

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)

" P O H O K U R A "

Bulletin No. 84

April 1960

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DEATH FROM EXPOSURE

(Copied from the F.M.C. bulletin of January, 1960)

An analysis of fatal mountain accidents show a high proportion of deaths from exposure. This is not peculiar to New Zealand as accidents in mountains overseas follow the same pattern. In this country the Federated Mountain Clubs has a committee responsible for the critical examination of each mountain accident with a view to the publication of "findings" from which lessons may be learnt. One of the most impressive features brought out from these investigations in cases of death from exposure has been the startling suddenness with which the victim has passed from consciousness to unconsciousness and death.

Apparently there is little, if any, warning of the approach to a condition of utmost danger, and the Federated Mountain Clubs hopes that all clubs will pass on the warnings and information given here to all members. Those issuing bulletins are urged to copy this article in full.

DANGEROUS CONDITIONS: All who go into the mountains, or just into the hills, whether for tramping, climbing, stalking, or skiing, will be concerned for their own safety, but in addition everyone must accept a share of the responsibility of looking after his companions. Therefore, all should be fully aware of

the conditions which may build up to a state of great danger.

These may be listed as:-

- (1) Insufficient clothing to retain body warmth.
- (2) Exposure to strong cold winds.
- (3) Getting wet.
- (4) Lack of readily digestible food.
- (5) Shock following an accident.
- (6) Drinking alcoholic stimulant.

CLOTHING: Most people know the essentials of woollen clothing with extra garments and of wind and waterproof parka, which should be carried; also of spare gloves and socks. Several of the fatalities which have occurred in the New Zealand mountains record that shorts were worn and that long pants were included in the gear carried. The heat loss from the exposed leg skin surface is very great - particularly in moist windy conditions, and adequate protection is essential. Recent research has also shown that a dangerous amount of body warmth may also be lost from the uncovered face and head. This emphasises the need for suitable head covering, and the value of carrying a balaclava or similar woollen hat. Several light woollen garments that can be put on as needed, are far better than a single heavy one, as the air imprisoned between the layers of clothing is an excellent insulator. A scarf which keeps the neck warm and prevents the escape of warm air up through the layers of clothing is a valuable extra for trips in exposed country.

EXPOSURE TO WIND: Wind seems to "drive the cold in" because it is taking the bodily warmth away. Wind-proof clothing is an essential but full use should be made of available shelter in planning a route. Shelter should be sought or improvised immediately in cases of accident or loss of route. Some protection may be available behind rocks, or over a ridge, in scrub or bush, or from an excavation in the snow.

EXPOSURE TO WET: There is not the danger from dry cold that there is from wet cold. Conditions of a few degrees above freezing point, with wet driving mist, can be more dangerous than a few degrees below freezing, when what might have been misty rain turned to dry snow. Moisture on the skin promotes loss of heat by evaporation, and body cooling under the circumstances may be considerable.

FOOD: Bodily warmth is produced from the food that is eaten. Readily digested foods quickly pass into the blood stream, to be oxidised in the body with the production of warmth. Slowly digested foods will produce warmth over a longer period. Not only is there need for a good meal before setting out on an arduous trip, but food should also be eaten frequently. Barley

sugar, honey, biscuits, raisins, are quickly assimilated and have high energy value. Chocolate and nuts are also excellent, but take longer to digest. Sweet drinks are very good. Under conditions of exposure it may be necessary, in these circumstances to force people to take food.

SHOCK: An accident, even when there is no serious injury, or just a frightening experience, is usually accompanied by shock in some degree. Here there can be rapid loss of body warmth which may be fatal, hence the importance of keeping shocked persons, sheltered and generally warm, thus protecting them from exposure. Shock is invariably aggravated by loss of body fluid, essential treatment, therefore, is replacement by warm sweet drinks.

ALCOHOL: Natural protection against cold is a contraction of the surface blood vessels, which diminishes the circulation to the skin and the extremities, and reduced cooling with conservation of body heat. Alcohol produces the opposite effect and sends the blood circulating out to the dilated skin blood vessels, body heat is thus lost. Because alcohol is almost immediately absorbed into the blood, it can bring about a serious, and possibly fatal, drop in body warmth in a matter of seconds. The strongest possible warning is therefore given to keep alcoholic stimulants in the pack, at least until the safety of the hut has been reached.

SYMPTOMS: Observed symptoms that may be indicative of an approaching state of real danger are:- loss of perception and slow reaction; movements become sluggish, stumbling and awkward; lack of drive to get going and do things; content to sit; lips and hands inclined to swell; sense of touch is poor; speech becomes slurred and pronouncing long words becomes difficult.

Here we emphasise the dangers of solo tramping or climbing as there is no one to observe the onset of these symptoms. It is quite possible that the approach of a dangerous condition through loss of body warmth may be accompanied by a can't be bothered attitude which leaves the trumper or climber indifferent to the need to take immediate action to protect himself.

As soon as rigorous conditions are met with, or may be anticipated, and before the body feels cold, extra clothing should be donned, and readily digested food taken. Leaders of parties have a responsibility to see that all in their care take these precautions. Remember that the collapse of one person may suddenly place the whole party in conditions of great danger.

For the future better protection of climbers, trampers and skiers from death from exposure it is hoped that no opportunity will be lost in recording all relevant facts in cases of near or actual death from this cause. To this end, and the ultimate saving of other lives, all clubs and their members are asked for their full co-operation.

It must be a sobering thought for many of us to ponder on the narrow escapes we may have had. Remember there can be little or no warning of the approach of a state of danger, so act wisely, take precautions and climb safely. At the same time do what you can to protect others from the dangers you may have escaped by good luck alone.

ROD SYME  
"BILL" BRIDGE.

#### ACCIDENT REPORTS

#### REPORT ON THE ACCIDENT CAUSING THE DEATH OF JEREMY STAMERS-SMITH AND INJURIES TO ANNE LATHAM ON MT. ARROWSMITH 8TH MARCH 1959

A party of five climbers made an ascent of Mt. Arrowsmith (9,171ft) by the central snow couloir on the east face of the mountain. The climb was made from a camp at approximately 6,000 ft. on the South Cameron Glacier.

After spending a very short time on the summit the party started the descent by the same couloir which is approximately 2,000 ft. long and at an angle of approximately 50deg. The leading rope comprised Ann Latham and Stammers-Smith as anchor man. The party had successfully descended the couloir which was interrupted by a 'schrund from a rock wall which formed the end of the couloir. The width of the 'schrund influenced the rope to change positions with Latham hip-belaying Stammers-Smith who had the longer leg-reach.

Stammers-Smith stepped on to the upper snow lip of the 'schrund on which the party of five rested during the ascent. While moving across the lip the whole of it collapsed taking Stammers-Smith with it to the bottom and partially burying him. Miss Latham was unable to maintain the belay because of the direct pull and the weight of the ice forcing Stammers-Smith into the 'schrund.

#### COMMENTS

1. Although it is usual for the weaker member to descent first the reversal of the order on the rope was probably justified under the circumstances.
2. In view of the reasonable precautions taken by this party the accident would appear to have been accompanied by a large measure of bad luck.
3. Although there is no evidence that a faulty belaying technique was used, this accident emphasises the fact that a fall may be sudden and unexpected and apply uncalculated force to the belay.

