

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)

" P O H O K U R A "

Bulletin No. 83

December, 1959

PRESIDENT:

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

HON. SECRETARY:

Miss A. Tremewan, 411W St. Aubyn Street, Hastings. Phone 4215

HON. TREASURER:

Mrs. M. Taylor, Te Awanga R.D. 2, Hastings.

CLUB CAPTAIN:

Mr. G. Hare, Mangateretere R.D. 2, Hastings.

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

Officers for 1959-60

At the Annual General Meeting held on October 14th 1959 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. G. Hare

Secretary: Miss A. Tremewan

Treasurer: Mrs. M. Taylor

Auditor: Miss C. Stirling

Executive Committee: Miss N. Tanner, Messrs. P. Bayens, H. Christain, K. Garratt, J. Landman, M. Taylor, N. Thompson

Social Committee: Mesdames E. Ansell, E. Bayens, Miss M. Mison, Messrs. J. Fabian, K. Garratt, C. Hargreaves

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The Club can claim to have had a successful year in that the membership has been reasonably maintained and the attendance at Club meetings and on trips have been good.

It was particularly fitting that Norm and Kath Elder should be elected life members at the last Annual Meeting. Heretaunga Tramping Club and Norm Elder are synonymous. The Character of the Club is largely due to his guidance and personality and where Norm is there Kath is also.

This Club character is built up on a tradition of self reliance both in the physical sense and in our financial arrangements and this should be maintained.

Probably the main reason why the Club holds together is that so many members take an active part in its administration. Examples of this besides the key posts of club captain, secretary and treasurer are the trip leaders, the "Pohokura" workers, and the members who take part in organising or working on truck, hut and track maintenance and in the less interesting working parties picking tomatoes or beans.

There are also the providers of entertainment and instruction at club meetings and we are particularly indebted under both headings to Wally Romanes who is at present providing a valuable course on bushcraft.

A 1948 - 3 ton Bedford M.L. truck was purchased during the year. A deck has been added, also sides, and the truck has been painted, nearly all of this work being done by club members.

A Hastings Boys' High School Tramping Club has been formed. We wish them success.

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT:

Search and rescue: When last year's annual report was being written the Ridgemount Search was still in progress. (see "Pohokura" No. 80.) The club organised a further search party for the following weekend, but no trace of pilot or plane has ever been found. The search, in my opinion, went very well and proved the immense value of portable radio sets. It is essential in a case like this that the person in charge should know the country to be covered.

Once again the year has gone by with hardly any call on search and rescue. The club had two elerts:
(1) Three club members were two days overdue. Bad weather gave us the obvious reason. (see previous "Pohokura").
(2) Four persons (not club members) were night bound in Rabbit Gully. They spent a cold night but walked out all right next day. (see previous "Pohokura").

Club Trips: One trip had been cancelled owing to bad weather. Apart from that nothing special has happened. Very few private trips have been run. An encouraging fact is the number of young people coming out on trips. Working parties to finance the truck were run successfully bar one.

Accidents: One or two minor ones have occurred which required a few stitches, and the boys concerned missed the school dance.

General: Of late a new problem had arisen, namely a shortage of truck drivers. After successfully overcoming the transport problem by purchasing a good truck, we are now short of capable drivers. On this account we almost had to cancel two trips. More recruiting is necessary. Another problem, more serious, is a shortage of capable leaders. Two years ago there were more experienced older members than younger ones. Now the roles have changed. There is a great number of one year trampers. The shortage is more apparent on day trips when the numbers go up to 37. It is virtually impossible for a leader to control a party of this size. It is almost a full time job counting them and after all the leader comes out to enjoy himself and not to act as a school master correcting all day. In this case one sub-leader, even two, are essential and a little talk just before leaving the truck would not do any harm. The leader is responsible for his party, but it is only fair that the party should show some consideration for its leader. It is all very well to go off by yourself but if you break your leg the leader gets it in the neck although it is your leg, which is some compensation for the leader. To become an experienced trumper it takes some time, but to become familiar with the theoretical side I suggest attend the meetings regularly and listen to the 10 minute talks. Not only listen to them but absorb them. At the moment a very capable man is giving a series of lectures which are very good and will prove valuable when brought into practice in the bush. After all we all had to crawl before we started to walk. The sooner you familiarise yourself with the bush the sooner you fully enjoy tramping and in turn can pass your experience on to the green horn. Never treat the hills lightly. Sooner or later you get caught.

FIXTURE, HUT AND TRACK COMMITTEE:

Fixtures: The club policy of running fortnightly trips, weekend tramps alternating with Sunday outings has been varied a little around the long weekends and in the summer months, when day trips to the beach are favoured. Occasional Saturday tramps have been suggested but are generally lacking in support due to the counter claims of organised sports.

The committee is always keen to receive trip suggestions.

HUTS: Kaweka: In fair condition, including the piles. The fireplace perhaps needs some attention.

Kiwi: Painting of the roof has been completed at last - now it's almost time to start painting again!

Waikamaka: The lean-to has been extended to include a front porch; the foundations and framework already erected to be clothed in iron before this report is published if Hughie, for once is co-operative. A door too, may be added. Thanks to Dick's painstaking work the new chimney has been concreted in. Maurie did a fine job in organising a working party into converting the top storey into a sleeping ledge.

Shut-Eye: Fortunately for the Club the New Zealand Forestry Service cullers have repaired the door and the hut somewhat. Our thanks.

Howlett's: We continue to use this hut equally with the owners, Manawatu T.C., to whom our thanks are due!

Forestry Service Huts: In the last three years about a dozen aluminium prefab four bunk huts from Makahu, Northern Kawekas to Pohangina, at the southern tip of the high Ruahines have been air dropped and erected. Packing in an 18 man party for the night is rather sardine like but interesting. We are very grateful to Forestry for permission to use these huts for they do permit a much greater variety of tramping.

TRACKS: Our club has a membership of well under a 100, and yet apart from maintaining the three main huts, it keeps open a much greater length of track than any comparable Wellington Tramping Club.

In the Kawekas: One or two parties have given assistance to the Hawke's Bay Deerstalkers Association in cutting their track to Makino hut. The bush section of the Makahu track is thoroughly well disced with about 500 assorted orange shades fixed by both Heretaunga Tramping Club and N.Z. Forestry Service. However Lichens need to be removed to prevent their covering some discs, also some clearing of windfalls and young growth is necessary. A H.S. party cut a new section on the Kiwi ridge and repoled 4594. The overgrown section at the foot of the shingle slide must await clarification of boundaries.

In the Ruahines: Colenso track is clear to the top. A further section of Shut-Eye was cut completing the track right to the hut. Further poles have been added on the Waikamaka side of Waipawa saddle and a low level return route over the waterfall. To this encouraging list must be added the grand job on Daphne Spur. As evidence of this the return trip, Howlett's to the river - 1 hour. Recent anxiety in this area suggests that we

should, if time permits, pole the escape route from Howletts to Pohangina Hut and into the Moorcock. The mist can be thick. Unfortunately poles up there would be hard to find.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

As a social committee this year we have failed!

