

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (Inc.)

"P O H O K U R A"

Bulletin No. 86

December 1960.

PRESIDENT:

Mr. A.V. Berry, 10 Nimon St, Havelock North. Phone 77.223.

Hon. Secretary:

Miss A. Tremewan, 411 W St Aubyn St, Hastings. Phone 83.703

HON. TREASURER:

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

CLUB CAPTAIN:

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

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

We finish the year with 92 financial members. This is not much change from the usual experience of the Club, but club trips have been popular due largely to our active junior membership.

Some anxiety has been caused by overdue parties this year, but the Club, as a whole, has learnt something from our experiences. Closer control of large parties is needed, and young members should develop their powers of observation of country, should understand their maps, use their maps and compass, and keep an eye on the clock as the day advances. Probably our evening meetings could do with a little more of an instructional nature.

A well organised and successful trial search was held in an area between the Waipawa river and the Shut Eye ridge.

Our Bedford truck has proved its worth in providing adequate transport at a reasonable cost. We need sufficient earnings from working parties each year to build up a fund for truck replacement, but although we have not earned as much from working parties as last year, our finances are sound.

Nigel Thompson's father has generously us the use of an acre of ground for cropping, and this has been sown in sweet corn.

In general we have had a successful year.

### CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT:

Club trips: Of a total of 28 scheduled trips, two were cancelled, one due to 'Hughie' not co-operating with H.T.C. and the other to lack of transport. Generally trips were very popular, the greatest number going out being 40, the least 9. To get over with statistics. The average number per trip was  $15\frac{1}{2}$ , while men were 156, Ladies 136, and Juniors 119, the greatest proportion of juniors to senior members 2 : 1, and the lowest 1 : 20, with two trips nil.

Private trips: During the past year a number of our members took part in private trips ranging to jaunts in our own ranges, to as far afield as rock climbing at Titahi Bay, Wanganui River excursion Tasman by a previously unclimbed ridge, and climbing in the Mulde Brun area.

Accidents: One serious accident occurred during the year, when one of our female members was "injured" in a fall in bush country, bounded by Shut Eye track and the Waipawa river. The "injureis being serious enough to warrant a carry involving 40 club members and 9 others.

Spinal injuries, a broken limb and shock were treated as necessary, the patient then being transported per Neil Robertson stretcher to the Waipawa river where, after an aerial journey, revived sufficiently to be able to proceed to the transport under her own steam. A very successful trial search.

General: One of our problems twelve months ago, namely truck drivers, is now alleviated, but a new problem is with us - Leaders. A state of affairs has arisen, unfortunately, where we now have far more junior members compared to competent seniors on most of our trips. But, if juniors would only try to apply the knowledge they are known to have of the theory of tramping, as given in Safety in the Mountains to their trips into the ranges, the leaders job would not be so thankless. A little thought would ease many a leader's problems. DON'T go haring along a track if one doesn't know the way. The leader, or a member of a party who knows the route or is capable of finding that elusive ridge will not be far away, if the party has kept together.

It is not the leaders job to get the fire going, stew cooked, tents pitched, firewood gathered, or, on leaving a camp-site or hut to clean up the site, sort out left behind gear, clean billies, dispose of rubbish, fold tents and put the fire out etc. The leader and other senior members have served their apprenticeship and it is your duty to hoe in and lend a hand. To learn how and where to pitch tents, light a fire with soaking wood and find your way when bush bound. Once you have learnt, tramping will be found to be a far more satisfying and enjoyable past-time, than having to travel twice as far as necessary through not knowing how to read your map and compass, or not having enough calories in the food you carry to be sufficient

for your trip, plus a little left<sup>3</sup> over in case of accidents.

Among our juniors we have some excellent material and only if our trips show an increased proportion of seniors to juniors can this material be moulded into future executive positions.

Here's hoping that in the ensuing year more of us will be out to let others reap the benefit of our knowledge of our HERITAGE - the bush and mountains of New Zealand and of tramping and climbing in them.

#### FIXTURE, HUT & TRACK COMMITTEE:

Fixtures: The normal procedure of fortnightly trips, week-end and Sunday alternating, has been followed. Suggestions for trips should be in writing.

Huts: Kaweka: In reasonable shape but the malthoide walls are beginning to puncture. This is used a great deal by large parties enjoying their first tramps. We are glad to allow free use of the hut but would greatly appreciate it if billies were left clean and up-ended, no food left in the hut to attract pests, the wood supply more than replaced and the door closed securely. The axe handle is split and needs replacing.

Kiwi: Repairs to some bunks needed urgently.

Shut Eye: Has received welcome repairs from N.Z.F.S.

Waikamaka: The lean-to is at last complete and with the inset of two fibre-glass corrugated sheets and whitewashing of the inside walls, the hut is a considerably improved asset.

Forestry Huts: There are a considerable number of Forestry huts. Most of these are mentioned in the new "Route Guide to the Ranges West of Hawkes Bay," by N.L. Elder, and are on the new Kaweka and Onga Onga maps. We are grateful to Forestry for permitting us to use these huts. Forestry has taken over the maintenance of Howlett's Hut.

Tracks: Colenso Track: has been cut up to the tussock and there is a fine disced track up the steep face of Daphne Spur. Elsewhere fern has grown in and needs to be cut back to a 6 foot width.

A number of new tracks or old ones have been put into shape by N.Z.F.S. and most of these are described in the "Route Guide."

#### SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

The social year started well with many ambitions. The main one being to raise money to buy a slide projector for club

4.  
nights. But that is as far as it got. Early in December we held a combine, Bohemian Evening and Christmas Party. We charged a sub. but this just covered expenses and that was all.

Some of the social events of this year were:-

1. Mr. Cyril Whittaker - Aerial Mapping.
2. Mr. Ash Cunningham - Gave a talk on N.Z.F.S. and had slides on soil erosion.
3. Mr. Peter Hammond - Campbell Island.
4. Senior Seargeant Thyne - Police work in N.Z.
5. Wally Romanes - Slides on Antarctica and his trip into the Balfours.
6. Maurie Taylor & Wally Romanes - Talks and lectures. Throughout the year these have been a great help to the newer members.
7. Mrs. Hill & Helen very kindly showed slides on their trip abroad.

I wish to thank all these people and those whom I did not mention. We also held a farewell party and dance for Graeme Hare. But the subs. did not even clear expenses - £2 down the drain.

Our mainstay during the year was the joining of the National Film Library. We have had films of general interest - mainly Tramping, approximately every second meeting.

Our special thanks to Mr. van Asch of Aerial Mapping for the use of his projector and to Peter Trask and Bob Fleming, our projectionists. Now the Blossom Float:- At least this year we have one, or rather two! Unluckily for some people it rained for the parade, but as our float was a typical tramping scene, the pouring rain set it off to perfection! The boys did a wonderful job with 'Murgatroid', Cy's old bomb, and had the floats been judged, I'm sure they would have been placed. The whole thing cost nothing, with the exception of petrol to fetch scrub etc, and spare time during the last week.

Also special thanks to all those people outside the social committee who have given valuable assistance to us during the year.

#### TRUCK COMMITTEE:

Our new Bedford truck has now settled down to provide an efficient and relatively economical answer to the Club's transport problems. Members are now conveyed quickly and in comfort - a far cry from the little old Bedford that was the Club's first vehicle. The only thing that we miss is the entertainment provided passengers by drivers trying to find that elusive second gear.

To really bring our transport up to five star standard, a new and larger canopy is in the process of assembly and we express our thanks to Maurie Taylor and John Fabian for the work they have put in on this project.

We all have good reason to be grateful to the past and present members who have made possible, largely by the sweat of their brows, the standard of transport which we now enjoy. Enquiries have been received from as far afield as Invercargill from organisations and clubs who envy our set-up.

#### GEAR CUSTODIAN'S REPORT:

There have been no major additions to the gear in the past year, and no major items written off.