## CONCLUSIONS

Because the upper lip of a 'schrund is safe during the ascent it does not follow that later in the day it is in the same condition. Thawing may have occurred and such ledges are not to be trusted.

## REPORT ON THE DEATH OF JAMES ROBERT ANTHONY GLADYE ON MT. MALTEBRUN, FEBRUARY 1959

On 12th February 1959, J.R.A. Gladye and B. Hayes left Maltebrun Hut to attempt the climb of Mt. MalteBrun.

They climbed to the summit and left for the return to MalteBrun Hut, but lost the route, and found themselves on ledges on a rock bluff, reaching a point 100 ft. above the glacier.

They were roped together at this stage, but Gladye asked to be unroped, apparently wanting to go his own way. Hayes retained the rope.

Reaching the glacier just below this point Hayes waited for five minutes for Gladye to come down. He called several times but received no reply. Hayes then traversed a ledge below the bluff of rocks calling again and this time receiving an answer from Gladye, who was then about 200 ft above the glacier. Hayes called to Gladye to stay where he was and turned back with the intention of going up a scree slope to get above him and throw down the rope.

Hayes then heard a crashing noise and on looking up saw Gladye falling over vertical slabs of rock.

The following day a rescue party located the body at the bottom of a terrace.

## CONCLUSIONS

These two climbers violated one of the cardinal rules of climbing by unroping and going their separate ways down a difficult rock face, and the lack of mutual support undoubtedly contributed to the fatal fall which followed.

-----oCo-----

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome the following to the club:-

Pam Aidie, Joan Newey, Elizabeth Wills, Joy Salt, Pam Lewis, John Blundell.

-----oCo-----

P R I V A T E   T R I P SNGAMATEA - BOYD'S HUT

New Year, 1960

A party of three left Hastings via the Taihape Road on Dec. 29th for Ngamatea Station, calling on the way at TE MAHANGA for a cup of tea with Mary Chase, the Cook.

There are two roads in to Ngamatea from the main highway so it is always well to ring from Te Mahanga to find whether to take the "dirt road", or the "grass strip". The latter is just what the name states - a strip of land which has been ploughed through the red tussock and sown down in grass. This gives an alternative to the "dirt road" which is impassible in wet weather or when drifted over with snow in winter.

It is 6 or 7 miles into the Homestead through 9 sets of gates. These provide useful exercise for the passengers.

We received the usual warm welcome from the Ngamatea folks and their guests. The only fly in the ointment was the discovery that one of the party had left his tramping boots safely behind in Hastings. This entailed urgent telephone calls - on a defective party line - to try and get them sent on.

Fortunately it was discovered in Hastings that Rosie Macdonald was having a late "cuppa" at Lester Masters' house in Twyford. She nobly returned to Hastings and took the boots back with her to Kuripapango. Next morning Rodney, accompanied by some American visitors, drove back to Kuripapango, where he met the road-grader half way up Gentle Annie. The driver had the boots and all was well.

We acquired a packhorse and a pack and left Ngamatea at 11.30 a.m. for the Golden Hills Hut, with a south east wind and overclouded sky.

The sixteen miles to the Golden Hills Hut is across tussock and pumice and then up the bed of the Taruarau River. It is an old hut built for a rabbitier many years ago. It is beautifully situated in a grassy clearing at the edge of the beech forest.

Rain and darkness were both falling as we passed through the slip rails into the horse paddock and so to the hut.

As usual we found several deer grazing round the hut but out of respect for the feelings of our loaded packhorse we left them alone.

Next day the rain set in and we decided to stav there another night. The beech forest was explored and the hills tramped over and several deer shot.

The following morning, New Year's Day, was beautifully fine with a cloudless sky.. After rounding up our four-footed friends - a tiresome and frustrating task - we took off for Boyd's Hut at 10.30 a.m. The track through the Golden Hills bush is a particularly beautiful walk through beech forest. The scarlet mistletoe was in full bloom, one tree having no less than four separate mistletoe plants growing on it. We lunched at the Panoko Stream (Gold Creek) in glorious sunshine and reached Boyd's Hut at 2.30 p.m. After a boil up one of the party went hunting, one botanising and one on to the top of Boyd's Rock for photos and a general look around.

The bird life was noted: Rifleman - the smallest N.Z. bird - were quite common. They seem to be able to survive well, one reason given being that their nesting holes are too small for a rat to get into. There is no doubt that rats do great harm to our bird life. Bellbirds, tuis, tomtits and longtailed cuckoos were seen, and next day some kaka were seen flying high up across the bush. No parakeets were observed.

Boyd's Hut was clean and tidy and we didn't even hear a rat or a mouse. This hut has often been overrun with rats, making it a little difficult to have a peaceful night's sleep.

Rodney was up at the top of Boyd's Rock at 6.30 a.m. next morning to get some photos. Later John and Rodney took their rods and went down to the mouth of the Ngaruroro Gorge after some giant rainbow trout.

We spent a leisurely day or two at Boyd's Hut. This was now quite a treat as although we had all been there before it had always been while passing through and pushing on further afield.

The weather broke after our one really fine day but we all enjoyed our tramping, fishing, shooting, botanising and bird watching. Boyd's is one of the most pleasant of the back-country huts - situated as it is in the bush edge overlooking the Upper Ngaruroro River; with a view across to the Oamaru Saddle and the meeting place of the Hawke's Bay, Wellington and Auckland Provinces,

The original hut was built by a swede who worked in the early days on Ngamatea Station. He was known as the "Iron Man". His type of architecture was to build a wooden frame out of beech poles and to use tussock thatching for the walls and roof.

I remember the burnt out framework of a hut in the middle of the present horse paddock. This hut was erected by a back country settler called Boyd who inherited land in the Inland Patea through his Maori ancestry.

The country up there was once overrun by rabbits and the tussock eaten down to the roots. There was also a colony of our

N.Z. flightless ground parrots - now one of the rarest birds in the world. Expeditions are still being launched into Fiordland to find this bird - the Kakapo - and to try to collect some specimens for breeding, thus seeking to promote the survival of this extraordinary night-bird. The wild dogs are claimed to have been responsible for destroying the colony at the head of the Ngaruroro and Mangamaire Rivers.

Strange to say, there are wild dogs in there again which are killing large numbers of sheep. I would suggest the H.T.C. might investigate the possibility of some surviving members of the Kakapo colony in this area and at the same time collect some of the wild dogs.

I think that all members of the H.T.C. should learn to recognise our native trees and shrubs and also our native birds. We can all wander along like dumb cattle not showing any appreciation of the natural beauties around us. There are enough people in the club led by Norm and Kath to give us some knowledge of our N.Z. bush and bird life.

However I mustn't preach but go on with the story. In this my eighth trip into the head of the Ngaruroro I found just as much to enjoy as I did on my first trip.

On our leaving Boyd's we had the same round-up with our horses. It is extraordinary but true, that they would stand still to be patted, but when we wanted to catch them they shower a most unholy cunning in avoiding us.

Half an hour after reaching Golden Hills Hut one of the out-back characters - Tom Harker Junior - arrived to put in some new holding yards for Ngamatea. It was nice to meet him again and have a yarn about the back country which he knows so well. He had four horses and with our two things looked like a Golden Hills' pony club meeting.