We started well, with high hopes but these quickly developed into a fiasco.

The reasons for this are many and varied but we should offer no excuse for a mess that is our own fault.

Upon reminiscence however one member, Els Bayens, is to be congratulated upon her care of the supper items.

I will now discourse upon what social events we have had.

1. The talk by the older members of the club upon its early days. This was an interesting and varied talk by these folk and to those who missed it, you really missed something. It highlights the good old days of tramping in the Kawekas and Ruahines.

2. A film evening using films on loan from the Canadian-Pacific Railways. Our thanks to the Railways, the United Ancient Order of Druids, (for the loan of their projector), and to Mr. A.H. Waterhouse who was the lodge operator.

3. A film evening run by an Austrian Ski instructor. These films were his own and our thanks to him for the time he spent showing them to us.

4. Special thanks to Wally Romanes who has been the main stay of the social side of the club during the last couple of months with his talks and slides on London and Antarctica and his lectures on bushcraft.

5. Thanks to all those people who gave ten-minute talks on all the aspects of tramping and to those people who brought along slides to spin out the time.

6. And last not least. Our biggest flop. The Blossom Float. It started very well with Jack van Bavel in charge doing a great amount of work but Jack had to shift and from then on this degenerated into not much due to a lackadaisical air adopted by most of those involved.

Keith Garratt was then pushed into the job. He rang up or made contact with most of the others concerned on the Monday preceding the procession to investigate what was happening and upon receiving his answers abandoned the project.

Some of you may say that this was too early to be able to assess what was really happening, whether or not we would have

been ready, but as it turned out later it would not have been. So I at least condone his action even if no one else does.

There may be a grumble at this but you have only yourselves to blame.

Remember if you support these projects fully they will turn out alright in the finish but if you do not have seen the result of this year's effort.

TRUCK COMMITTEE:

It has been our goal for some years to obtain a relatively recent model, safe and economical truck for transport purposes, and this has now been attained with the purchase during the year of a 1948 model Bedford M.L. 3 ton. The motor was reconditioned at the time of purchase, the bodywork is reasonably sound and the tyres are all practically new or recently recapped, so it would seem that our transport problems have been solved for a good few years to come.

Thanks to some thoughtful souls we also have comfy mattresses to sit on, and generally the Club now travels in style - a far cry from the days of an open truck and bare boards.

GEAR CUSTODIAN:

As I have been rather an absentee I shall begin by thanking all those who have taken on the duties in my absence. The task fell particularly on the Secretary.

GEAR: The following additions have been made to gear during the past year:

- 2 new 7' by 5' Japara tents (making a total of 7 6' by 5' tents and two old 8' by 6')
- 3 new aluminium billies, (making a total of 6 aluminium billies and 14 old tin ones)
- 1 ice axe, presented by Steel Therkleson (making a total of 5 ice axes available to members).

Losses: One billy lid has been left at Kiwi Hut, and two pairs of boots are ready to be written off.

Gear available:

- Boots - 2 pairs size 5, 2 pairs size 6, 1 pair size 10, (with heel and toe plates) in fairly good order
- Slashers - There are only 3 long-handled slashers, and 1 short bladed on long handle in working order.
- Ropes - We have two.
- Saw - One in my keeping ex Kaweka Hut.

Axe - One in my keeping (New handle)
Sleeping Bag cover - one
Ground Sheet - One
Packs - 2 kidney punchers
 1 day pack
 1 small frame
 1 frame without pack
Camping gear - 3 frying pans, one with handle off.
 Oddments of plates etc.,
Loans have brought in £8. 8. 6 made up as follows:

Packs	1.16. 0
Boots	18. 0
Parka	10. 0
Tents	4. 7. 6
Billies	7. 0
Ice Axes	10. 0
	<u>£8. 8. 6</u>
	=====

The comparable figure last year was £6.13. 0, but charges have increased.

I have to thank members for the care they are taking over gear borrowed, tents have been dried out after use, and billies have on occasion had an added shine.

PUBLICITY:

Press: Either Alan Berry or myself have put in short accounts of thirteen of the more interesting trips of the year. In addition the Tribune published an article before the trial search in April to explain how search and rescue is organised in Hawkes Bay, and how this particular trial was being planned.

Route Guide: Three thousand copies of this are now being printed and the cost will be 3/6. It has some good photographs and a small map to show the main roadheads and the areas covered by the various survey and H.T.C. maps that are available.

ALBUM: This has been a very poor year for photography, as far as lack of photographers was concerned. Thus our album has suffered. However this is not too serious so don't worry!

LIBRARY: During the past year 5/- has been the amount taken for books read. "Flynn's Flying Doctors" has still not been returned, and the copy of "Crossing Antarctica" the Club gave Angus for his birthday has gone astray. Can anyone throw any light on the subject please? Also the Club's copy cannot be located and as that was presented by George Lowe we would be obliged to receive news of it. Many members are too busy with exams to have time for outside reading.

"POHOKURA": We take this opportunity of thanking the typistes, the duplicators, and the staplers, all of whom give willingly of their time to provide you with your three issues of "Pohokura". The actual contents have been mostly restricted to trips this year. How about some original articles from some³ body?

MEMBERSHIP: This year closed with a financial membership of 90, made up as follows:-

Full members:	57	(57)
Junior members:	13	(8)
Absentee members:	20	(17)
Honorary members:	2	(4)
Life members	3	(1)

SUB-COMMITTEES:

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

Fixture, Hut and Track: Nancy Tanner, Phil Bayens, Hal Christian, Graeme Hare

Truck committee: Maurie Taylor, Alan Berry

Search committee: Rex Chaplin, Grae e Hare, Annette Tremewan, Norm Elder, Alan Berry, Janet Lloyd.

Gear Custodian: Kath Elder, Nigel Thompson

Publicity: Norm Elder, Alan Berry

Editor: Janet Lloyd

Librarian: Edna Ansell

Album: Margaret Mison

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB INC.INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTFOR YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 19591958 INCOME:

77	Subscriptions	67.12. 0
7	Gear Hire	8. 8. 6
-	Library Fees	5. 0
13	Meeting Contributions	13.15. 7
-	Donations re 1958 float	3.18. 0
2	Donations	8.12. 1
39	Working parties	55.16. 2
4	Interest P.O.S.B.	3.16. 2
-	Bank New South Wales	1. 2. 9
-	Surplus on Maps	1.10. 5

142	TOTAL Income	164.16. 8
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EXPENDITURE:

32	Rent of Meeting Room	34. 7. 6
3	Advertising Meeting etc	3. 9. 9
2	Supper and Social expenses	4. 0.10
2	Hut and track maintenance	2. 6.11
17	Bulletin expenses	14. 4. 4
-	Equipment Maintenance	18.10. 4
2	Subscriptions	2.16. 0
-	Insurance	1. 6. 3
4	Capitation to Federation	
	Mountain Club	3. 5. 0
-	Stationery	13. 6
6	Blossom Festival Float	- - -
2	General Expenses	3. 5. 6
	Transport costs	146.13. 1
	Truck Depreciation	40. 0. 0