The chief wear has come on boots - we just have two respectable pairs for loan and a couple of pairs only usable on pansy trips.

I have to thank members of the Club for the care they have given to club gear and for returning it in good order. Perhaps the exception this year is to club billies. Another lid has been left behind - this time in the Pohangina Hut - and one medium size billy is looking distinctly battered. Those of you who remember the old tin billies, will remember how glad we were to change over to aluminium ones. But we have to remember they are much dearer and very much softer material.

Loans: have brought in £5.17.0

made up as follows:-

cover	4.0
packs	1.10.0
boots	10.0
tents	2. 2.6
ice axes	13.0
parka	2.0
billies	8.0
rope	5.0
sale of ether container	<u>2.6</u>

I have to thank Nigel Thompson for taking on my job during my frequent absences.

#### PUBLICITY REPORT:

During the year brief accounts of the more interesting trips appeared in the local press and one fuller account of the Trial Search, which was carried out in the Waipawa River. On two occasions club parties achieved rather more publicity than was desirable when, in one case the whole party, and in the other the of the party, was night bound. An outline of H.T.C. search organisation was recently broadcast from 2ZC.

If the Route Guide may be counted as club publicity, reports from several quarters say that it has been in good demand.

Mention might perhaps be made of an indirect form of publicity from which tramping may hope to benefit, the excellent photographs of helicopter work in the Ruahines that appeared in the Tribune last November.

#### SEARCH COMMITTEE:

No formal meeting of the committee has been held during the year, but members have of course been in unofficial contact, over the phone as well as at the club and committee meetings. In two cases members of Club parties have been night bound during the winter. In each case a search alert worked smoothly, and in the second instance some of the party stopped at the road head and sent a reconnaissance party over the ground on the Monday morning.

Though in neither case were the consequences serious, it is evident that when the Fixture committee appoint comparatively inexperienced leaders, the Club has a responsibility to see that people with more experience accompany parties. We have not, unfortunately, been able to select a Club Captain who can tramp regularly for some time now, and this is one of the inevitable consequences. With so many active junior members we cannot afford to take a light-hearted attitude towards night bound parties.

Before the winter we held a trial search in the Waipawa river, which was a successful run through of the drill of the final stage of a search for a missing person. The weather was indifferent, and auroral disturbances, though not affecting close communication between mobile sets and advanced base, made outside communication extremely difficult, so that during most of the search only morse from the road head via Napier got through to search base in St. Georges Road. This search was well supported not only by H.T.C., and A.R.E.C., but also by representatives of both Napier and Hastings police and St. Johns Ambulance, while two field officers of the hunting teams of the N.Z. Forest Service were present as observers. Their hunters are not only a powerful reinforcement, now eligible to take part in any major search, but are also an additional risk, in so much as they are in the ranges for most of the year and are operating in small groups over wide areas. A total of 49 were in the field during the trial.

The transfer of Ron Morgan to Wellington breaks a link of long standing between the H.T.C. and the A.R.E.C. Whenever the balloon went up Ron was always on the job, and the Club owes a great debt to him.

LIBRARY REPORT:

This year the library brought in 16/- which is more gratifying. A new book has been added - "Mountain Search and Rescue" by L.D. Bridge. "Flynn's Flying Doctors" has been returned, and so also has "Crossing Antarctica."

POHOKURA:

We take this opportunity of thanking all those who helped with the typing, duplicating, assembling and addressing of "Pohokura," also those who have contributed to its columns.

The usual three issues have been published this year.

ALBUM:

Since I only received the album about two months ago, I am still sorting out photographs from the last 12 months, and as yet have not put many in the book. I have only received about half a dozen photos from Club members - a great disappointment.

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OUR PRESIDENT RETIRES.

Rex Chaplin has been president for two years. He is a very busy man and we are grateful to him for sparing us this time. There have been many 'alerts' during his period of office, but midnight 'phone calls from parents or police always find Rex calm and practical. We are glad that in his present capacity of vice-president we shall still be able to avail ourselves of his help. We would also like to take this opportunity of thanking Mrs. Chaplin for her hospitality to many committee meetings.

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ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual General Meeting held on October 12th, 1960,  
the following officers were elected:-

PATRON: Dr. D.A. Bathgate

PRESIDENT: Mr. A.V. Berry

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Mrs. L.H. Lloyd, Messrs. N. Elder, & R. Chaplin

CLUB CAPTAIN: Mr. M. Taylor

SECRETARY: Miss A. Tremewan

TREASURER: Mrs. M. Taylor

AUDITOR: Miss C. Stirling

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Misses N. Tanner, H. Hill, Messrs. P. Bayens,  
J. Landman, K. Garratt, H. Christian, N. Thompson.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Mrs. E. Bayens, Misses M. Mison, G. Lobban,  
Messrs. K. Garratt, C. Hargreaves, B. Adams.

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

FIXTURE, HUT & TRACK: N. Tanner, H. Christian, M. Taylor, P. Bayens.

SEARCH COMMITTEE: A.V. Berry, M. Taylor, A. Tremewan, N. Elder, J. Lloyd.

TRUCK COMMITTEE: M. Taylor, A. Berry.

EDITOR: J. Lloyd, Assistant Editor: A. Tremewan.

PUBLICITY: N. Elder, A. Berry.

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

LIBRARIAN: E. Ansell.

ALBUM: M. Mison.



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HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1960.

1959 INCOME: The Clubs Income from various sources was:

68	Subscriptions	81:19: 6
8	Gear Hire	5:17: 0
-	Library Fees	11: 0
14	Meeting Contributions	12:15: 2
12	Donations	5:10: 0
56	Working Parties	33: 9: 8
4	Interest: P.O.S.B	6: 0
1	Bank N.S.W	2:11: 8
1	Surplus on Maps	2:10: 4
-	Surplus on Sale of Books	4: 9: 0

164 TOTAL Income

149: 19: 4

EXPENDITURE: The Expenses incurred in running the Club's Activities were:

34	Rent of Meeting Rooms	34: 5: 0
4	Advertising Meetings etc.	3:16: 6
4	Supper and Social Expenses	13: 8
2	Hut & Track Maintenance	1:18: 8
14	Bulletin Expenses	17:19: 7
19	Equipment Maintenance	-: -: -
3	Subscriptions	2:15: 0
1	Insurance	1: 6: 3
1	Stationery	2:11: 0
6	General Expenses	1: 1: 6
-	Search and Rescue Booklets Written off	19: 0
-	Social Expenses	4: 3: 9
	Transport Costs	144: 17: 4
	Truck Depreciation	40: 0: 0

184: 17: 4

Less Fares Received 170: 2: 5

25 Loss on Transport 14:14:11

113 TOTAL Expenditure

86: 4: 10

51 Surplus of Income over Expenditure

£ 63: 14: 6

10  
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER, 1960

1959 At Balance Date the Club owned the following ASSETS:

87	Bank of N.S.W. Account		113:10: 9
11	Post Office Savings Bank		11: 5: 1
48	Equipment		48: 6: 0
2	Cash on Hand		3:13: 1
15	Stock: Badges	13: 2: 6	
15	Maps	7: 5: 1	
2	Bulletin Covers	6: 7: 0	
-	Route Guides	1: 17: 4	
			28:11:11
-	Bedford Truck at Cost	446: 9: 2	
407	Less Depreciation Written off to date	80: 0: 0	
			366: 9: 2

Huts valued in the books as follows:

Kaweka	5: 0: 0
Kiwi	25: 0: 0
Waikamaka	27: 7: 11

57: 7:11

52  
1 Search & Rescue Booklets

-: -: -

640 The Total value of assets being 629: 3: 11

However, of this amount there has been set aside as a Search Fund

11:14: 4

and there was owing on various accounts

12: 8: 0

99 A TOTAL of 24: 2: 4

541 The Total of Assets available for Club use was therefore £ 605: 1: 7

This figure represents the Balance in Accumulated Funds, which are made up as follows:

Balance 1st October, 1959	541: 7: 1
Plus Surplus of Income over Expenditure for year	63: 14: 6

Balance at 30th September, 1960 £ 605: 1: 7

AUDITORS' REPORT: I have examined the books, accounts and vouchers of the Heretaunga Tramping Club, and have obtained all the information and explanations that I have required. I have accepted the certificate of the Secretary as to the value of badges, maps and books on hand.