The last day we made back to Ngamatea which we reached in  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hours. It was too cold to boil up so we had cold spaghetti, bread and cheese for lunch. We had smoko at Ngamatea and so on to Hastings and home.

The country we traversed was only a small part of Ngamatea - the largest station in the North Island.

Our route took us over the old Maori war trails of long ago when the Taupo Maoris and their allies drove the inhabitants of the upper Mohaka and Oamaru Rivers over the saddle into the upper Ngaruroro. From here the remnants of the defeated hapus scattered across the Ngamatea Swamp and escaped into the Inland Patea. On two occasions we have found chips of obsidian or volcanic glass



which have been dropped along the old Maori tracks. Any such pieces should be collected and sent to Mr Tony Batley of Moawhangō, via Taihape, who is so keen on the old Maori history of his district.

Party :- Rodney Gallen, John Bathgate, D.A. Bathgate.

### FORESTRY TRIPS

#### Pikiawatea. 14-21 Nov.

This trip started with a bit of a rush, just about non-stop from the Kaweka Cairn to the forestry camp at Waimihia, where I was picked up next morning by the Rotorua party.

It was a bit silly too, as after a fast trip to the Oamaru the three parties split, one for the Otutu Bush, only a few miles from the Kaweka Cairn as the crow flies and another to the Harkness; however I turned up stream with the third party, and pitched camp about an hour up the Waiotapuritia in the side stream that comes off Pikiawatea.

A recent flood, probably the Otorohanga flood, has left pumice and drift wood across practically the whole width of the Waiotapuritia valley - those who know it will find this hard to believe, but it must have been a sight.

Next day we travelled practically to the head of the stream, good going, and up on to an open ridge a little south of Pikiawatea. Unfortunately the weather had shut down and we couldn't see a thing, and had to give up a return by way of Dowden which would have been interesting.

That night and next morning we had heavy rain but got one job done in the afternoon, finishing that side of the valley. Next we crossed to the head of the Oamaru and after a full day up and down spurs returned to the rendezvous with the other parties at Boyd's Hut.

We heard a bell-bird chorus on two mornings, but actually saw few birds, occasional kaka and only one robin. The combined parties totalled 16, many of them varsity trampers and fit as buck rats, so took some keeping up with.

#### Kaweka, 23-27 Nov.

The F.R.E.S. (Forest & Range Experimental Station) party are making a survey of the Tutaekuri this summer and after a week at the Lawrence Hut had moved onto the Kaweka Hut, where we joined them. The cullers have cut a highway as far as the Tutaekuri.

Inevitably, with 2-3 alpine types in the party the first day's poke round brought us up against Cook's Horn - Kath a little surprised to find herself there after all these years. The by-pass has not improved with time. On the way down we were somewhat surprised when a little-used scree peeled off behind us and nearly ran away with us. After another day of this four of us took off for the Studholme's Saddle Hut alongside the old bivvy which has now collapsed.

We came home by way of Kiwi Saddle where the cullers are in residence, and a bit depressed by the lack of animals. This is surprising - we saw none, and practically no fresh tracks. It seems that goats and sheep have been pretty well shot out, and the disturbance, particularly by dogs, has shifted the deer, which are said to be thick down on the Ngaruroro.

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Makino. 4-9 Jan. 1960.

Having failed to talk myself into a fast reconnaissance trip from the Hautapu across the Te Hoe to Ruatahuna, we tore home from Tarawera in time for me to pick up one of the Kaweka parties. This went up the middle spur from Cook's Cottage, three hours to the cullers' bivvy where we spent the night after working on some neighbouring plots. The start of the track is vague but is disced through the bush beyond the bivvy. However our second day's plots lay across the head of the Mangatutu (Frame), so we spent the day sidling across towards the head of the Makino Spur.

The weather turned dirty with some showers and thunder and hail with mist coming down and we only reached the Ballard Hut at nightfall. It is completely invisible from above till you are within a chain of the door, but it may be possible to see a stone X in better visibility than we had.

The weather shut down thick and cold and next day we were hut bound. A couple of spectacular waterfalls down the face above the hut when the weather lifted.

The following day we took off down the long spur to the Makino in showery weather, and found this quite fair going though the old deer tracks are very overgrown, much like those on the way to Venison Top, but with much more deer tucker showing, stinkwood and such up to 3-4 feet. Having boiled up in the Makino we spent the afternoon cross-country up and down to the Mangaturutu and camped for the night a little below its confluence with the main stream. Having missed a day we had to cut out two of the westernmost plots which lay well out on the route to Pukeohikurua.

The last morning we were away before 7 a.m., picked up the discs which lead up a steep spur, 2 hours to the Makino Spur, then

$\frac{3}{4}$  hour down this to the Makino Hut where we boiled up. The hut is in good order but the last entry in the log was at the beginning of November. A fine day but a hot 3 hrs out to the truck and so home.

Saw two robins in the Makino and heard several fern birds on the climb out from the Frame. Kakas on several occasions in the bush, one sparrow hawk and some flappers, probably grey duck, in the Makino. We put up three deer as we left the river, but apart from tracking on the screes near Ballard Hut saw little sign of any kind.

Lotkow 11-14 Jan 1960

(Lawrence-Over-Te-Kowhai to-Whittles) is the name being used for the hut in the saddle below Don Juan, 4-4 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours from the Blowhard Bush. The track, which is now cut and disced, leaves the Donald  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile above the Cable (old floodgate) and the creek off Don Juan. After wandering up a scrub spur for some distance the track forks, the right branch dropping sharply back into the creek and following this up.

Met two Forest Survey parties at the Roadman's Whare, bound for Kiwi and Kaweka and picked up my high country party at Lotkow. (Parties busy dodging each other - cullers said to be tucked away at Rocks Ahead till the rush is over). Spent a couple of days round the Black Birch, Makahu Saddle and Cairn trying to identify some of the smaller plants in the plots.

Fairbrother 18-22 Jan 1960

The "Forest Protection Division" base is behind Dannevirke has everything laid on, electric light and stove, wood stove, phone, beds and crockery, with the bush edge only a few minutes away. Also the sealed Top Grass Road runs right along the foot of the range so that you can get to any of the eastern valleys in a matter of minutes and live in the greatest comfort.

We got into a merry tangle the first morning, to the credit of none of us, but with 4 - 5 almost identical streams coming out of the range and two peaks miles apart named Matanganui & Matinginui there was scope for trouble.

Merv Bonis, the field officer, was out with a couple of dogs, and "Smoke" was really the king-pin of the trip. While we poked round plots "Smoke" scratched out a comfortable hollow and went to sleep. Scenting a goat he had it smartly down into the river bed and bailed up till Merv or one of the boys came up with a knife, though one or two beat him across steep faces. His best effort was a 6-pointer stag in velvet. On scenting him Smoke set off at a dead run pushing us all rudely out of his way, turned the stag right on top of us but it broke up the other side. A good 20 minutes later it came down again on the edge of the grass. Both the stag

and the dog were whacked by now and it was easily bailed up.