186.13. 1

Less fares received

161. 7. 6

22	Loss on transport	25. 5. 7
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92	TOTAL expenditure	113.11. 6
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50	Surplus income over Expenditure	£ 51. 5. 2
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BALANCE SHEETAS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 19591958

At balance date, the Club owned the following assets:-

115	Bank of New South Wales account	87. 8. 2	
187	Post Office Savings Bank	10.19. 1	
48	Equipment	48. 6. 0	
95	Ford Truck (sold for £100)	- - -	
	Bedford Truck, at cost	395. 0. 0	
	Decking & improvements	51. 9. 2	
		<u>446. 9. 2</u>	
-	Less depreciation w/off	<u>40. 0. 0</u>	406. 9. 2
5	Cash on hand		2. 8. 9
8	Stock of maps		14.14. 0
3	Stock of badges		14.14. 0
4	Stock of bulletin covers		2. 0. 0
	Huts valued in the books as follows:		
	Kaweka	5. 0. 0	
	Kiwi	25. 0. 0	
	Waikamaka	20.19. 6	
52	New hut frame	<u>1. 0. 0</u>	51.19. 6
1	Search reserve booklets		<u>19. 0</u>
518	The total value of assets being		639.17. 8
	However, of this amount there has		
	been set aside as a search fund		13.13. 7
	There were owed various accounts		
	amounting to		9.17. 0
	and loans from members to assist in		
	the truck purchase were	<u>75. 0. 0</u>	
33	a total of		<u>98.10. 7</u>

485 The total of assets available for Club use was therefore £ 541. 7. 1

This figure represents the balance in accumulated funds which are made up as follows:

Balance 1st October 1958		484.15.11
Plus: Profit on sale of Ford	5. 6. 0	
Profit for year	<u>51. 5. 2</u>	
		56.11. 2

Balance at 30th September 1959 £541. 7. 1

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



GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

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Compiled by

N. L. ELDER

Honorary Forest Ranger

New Zealand Forest Service

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C L U B T R I P SWAIPAWA RIVER - "67" SCREES (SNOWCRAFT TRIP)

No. 613

9th August

This trip had a bad start and an unfortunate ending. To begin with the driver could not come at the last minute, leaving myself and 24 bods at Holt's with the truck at Havelock at 6am. Leaving the bods at Holt's to sleep on the footpath I commenced paying social calls to all likely drivers. After travelling about 35 miles, borrowing 1 gallon of petrol and digging 7 people out of bed I was not too popular. I located a driver and got the truck to Holt's with start time at 9.am. No one had gone home so we still had 24 bods aboard.

We left the Old Mill site on the Waipawa river at 11.45am and made a stop for lunch at the forks. At about 2pm most of the bods had reached the lower snow slopes off "67" just out of the river and opposite the Waipawa Saddle. The weather had been quite good up till then but had clouded over.

Hal commenced snowcraft training for his High School party and some of us gave instruction to the rest. Bods began launching themselves off the top of this slope and were managing to stop before going into orbit. Head first, feet first, on your stomach, on your back, head first on your back and on your head were some of the methods of transport used. Surprisingly enough no fancy cartwheels were executed.

Four of us had some step-cutting practice. We cut our way up the fairly firm snow and zig-zagged our way on to the "67" ridge. We unroped and as the weather packed up started to glissade down. I was about 50 feet from the bottom of the slope, when swish! two bods locked together sped past at the rate of knots. Both were flat on their faces with one fighting to stop with his iceaxe. What had happened was that both had been on their stomachs with iceaxes in the snow stopping themselves in the usual way. Hugh's shaft caught in some soft snow and dug straight in and he lost his grip on it and went sailing on downwards to land on top of Ron. Both took off and executed a speedy 300 feet of mostly uncontrolled descent. After bouncing over rocks and through snowgrass and leatherwood at the bottom of the slope, they decided to stop.

Two of us broke another speed record tearing after them, descending flat out like a couple of jellyfish using an iceaxe as a handbrake. We rescued the lost iceaxe and surveyed the damage. One cut skull, one cut knee, many luscious bruises and one unfortunate who couldn't sit down for a week owing to loss of a piece of steak. The injured were patched up with field dressings and bandages and were able to walk out under their own steam. Back home they required a few stitches and some rest and then back to it again. We arrived home about 9pm after an enjoyable trip.

Thanks to Lindsay Hill for driving for us after having no previous warning.

No. in party: 16 + High School party. Leader: Nigel Thompson

Colin Ridding, Michael Croucher, Trevor Brace, Hugh McPherson, Dave Brandon, Ron Garrod, Graeme Hare, John van Oeveren, Graham Tetley, Roger Boshier, Hal Christian, Ruth Hawker, Glenda Robb, Gae Lobban, Margaret Mison.

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RIVER CROSSING AT BROOKFIELDS

No. 614

23rd August

Again no driver! - After a couple of hours frantic rushing around we managed to get Wally and it was decided among us to change the trip to river crossing instruction, putting into practice part of our course of lectures given by Wally at club meetings. We arrived at the river at 11am and had lunch.

After a look at the river which was considerably swollen, we moved downstream and began operations. Different methods of crossing were practised using a stick, pole and ropes. It was grand fun and with lots of laughing at each other we all took our turns and plucked up courage to have a go. Some of us went even further and had an accidental swim, much to everyone else's amusement. To our horror, we suddenly realised we had quite an audience on the nearest bank and as tramps are all for seclusion rather than entertaining other people, it was agreed to shift operations back upstream by the truck. The river was a little deeper and swifter here but we put our rope into good use and with Wally guiding the rope we tied a bowline and two half hitches and using our stick, walking on an angle downstream, practised some more crossings.

The sun deserted us and after a few wet crossings one or two of us began to shiver a little so we raced over to the truck, changed and finished off a worthwhile day with our usual boil-up. Many thanks to Wally for giving up his day and making this trip possible.

No. in party: 9

Leader: Glenda Robb

Annette Tremewan, Gae Lobban, Margaret Mison, Disk Frizzell, Bob Adams, Weenut Brace, Mary Berkley, Wally Romanes.

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ARMSTRONG SADDLE (Bushcraft Trip)

No. 615

6th September

A party of 11 left Holt's at 6 am and reached Cullen's about 8.30am. We left the truck at nine bound for Shut-eye shack, and the party arrived at varying intervals between 11.30 and 12. We pushed on immediately for Buttercup Hollow in search of a slightly less rusty water supply, the earliest arriving

about 12 noon. We pushed on about 1.45pm arriving at Armstrong Saddle about 3.45pm. Here we had a lesson on compass reading and were told the names of the various peaks around us. We started down the shingle slide at about 4 pm and reached the source of Triplex at 4.15pm. The earliest people arrived at the truck at about 5 pm while others drifted in till 6 pm. We had a boil-up and were on our way back at 6.30 pm. Arrived in Hastings at 8.35pm.

No. in party: 11

Leader: Wally Romanes

Ken Mudgway, John Hole, Graye Shattky, Rex Chaplin, Tim Chaplin, Colin Ridding, Sue Neufeld, Annette Tremewan, Joan Newey, Margaret Mison.