In my opinion, according to the best of my information and the explanations given me and as shown by the books of the Club, the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account are properly drawn up so as to give respectively a true and fair view of the state of the Clubs affairs at 30th September 1960 and of the results of its activities for the year ended on that date.

HASTINGS  
11th October, 1960.

Catherine Stirling, A.R.A.N.Z  
HON. AUDITOR.

ACCIDENT REPORTS

From F.M.C. Bulletin Sept., 1960.

Report On Accident Causing The Death Of Julian H. Davis  
In The Kaimanawa Ranges, 27th August, 1959.

Davis, a member of the Auckland University Tramping Club; in the company of seven other members, climbed Mt. Makorako (5665').

Whilst the party was resting on the flat snow summit before continuing their trip, Davis, in a jocular manner, said he was going to hurl himself off the summit. The remark was not taken seriously by the other members of the party as the slopes of the mountain (except for the side they had ascended) were obviously dangerous.

Davis removed his spectacles, placed them on a rock and gave his camera to another member of his party. Retaining his ice axe and yelling "Yahoo", he hurled himself headlong down the hard south-east snow slope and was observed attempting to arrest himself.

He disappeared from sight and was later found 250 feet down the slope lying on some loose rocks suffering from head injuries from which he died soon after.

COMMENTS:

1. It can be assumed that Davis intended to arrest a simulated fall.
2. This was a foolhardy action by a trumper who did not appreciate the dangers involved in attempting such an impulsive manoeuvre.
3. The steep snow slope down which Davis threw himself was hard and had no visible runout. (Safety in the Mountains, p. 42.)

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Report On The Fatal Accident On Mt. Egmont On 20th June, 1960.

Keith Laurence Haynes, in company with Trevor Knuckey, set out from Dawson Falls at 5.30 a.m. to make a circuit of Mt. Egmont via Fentham Park. Whilst making a traverse in hard frozen snow on a slope of about 45 degrees, at which time both climbers were unroped and were cutting steps and wearing crampons, Haynes slipped, lost his axe, and went into an uncontrollable slide of 1500 ft. Approx., coming to a stop in a shallow basin. Haynes received injuries during the descent and subsequently

died.

#### COMMENTS:

Traversing frozen snow on a 45 degree slope while wearing crampons and cutting steps, the simultaneous use of a rope and belays would be accepted safe mountaineering practice. .

#### CONCLUSION:

Had this party been roped and properly belayed this slip would have been a slip only and not a fatal accident.

#### SEARCHING FOR YETI.

The following is an extract from a letter written by George Lowe to his family, dated 1:10:60.

"We have been here nearly a week and the general idea has been to set up observation camps on the steep hillsides above Beding. From Here four of us, Pat Barcham, Larry Swann (from California), Desmond Doig (from Calcutta), and I get up at dawn (5 a.m.) and for an hour sweep the countryside with powerful telescopes, trying to observe the animal life that moves. Our tents have an observation hole and we stay inside. So far we have seen goats, weasels, wild dogs, pheasants, chikor, marmots and the red panda. The red panda is a small bear-like animal. He runs on four legs and is as big as a fox. We have seen the marks of musk deer but haven't sighted any.

After breakfast Pat Barcham (from Dunedin) and I have been going out climbing up to 15,000' or more, searching the caves which are numerous. We have a rifle to be used as a last resort in self defence against attack from bears. The Himalayan black bear lives around here and weighs twice as much as a man, and can be formidable in attack. We have a small gun no bigger than a fountain pen which fires tear gas (Again to be used if attacked) and we have a powerful head torch to light the caves. We search the caves and look for signs of bones or tracks or any animal life. If we find anything (and so far we haven't) we are to set up cameras, with electronic flash guns and a trip wire which will take a picture. This is the general plan, but so far it has hardly got under way because of rain and heavy cloud which has dogged us every day."

PRIVATE TRIPSMAKAHU HUT - CAIRN. Oct. 8-9th

It was a perfect day, with both ranges clear, when we set off for Whittle's at about 5.45 a.m. After a hot trip, which was uneventful, apart from seeing four Kakas in the bush before Makahu, we arrived at the hut. The trip had taken  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours. We had intended to have a boil-up at Makahu, then go on up to the cairn and down to Back Hut for the night, but we had been at Makahu Hut for about an hour when six Lindesfarne boys arrived. They said they were going to Back Hut for the night, so we decided Makahu was much better (dunlopillow mattresses etc). We dumped our sleeping gear and made our weary way up to the cairn, taking  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hours. Up at the cairn there was a patch of icy snow

Spending about an hour attempting to glissade, we went over and had a look at Back Hut (just a look), then back up to the cairn, and down to Makahu by about 6 p.m., leaving Lindesfarne heading for Back Hut, on our directions. By now it was getting colder and cloudier, and we boys were pretty tired, so we made our way down to the hut slowly, while Nance screamed off and got the billy boiling. After a welcome stew we hit the sack about 8 p.m.

The next day, after a windy night, we hung around the hut in the sunshine, taking a look at the nursery and meteorological thing and were away by 12 o'clock, coming back past 3550', along the tops, having a bit of scrub bashing to do. - A most satisfying trip/

Nancy Tanner, Ken Tustin, John Townshend.

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TE IRINGA 3rd Sept.

The "toughies" were due to head for Howlett's at 5 a.m. "The Rest" felt like a day's outing and 10 bods in two cars set off just before 8 a.m. for Gentle Annie. It was nice and sunny at Kuripapango, so we pulled in over the bridge to stoke up in anticipation of the climb ahead. We stopped again half way up the hill to admire the drop into the Ngaruroro, and eventually left the cars at the top of Gentle Annie just after 11 a.m.

The sun shone, but the breeze made conditions pleasant for climbing. There was snow only in the bush on top of the ridge, but the Kawekas were still fairly heavily coated. We made the top in three groups from 1 p.m. on - according to speed of climb, stops to admire the view, take photographs, etc. The Kaimanawas were clear, but the volcanoes wore caps and

scarves, and the Rushines didn't look too inviting. The remains of our lunches were downed and the thermos flasks drained. Then we posed on a rocky ridge overhanging the river (about 2000' below) while the photographers did their worst. At 3 o'clock we left the top and an easy  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours toddle saw us back at the cars. At least half the party sang its way back to Hastings by 7 p.m., after a very happy trip, with interesting views thrown in.

No. in party: 10

Doc Bathgate, Rex Chaplin, John Blundell, Edna Ansell, Helen Hill, Annette Tremewan, Glenda Robb, Gae Lobban, Barbara Wallace, Nancy Tanner.

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MAKAHU HUT - KAWEKAS.

July 16th.

An opportunity to take a day trip into the Kawekas was seized in the hope of getting up into what little snow still clung to the tops.

An early start from Havelock enabled us to leave Whittle's at 7.15 and once more we trod the familiar route to Makahu. The Forest Service personnel are obviously not sustained by the pious thought that comfort in the ranges is but a state of mind, for the hut itself has recently been lined throughout with hardboard, painted inside, and fitted with the very modest of cons, even down to Dunlopillo mattresses.

The clouds were down to about 4500' but we never theless took off up the spur behind the hut in the hopes of seeing at least something on top. Fond hopes however. The cloud stayed where it was, the wind steadily increased to a screaming gale, the rain came down and the bottom fell out of the thermometer. In due course however we made the top and peered through the murk to locate the cairn. We still had a couple of hundred yards to go and a little knob to climb but the intemperate climate and a glance at the watch decided us to give it best and turn downwards again. Fumbling about in the mist under such atrocious conditions, looking for the lead down again, wouldn't have been much fun anyway.