Northern Haurangi 27-29 Jan 1960

Once upon a time a man put a match to the bush and burnt a lane right across the middle of the Haurangi Range. In recognition of his deed the Lands Department gave him a lease of the burn and an issue of grass seed. Today the valley is pouring a wide ribbon of shingle on to the plains and the farms on the flat are on the receiving end. We spent a couple of interesting days touring this and adjacent valleys mainly by Austin Gipsy to get an eye-ful of what is happening.

N. I. E.

ROUND ABOUT MALTE BRUN

Jan 16th-31st 1960

Left for Wellington on the railcar at 12.30 on the 16th. Crossed over on the ferry that night and spent Sunday in Christchurch. Arrived at the Hermitage on Monday. Tuesday the 19th we headed up the Tasman Glacier to Malte Brun Hut to find 12 kangaroos in residence and 2 kiwis.

Wednesday was a rest day and was spent settling in. The kangas and kiwis went for a climb. The party's

Next day, Thursday, we went for a climb and, using the previous party's steps, were on top of Mt. Walter, 9507', by 7.45 a.m. attempted Mt. Green at 10 a.m. and abandoned it because of soft conditions. Back down the glacier to the hut at 2.30 p.m. Four more arrived that night and there was an airdrop of food.

Rest day Friday, two of the others climbed Darwin and on Saturday we had a crack at Darwin after getting the gen. from them. We missed out. Graeme and I went up to Tasman Saddle, 8200', and Nigel and Keith got to within 500' of the top of Darwin. The Kangas left on Friday after climbing Malte.

Sunday was a rest day. A guide and two women arrived, also it leaked from the sky. Monday an enforced rest day as it poured all day and blew hell out of the place. Tuesday dawned bright and clear but windy. The guide and his two left for the Hermitage. Two others left for the Murcheson Hut but arrived back that night. We sun baked and cooked all day. Wednesday we left at 4.30 a.m. for a crack at Malte Brun but were back in the hut at 7.00 a.m. soaked to the skin. The two others left for the Hermitage after a feed of apple pie which I baked. Thursday the weather was lousy so we packed up and left. Down the glacier to Ball Hut where we spent the night. Friday it poured and the road was washed out so we had to walk out the 12 miles to the Hermitage.

Saturday morning we left the Hermitage for Christchurch, crossed over on the ferry Saturday night and arrived back in Hastings on Sunday 31st, tired but happy.

Party: Nigel Thompson, Keith Garratt, Graeme Hare.

Narrative by

Cy. Hargreaves.

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### An Unclimbed Ridge to Mt. Tasman

The Balfour Glacier is a little visited area, parallel to and immediately south of the Fox Glacier on the West Coast of the South Island. Fed by avalanches from Mt. Tasman (11,475 ft), it flows but a short distance before its crevasse-torn slopes take a final plunge to the valley floor some thousands of feet below. Access is difficult and the climbing limited; perhaps this accounted for there being an unclimbed ice ridge leading from the Balfour snows to the Tasman-Torres ridge. Whatever the reason, this became our objective.

Jim Wilson had previously attempted to travel into the Balfour only to be repulsed. But the determination was still strong and long Antarctic days gave formulation to new plans. He was joined, at an early stage, by John Harrison who mounted a photograph of the ridge on his desk where it became a year long reminder. Number three of the party became myself, mainly because Christchurch and Hastings are a distance apart and written protest is ineffective to say the least. Brian Hearfield was plucked from the arms of his bride to be and our party completed.

At 11 p.m. on the third day after leaving Fox Hotel, we completed our snow cave in the Balfour at an altitude of approximately 8,500 ft. We had travelled in by way of the Fox Glacier, across its heavily crevassed neve, up and over Katie's Col and across the 'airy fairy' side to the restricted snow slopes above. And the tourist planes buzzed high over our heads. Our first problem the following day was an icefall which ran the entire width of the glacier and through which there seemed no easy way. From close-up it looked even worse but we eventually found that the only route lay from one side to the other beneath towering ice cliffs. By the time this was established our climbing day was too far advanced to begin the ridge and, beneath an ominous sky, we scurried for the cave.

The weather came and went and my diary for the morning of December 31st commences, 'Alarm at 2 am - away by 3.30 am with very little frost.' However we wore our crampons for they would be needed higher up and were of some use lower down. The icefall presented no problems now; we were soon through and continued on

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the route which had been picked out the previous day. Our way lay up an avalanche chute and as the dawn came we paused beneath a bergschrund to consider this problem and remove our headlamps. Jim and John climbed a very shakv ice sliver to the snow slopes above, then across to the rock ridge, and we wasted no time in following, for by now the sun was on the ice wall that fed our avalanche chute.

Now that the odds were a little more even we halted to shorten ropes, enjoy a second breakfast and remove crampons. Time 8 am and so good so far. Sound rock and steady progress went hand in hand to make the next two hours that of satisfying climbing. By then our rock ridge had come to an end. As the sun greeted the slope we paused again, to savour its comfort, while watching two distinct figures crampon their way along the Tasman-Torres skyline. They were hundreds of feet above us but in the sharp, still air voices carry great distances and we exchanged greetings at a great height amongst great mountains.

The echoes died and we turned our attentions to the route ahead. Hard blue ice and a use for pitons. It was slow work; tiring for the stepcutter and chilling for the belayer as chips whistled down the slope and pitons drove securely into ice. Rope length after rope length (last man remove the pitons) until a level spot was reached and we paused yet again. We had made some 500 ft of altitude from the rocks and the slope went out of sight around an ice festooned bulge above our heads. An exchange of pitons, then the steady, monotonous swing of iceaxe and splintering of brittle ice began again. The rope ran through a carabiner attached to a piton then curved around the slope; catching on tiny ice knobs, trembling with activity. Little pieces of ice, highlighted with sun slithered down at an increasing rate. They remained close to the mother slope while larger chips flashed to view, bounding once or twice before hurtling out of sight. At last the way was clear. An easing of angle meant that steps were no longer necessary and we cramponed steadily, but slower now, towards our summit. A cold wind annoyed us, increasing with altitude, giving up the fight only as we stepped to the ridge crest.

A date cube and a mouthful of cold cocoa drink were small rewards for the hours just gone but we had come a way that none had done before; our problems were overcome and all of that lay beneath our feet. Somehow the date and cocoa tasted good.

Now on familiar ground we made quicker progress. Mt. Tasman was but a short distance and we were on the summit at 3.30 pm with only Mt. Cook to look down upon us. Very little wind and a perfectly clear sky; in climbing terminology, 'a bang-on day'. And so, feeling contentedly satisfied, we descended the Main Divide towards Mt. Silberhorn and down the softening slopes of the Balfour, to arrive back at our cave about 8 pm with an avalanche fanning our tails.

The icefall, as if to assert itself, had collapsed just a few minutes after our scampering beneath the cliffs.

W. Romanes.

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PARIS IN WINTER

(The following is an extract from a letter written by Helen Hill to Edna Ansell).