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GOLD CREEK (Bushcraft Trip)

No. 616

20th September

As the main object of the trip was timber identification, Gold Creek was chosen. This gave rimu, a good deal of matai and hinau in the lower reaches, red beech and quite an amount of kamahi towards the new hut and miro, thin-bark totara and, of course mountain beech on the ridge, coming out. Black beech was also met in the Makaroro at the start. Of the smaller trees fuchsia and five finger were almost completely gone. Kowhai and heketara are not yet in flower.

There are a lot of bare slips and the creek is shingled up giving good going to the hut, which is a little over two hours up. There is however no recent trace of goats or deer and though there was much windfall broadleaf it is unbrowsed. Dull weather with drizzle improved as the morning wore on, so an early boilup was called to give the picnic atmosphere. Here Jack Landman's demonstration of lighting mahoe twigs with one match was marred by the gift of a piece of brown paper.

A helicopter landing site has been prepared on the shingle below the hut and a number of large red beech felled to clear it. Another boilup was called for while the more studious types perused the hut library.

A good blazed track strikes up the spur opposite the hut, but then sidles south making for Triplex, so we struck up on to the ridge and headed north in the direction of the truck. This was an abrupt end to the picnic aspect of the trip. The ridge was broad with a heavy growth of horopito which was soaking wet. After boxing along for a while without striking any good lead we turned down a spur which landed us in second growth, pretty thick, but luckily with little lawyer and not a great amount of fallen timber. We were in luck to come out on a logging track and so back to the truck.

No. in party: 16

Leader: Norm Elder

Edna Ansell, Annette Tremewan, Margaret Mison, Gae Lobban, Nancy Tanner, Kath Elder, Beryl Preston, Sue Neufeld, Barbara Wallace, Virginia van der Lande, Cy Hargreaves, Nigel Thompson, Keith Garratt, Jack Landman, Glenda Robb.

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WAIPAWA RIVER - CULLERS' HUT

No. 617

3rd-4th October.

The trip finally left Hastings round 6.30am, after "tracking down" one of the numbers, for a working party to the Waikamaka. Because of the weather, a trip to the new cullers' hut in the middle tributary of the Waipawa River was decided on. This entailed an hour's climb up the bare ridge on the true right of the Waipawa River, over a small hollow and hump, then sidling down to the river. From there the route lies up the river for $\frac{3}{4}$ hour. The hut is situated on the true right approx. 60 feet above river level, and is easily seen when approaching upstream.

The hut is compact and well built, though rather dark. This I think could be remedied with a sheet of perspex in the roof. The party arrived in batches, invariably cold and wet, but with a hot drink and change of clothing readily became sociable.

Sunday dawned cool with frequent showers of hail - similar to Saturday, with many members complaining of loss of sleep due to coldness. At this point it may be well to give a hint as to the organisation necessary for a warm night's sleep. When preparing to "hit the sack", remember the saying "Two thirds underneath, one third on top". The deduction from this is that most cold and dampness comes from the ground, not from the atmosphere. On an ordinary tramping trip, the order from ground level is thus:- Sleeping bag cover, parka, long trousers, shirt, jersey and spare socks. This leaves shorts, singlet, balaclava, and a pair of socks to be worn when inside the sleeping bag.

After lunch on Sunday, we left the hut at 11am, arriving at the lorry at 1pm. From there it was home, via Waipawa for a snack, arriving in Hastings at 4 pm.

Finally, a word of warning to potential late-comers. The lorry drivers of recent trips have had a habit of arriving at Holts on or before time. Therefore, "Beware of the Driver!"

No. in party: 11

Leader: John Fabian

Norm & Kath Elder, Gae Lobban, Margaret Mison, Annette Tremewan, Glenda Robb, Richard & Trevor Brace, Henry Kolff, Tony Collins.

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18th October - Cancelled because of weather.

MANGATEPOPO HUT

No. 618

Labour Weekend
24-26th October.

Fourteen on the list at the meeting, which steadily increased to 25 by the time we left. I do wish people would make up their minds a little before hand. It makes it easier for the leader to get organised.

The aforementioned 25 bods found a posay on the truck somehow, packs were stowed away, well above the canopy, and so we left Hastings at 7.30pm on Friday night. From then on it was just a case of keeping the foot down on the accelerator and selecting the right gear, keeping the eyes open; and so we got to the Chateau in the early hours of Saturday morning. It took us only (!) 8½ hours.

At the Chateau we bedded down at various places round and in the camping ground, with the mist settling all around us like a blanket. By daylight the weather had not improved. On the contrary it had deteriorated. We decided to have a look at the road head, for the sake of those who had not been there. What good it did I don't know because visibility was down to nothing - approx. 20 yards. 3 bods decided to go up the mountain, stay in the Hutt Valley Hut, do a little snowcaving, if the weather improved, some climbing. The rest of us decided to go to the Mangatepopo Hut via the road.

From the turn-off it is another 4 miles along a reasonable dirt road, the last ½ mile having to be done on foot. On arriving at the hut we found a few Taranaki types in occupation. In the meantime the weather packed up completely and it simply poured down. As the afternoon wore on there was a steady drift of bods to the hut. 21 of us, 9 Taranaki, 6 Auckland and a few strays. All in all we spent a comfortable, warm night, except for one interruption - the four boys pulled out a Ford Coupe bogged down in pumice slush.

On Sunday the same miserable, typical Labour weekend weather. We decided to go up Tongariro and have a look-see. Got a little further than the saddle between Tongariro and Ngauruhoe where high winds and snow prevented us from pushing on. Got back to the hut and collected firewood which is pretty scarce up there. Towards night the weather started to clear and we had high hopes for the next day.

Monday dawned perfectly clear, just the weather for going home. We decided to climb Ngauruhoe before leaving, and a mighty big effort it was for some of us. We walked around the crater spitting, coughing and spluttering from the sulphur fumes. All got down safely and we left the hut at 3 pm for the AC baths in Taupo. Had a good wash - we needed it. Left at 6.30pm after picking up some meagre portions of fish and chips, and were on our way to Hastings. Just outside Taupo we picked up 2 more bods. After all we had plenty of room. We finally got to bed at 2 am on Tuesday morning.

Just for the record: we did 386 miles and used 38 gallons of petrol.

No. in party: 26

Leader: Phil Bayens

Graeme Tetley, Richard McLeod, Tom Wilson, Kevin Crawley, Graeme Shattky, Allan Clark, Maurie & Barbara Taylor, Graeme Hare, John Fabian, Weenut Brace, Roger Boshier, Keith Garratt, Nigel Thompson, Cy Hargreaves, Henry Kolff, Bob Adams, Annette Tremewan, Gae Lobban, Margaret Mison, Glenda Robb, Pat Bolt, Sylvia Lee, Gayel Hulford.