We duly made the car at 6 o'clock, having had our full money's worth and then some of the daylight hours.

Party: Jim Glass, Russell and Alan Berry.

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#### F O R E S T R Y      T R I P S .

30th Aug. - 1st Sept: SMITH'S CREEK.

The theory of this outing was that a group of junior rangers were to be introduced to the techniques of group hunting and that we were to tag along and identify the herbage, but in the absence not only of hunters but of deer, proceedings developed into a wander round. Kath and I took our gear up to the Waipawa Forks as arranged, to find no one there, but by piecing

together clues surmised correctly that the party had split up for the day and were not sleeping at the Forks.

This was the case and next day with the party splitting between Middle Creek and Smith's Creek huts, we attached ourselves to the latter in order to cover new country. The route crosses Middle Creek, sidles into the opposite saddle and down a side creek to the hut. There is also a sidling route from Middle Creek into the same saddle. As we were of no particular use to the outfit, we did some poking round on our own account, then came out. We learned that an alternative route up Three Johns is being cut up the leading spur about a mile upstream from McCullough's.

5 - 8 Sept: LOTKOW - MAKAHU.

Next week's party were studying tree-planting on the Kawekas and was more in the nature of a working party. The first day we started up a new track from the Lawrence Hut to Don Juan, but this stopped abruptly giving us a bit of scrub bashing back to the Lotkow route across one of the numerous Jap Creeks with which Forestry is littering the countryside.

Next day to the Makahu, from which we did some track work. The last part of the track has been greatly improved by a deviation on an easy falling grade almost to the level of the saddle cutting out an unnecessary and annoying climb. This is now disced in orange (H.T.C.) red (N.Z.F.S.) and yellow (F.R.E.S.) - an entertaining and colourful variety.

After a day inspecting experimental plantings up to nearly 5000ft. and some experimental sowing of plots on steep screes the main party took off over the top to Studholme's, but I reneged and came out via Puketitiri.

19 - 23 Sept: GWAVAS.

Sitting in on the hunters' course at Gwavas, learning how things have gone over the winter and giving a talk on the horrible things that can happen in the ranges and rescue organisation.

25 -28 Sept: OPAWE.

Mavis Davidson went down with us from Gwavas and we spent two full days crawling round the exclosures, which are erected but not yet goat proof, tallying up the herbage. A slow job particularly in the leatherwood one and darkness overtook us two hours up an overgrown track. Perfect weather though.

21 - 26 Oct: TIRITEA.

Two trips into this country a year ago found it in a mess and a puzzling mess; and a further trip to sort things out was the programme. The locals do not believe in elaborate tracks, but the first day we battled along to a ruined bivvy under Marime Trig. This had been, in its day, a home from home with all comforts including a home made acetylene lighting set, but not now habitable. Next day we pushed on south through scrub along pig tracks and had a fair look at the upper valley. Big dead trees all along the ridge, most apparently kamahi or rata. The following day an old blaze led to the river. Quite good going up this, so good that we overshot one leading spur and nearly committed ourselves to another that would have landed us miles from our camp.

Found another, quite posh, hut, tucked away in a gully. We then came out and went in along the western boundary on the Palmerston side. A day trip mostly

on sheep country but had some excellent views, the weather being good apart from one showery night. There is a long stretch of scrubby tops south of this, practically unknown as far as the Mangahao Gorge, probably most easily tackled from the Wairarapa side.

9 - 18 Nov: KAWEKA TE PUKUOHIKARUA - HARKNESS - TAPUI O MAROA HINE.

The High Country Survey are attempting to cover the whole of the Ngaruroro drainage system this summer, and the first party out was having a look at the Kaweka tussock the plateaux from Venison Top on to Te Pukuohikarua then down to the Harkness and Upper Ngaruroro tussock. I hitched on to this at their base, the cottage on the Fuketitiri Road just beyond the Seafield turn off and we took off over the Black Birch and Kaweka to the Back Hut (Paremata). A strong southerly made the Makahu Spur quite a battle and it took us  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours from the saddle to the rain gauge (which has not been shifted from its unsatisfactory position) up by the cairn.

Next morning we took off for the Back Range. There is now a cut track sidling into Stern's Saddle, and through the bush beyond Maminga for an hour to the open top. There was no opportunity to locate the start of the cut track to Rocks Ahead. Though the sheep have gone the turf still appears close cropped and we saw an unexpected number of Jap deer, shooting two.

We lost half a day at Faremata with the weather. Tussock plots involve crawling about on all fours taking copious notes and on exposed sites is almost impossible in wet weather. However in the afternoon we slipped up the spur and put in two. The boys were having trouble with skinned heels and Malcolm, left at the hut to recuperate, sighted another couple of Jap deer and bowled both of them over.

On Saturday we made for the tops, put a plot in south of the trig then headed for Ballard. While repeating a 1930 panorama I not only put up two red deer but a brace of trampers sitting on the windy crest arguing over a map the position of Trig E. These were Keith and Nigel who had come up the Middle Spur from the Frame and carried a note from Kath - a most impressive postal delivery.

They left for the old mustering camp at the North Kaweka tarn and we straggled down to Ballard. When the boys reached it I was still a couple of hundred feet up the spur and sighted a red stag slipping quietly away up a scree. I couldn't attract anybody's attention but Ralph Naylor was behind me with a rifle so I hung on in hopes of flagging him, but Ralph and the stag sighted each other first and the resulting scatter ended with a convenient supply of venison handy to the hut.

As Sunday was being spent on plots north of Dick's Spur I signed off and went along to attend the Cairn service. From North Kaweka trig I sighted bods toiling up the Makahu Spur and could hear them yodelling merrily to invisible friends, and further along I met a search party after the said invisible friends who had gone astray the previous evening in the Makahu and with them the wreath. Eventually they scrambled out of a shingly gully and we held the service. The mob then took off for home, Maurie Taylor's party coming along the range to retrace Keith and Nigel's route in order to pick up the lorry. After seeing them off I failed to locate my own party, so ducked back to Ballard, having learnt that the helicopter had paid a surprise visit to Back Hut at dawn, and so might be delivering our tucker (and a confirming note from Kath) later in the day - but no luck.

The weather shut in overnight so it was only after some doubts that we took off at 10 o'clock on the next stage of our itinerary, over Venison Top to a fly camp on the next plateau north, which wants a name (I suggest Ahurua, referring to Philip's



cairns). Since we last had a party through the undergrowth has opened up making the going easier, Venison Top four hours from Ballard.

A quick look round showed the scrub dying back and a little tussock, both snowgrass and red tussock starting to appear with a lot of *Celmisia*, then down our 1952 blaze, adding some discs, to the saddle and up to Ahurua.

The fly camp was pretty bleak, just inside the bush at the top of a great cliff, more like photos of the Australian Blue Mountains than the Kawekas, with a helicopter landing on the edge of space. No sign of a helicopter and no tucker - and we had optimistically brought little more than rice over from Ballard. All we found was a packet of cocoa in a blown down tent - however we repitched the tents and made ourselves comfortable for the night.

The weather got revoltingly worse but we had no option but to push on, finding sporadic blazing and discing and even some attempts at track cutting which saved us at least an hour across to Te Pukuohikarua. We had planned to put in a day here but it was murky blowing and raining, impossible to see much let alone do anything, so after a quick look round, low scrub, some boggy patches and practically no tussock, we took off down the long leading spur south of the trig to the fly camp in the Ngaawapurua.

This is poorly sited in the bush edge on the shady side of the valley. No helicopter visit, but there was another packet of cocoa some flour and hard biscuits and a little tinned food, with venison and wild mutton handy. We had seen kiwi probings on the top, and that night heard one calling.