.....I had 3 days in Paris, lovely clear bright, sunshiny ones, good for photos, but oh, so bitterly cold! Maximum temp. 2° C. (2 above freezing point) minimum -8° below. I put on all my clothes at once, nearly, and still froze. I walked a good deal, I always like to do that, as you see best that way, but every now and then I had to dive into a shop or a museum to warm up. I spent one afternoon in the botanical gardens; not a good time of year to see them, but the greenhouses were full of tropical plants - and tropical heat. Likewise the aquarium and snake house - horrible smells, but repulsively fascinating alligatots and pythons, giant tortoises, and teeny-weeny tropical fish. I did some window shopping, and longed for plenty of money (I had £15 left in French **currency**!) As usual I couldn't keep away from the Seine, and wandered along its walks, under archways of bridges and its bare trees, beyond Notre Dame. I wanted a photo of the bookstalls which line the walk overlooking the river, where you can buy an amazing selection of learned and frivolous, clean and not-so-clean (in both senses) books and pictures. But it was too cold, and most of them were closed. After 3 days, the combination of cold, lack of money and solitariness drove me back to London, which was, as usual blanketed with heavy yellow smoke and fog, but was many degrees warmer.

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How Kuripapango got its Name

Makeo was a pa on Kohurau about 10 miles from Puketitiri. (The Kohurau Block includes the Blowhard and the pa was probably down towards the Tutaekuri, perhaps near Waiwhenua).

Raupirau lived at Kohurau about 250 years ago. His grandson, Rangipotahi, went to investigate a fire which was seen burning at Kaimoko (Boyd's Bush). He reported to his grandfather, that from the speech, the strangers were from Whanganui, and because they had come under the cover of darkness it was for no peaceful purpose.

Raupirau and his people attacked them and Mokotapuarau and Kuripapango were killed. This fight was called Whakaata-Marama

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(which means the moon casting a shadow) so it appears to have been a night engagement fought at moonrise or moonset. This information comes from Mr Hamlin.

(Kuripapango is said to have been so named from his conspicuous black dogskin coat. I believe Te Iringa o nga Kahu o Tamakorako, the full name of Te Iringa, has some connection with this fight.

N. I. E.

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KAWEKA RANGE

The Kaweka Block of 50,000 acres was bought for £130 in 1859.

A sketch map in the McLean Papers in the Turnbull Library of the Kaweka Range was apparently made by Donald McLean from about Pakatutu in the course of the purchase.

The range is divided between two groups of owners by a boundary which runs up the Frame from the Mohaka River then up the Middle Spur to a point on the crest, apparently 5384 ft. then continues down the other side to Mangatoutou (or Mangatoatoa) which is a stream name, most likely Rocks Ahead. The name Kotuku is put near here with no explanation.

On either side of the claims one boundary runs up the Makino to a point Pukunui which must be on Venison Top; the other runs up the Anewanewa Stream then cuts across the Black Birch to the Ngaruroro at Waiharakeke, which is one of the names of the creek at the Swamp Cottage.

The owners of the southern Kawekas are Wakatokapari, Warerongi and others; of the northern Kaweka Whetu, also the talkative Ihaka.

Caunce's Flat is named Ranga a Tawhau and a track is shown running across it to the mouth of the Makino. One curious point is that the Frame is called Makahu and the present Makahu the Mangatutu. McLean is unlikely to have made a mistake.

N. I. E.

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NO MANS : 6 - 13th April

Bogs are pickled history. Over the past 4-5 years we have made several trips digging and probing between No Mans and Hut Ruin, while Neville Moar of Botany Division has been working on the Whanahuia and Mokai Patea bogs further down the range. At long last we arranged a joint trip and a ring from Air Freight asked me to pick up his "golf clubs". These were 28 lbs of boring rods in a massive leather case, The problem was to get these and a week's rations to the top of the Ruahines as Neville has recently had a



heart operation, but Forestry obliged with a most distinguished sherpa party and a Land-Rover, which we took over Big Hill to a fly-camp near the orchard.

The hunters now use the third spur which is clearer than the others to get on to the plateau where we bumbled round in the mist (just like old times) before striking the rock breastwork at Rakautanga.

Beyond Lessongs the track is getting pretty overgrown, but we made No Man's Hut in mid-afternoon to find new bunks in, but the chimney still decrepit and smoky. Tom Cookson took off into Big Hill Stream and is rumoured to have got involved in the big waterfall at the head, the other two staying a couple of days to help with some of the deeper borings and have a look round new country.

Peat-boring takes time. Every 10 inches, the length of the chamber of the auger, you close this, pull it up, cut the peat sausage into sections and put each into a numbered bag. Then you have to wash the auger carefully before going down another 10 inches - in fact you have to keep cleaning your hands and your tools to avoid contamination and one bore, even in 7-8 ft. of peat, takes hours.

When the others went out we had finished two detailed bores, so took off on a reconnaissance towards the northern end of the bog, and found it bigger and better and deeper than I had reported, so we gave up any idea of going over to Apias and came back next day to run a line right across the bog. This was mainly to trace pumice showers of which we had been finding a number - these petered out towards the edges of the bog showing that the bog was creeping outwards from the centre.

We had another day working on shallower peat but the weather was getting worse and our last day we spent collecting firewood and clearing the track to Lessongs. Jim came in by way of 2nd spur (Dick Clark's track) to help us swing out and arrived at nightfall in a half-frozen state. The weather was no better next day so we came out over Herrick's Spur as the easiest bad-weather route. The discs are still alright but a lot have gone or are on the point of being forced off by tree growth, the reported track through the scrub has NOT been cut. Poor navigation plus a slipped cartilage delayed us and we were glad to find two army huts (replacing Herrick's Hut) for the night,

Big Hill Stream was up and looked awkward but we hit on an easy crossing a little below Broom Block Stream and were home at midday.

The results should be excellent but Neville reckons there's 12 months' microscope work in them and perhaps 10,000 years of history.

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## CLUB TRIPS

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CAPE KIDNAPPERS

No. 620

28-29th November, 1959.

17 of us left Holt's at 7.15 am in the truck and one car. We left the truck at Clifton and obtained a permit from the caretaker. It took us about 2 hours to get around to the Cape and it was hot going. The afternoon was spent in swimming and general lazing around, then a visit to the sanctuary.

Reg. Williams told us we could not camp in the Domain grounds so we elected to camp down the beach a bit. We slept under the stars that night as the leader had forgotten the tents. Luckily it was fine. Just on dark 5 more bodies arrived.

Next day after a very lazy arising and breakfast on our part, some day trippers arrived with Maurie Taylor who had brought the truck overland. That morning some went up to the sanctuary but the main party went down to the very end of the cape collecting pauas and sea eggs as we went. Paua for lunch. Swimming, rock and roll and sand castles all afternoon. The wind got very bad later in the day, so we left for the truck only to find a very mangled canopy about 100 feet down in a gully, where it had been thrown by the wind. Arrived home at about 5.30.

No. in combined parties: 31

Leader: Cy Hargreaves

Nigel Thompson, Graeme Hare, Kerry Reidy, Nancy Tanner, Elizabeth Wills, Gae Lobban, Annette Tremewan, Margaret Mison, Joan Newey, Dave Williams, Richard & Trevor Brace \* 1, Roger Boshier, Graham Snaddon, Barbara & Maurie Taylor, Glenda Kobb, Edna Ansell, Sue Neufeld, Barbara Wallace, Keith Garratt, George & Alison Bee, Jack Landman, Henry Kolff, Joy & Yvonne Salt, John Blundell, Pam Adie, Pam Lewis.

