopes and over the crags; every hollow had its group of grey stone farm buildings, every valley its village; and the walls and buildings seemed to have grown out of the soil as naturally as the trees and the crags. The lakes are surrounded by park-like groves of trees; there is nothing untidy or undared-for. The weather is the triumphant exception, and it sweeps great thundery masses of clouds and trailing wreaths of mist over the hills and water and makes the greens emerald and the blues indigo, with yellow shafts of sunlight racing over the slopes and sparkling on the water.

We had a fine evening and morning after we arrived, but from then on it poured, though that is an understatement. . . However, I think we managed to see every lake either in sun or storm. We were surprised to find the roads were real switch-backs with some very steep grades, though usually for short distances. We drove over the Henister Pass, but avoided one or two that the A.A. book called "sporting hill climbs". Some of the less-frequented roads were very pretty indeed, winding tunnels under arcades of trees neatly enclosed by a stone wall each side, and giving constant glimpses of lakes below and hills beyond. There were hikers everywhere, most often we noted in pairs, male and female, and usually hand-in-hand (H.T.C. please note). They seemed determined to walk, whatever the weather, but sandals, thin plastic coats and a piece of plastic tied under the chin didn't seem very adequate in a deluge. Give me boots, shorts and parka - or better still, a fine day.

I'll go back, some time, on foot, and hope for the fine day, myself.

Coming home, we called on Grace Dixon and Joyce Stanley, both ex-H.T.C. now re-settled in England. They are both still hill-lovers, and we may find ourselves out in the hills together again, some time in the future.

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CLUB EVENINGS.

Wally Romanes paid us a fleeting visit and showed us his slides of the Mt. Fairweather B.C. centennial ascent. As Wally was the official photographer on this expedition the photos were of a very high order indeed.

Angus is now eighty years old. By way of celebration he put on a magnificent supper for the whole club.

Ron Morgan gave a talk on the different types of radio used by the R.E.C. out in the field.

Mr. Snadden of St. John's Ambulance advised us how to cope with accidents in the mountains.

Alan Berry gave us a résumé of the Merle Gwynne search on Mt. Holdsworth.

There have also been various ten minute talks by other club members on topical subjects such as care of tents, gear, etc.

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FIRST AID KIT: (Recommended by Mr. Snadden).

Butesin picrate (yellow ointment in a tube to be used for small burns).  
 Cotton Wool  
 An assortment of bandages } for burns covering a larger area.  
 Sticking plaster: (a) broad elastoplast.  
                                   (b) narrow, waterproof type for holding dressings in place.  
 Bruladine (antiseptic, in a tube).  
 Sterile gauze, in envelopes.  
 Disprins.  
 Needle & thread.        Scissors.        Safety pins.

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BRIGHTER TRAMPING:        From F.M.C. Bulletin no. 3.

From what has happened on previous occasions it is certain that in poor visibility a person, or a party of trampers, could be (and indeed have been) mistaken for a group of deer. Knowing this, then, it is only logical to suggest that trampers should be made aware of this danger and be asked to co-operate towards minimising it.

In some National Parks and shooting reserves in the U.S.A. it is an offence for anyone to enter therein unless wearing a bright red jacket, and the proposal has been put forward here that all trampers, shooters, and climbers should not only wear brightly coloured clothing, but should likewise have equipment such as packs of a bright colour also.

Most of the outdoor clothing and equipment at present obtainable, however, is in neutral colours such as brown parkas and dark green or brown packs. Extensive enquiries have therefore been made from various manufacturers throughout N.Z. to see if this clothing and equipment can be made in bright colours such as red or orange, etc. From the replies to hand, it appears that for lightweight material there is nothing quite so durable and satisfactory as well as economical, as the well known oiled japara, although brightly coloured jackets suitable mainly for skiing are already obtainable. Some heavier weight materials such as used for packs can be obtained

in bright colours and manufacturers have expressed a willingness to use these materials providing they can be assured of a market for them.

It is realised, of course, that thousands of outdoor folk are not going to immediately discard their old equipment and purchase brightly coloured items, but as a long term plan it is recommended that whenever a replacement becomes necessary it should be brightly coloured.

One manufacturer made a useful contribution by suggesting that in the meantime, a square of red or orange cloth be fastened on the outside of the rucksack, particularly when in stalking country, and all clubs are asked to bring this to the notice of members as something that can be done immediately.

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REPORT of ACCIDENT on Tasman Saddle, January 1958.