The boys' next job was up on Ruatakaikare (the Doc's Green Hill) but Ralph and I were due at Tapui o Marua Hine so next morning we separated. On our way up the Ngaawapurua we sighted 30 odd sheep and 7-8 deer, then over the low saddle into the Ngaruroro and so to Tapui o Marua Hine. This is not the best route. The spur that takes off Te Pukuohikarua a little north of the trig is dog-legged but comes out opposite the saddle and a blaze down it would give easier going and save a couple of hours on the through trip.

Smoke rising from Boyd's Hut cheered but puzzled us. This was an unexpected Rotorua (Forest Survey) party driven in by the weather from a Mangamingi reconnaissance and we had hardly got our packs off when our own party began to straggle in from the Oamaru with heavy packs but including food and we had our first brew of tea since leaving Ballard. At 8 p.m. the rearguard came in by torchlight having travelled through from Napier in a day. With 14 bods, some of them new hands, the hut was a bit crowded.

It was a dirty night with a powdering of snow down to 4000ft. at daybreak, but the Rotorua party made an early breakfast and took off smartly for the head of the Harkness. Our mob were divided into two groups for elementary botanizing and I spent the day going up and down between the trig and the hut pointing out silver beech and mountain beech and identifying the lesser herbage. Towards evening the grassland party followed us in, having put in a couple of plots on the way under atrocious conditions.

There was no sign nor prospect of a helicopter visit (I now wonder if it wasn't our rations that were unloaded at Back Hut) and food was soon going to be a problem, so three of us who had to come out left a day early to jack up pack horses from Ngamatea. We made pretty fast time, 4½ hours to the Pumice Chimney, between windfalls and log-jams the Oamaru track is not the best. I narrowly escaped

losing a third pair of spectacles when I took a skate down a bank.

Our arrival at the Rangitaiki pub to ring up rather startled the locals - I got a sympathetic buckshee whisky, presumably on my shaggy and battered appearance. And so home.

N.L.E.

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OUR SWEETCORN CROP.

Phil did the cultivating, Annette, Keith and Phil put in 15 lbs. of seed. A working party of 18 spent about an hour thinning and weeding. Then on the morning of the mystery trip 21 of us (including the baby) weeded fairly solidly. We were grateful to Mrs. Thompson for the orange drink she brought out half way through the morning. The sweetcorn is coming along nicely.

No. in first party: 18. Phil Bayens, Els Bayens, Nigel Thompson, Margaret Mison, Nancy Tanner, Keith Garratt, Hugh Wilde, Bob Adams, Hal Christian, Gae Lobban, Annette Tremewan, John Townshend, Tony Corbin, Ken Tustin, Derek Boshier, Jim Beer, George Prebble, Jim Glass.

No. in second party: 21. Maurie, Barbara & Robin Taylor, Barbara Wallace, Margaret Mison, Helen Hill, Edna Ansell, Nancy Tanner, Janet Lloyd, Hugh Wilde, Chris Johnson, George & Alison Bee, Don Lipp, Gae Lobban, Annette Tremewan, John Townshend, Tony Corbin, Ken Tustin, Derek Boshier, Jim Beer.

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BACK COUNTRY TALES - LESTER MASTERS.

Lester Masters has been haunting the back country for many years and his new book is mostly written round the huts we know, or know of, the men who built them and lived in them and the stories that have collected round the men and the huts. Some of these are legends from before our time, like the story of Murderer's Hut, why Black Whare changed its name and the occupation of Ball's Clearing; other old timers like Alec Shute come into the early days of the club, though the story is not told here of how he lost control of his dogs when he was struck dumb by the realization that he was in the presence of a mixed party. Some of the more recent stories are a part of the club's unofficial history.

Here are photographs that will stir many lethargic memories; the Ruahine Hut, with its picturesque slab and thatch and Herrick's Hut, both of which have now vanished; others, like Shute's Hut which are only known to a handful of people; a shudderingly cold photograph of No Man's under snow, besides other huts and scenes familiar to the present generation of trampers.

N.L.E.

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## CLUB TRIPS

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TARAPONUI

No.639

10th July, 1960

Our usual early morning mist eventually cleared, but even with the help of the weather we couldn't find two of our bods. So being keen to make a start we dropped in while passing and pulled both innocent people from their comfortable dreams, much to their annoyance.

The road wasn't quite a main highway but Keith managed with only the odd incident. Once we couldn't turn a corner which just wasn't facing square on from our direction and was meant only for Land Rovers etc.. The truck was a little long. Once or twice we nearly lost a couple of bods over the back, which was part of the fun of riding on an old car seat which still had good springs.

Leaving the truck as near as possible to our destination we followed on up the track until we felt the pangs of hunger and settled down for lunch by a stream. This stream will long have the marks of the assault on it by a pack of young boys who let mud fly in all directions. For myself, I don't know which had the most mud, my hair or the tea we were trying hard to boil the water for. After a short climb upwards we stumbled across the trig. The view was marvellous but the cold wind made us turn towards home. The young energetic types hurried off leaving us staid ones to follow at a leisurely pace. With one lengthy stop to dispose of a tin of pineapple and some sweets, we finally arrived back at the truck.

No. in party: 16

Leader: Glenda Robb

Pam Lewis, Gae Lobban, Tony Collins, David Evans, Graham Evans, Keith Garratt, Naida Robb, Nancy Tanner, Annette Tremewan, Jim Beer, John Townshend, Derek Boshier, David Smith, Peter Curnow, Lionel Rogers.

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KIWI SADDLE HUT

No.640

6-7th August

We left Hastings after waiting twenty minutes for two late arrivals and set out for Kuripapango, making a detour through Crownthorpe on account of road maintenance. Our thanks go to Cy Hargreaves and Keith Garratt who acted as our drivers.

Leaving the Pine at 9.10am we farewelled two of the party at the cutoff to Kiwi track. They went in to Studholme's Saddle Hut to replace a broken axe handle. We made our way up to 4100' where we lunched in a sunny spot. Here binoculars were in constant use. Kiwi Hut was reached by all 'bods' at 2.20pm. Nigel and Bob were sighted once on their way over Kaiarahi. We had intended to go out via Kaiarahi and Kaweka Hut, and had made a luncheon date with the two bods from Studholme's Saddle hut.

But at 9.20am on Sunday these two arrived at Kiwi.

Sunday morning was spent in wood chopping, eating and resting. A stay was cut for the chimney support, but couldn't be put into position because of the lack of hammer and nails. A working party could well be used in Kiwi Hut. Of the eight bunks, only two are really whole and secure. A good clean out is also necessary.

At 1.30 pm a start was made for home. At approx 9.45 that morning three of the party had set out for Kaiarahi and Kaweka Hut, with an estimated time of arrival at the truck 5 pm. The truck was due back at the Pine at that time.

Toiling over 4594', snow fights, the building of a snowman, a brilliant flying tackle on a shingle slide, and a little further down the slide, jet propulsion culminating in a 20' flight over heavy stones, was the order of the afternoon. Our two bruised 'bods' were pleased to see the truck waiting, - reaching it about 5pm. We were still awaiting the arrival of the other Three at 8 pm. Imagination was working overtime. Several people thought, indeed they were positive, that they could see torch lights now and again. A meeting of the 'Big Five' which included our two drivers, resulted in the party being taken back to Hastings with the exception of four who elected to stay at Swamp Cottage. The idea was that a fast reconnaissance party consisting of Keith Garratt and Bob Adams, should go to Kaweka Hut, then via Kaiarahi to Kiwi Hut, and out again on the Monday morning. The other two members should go in to Kaweka and come out with the boys (should they be there) or with a message for anyone who might come in with the truck.

Keith and Bob left Swamp Cottage at 7.20am and after clearing away breakfast (such as it was), and tidying up, Margaret and I left for Kaweka. There was no sign of anyone except for melting snow in the food box. Our thanks go to Forestry for the food (since replaced). We were rather short of it. Our Sunday night meal consisted of a tin of sweet corn followed by  $\frac{1}{4}$  rasher of bacon each.