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PICNIC BARBECUE - OHITI

No. 621

12-13th December, 1959.

The fixture list said "Runangahaka" - but the manager of Ohiti suggested a better campsite on the Ngaruroro river bed - the lake being surrounded with raupo etc. 11 of us (mostly survivors from the Bohemian party the night before) set off from Holt's at 6.20pm on Saturday. About a mile past Ohiti station buildings at the end of the straight, we took to the riverbed and continued (driving) about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile upstream till the river appeared on our side. There we came to rest beside a plantation of willows and silver poplars. Some swam, some gathered firewood and we prepared to barbecue our evening meal, - faint hearts had eaten earlier, just in case! Pans, toasting fork and just plain sticks all produced apparently satisfactory results of the more or less burnt offering variety. Norm & Kath joined us for a while round the fire, and a singsong ended the evening. 6 slept on the truck, the rest round

about on lilos or the ground.

On Sunday, after a leisurely breakfast, we wandered up to the nearby hill-top site of an old pa admirably situated for defence purposes. Down the other side to the large spring that wells up clear and cold. We followed the stream down to where it flows into another and found a large pond with many duck families quacking and countless frogs croaking their throats hoarse. Then a short climb took us to the crest of a ridge, whence we beheld - across a couple of gullies - a toe of the raupo-edged lake Runanga. Honour was satisfied and we returned to our camp site to swim, eat and generally laze. An early return to Hastings and we just made the 5pm bus for the Napierites.

And so ends another year of tramping .....

No. in party: 11

Leader: Nancy Tanner

Maurie & Barbara Taylor, Edna Ansell, Bob Adams, Sue Neufeld, Joy Salt & Yvonne, Annette Tremewan, Glenda Robb, Gae Lobban.

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#### RED ISLAND (KARAMEA)

No. 622

24th January, 1960.

Nine people left Holt's about 8.30am for Karamea, Picking up two at Havelock. We drove across paddocks and arrived at the top of the hill above the beach about 10.30, and set off for Red Island (20 minute walk) which some energetic bods decided to climb. After that we strolled down to the beach for a swim and some food. One person even attempted to swim the bay but didn't get very far, as the surf was too rough. After lunch, because there was no flat ground to stretch out on due to the tide being in, we went back to the Island. It definitely was an island this time with 6" of water round it. At low tide it is not surrounded by water. We lazed and sunbathed there for a couple of hours then 5 decided to walk back to Waimarama via the hills while the rest of us took our time with the truck. We got home remarkably early - about 6pm.

No. in party: 11

Leader: Margaret Mison

Dr. Bathgate, Rex Chaplain, Phil Bayens, Graeme Hare, John Blundell, Joy Salt, Pam Adie, Nancy Tanner, Annette Tremewan, Gae Lobban.

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#### WAIPATIKI BEACH

No. 623

7th February

We left Holt's at 8.15am and en route picked up one more pack, and one more bod in Napier. After an anything but peaceful drive, we arrived at the beach in a rather bruised state. The

truck was driven right down to the beach and from here all activities radiated. - Eating and sleeping, eating and swimming, and just eating. Some of the still hungrier types went blackberrying. Their billies were lightened somewhat when the fat juicy berries were brought back to the truck.

Others found the sandy beach to be a grand playground. Lilos figured prominently. Throughout the day a radio was in constant use - all Hit Parades, 20 "Pops" etc. were given a good hearing. The weather was perfect, - in fact too perfect as the variations in technicolour later proved.

A late start home was made after the leader's attention had been drawn to the time.

No. in party: 12

Leader: Annette Tremewan

Nancy Tanner, Edna Ansell, Gae Lobban, Barbara & Maurie Taylor, Jack Landman, Cy Hargreaves, Keith Garratt, Graeme Hare, Richard & Trevor Brace.

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### WAIKAMAKA WORKING PARTY

No. 624

13-14th February.

The 7am silence of Hastings was broken by the departure of 11 HTC members on a Bedford minus a silencer. Good time was made to the roadend, the only interruption being a quick run to the cullers at basecamp. After dividing up the gear and retrieving the fibreglass from its hiding place, we set off in fine style. The trampers union called for smoko at the forks, Graeme producing a secret weapon in the form of a rhubarb pie. Away again at a good pace, taking turns to carry the fibreglass, till within  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour of the saddle. Here we seemed to lose our breath, and the sun was too warm. Two hours later we awakened to find the fibreglass gone, and nobody in sight. Below the saddle we found the fibreglass "discarded", so once again we had company.

On arrival at the hut, the party split into three groups: cooks, indoor and outdoor squads. The outdoor squad fitted the fibreglass into the roof above the fireplace, and then carried on with the lean-to. The indoor squad meanwhile did battle with paint brushes. Yes! The inside of Waikamaka is now painted. Furthermore it's not just painted in flat colours of white and aluminium, but an attractive toning effect has been achieved by the delicate use of dust, fat, soot, etc. Sunday saw the completion of the job, along with the strengthening of the top bunk. The lean-to was completed except for a small area under the eaves. Shortly after 2pm the trip back to civilisation began, and thence to Hastings to complete the weekend.

For their work the leader extends his thanks to:

Norm & Kath Elder, Margaret Mison, Nancy Tanner, Gae Lobban, Graeme Hare, Richard Brace, John Blundell, David Wild.

No. in party: 10

Leader: John Fabian

FINANCIAL WORKING PARTY (Tomatoes)

No. 625

20th February.

The scheduled trip down the Maraetotara was changed to a more earnest endeavour as Phil pointed out that if we wanted to accumulate the odd pound picking beans and tomatoes, then was the time to do it. On Saturday morning, working from about 6.30am till noon the following picked tomatoes:

No. in party: 5 Amount earned: £7.  
Nancy Tanner, Rex Chaplin, Graeme Hare, Gae Lobban, Keith Garratt

FINANCIAL WORKING PARTY (Beans)

No. 626

21st February

On the Sunday morning of the same weekend ten of us picked beans in Oak Avenue. Our thanks to Barbara for providing tea at smoko.

No. in party: 10 Amount earned: £7. 5. 4  
Phil Bayens, Allan Berry, Nancy Tanner, Janet Lloyd, Edna Ansell,  
Pat Bolt, Gae Lobban, Margaret Mison, Barbara Wallace, Joan Newey.

FINANCIAL WORKING PARTY (Beans)

No. 627

28th February

Another Sunday morning picking beans, this time in Ruahapia Road.

No. in party: 7 Amount earned: £7.10. 4  
Janet Lloyd, Nancy Tanner, Gae Lobban, Edna Ansell, Phil Bayens,  
Alan Berry, Hal Christian.

From these three parties + the prelude to the Kaweka working party the sum of £32. 9.8 . was handed in to Club funds. This will be quite a help in paying off the remainder of the loan on the new truck and in supplying the wherewithal to make a new canopy.

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KAWEKA WORKING PARTY!!!

(Financial and Maintenance combined)

No. 628

5-6th March

This was what I really call a working party. In the morning we picked tomatoes (at least some of us did). We picked close on 200 cases, which is not bad, but far from a record. At 1pm we left Hastings for Kaweka Hut, where we arrived at 5pm. pretty tired after an honest morning's work.