SNOW-CAVING PARTY

618 (B)

On the Saturday morning three of us left the lorry at the top of Bruce Road, for a little snowcaving and climbing trip. We had breakfast at Hutt Valley hut and then left for the Alpine Club hut, arriving there around 12 noon. Already in residence were 13 Taranaki Alpine Club boys with the same idea as us, but owing to the bad weather, they had decided on a cave near the hut. We were invited to join them, and so the afternoon was spent in digging the cave. When finished it was quite large by cave standards: - The entrance 3 feet square and 8 feet long, opening up to standing height with a ledge for cooking and food storage. Turning right was the "sleeping quarters" which were 20 feet by 10 feet, and 4 feet high, the floor level being 2½ feet above the entrance floor level.

The weather continued to be foul thru Saturday night and Sunday morning, but cleared at 3 pm on Sunday. A "sight-seeing" tour was hurriedly organised, resulting in 6 taking off. The top of the 2nd chairlift was the first call, some quick caving, and then a ride down to Hut Flat. From there across to Taranaki Hut and down to Hutt Valley Hut, where we met 3 others who were also "on tour". With ½ an hour to mealtime we made off back to A.C. hut.

With promise of good weather, Roger and I were under way by 2.30 am on Monday along with 5 T.A.C., who were making for Girdlestone. Conditions were ideal as we cramponed up to the greater saddle. There was a light westerly breeze, and a half moon which gave enough light to see detail. Daylight was breaking as we reached the saddle, so a canter up "Pare" was the logical thing. Visibility was good in all directions, with Egmont very prominent. After feeding and photographing, the motto was "A.C. hut, here we come!"

Arriving at the road-end, we "located" a lift to the Chateau, where after a quick snack, we left for Mangatepopo Hut to meet up with the main party.

Party: John Fabian, Annette Tremewan, Roger Boshier.

--- 000 ---

1st November - Trip cancelled as there was no driver for the truck and no cars were available for private transport.

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CAIRN TRIP

No. 619 (a)

14-15th November

Many thanks to those who offered to take members in their cars on this trip. It is a great pity that there were no truck drivers available, thus forcing quite a few to drop out owing to lack of space in the cars. It was a very slow trip,

taking 5½ hours altogether. We stopped for lunch at Gorge stream for an hour, and also waited for the rearguard to arrive after we had strolled up the Black Birch. We had been there about ½ hour when we were also joined by the advance party who had gone right round the bush and come out where they started! Everyone was in the hut by 6pm.

Next morning, after a fairly comfortable night, during which most of us slept outside as the weather was so beautiful, we set off for the Cairn. While we were finishing breakfast another bod had arrived - it was Allan King who had done the trip in in 2½ hours. He brought our numbers up to 17. Twelve got to the Cairn, but the ceremony was delayed ½ an hour, as three bods (including the leader) were finding it a bit hard ambling up there. The ceremony went off without any serious hitches. Photos were taken, a brew was had and we were all back at the Makahu hut by 2 pm.

Those who did not go up to the Cairn had already set off. Norm left straight away, while the rest of us cleaned the hut up and were away by 3.10 pm. Everyone was out at the cars by 7.10 pm. Had one boil-up only, at the Gorge stream, to enable us to crawl up Baldy. All arrived home safely.

A working party is needed to re-cut and re-disc the track in places, also the Cairn needs rebuilding as it is getting a decided lean on. We also need one strong bod to carry all the gear, other than myself!!!

Number in party: 17

Leader: Gae Lobban

Doc. Bathgate, Weenut Brace, Peter Anderson, Rex Chaplin, Stan White (R.E.C.), George Bee, Allan King, Norm & Kath Elder, Pam Adie, Pam Lewis, Glenda Robb, Annette Tremewan, Nancy Tanner, Kathy Jones, Margaret Mison.

619 (b)

OLD MEMBERS' PICNIC

Twenty of us (10 adults and 10 children) assembled at the Lone Pine, Kuripapango, for the service. We took our lunch to the bottom of the waterfall, a lovely place in the sun, out of the wind and very scenic. By about 2.30 pm the restlessness innate in all trampers began to make itself felt and the various families moved off on various expeditions. At this stage we came on another carload of seven who had arrived late and had their lunch at the fireplaces on the road.

Some of us went as far as the Lakes, and were amazed to find the old, narrow track cut to a width of about 8 feet.

No. in party: 27

Leader: Janet Lloyd

Joan Smith & Brian, and Ian Larrington and Paul Frude; Dulcie & Alan Oulaghan with Anne, Susan, Christine and Barbara; Rae and Bernie Anderson with Susan and Christine + Shona Harrison; Ursula Greenwood; Arch & Joy Lowe with John, Clive, Denis, Kevin and Rex; Ian Malloch; Hilton Meyer (R.E.C.) and Barry Donkin.

--- oOo ---

LETTER FROM FRANCE

I am moved to write a special letter, although I know Edna keeps you up to date to some extent, by receiving recently the August "Pohukura." Thank you, Janet, and all who still run round the table after the pages; I read it from cover to cover, and so spent a fatigue-free half-hour in the Ruahines and Kawekas. It is good to hear the club is flourishing, and to see so many new, and also so many familiar, names, in the lists. When I come back some time next year, I'll join that middle-aged section Edna has been murmuring about, even if Kath and Nancy and others still go haring about with cement and slasher's up to Howlett's and Studholme.

Meanwhile, I have nothing to tell you about mountains. Haven't seen one since mid-July, when we headed north from Austria. But life in France has its interesting and unexpected moments, so perhaps I can talk about them.

The village I am living in is on the banks of the Loire, a very big river as a rule, though at present it is low in water after the driest summer this century. The country is slightly undulating, and there are many large forests, mostly privately owned, the remains of great estates once preserved for hunting. This district was once the administrative and cultural centre of France, and many big chateaux, as well as dozens of small ones, still exist. Most of them are now state-owned and run as tourist attractions - sic transit, etc. I have been in six or seven of them, romantic and beautiful and historic; though expensive and uncomfortable, by our standards, to live in. All of them have what they call "Son et Lumiere" spectacles; i.e., at night, by recorded commentary, skilful changes of floodlighting and various sound effects, they re-tell scenes from the chateau's history. Their builders might have built them for flood-lighting, they look so magnificent. You pay 100 francs to go in (about 1/6) and sit in the dark on the ground, or stand under the trees where you can see the whole building and its history is rolled out before you. My French is now good enough to follow the proceedings without too much trouble, as it is spoken at reasonable speed.

From large houses to small ones: The farmhouses and local village homes are usually built of rough stone cemented into the required shapes, with tiled roofs. By our standards, they are poor and dirty accommodation. A farmhouse usually stands on three sides around the gate, enclosing a yard, where dogs, poultry and ancient machinery, sometimes a modern tractor, all lie about in the sun. The house part is usually the back, the two sides barns. The difference in appearance is not marked.

Most people have some trees, and flowers, even if only in pots, but neatness and lawns, are unknown. Lawns are regarded as too much trouble and too hard to grow, only suited to the damp English climate.

The house I am in is large and "upper-class". As usual, its back wall is the street wall, and it looks inward to the garden. Plumbing is a bit peculiar, shapes and types not at all familiar. Light switches are odd - some go up and down, some across and back, and some round and round. Some don't go.