Arriving back at the road we found Cy there with the truck and food. So the three of us went back to the nearest phone about 9 miles away at Willowford, and a call was put through to Alan. At 3pm Keith and Bob were back, the round trip having taken them seven hours. They had only seen some footprints almost covered with snow.

At about this time also our three missing sheep had passed us while we were in Swamp Cottage and were at the truck. They had turned off Kaiarahi on the other side, and spent the night below the snow-line under beech trees. Although they arrived at the truck at about 3pm, it was only a lucky chance that brought us all together at about 6pm. So, after eating the food that had been brought in to us, we left Swamp Cottage at approx. 7.30pm putting in another phone call, and dropping the last of the seven weary 'bods' at his front gate at about 10pm on Monday night.

Altogether an eventful trip.

Number in party: 17

Leader: Annette Tremewan

Margaret Mison, Gae Lobban, Jill Dale, Nigel Thompson, Bob Adams, Tony Collins, John Blundell, Graeme Shattky, Graeme Evans, David Evans, Peter Curnow, Ken Tustin, Jim Beer, John Townshend, Hugh Wild, Stuart Barcham.

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# S N O W C R A F T

No. 641

21st August

This was supposed to be a snowcraft trip. Well, have you ever tried to demonstrate step-cutting, glissading, arresting, a fall, in waist-deep powdery snow? No? Well don't. It's hopeless! There is one good thing we got on this trip and that was snow, and plenty of it too. It was on the ground just below the forks, on the rocks, trees - the darned stuff came even out of the sky. Snow affects people (trampers) in all sorts of ways. Some insist on picking it up and throwing it left, right and centre regardless of where it hits you. Others cannot resist it. They take a flying leap at it, land on their stomachs and hope they will slide along a few yards. Final result: Their face is full of snow, their clothing is covered with it. Ultimately the snow melts and leaves them sopping wet. What a thrill!! Others think it is alright, then come to the conclusion it is rather cold. They have no clue what to do about it. They sit down and that is the end of them. Others try to slide on the stuff on boards and sledges, which is to my way of thinking just another way of saying good-bye. Finally there are others who admire it from a long way away and stay in bed when there is only a slight whisper of a snow trip. They are the real smarties; but they don't know what they are missing.

After this introduction - there is not much left to say. I nearly forgot the weather. After a week of lousy weather in Hastings we did not expect much in the hills. Surprisingly enough it was tolerable. In the morning a little rain and mist at 3500' - 4000', but no wind. In the afternoon heavy snow as we worked our way down to the truck. We were home at 7.

No. in party: 15

Leader: Phil Bayens

Tony Collins, Jim Beer, Hugh Wild, David Wild, Richard Shadwell, Bob Adams, John Blundell, Hal Christian, Dick Frizzell, Tony Corbin, John Townshend, Nancy Tanner, Els Bayens, Edna Ansell.

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# HOWLETT'S - OTUMORE

No. 642

3-4th September, 1960

This trip was remarkable in that it had four drivers so that on the way back several stops were made merely to give them all a fair go. On entering the hills beyond Ashley Clinton we took the left hand road leaving the truck at the spot marked "Home-stead". This placed us well up opposite the Moorcock Stream and with a little walking we had travelled north a bit, then crossed this stream and climbed a spur onto the ridge overlooking the Tuki-

tuki River. A well-cut track led off towards the gorge where we got cooled down. Unfortunately Maurie sprained an ankle so lunch in the bright orange Daphne hut was welcome. This 12 - 1.30pm stop coincided with a heavy shower.

We set off then without Maurie on a nicely disced track up the ridge and finally ploughed through the snow to reach Howlett's about 5. Next morning mist obscured the heights but glissading was indulged in by the braver ones. The main party returned to escort Maurie down river while Phil and Hal set off in the snow for Otumore, Pohangina Hut, along the clear ridge N.E. before dropping off almost opposite the truck. This was then driven down to Mill Farm where after a pleasant cuppa, the direction was homeward.

No. in party: 10

Leaders: Phil Bayens  
Hal Christian

Derek Conway, Maurie Taylor, Jack Landman, Bob Adams, Tony Corbin, Jim Beer, Graye Shattky, Ken Carmichael.

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### LAWRENCE HUT

No. 643

18th September.

We were away from Hastings by 6.30am and arrived at the Blowhard rocks around about 9.am. The track out to the Lawrence Hut was in good condition and easily followed.

Lawrence Hut was reached after two hours almost non-stop tramping, and a fire was lit. While the older members of the party rested outside in the warm spring sunshine the younger generation amused themselves inside the hut which is equipped with all modern amenities i.e. foam rubber mattresses, and well stocked with reading matter. After lunch Rex and Doc arrived so the billy was put on to boil again.

A proposal at this stage was put forward, that a trip out via the Kaweka track would make a round trip and also accomplish something. The majority agreed and by 1.30 ten of us were on a well cut track heading for the South Tutaekuri. From here the track climbed up to a plateau and wound its way through poor manuka country to a fly camp, then set off in a series of straight stretches to the Kaweka track north of the Lakes.

The truck was reached between 6 and 6.30pm, and having done a fair 8 hours work most of the people were rather tired and were pleased when we at last got home to Hastings at about 9pm.

No. in party: 18

Leader: J.R. Adams (Bob)

Norm Elder, Helen Hill, Nancy Tanner, Annette Tremewan, Gae Lobban, Glenda Robb, John Townshend, Ken Tustin, Jim Beer, Barbara Taylor, Tony Corbin, Peter Curnow, Derek Boshier, Glenis Perry, Barbara Wallace, Rex Chaplin, Doc Bathgate

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COOK'S HORN

No.644

1-2nd September

Truck arrived safely at starting point - clothes shed and donned, packs on and away. Everyone arrived at Kaweka Hut, some taking a little longer than others due to exploring tendencies. During the afternoon some of the more energetic and fitter bods took off up the slopes to find some rock, finally ending up at Cook's Horn. Five late comers arrived in time for stew, after which and during which there was much practicing of crevasse rescue, rappeling and double roping off the rafters. These were followed by demonstrations of physical prowess!!?

Sunday morning saw nearly everyone on their way to Cook's Horn again - where some serious (?) rock climbing was carried out. Three bods hared off to Kaiarahi and then met up with the rest of the party at Cook's Horn. Lunch at 12 noon in Kaweka Hut, and then we were away.

No. in party: 17

Leader: John Fabian

Des Coote, Derek Boshier, Jim Beer, Ken Tustin, John Townshend, Lionel Rogers, Stuart Barcham, Keith Garratt, Chris Johnson, John Blundell, Maurie Taylor, John Brabant, Gae Lobban, Margaret Mison, Glenis Perry, Annette Tremewan.

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SMEDLEY

No.645

16th October

We left Hastings at 7am with the weather looking rather doubtful. Unfortunately by the time the party reached Smedley, due to the hoooley the night before, most people were asleep. However five set off through the mist up a gorse-covered spur. At the top of the spur we paused for a quick breather by a "No Parking" sign. From there we moved across a saddle and climbed the Sugar-Loaf. The view was great-mist. The weather was slowly improving from rain to a light drizzle so we stopped underneath some dripping trees for lunch. After consulting the map the navigator decided that the hut was another two hours hard traveling away so we took another spur back to the truck. Although at the start the spur looked quite clean it slowly turned into a lovely gorse-covered job. By three o'clock we were reunited with the remainder of the party who had stayed behind at the shearers quarters. We were back in Hastings by 6pm. But this was not the end of the Story, for a week later I was still picking gorse thorns out of my legs!

No. in party: 9

Leader: Gae Lobban

Bob Adams, Gay McDonald, Chris Johnson, Tony Corbin, Ken Tustin, Cy Hargreaves, Margaret Mison, Annette Tremewan.