Next morning we again did some work. We patched up the hut or rather the malthoid, put a new door latch in, collected fire wood, fixed up the fire place, and all in all made the hut

ready for the coming winter.

About 10am. 7 of the party decided to go around to Kiwi hut and out to the road that way while the rest of us left Kaweka hut at 1pm. and did a bit of track cutting on the way out. 5 pm. saw both parties arrive simultaneously at the Kaweka - Kiwi track junction. The Kiwi party had a hot and dry trip along the tops and were a little footsore. After a refreshing dip in the creek we left for home and arrived in Hastings at 8.30pm.

I would like to express our thanks to the Hastings High School Tramping Club for their gallant support of the tomato-picking working party.

No. in party: 18

Leader: Phil Bayens

Nancy Tanner, Margaret Mison, Pam Adie, Gae Lobban, Kath & Norm Elder, Annette Tremewan, John Blundell, John Luxton, Doc Bathgate, Bob Adams, Tony Collins, L. Rodgers, Ken Tustin, Peter Napier, P. Mayson, Peter Curnow.

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### MOHAKA HOT SPRINGS

No. 629

20th March

It wasn't quite raining though the clouds hung low as we left Holt's about 7.20am. Two more in Napier swelled our numbers to 21 and we pressed on through mist, rain and cloud to arrive at the Makahu river in a fine spell. The river was discoloured and rising so we left the truck on the home side and set off for the Hot Springs. On a muddy bend near the top of the hill above the Frame we came upon a bogged-down deerstalker; his aged Chev. was well embedded, and he and his mate were very glad to see us. After a fair bit of messing around, digging, pushing, pulling, with sheer weight of numbers she came free. The stalker had been erecting a hut by the Frame and offered us the shelter of its roof and partly finished walls. Half the party took advantage of this offer and had lunch there while the keen types pressed on regardless. After lunch an hour's tramp took us through the bracken-overgrown track to the Springs where most enjoyed a dip under the hot shower. A pause at the Frame for another bite and we were all back at the truck by 5.30. The track has recently been cleared to vehicle width down to the Frame, but is not recommended for private cars - or the Club truck! The Makahu had risen quite a bit, forcing one of the 'stalkers to remain with the car and dogs at Cook's cottage till it went down. The other stalker + a small pig in a sack returned with us. Throughout the day the weather was showery but not unpleasant, and we were back in Hastings a bit before 9pm.

No. in party: 21

Leader: Nancy Tanner

Maurie & Barbara Taylor, Hal Christian, George Prebble, John Phelps, John Blundell, Bob Adams, Graye Shattky, Lionel Rogers, Peter Napier, Tom Martin, Peter Curnow, Ken Tustin, Glenda Robb, Annette Tremewan, Gae Lobban, Joan Newey, Barbara Wallace, Margaret Mison, Glenis Perry.

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No. 630

TRIAL SEARCH & RESCUE  
( Waipawa River. )

3rd April.

LOCATION: Upper portion south west face of Shuteve Ridge, Central Ruahines. The area is drained by a stream having major and minor heads and which ultimately flows into the Waipawa River about 10 minutes below the main Waipawa forks.

The ground to be covered consisted of steep faces heavily bushed with a dense coverage of fern and undergrowth on the lower slopes, in particular.

WEATHER: Cloud ceiling 5000' most of the day. Intermittent rain. Cool.

ORGANISATION AND PERSONNEL: Search Headquarters at the residence of Mrs. Janet Lloyd, St Georges Road, Hastings.

Advance base under search controller N.L.Elder was established in the Waipawa River bed, near the mouth of the stream. Five Heretaunga Tramping Club search parties, each 6 or 7 strong, were allotted to the search area, with sub-leader supervising the execution of search technique. This arrangement would appear to have much to commend it in the case of contact searches, as it permits on the spot control of the search procedure while at the same time leaving the field controller free to concentrate on the overall pattern of the search from advance base. Two H.T.C. members acted as porters to the R.E.C. operator with the mobile 208 set, on account of the weight involved, and one remained with the roadhead set to interpret messages where necessary. A further two H.T.C. proceeded independently to the top of the Shuteve Ridge to arrange the mid-day boilup.

Constables Coote and Thompson of the Hastings and Napier Police respectively were present as observers, the former taking part in the actual search and the latter remaining at field base.

Mr Ian Snadded of the Hastings St. John Ambulance attended as an observer and to instruct in rescue procedure.

The presence of two N.A.D. cullers as observers was also welcomed, as the co-operation of the cullers could prove particularly valuable in the case of an emergency.

Total personel in field 49 - H.T.C. 40, R.E.C. 4, Police 2, St. John 1, Forest Service N.A.D. Field Officers 2.

COMMUNICATIONS:

FIELD: Two modified 38's each serving two search parties, and one 208. serving the fifth party. After initial difficulty in establishing contact with advance base, all sets operated satisfactorily. Two R.E.C. and and experienced H.T.C. operator.

ADVANCE BASE: One 208 set, R.E.C. operator.

ROADHEAD: ZC 1 established in Heretaunga Tramping Club truck, R.E.C. operator.

HASTINGS: Permanent station, R.E.C. operator, in communication with Search Headquarters by phone.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in transmitting messages from roadhead to Hastings on account of the high noise level in the city, aggravated by severe auroral conditions 36 hours previously. It was eventually found necessary to pass messages by morse to a Napier operator for relay to Hastings by phone.

EXECUTION OF SEARCH: A small party had surveyed the area the previous weekend and marked a tree to represent the location of the "body".

The search parties moved off up the stream from the Waipawa River at 9.50 a.m. The leaders of each of the five parties were allocated their territories and given final instructions at the fork, the searchers being then distributed up the major branch at half minute intervals. As each party had dispersed to its full extent up the stream bed, its members began a parallel sweep up the face to the crest of the Shuteve Ridge. At this stage a contact search was not attempted, the searchers having been instructed to concentrate on looking for signs of recent human presence. Heavy fern and undergrowth hampered the searchers to some extent but this part of the operation was satisfactorily completed by 11.45 a.m.

At 12.20 the parties moved to the saddle and commenced a contact search of the S.E. face of the minor stream, the marked tree being located at 1.10 p.m. Outlying parties were recalled and advance base requested to send stretcher, St. John Ambulance officer, and police constable with H.T.C. Guide to the fork of the stream, one of the searchers having been despatched to direct them from there. The party arrived on the scene of the "accident" at 1.35 and at this point the rescue portion of the exercise began.

The victim's injuries were diagnosed as back injuries, abrasions and shock, action to alleviate the latter being the first consideration. The victim (Edna Ansell) was then loaded onto the Neil Robertson stretcher, the St. John Officer explaining the procedure, and the carry began. Several different methods were tried, with varying degrees of success, and the exercise terminated on a spectacular note at 3.30 when the stretcher and patient were lowered over a 30 ft. bluff to the Waipawa River bed.

#### OBSERVATIONS:

1. The extreme difficulty of carrying out a 100% effective contact search in heavy undergrowth was again brought home to all concerned. The searchers were sidling and losing height at the one time, and leaders found it difficult to avoid alternate feasts and famines



along the line of searchers while at the same time maintaining contact with the next party. An understandable desire to avoid dense clumps of dripping undergrowth accentuated the problem.