Meals: Breakfast is just a snack, lunch and dinner heavy meals. Meat always by itself, and only two or three times a week. Each vegetable eaten separately: never any puddings, except an apple puree. Bread always by the yard - Literally. A "pain" is about a metre long, but you can buy a "demi-pain." Must stop.

Regards,
Helen.

The above is a letter from Helen.

--- oOo ---

OVERNIGHT SHELTER at CHATEAU CAMPING GROUND.

The following is taken from the minutes of an Executive Meeting of the F.M.C.:

" Dr. Rattenbury reported that the mountain clubs had contributed to the erection of this hut on the understanding that it would be available in the first instance for club members unable to reach the road end because of weather conditions and that it would be available to the general public on week nights and in the off season. Several instances had occurred recently when club members had been unable to obtain accommodation and Auckland clubs had asked that no regular bookings be taken and that the original purpose of the hut be retained as transit or emergency accommodation.

Mr. Bridge said the Park Board wants to see that the Clubs have the larger share of the accommodation. The Mountain Clubs had, however, contributed only a small proportion of the total cost and the Park Board had to ensure that the building was not run at a loss. At present half the building is available for private bookings, but all bookings are cancelled in the event of a storm closing the mountain road."

---oOo---

FIRE DANGER in FORESTRY HUTS.

In the new N.A.D. huts the sheet metal hearth lies on the floor joists, and in two cases the joists have begun to char. Care must be taken that large fires are not allowed to fall forward. Also there is a risk of logs falling down the draught pit in the latest huts.

NO RATIONS must be touched in these huts. They are put there for the deer-cullers, who depend on them. Do not even use their candles - bring your own.

BURN ALL RUBBISH. Do not throw food into the tin pit.

--- oOo ---

NEW N.A.D. HUT.

There is a new N.A.D. hut in the Kaimanawas, in from Poronui on the track to the Oamaru at Hewa o te Puaha just before the Pumice Chimney.

--- oOo ---

PRIVATE TRIPS" 66 "

We began our "66" trip after 3 hours sleep at Keith's in "Mergatroid", Cy's 1929 Buick. Merg's first ailment made itself felt at Pukehou when one cylinder went dead, but this was fixed when we swapped a spark plug with one of a dozen lying on the floor of the back seat. We had to change a few more at Waipawa. Even though Merg took us to the Waipawa it was 9 o'clock before we were in the river.

The screees on the lower slopes of "66" were dangerous. Rocks were peeling off all round as we climbed on to a safe ridge for lunch. The higher we climbed the more frozen became the snow as we neared the top between "66" and "65". We had some solid step cutting in places to get down to the saddle for the run home.

Back at the car we discovered the sump was empty. The plug had slackened off and the oil had leaked on to the ground. Cy and Bunny (who drew the shortest straw) had to walk in the rain to Cullen's to beg for some more oil. This was not the last of our troubles. At Te Hauke we ran out of petrol. Keith got a lift home in one of the few cars going our way and came out with more petrol and oil. We finally got to bed between 3.30 and 3.45 a.m. on Monday morning.

Party: Nigel Thompson, Keith Garratt, Cy Hargreaves, Graeme Hare.

MAKAHU HUT

25th October.

Ideal weather favoured us for a most pleasant trip made to Makahu on the Sunday of Labour Weekend. We were in no hurry to get anywhere in particular, and there is no doubt that under these circumstances one really appreciates the bush, the bird life and the views to the full.

From the head of the spur leading from Gorge Stream we took the route originally followed on the trip to locate the hut site, and in the Iron Whare trip, in 1956. Five minutes along the track as marked on the map the route heads straight across the Birch to the end of a tongue of bush, immediately beyond which stands a dead tree disced high up. This route seems to be used fairly frequently, probably by the Forestry types and would appear to cut a few minutes off the usual way through Whittle's Clearing.

With ample time in hand after the 4 hours trip in, we nosed around the nursery, read the rain gauge (94" to date this year) and generally took in all that was doing. It was interesting to note from the log that the Forestry are planting snoe gum, thin-barked totara and Corsican pine on the faces and tops of the Range. A helicopter landing pad has even put in an appearance outside the

hut. The condition of the hut itself was a tribute to the Forestry staff.

Leaving about 2 o'clock we were back at the road in good time.

Party: Anne Kemp (Wanganui T.C.), Peter Whitehead, Kath & Alan Berry.

FORESTRY TRIPS

1 Aug. PORONUI One day of a hunters' course at Rotorua was spent in the Kaimanawas estimating animal damage. A perfect day and in spite of a lot of argument between botanists and hunters managed to get as far as the main ridge near Te Iringa (4073 ft.)

2 Aug. ROTOEHU A misty drizzly day running round a state forest over towards the Bay of Plenty, a mixture of bush gullies and pines.

17-19 Aug. OTANGAUE A mess of scrub and dead trees in behind Palmerston in the Northern Taranaki. The local shooters have comfortable huts in there but do not believe in tracks, so that navigation has to be of a high order.

25 Aug. MAMAKU A pleasant afternoon poking along through interesting bush on the edge of a sheer gorge looking for a reported colony of Black Beech, but without success.

7-8 Oct. TIRITEA Two separate days were spent investigating as much as possible of a sizeable valley (6500 acres) which is the Palmerston water supply. Most of it is dense second growth following a 60 year old fire. The first day we followed a track along the top from the highest point on the Pahiatua Track, the second day rowed up the dam in a dinghy, then followed the main stream. Tramping by dinghy is a very pleasant development and I look forward to the development of hydro schemes on the Mohaka and Ngaururoro as a substitute for bath-chair trips.

N. L. E.

PRIVATE TRIPS.

29 Aug. RANGITOTO The radio active (C^{14}) boys say Rangitoto last erupted 500 years ago, the botanists reckon only 200 years. We went up on one side and down the other arguing fiercely but deciding nothing. Traces of possums, wallabies and former military occupation but no living representatives were sighted.

30 Aug. TE AROHA As the launch from Rangitoto returned we lept into our transport and drove madly through the night to a rendezvous with Tony Druce at Te Aroha. In the morning we assembled, Druces 5, H.T.C. 3 plus one bushman, Tokoroa 4 plus one cat. Te Aroha consists of a main street, a park full of hot springs and baths and a 3000 ft. range sloping up steeply from the park. The track is a

well graded zig-zag at first and we roared up this to a look-out. It then becomes a bit more overgrown and the first group ran off it at a windfall. After a flounder along an overgrown ridge (no deer here) we rejoined the track to find ourselves put to shame by three local and beautiful girls, who had overtaken us barefoot and were on their way down from the trig. We all made it, even the cat and the youngest Druce (4 years).

1 Sept. MOEHAU After shedding the bushman, the Tokoroa party and the cat the rest of us spent an easy day boxing up the Coromandel and settled in for the night under a pohutukawa away up the coast beyond Colville. Next morning 4 of us took off up a long bush ridge, interesting but slow going and only reached the trig late in the afternoon. This is a historical botanizing ground, the northernmost point of several high country plants, but we only had time for a scurried hunt round and just got down at nightfall.