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EGMONT - LABOUR WEEKEND

No. 646

20-22nd October

The new canopy was the thing about the truck that was different for twenty members as they stacked packs and ice axes inside for the first time. 9.30pm Friday - and the route was south through the Manawatu Gorge and Feilding. A brief pause for sleep from 3 to 6 am was rudely shattered by Bob's stentorian bellow at precisely 5.15. The fine weather of the Taranaki province did not extend to the top of Mt. Egmont, 8260 ft. till 9.30 by which time however we had located Snow Mace at Stratford Mountain House and photographed the mountain. The truck left at the Plateau, we climbed an extra 500 ft. to reach our headquarters, Mangonui Hut 4,500 ft.

By noon we were settled in, generator going, water tank full. Four parties set off on various routes, all nicely detailed on note paper. Keith headed a rope with Henry Kolff and Bob Adams for the difficult S.E. ridge ascent of the main peak; Graye led a collection of rock-climbing goats - the human ones chasing the cloven-hoofed variety from their natural habitat. The fourth form boys made a bee-line for the snow slopes and I led the final party on an easy ascent of Fanthom's Peak 6,458 ft. A fifth and gallant column, mainly the girls and Chris, tackled the dinner date. By dusk all had returned, Keith unfortunately turning back within 100' of the top, due to lack of time and the elusiveness of the actual summit. Tony Corbin and Hugh Wilde had their first experience of rope work and step cutting in the exhilarating traverse from Fanthom's Peak round the face of Egmont back to the Hut.

On the Sunday the very favourable weather report produced mountain mist. In this atmosphere we made the hour's walk to Tahurangi Hut, gathered information, a final ice axe to make them exactly go round (we had hired 5 from Snow Mace), and a guide, Tim Riley, who very kindly escorted us up on to the snow and spent a profitable hour on rope and axe instruction. At 2.30 the mist was still as thick as pea soup and we reluctantly sent back with Tim all but 8 of our party. The two ropes made the summit an hour later, at which time the mist miraculously lifted allowing a pictorial record for the Club. A controlled roped glissade down the Fanthom's Peak slope and a traverse completed a memorable trip. Apart from the two leaders this group consisted of Henry, Bob, Tony, Graye, Alan and Bruce. We are grateful to the several more senior members of the party who returned with Tim, thus making the two ropes of four more manageable.

There was some talk of a 3am start on Monday to take most of the rest up, given a fine day, but time was lacking. Instead cards toast and cocoa till midnight, a grand clean-up in the morning, a pleasant drive back to Hawke's Bay with fish and chips at Wanganui, and a very enjoyable trip was over.

Our special thanks go to the Stratford Mountain Club for the use of their fine Hut, to Keith for doing all the driving,



and to various club members for lending axes, ropes, etc.

No. in party: 20

Leaders: Keith Garrett &  
Hal Christian

Gae Lobban, Margaret Mison, Annette Tremewan, Peter Curnow, Peter Mayson, John Townshend, Ken Tustin, Derek Boshier, Jim Beer, Chris Johnston, Hugh Wilde, Graye Shattky, Alan Clark, Bruce Robertson, Henry Kolff, Tony Corbin, John Blundell, Bob Adams.

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GUY FAWKES BARBECUE - HORSESHOE BEND - KAHURANAKI

No. 647

5-6th November

Eleven bods left Holt's somewhere around 2 pm Saturday for Horseshoe Bend. We duly arrived about 3pm and everyone made a beeline for the swimming hole. It was rather a neat one, actually. After recovering from that, the boys got together and collected fire wood for our bonfire.

Various people kept showing up until about 8 pm. and the final count was about 33. I believe about 8 bods paid the Scouts Camp down the road a visit - what for I don't know, do you? The barbecue broke up about midnight. Next morning some bright people woke us up at 5.30am but the morning was really heralded by the arrival of Cy at 6.00 am. on his sweat machine, having biked from Hastings where he had been to -----? He promptly flaked out from lack of sleep. We aroused him 2 hours later to drive us to Kahuranaki.

We had 10 starters for that trip, but we may as well have not gone, as we didn't find cave or trig and really did nothing but walk round in one big circle. Two hours later we came down and spent the rest of the day lazing on the bank, swimming, climbing trees, fighting and throwing stew!

We arrived back in the Big Smoke about 5pm with 16 bodies on board. An extremely energetic trip!

Leader: Margaret Mison

Annette Tremewan, Gae Lobban, Gay McDonald, Jim Beer, Hugh Wilde, M. Robertson, Stuart Barcham, Chris Johnson, Derek Boshier, Tony Corbin, Cy Hargreaves, Ken Tustin, John Townshend, Peter Curnow, and Ian Wallis.

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CAIRN TRIP

No. 648

12-13th November

We left about the usual time, six o'clock plus, bent for a new route, via Cook's Cottage and up the Makahu stream. In theory, we only had to follow the stream, up the correct tributary, to its source beside the Makahu hut. At Cook's Cottage we parted from Nigel and Keith, who were trying an even newer and longer route that involved coming up over North Kaweka trig; and 14 of us set off up the stream. Paces varied a good deal, with the

result that the whole party was united for the first time, about mid-afternoon, for such a brief instant that the vanguard failed to be in on a discussion between Nancy and Maurie (the only ones who had done it before) as to which fork to take where. We had been counting stream junctions, but got a different answer from the map. We finally turned up a minor trickle, leaving a note for the vanguard to find when they got astray and came back to look for us. (Mis-calculation here.) We battered through some lawyer-inhabited bush and came out on a bare clay top, where there was not only a clear view of the main range above us, so that we could decide where we were, but a disc and a cut track to the hut, about 15 minutes away. We had come out one stream to the north of the hut stream.

We spent a comfortable night; the others did not turn up, but it was a fine night, and they had tents, though no billies.

At 6am Peter Lewis turned up from his home, opposite Ball's Clearing. At 8 we set off up, some of us going by the northern fork of the ridge in the hope of seeing the strays. A lovely sunny day, and the usual slog upwards. From time to time shouts below informed us of arrivals from Hastings, a carload which had left town at 4am. About 10.30 our party began to straggle over the skyline to the Cairn; up the ridge from Back Hut came Keith and Nigel; and over North Kaweka from parts unknown came Norm. Even our lost bods turned up, having waited until 10am in their crash-camp for us to come and find them; and then making a belated rush to the rendezvous at the Cairn. The ranges seemed positively suburban with so much traffic. Keith and Nigel reported being awakened at 5 am by a helicopter landing beside the hut with a load of stores; and Kath was able to bring news to Norm of the birth of another grandchild.

The usual simple service was held, read by Norman, and listened to by 21 people. The poppy wreath was placed on the Cairn by the youngest present, Stuart Barcham.

The party then split into five groups. Norman departed for further back, 2 went out via Kuripapango, 5 via North Kaweka and Cook's Cottage, the strays back to their camp to recover their goods and back down the Makahu stream, and the rest of us back to the Makahu hut. Five minutes below the Cairn we met the president, who had left Hastings so early, stopped 300 feet below the top for a breather, gone to sleep and slumbered peacefully through the service. (There were extenuating circumstances.- Ed.)

From the hut we tried yet another variation. Peter Lewis offered to show us a new route out which avoided that tiresome little pull out of Gorge Stream. He was as good as his word; but the route involved some heavy manuka bashing that robbed it of some of its joy. This was more than compensated for, however, by the hospitality showed us by the Lewis family, while we waited for the truck to turn up with the other parties. At 8.15 pm it came into view, and everyone was home about 10 pm.

No. in party: 23

Leader: Helen Hill

Weekend: Nancy Tanner, Maurie Taylor, Kath Elder, Margaret Mison  
Pam Lewis, Ian Wallis, Chris Johnston, Stuart Barcham, Rex Chaplin,

Hugh Wilde, George Bee, Nigel Thompson, Keith Garratt, Gay McDonald, Dick Brace.

Sunday: Alan Berry, Annette Tremewan, Bob Adams, Graye Shattky, Phil Painter, Peter Lewis, Norm Elder.