On 10th January 1958, a party of two men and a woman crossed the Tasman Saddle from Malte Brun Hut. On the descent into the Murchison, just below the saddle, the leader, Tristram Hall, jumped across the bergschrund on to what appeared to be the solid lower lip. He immediately fell through this into a hidden crevasse but was held by the anchor of the second man of the party. He was lowered a few feet on to a ledge at a depth of about forty feet and seemed not badly hurt by the fall.

An attempt was made to pull him out from above the bergschrund, but this was unsuccessful and one of the party set out for Malte Brun Hut to get help. Next day in bad weather a rescue party of two men working from the lower lip of the bergschrund pulled him out by direct lift. Hall was about thirty hours in the crevasse and when rescued was still inadequately clad mainly in cotton. He died the next afternoon in Malte Brun Hut.

Comments:-

1. A crevasse should not be jumped when it can be turned.
2. All mountaineers and skiers who travel on the neves of glaciers must know and be able to apply the techniques of crevasse rescue.
3. A bergschrund generally slopes inward toward the mountain, and any rescue operation should where possible be attempted from the lower lip.
4. It is possible that the deceased would have survived had he been wearing woollen clothing. He was doubtlessly comfortably clad for travelling and his companions were able to lower him extra clothing, gloves and crampons, but the type of cotton clothing that he was wearing does not provide sufficient insulation of the body for survival at low temperatures. It is imperative that plenty of warm clothing and food if possible be lowered anyone in a crevasse.
5. Although three experienced climbers should be a safe party, for glacier travel four is a better number, especially for rescue operations.

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KOWHAI - ngutu - KAKA.

Red kowhai (*Clianthus puniceus*) was sighted in flower on a recent trip back of Tutira on an inaccessible cliff. Guthrie-Smith records that it was abundant on Heru-o-Tureia before it was eaten out by cattle and that there was also a little of it on Awa - o - Totara.

As far back as 1925 Cheeseman said it was exceedingly rare and fast becoming extinct - in fact few people today can have seen it growing wild. It is recorded from a number of islands off the Auckland coast, Coromandel, East Cape, Tolaga Bay, Tiniroto and Waikaremoana, but many of these records are 100 years ago or longer.

One peculiarity is the difference in the colour and size of flowers. Round Tolaga the flowers were large with a whitish stripe. A white-flowered form coming true from seed is reported from Tiniroto. At Waikaremoana the flowers were small and reddish-purple.

This Tutira plant had pinkish flowers, like most of those you see growing in gardens - there is also a garden form with smallish flowers of a brilliant sealing-wax scarlet.

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HIGH SCHOOL TRAMPING CLUB:

We congratulate this new Tramping Club on their formation and extend to them our best wishes for happy tramping.

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NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome to the Club Barbara Drummond (junior); and Ken Mudgway, of the Deerstalkers' Association.

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GUY FAWKES:

Guy Fawkes night was celebrated by a seaside bonfire organised by Derek and Joan Conway.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS:

These are now due. Remember that you save 5/- by paying up before the end of December.

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STOP PRESS:

1. THE CLUB HAS A NEW TRUCK .....
2. BIRTHS: At Adelaide, to Alison (née Elder) and Ron Procter - twins (boy and girl).

F I X T U R E                      L I S T .

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Trip:</u>	<u>Leader:</u>
Dec. 25-28th:	Colenso Lake via Colenso Spur.	Nancy Tanner.
Jan. 1st-4th:	Waikamaka, Kawhatau <u>or</u> Otumore, Orua R. and out.	(to be arranged).
Jan. 24th-25th:	Makino Hut opening - track cutting to Ballard Hut.	Roger Boshier.
Feb. 7th-8th:	Pourerere Beach via Waipawa.	Sylvia Lee.
Feb. 21st: (Sat. pm)	Barbecue, Dartmoor Tutaekuri River.	Jim Glass.
March 7th-8th:	Waikamaka - stonemasonry, repair chimney.	Dick Clark.
March 22nd:	Otumore via Pohangina.	Jack Landman.
March 27th-30th:	<u>Easter:</u> Lake Waikaremoana.	Rex Chaplin.
April 5th:	S.A.R.: Gorge Stream, Black Birch.	Alan Berry.
April 18th-19th:	Otupae via Gentle Annie. (leave Friday night?)	Phil Bayens.
May 3rd:	Kiwi Hut - paint roof. (4 am. start?)	David Brandon.
May 16-17th:	Mill Farm - repair chair lift (?) on Daphne Spur, Howlett's Hut.	Nigel Thompson.

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To all members of the H.T.C. and kindred clubs we extend our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a bright New Year.

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1959: The first meeting will be held on Wednesday January 21st., at 7.45 p.m.