2. The radios once more proved their effectiveness in controlling field operations, even though the link to Search Headquarters was not fully effective.
3. Numerical rather than alphabetical references for search parties would be preferable, to avoid confusion with radio call signs.
4. Stretcher carrying. (a) stretcher belayed to trees above and below when proceeding down fairly steep slope, with side ropes to maintain face-up position. Not particularly satisfactory as trees and undergrowth interfere with side ropes.
  - (b) Body belay above and tree below, stretcher passed from hand to hand down slope. Far more effective than method (a), as carriers do not need to move feet on steep and irregular slope. Large party essential however.
  - (c) Stretcher carried in stream bed by side loops with ropes passed over shoulders of fore and aft bearers from end loops. Quite satisfactory, and particularly suitable where passageway narrow and tortuous.
  - (d) Stretcher slung beneath single pole with attendants to steady. Weight of poles rather nullifies advantages. Difficult to manage overbrough stream bed and logs as one end bearer tends to be left with whole weight as others at same end step down off obstructions. More suited to open going, but here again two poles may be preferred.
  - (e) Stretcher lowered over bluff, belayed above round tree. Rope from foot pulled out by those below to maintain about 45° angle during descent and side ropes held by persons below to maintain face-up position. No difficulty experienced.
5. In all a most instructive day, the programme being carried out expeditiously and with few hitches.

CONCLUSION: We record our appreciation of the co-operation received from the R.E.C., St. John Ambulance, Police, and N.A.D., whose assistance contributed much to the success of the project.

No. in Party : 49

Leaders:- N.I.Elder, A.V.Berry.

H.T.C.: 40 Joy Salt, Nancy Tanner, Gae Lobban, Glenda Robb, Edna Ansell, Margaret Mison, Barbara Taylor, Annette Tremewan, Glenis Perry, - Tickle, - Cunningham, Jack Landman, John Phelps, Hal Christian, Henry Kolff, Geo. & Alison Bee, - Evans, - Carmichael, Ken -, - Corbin, John Blundell, Bob Adams, Ken Tustin, Peter Curnow, - Townsend, Peter Napier, Lionel Rogers, Maurie Taylor, Rex Chaplin, Graeme Hare, Jim Glass, Graham Cresswell, Derek Boshier, Nigel Thompson, Cy Hargreaves, - Croucher, K Garratt, R.E.C.: Hilton Meyer, Ted Napier, Stan White, Barry Donkin.  
George Studd in Napier & Viv. Townsend in Hastings.

S O C I A L       N E W S .

Births: To Doreen and Jim Glass - a daughter.  
To Els and Philip Bayens - a daughter.

Departure: Roger Boshier to Victoria University College.

Projected Departure: Graeme Hare to Wellington.

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Our congratulations to WALLY ROMANES on his inclusion in Sir Edmund Hillary's team for Makalu. GEORGE LOWE is also going along, so the H.T.C. will be well represented. Wally is also to be a member of a party of seven staying on for nine months as guinea pigs to register the effects of alpine conditions on the human body. Their base camp for that period is to be a pre-cut hut erected at 20,000 feet.

CLUB EVENINGS:

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These have included slides of England and the Continent shown by Mrs. Hill; an account of the work of the F.R.E.S. (Forest & Range Experimental Station) by Mr. Ash Cunningham. Slides illustrated this talk and at the following meeting Mr. Cunningham showed us two movie films of Wild Life taken by Mr. Ollerenshaw. Mr. Whitaker described the work of Aerial Mapping - "Skyways South" gave excellent views of the Southern Alps.

The Social Committee also organised a Christmas party and, more recently, a farewell dance for Graeme Hare.

COLLECTION AT MEETINGS:

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The silver coins dropped in the saucer on the dinner wagon are not payment for supper. Money collected by this means covers the last rise in rent for the use of the hall and saves you from having to pay a higher subscription. Even if you leave early you have still had the use of the hall, so please leave your sixpence behind you.

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"MOUNTAIN SEARCH and RESCUE", L.D. Bridge M.B.E. : published by F.M.C. for 9/-.

An advance copy was shown at the club meeting before Easter but in the general congestion few had an opportunity of looking at it.

The author's wide experience of search organization means that he can deal authoritatively with most of the imaginable and many of the unimaginable problems that crop up in searches and rescues and these make fascinating reading. The photographs contain nothing perhaps quite so spectacular as Edna's recent ride, but give impressive glimpses of the difficulties of rescue work in really tough country.

Stocks of this book are not being held so orders must be in by the end of May. If you are not in before then you'll miss. The secretary is taking orders.

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POHATUHAHA: Route 31A has not been cut nearly as far as Pohatuhaha.  
TAUWHAREFOKERU: Route 19B is reported disced at the upper (No Man's) end.  
Initials: N.A.D. (Noxious Animals) are now being called PFD (Protection Forest Division).

FIXTURE LIST.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Trip:</u>	<u>Leader:</u>	<u>Fare:</u>
May 1st:	Firewood Trip.	Alan Berry.	9/-
May 14-15th:	Waikamaka Hut - Rangī.	John Fabian.	10/-
June 4-5-6th:	Ballard, Dick's Spur, Iron Whare.	Jack Landman.	10/-
June 12th:	Ruahine Hut.	John Blundell.	9/-
June 26th:	Waipawa - 66 - down screes.	Cy Hargreaves.	10/-
July 9-10th:	Sentry Box, Ellis's, Makororo Hut, Pohatuhaha.	Nigel Thompson.	9/-
July 24th:	Tarapouni. <i>July 6th. Pack etc.</i>	Glenda Robb.	10/-
August 6-7th:	Kiwi.	Annette Tremewan.	10/-
Aug. 21st:	Snowcraft: East Face of 66.	Phil Bayens.	10/-
Sept. 3-4th:	Howlett's - Otumore.	Hal Christian.	10/-

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

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Ngamatea	... 5. 0	Ahimanawa	... 4. 0
Wakarara	... 5. 0	Kaweka	... 4. 0
Tararua	... 3. 6	Owhaoko-Ngamatea	... 4. 0
Kaimanawa (Central)	... 6. 0	Tutira	... 5. 0
		Southern Huiarau	... 1. 6
		Roadheads	... 1. 6

Metal Badges: 5/6. Cloth Badges 11/-.

Route Guide to the Ranges West of Hawkes Bay: 3/6.

These can all be obtained from the secretary.

Map N.140: Central Ruahine, helio, Napier Survey.

Just out, huts & corrections

bang up to date. Ask Nigel about it.



# Party comes out of Ruahines 13 hours overdue

A party of 16 trampers, including members of the Heretaunga Tramping Club and secondary school pupils, came out about 13 hours late this afternoon from a trip into the Ruahine Ranges.

They were due to return to Hastings about 11.30pm yesterday but did not report in until early this afternoon. They entered the ranges on Saturday.

The party planned moving into the ranges behind Springhill up Hinerua Ridge, moving north, and coming down a northerly spur before back-tracking to their transport.

Tramping club officials said early this afternoon that no great concern had been felt for the party's safety because it was some years since the area had been tramped over. It was difficult to estimate the terrain problems which might upset the party's schedule.

When the party reported in this afternoon they said that because of these difficulties it had been necessary to camp out an extra night.