4 Sept. PUKEAMARU After 2 days of travelling down the Coromandel, across the Bay of Plenty and up the East Coast road we fetched up for the night on the beach at Hick's Bay. Perfect weather the whole time. In the morning we set off up another 3000 ft. bush peak that lies out beyond the main Raukumara Range. Straight bush bashing with not much of a view out between dense vegetation and cloud coming and going down the Raukumara. Found a pine that none of us had seen before and again were only just out of the bush at nightfall.

12-13 Sept. TAUHERENIKAU This was Joe Gibbs' 80th birthday and about 100 of his friends turned up. Molly Molineux, Hugh Elder, Kath and myself represented the H.T.C. Ian Powell was also there, but Mavis Davidson was on a job in Westland. People camped everywhere over half a mile of flat. Speeches, songs and in spite of a packed hut even some dancing, with Gibbie leading off for the first waltz. We turned in about 11 o'clock, but meeting Gibbie next morning (he had been up river looking for a shot) he said that after the old crocks were in the sack the party had livened up considerably towards 1 a.m.

24-26 Oct. KAPITI There is now a small launch (Miers, 5 passengers) operating from Paraparaumu Beach. A small Palmerston party, mainly bird photographers, had its transport problems added to by a girl (touring the world by motor-scooter) who was determined to make Kapiti trig. She didn't! This meant two trips and between surf and torrential rain we arrived soaked to a flooded camping ground. 25 Forest and Bird and later 25 training college bods made Maori Bay pretty crowded and very damp. Not time to do a great deal but followed an interesting gully into the mist somewhere north of the trig.

N. L. E.

SCIENCE AND TRAMPING

Why do people tramp? Science is at last being brought to bear on the problem and an article in a recent number of "New Biology" (No.27) should be read by all serious-minded trampers. The scientific approach involves controlled experiments and very properly begins with laboratory experiments using white rats, cockroaches and rhesus monkeys. Some illustrations of the experimental work with the substitution of the word 'tramper' for 'rat', 'cockroach' or 'monkey' will show clearly what valuable light is likely to be thrown on the behaviour of trampers.

A rat (tramper), by means of a T passage may be faced with the choice of turning in a certain direction or of turning towards the stimulus of scenery. Rats (trampers) usually choose the scenery.

All recent studies support the conclusion that variation of stimulus is important. Two aspects may be distinguished, namely the novelty of the stimuli and their complexity. Both of these are effective in attracting the attention of rats (trampers).

These observations all suggest that exploration can be compared with such primary activities as eating and sleeping in that there is a strong tendency to perform them at intervals. Further justification for this notion comes from another type of experiment. A single choice point can lead to a small box (hut) on one side and to a larger space on the other. Rats (trampers) learn to go to the more 'interesting' space exactly as they learn to go to food or to water.

In another experiment it has been found with monkeys (trampers) that the opportunity to 'look at a view' is an effective reward; however if monkeys (trampers) are given food as a reward for solving the puzzle of reaching the view point, this new reward is distracting and results in a decline of 'efficiency'. (Courting may also be a distraction).

On the other hand restraint of movement has an effect on behaviour which calls for more study. There is evidence that restraint in cages (houses) or enclosures ($\frac{1}{4}$ acre sections) often result in compulsive, stereotyped movements (rock an' roll, etc) some of which can lead to injury. It also has an ill effect on the development of intelligence.

If rats (trampers) are put into a maze (range) but are not rewarded on reaching the goal point (hut) they explore the maze (range), that is they eventually visit all parts of it. If later they are put in again with a reward of food at the goal (hut) they learn the correct route more quickly than rats (trampers) who have no previous experience of the maze (range); they make fewer errors and their running time is shorter.

It seems that exploratory learning is actually interfered with when the animal (tramper) is in a state of need, say hungry or thirsty, in this state the learning is only related to reaching food or water.

Free exploration in fact demands time for 'irresponsible' behaviour. It might be thought that such freedom from immediate

necessity would be found only in the 'highest' animals (intelligent-sia) but exploratory behaviour undoubtedly occurs also in insects (trampers). The insect (tramper), whenever it is within its home-range, can move by the shortest route to a goal which may be its nest (hut) or some other object (trig, view etc.). Wasps (trampers) and other insects (bods) undoubtedly possess a 'sense of direction' or 'topographical instinct' of a high order. A wasp (tramper) while on its way to its nest (hut) taken in a closed box (lorry) to another part of its range, may when released return with little delay to its nest (hut) using the shortest route from its new starting point.

The nervous organization that makes such feats possible remains completely obscure.

Exploring does not only enable an animal (tramper) to find his way about a particular region. It has been known for some time that rats (trampers) which have had experience of learning one maze (Tararuas) tend to be better than inexperienced rats (trampers) at learning another maze (Ruahines). Rats (trampers) with more experience early in life not only display greater 'intelligence' as adults; they are also less 'emotional'.

And finally:

Learning the topography of a large area is an especially well-developed ability in many animals (trampers).

N. L. E.

Extracts from Federated Mountain Clubs Bulletin.

ACCIDENT REPORTS

Report on the Drowning of Robert Martin in the Tangarakau River on 26th April, 1958.

On 26th April, 1958, Robert Martin, aged twenty, of Hawera, Thomas Sowerby, aged about seventeen, of Hawera and Leslie Stewart, aged about nineteen, of Mangatoki, made an attempt to cross the flooded Tangarakau River, about one mile above the Whitianga Swing Bridge. They had been warned by the owner of the bordering property NOT to cross it that day. Martin, the leader of the party, was dressed in long trousers and short gumboots. He had a rifle slung across his back and was wearing an ammunition belt. Martin made one attempt to cross and came back. His trouser legs had become full of water. He made another attempt, and was thought by his companions to be through the main current. He then disappeared, presumably into a hole, and came to the surface further downstream. He was swimming. At this point the river was about 30 yards wide, with an easy bank on the side from which the party approached, but a steep bank on the opposite side. There was a deep hole at the farther side. The water at the time was muddy, and the bottom was not visible. The river was swift.

Conclusions:

1. The river was unfordable at this point.

2. Even though Martin was reported to be a good swimmer his attempt to swim the river encumbered by a rifle, ammunition belt, long trousers and gum boots was most inadvisable and a serious error of judgment, especially in view of the warning previously received and the fact that the river was bridged a mile away.

3. The river crossing should not have been attempted.

Non-Fatal Accident on the Minarets, February, 1958.

On 17th February 1958, an inexperienced party of four on two ropes descending to De la Beche hut from a reconnaissance of the route on the Minarets were crossing the traverse from the Ranfurly Glacier when one man slipped. His companion was unable to hold him, and the roped pair slid about 200 feet and fell 80 feet into a crevasse. Both were seriously injured.

Comments:

1. The Minarets is not a climb for an inexperienced party. When proposing to climb in the Mount Cook area, parties should consult the Chief Guide or Chief Ranger and follow the advice given. "The young climber should build up his knowledge on snow and ice craft.... while serving an apprenticeship of several years on the lower peaks. He will be foolish to attempt the higher peaks until he has increased his skill and knowledge to the point where he can tackle them with a wide margin of safety" - Safety in the Mountains, 1954, p. 38.

2. "Learn to use the rope by practising on easy slopes ... anchoring belaying and so on..." Ibid, page 39.

SKIING PARTIES AT PIONEER HUT

The attention of the Federation has recently been drawn to a report of the potential danger arising from the practice of some parties, inexperienced in mountaineering, taking advantage of flying facilities to visit Pioneer Hut. In some cases these parties comprise competent skiers, who, however, are inadequately equipped to cope with a sudden adverse change of weather or to overcome the hazards of crevasses, avalanches, etc. for which the area is noted and which so often create difficulties for experienced mountaineers.

The attention of member clubs is drawn to these facts and the false sense of security that comes with easy access in order to ensure that any skiing parties venturing into this area are adequately experienced and equipped for rapidly changing conditions. Parties should contact the Chief Ranger, Harry Ayres, as indicated elsewhere in this issue.

"SAFETY IN THE MOUNTAINS"

A reprint of the present edition of "Safety in the Mountains" in approximately two years time. In the meantime the Secretary of F.M.C. would welcome comments and suggestions from member clubs for inclusion in the next edition

RESCUE PARTIES

Discussion by the F.M.C. Executive recently on the question of stretcher parties in rescue operations emphasise the need to ensure that all factors are considered when calling for assistance for injured persons. Should the occasion arise where an accident occurs causing a minor injury and the shelter and comfort of a hut is in the vicinity, then the emergency for an immediate stretcher party obviously diminishes. A call for assistance under these circumstances can be met with consideration for the needs of both patient and carrier.

However, as each case of injury can only be judged according to the conditions prevailing at the time, the nature of the injury and the warmth and comfort of the injured, the only person capable of deciding the best course of action is the man on the spot, usually the leader of the party. If it is decided that an immediate stretcher party is required, then it is by his decision that the call for assistance may be met.

S O C I A L N E W S .

Marriage: Barbara Hare to Maurie Taylor.

Departure: Ron Morgan to Wellington.

Helen Hill has been living with a French family teaching English to a two-year-old.

George Lowe is now teaching at Repton in Derbyshire. In the coming summer he and Sir John Hunt are taking a party of schoolboys to Greenland.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: At the Annual General Meeting, George Lowe was unanimously elected a Life Member in recognition of his services to the Club directly as a member and club captain, and indirectly in the wider field of mountaineering.

NEW MEMBER: We welcome George Bee to the club.

F A R E S R A I S E D .

Trip leaders have been considerably inconvenienced by late payment of fares. Therefore the committee has raised all fares 2/-, which amount will be deducted IF you pay up at the meeting prior to the trip or at the truck - preferably at the meeting. Fixture lists in Pohokura will from now on include cost of trips, to make it easier for you to make it easier for the leader.

If after putting your name down you find you cannot go on a trip, it is the decent thing to let the leader know at least 24 hours before starting time.

LITERARYSUPPLEMENT."BECAUSE IT IS THERE":

George Lowe's book titled as above has at last come to hand. We have had to read it in a hurry and grudged the hurry. This is a book one wants to savour slowly.

The main part deals with the three years taken up by the Antarctic Expedition, the voyages in Theron and Magga Dan, and the actual traverse of the continent. Comparison and contrast with the Everest Expedition is inevitable. The two leaders are as different in character as the terrain they cover, yet both are successful. Hillary's leadership is of a different type again, and he also is successful.

Picturesque comparisons abound in George's book:- the slow peculiar progress of men prodding for crevasses reminds him of the pilgrim track to Badrinath: feeling their way through the pack ice is like sailing in the Norfolk Broads. "Because It Is There" is no impersonal official report. We find there impatience, irritation, humour, excitement, beauty. But get the book and read it for yourselves.

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"ROUTE GUIDE to the RANGES WEST OF H.B.":

We know something of the tremendous amount of work involved in this and we heartily congratulate Norm and Kath on its ultimate publication.

Price 3/6. Get your copy from Annette.

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"VEGETATION of the KAWEKAS:"

This bulletin, written by N.L. Elder, can be obtained free on application to the N.Z. Forest Service, Box 894, Wellington.

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"TALES OF THE MAILS":

This book by Lester Masters is now on sale in the shops. It gives the story of the coaching days in Hawkes Bay with plenty of lively anecdote.

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GUY FAWKES EVENING.

Twenty-five came out to our bonfire on the beach this side of Clifton. We cooked sausages, fished, sang and generally enjoyed ourselves.

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FIXTURE LIST.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Trip:</u>	<u>Leader:</u>	<u>Fare:</u>
Jan. 24th.	Waimarama - Karamea (Red Island).	Margaret Mison.	7/-
Feb. 6-7th:	Waipatiki Beach.	Annette Tremewan.	9/-
Feb. 21st.	Craggy Range, Maraetotara Stream to Te Awanga.	Phil Bayens.	7/-
March 5-6th:	Maweka Hut: malthoid repairs.	Maurie Taylor.	10/-
March 20th:	Mohaka Hot Springs.	Nancy Tanner.	10/-
April 3rd:	Pohatuhaha (Park's Peak, Northern Ruahines).	Barbara Taylor.	9/-
<u>EASTER:</u>	Kaimanawas.	To be arranged.	
April 15-18th:			
<u>ANZAC:</u> April 23-25th:	Kawhatau River, Mangaweka.	Graeme Hare.	10/-
May 1st:	Firewood cutting trip.	Alan Berry.	9/-
May 14-15th:	Waikamaka Hut.	John Fabian.	10/-

N.B.: These fares are reducible by 2/- if paid before on on the trip.

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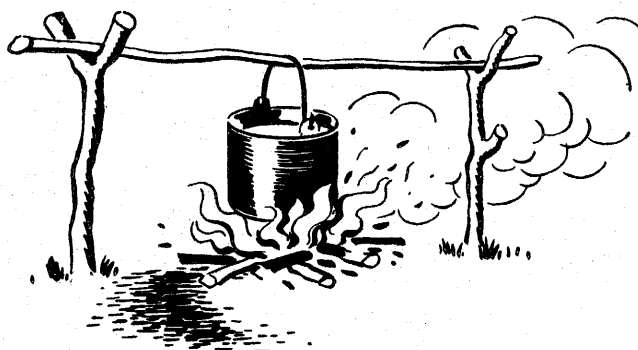
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XMAS GREETINGS: To all members we extend best wishes for a Merry Xmas and a Bright New Year.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Reduce your subscription to £1 by paying it before December 31st.

FIRST MEETING 1960: Wednesday January 20th, in the Radiant Hall.

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remember the ember

Carelessness with campfires and burning-off is probably the cause of most forest fires. Drown your campfire or cover it with soil. Don't light fires in closed seasons. Take extra care with matches and cigarettes in dry weather. The best way to stop forest fires is not to start them! Please do your part to Keep New Zealand Green.

Prevent Forest Fires

Farmers—Motorists—Trampers—Stop Fires early! Please report any unattended fire immediately to the nearest telephone exchange who will send a priority toll call to the rural fire officer.

NEW ZEALAND FOREST SERVICE • SOIL CONSERVATION COUNCIL