Middle Ridge Route: At 11.50 Nancy, Annette, Maurie, and George left the Cairn for Cook's Cottage via North Kaweka, Middle spur, Cullers bivouac, and the Frame. - Nigel and Keith took this route in reverse on their way up. - With us also was Norm on his way back to work on the slopes of Trig E. 1 pm saw us above Dicks spur for a spell and natter. 30 minutes later we took off over the edge, down a longish bare ridge for an hour to the bush edge, thence by a well disced track to cross the upper Koaro stream, up the other side and 15 minutes to Cullers bivy. An hours stop for a boil up and very late lunch at 3.30 was most welcome. The lower reaches of the Koaro stream were reached an hour later at 5.30,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours travel downstream, also disced, brought us to the Makahu - Hot Springs road and an hour's trudge found us at the truck at 7.10 pm. - A very enjoyable trip.

#### OLD MEMBERS PICNIC

Only six of us set out for Kuripapango this year, but two more turned up while we were having lunch at the foot of the waterfall. Cy had gone a bit further down the road and had been chatting to the pilot of the helicopter who had come across Nigel and Keith at Back Hut earlier in the morning. Later in the day Nigel and Keith arrived in person and gave us all the news of the cairn party, so we felt quite in touch even though there was no radio communication.

No. in party: 8

Joan Smith, Barbara Taylor, Janet Lloyd, Martin Lloyd, Richard Fowler, Angus Russell, Cy Hargreaves, Peggy Robertson.

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#### HINERUA RIDGE

No. 649

14-15th May

(This should have been in the last copy of "Pohokura". Apologies - Ed.)

Left Holts Friday night at 9pm and made camp for the rest of the night at the roadhead. The following morning we left the truck at 9 am and hit the Hinerua Ridge which we followed till we arrived at the Hut, where we had an early lunch. It was decided that we would push on with the intention of camping below Paemutu. But with cold wind and mist we reached the edge of the bush line, cleared a site and proceeded to bed down. An early stew was had by all, after which some retired for the night, while others sat around toasting crumpets and swapping tales.

Next morning the weather was lousy. Hughie sent us strong winds and mist. Hence breakfast (or brunch) was eaten down at the Hinerua Hut. We left the Hut at approx 11am and made our way down Smiths track so reaching, and following, Smiths Creek till we reached a branch of the Waipawa River. 3pm saw us lunching. Shortly after we met our first gorge. Not being able to pass thro' we had to detour, this taking up a lot of time. From here a waterfall had to be negotiated, which necessitated the use of a rope, dropping down to the river again about 40 or 50 feet. Very deep pools had to be waded, and soon darkness was beginning to fall. By this time some of the members had dropped behind, and it was thought that we had reached the correct spur leading onto the Hinerua Ridge.

The forward party followed this, leaving two members including the leader at the river to wait for the stragglers. The advance parties were overtaken by utter darkness, weren't sure where they were and as it was bitterly cold, decided to hit the sack and wait for the leader and rest of party, this being about 6.30pm. About 9.15 the leader arrived with the news that 3 of our number were missing. It was decided that we would stay put till daylight. That night plans were made to notify the outside world. However, early the next morning the three turned up. They had turned off from the river too soon.

With daylight the main party found that they had turned up one spur too soon. 12 noon saw us at Waipawa, the fish and chip shop was kept busy and also the telephone exchange, but we were unable to make contact with Hastings. We finally arrived at Hastings Police Station at about 1pm, and clocked in at Holts where we were <sup>met</sup> by an advance search party.

No. in party: 14

Leader: John Fabian

Peter Napier, Ken Tustin, John Townshend, Peter Curnow, Bob Adams, John Blundell, John Hole, Tony Collins, Graham Evans, David Evans, Annette Tremewan, Gae Lobban, Joan Newey.

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#### STRAYING

#### TRAMPERS.

The Club cannot but view with concern the fact that on three occasions this year parties or members of a party have been forced to spend a night in the open that had not been intended.

The circumstances in each case varied but the results all confirm one fact - that the Club is desperately short of mature members and experienced leaders. We are very pleased to see the number of younger members coming into the Club although the membership is now becoming unbalanced to the point that it is giving rise to the problem which we now face.

Fortunately the Club's wanderings have had no serious consequences but the resultant publicity has done nothing to improve the Club's standing in the eyes of parents and the general public. We must therefore take every

possible step to see that these incidents do not recur.

1. The Fixture Committee must entrust trips only to leaders who they are satisfied can cope with present parties.
2. Where warranted by conditions and the country being traversed leaders generally will need to exercise more rigid control over their parties.
3. Members should play their part too by recognising the authority of their leader and by co-operating in anything that they are requested to do. When asked to keep together members should see that they do so - parties straggled over half a mile in unfamiliar country are just not good enough.

Above all, USE A BIT OF COMMON SENSE. It can keep us all out of a lot of trouble.

A.V. Berry.

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#### ADDITIONS to the ROUTE GUIDE.

Tukituki: From Thomson's Mill Farm a track now crosses the river & up the opposite spur.

Smith's Creek: From Hinerua Hut a cut track sidles north then drops down a gully into Smith's Creek about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile below that hut.

From Smith's Creek Hut a track goes up over the toe of the spur behind the hut and drops into the northern branch. A mile up this it climbs steeply into a bush saddle, where a track to Middle Creek Hut goes up the spur for a while then sidles to that hut.

The route out continues in a side from the saddle on to a grass ridge running north to Middle Creek. The crossing is a little upstream of the toe of the ridge. (Smith's Ck. - McCullough's,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours).

Middle Creek: The route from McCullough's sidles into the bush in order to avoid the cliff and follows the creek up to the hut.

Waipawa: A new cut track leaves the river about a mile above McCullough's and follows a ridge up to Three Johns.

Gold Creek: A cut track from Gold Creek Hut climbs on to the outer ridge then sidles south to the head of the clearing known as "The Flounder", on which it drops to Triplex Creek and the base hut on the old Shut Eye horse track.

#### KAWEKA RANGE:

Macintosh: A cut track from the foot of the spur that comes down from Studholme's Saddle drops south across a deep gully then sidles round the Cook's Horn spur to drop into the creek a little below Kaweka Hut.

Kaweka Crest: The times given in the route guide along the top can be cut down. Trig - Dick's Spur 1 hour; Dick's Spur - Ballard 1 hour.

Northern Kaweka: There are now a few discs across to Venison Top and across to the next scrub top (for which the name Ahurua is suggested), where there is a fly camp and helicopter landing. Beyond this sporadic blazing discing and cutting lead across to Te Pukuohikarua. These reduce times

considerably: Ballard - Venison Top 4 hours; Venison Top - Te Puku 6 hours.

This blaze does not continue on the route given in the guide, but takes off down a strong leading spur south of the trig to a fly camp and helicopter landing in the eastern branch of the Ngaawapurua, two hours downstream of the direct route.

Back Range: There is now a cut track from the Back Hut which sidles into Stern's Saddle and continues for an hour beyond Maminga (Trig C) on to the open range. The track (cut) to Rocks Ahead appears to take off here down the bush edge in a NW direction on to a leading spur. From the southern end of the range the track probably continues to Kiwi Mouth Hut.

Makahu. Middle Spur: The route leaves the Hot Springs track at the Frame and is cut and disced upstream to the foot of Middle Spur. A little above the fly camp (near Trig A) the track leaves the ridge, crosses the valley to the south of it and reaches the crest of the range by the ridge between Dick's Spur and Trig E.

N.L.E.

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CLUB EVENINGS: Highlights of the last social programme were Mr. Snadden's talk on First Aid, Helen's slides, and Ang's reminiscences. We also wish to thank Angus for the marvellous supper he put on for us at the Annual General Meeting.

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NEW MEMBERS: We welcome the following to the club:-  
Des Coote, Hugh Wilde (junior), Ken Carmichael, Tony Corbin.

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SOCIAL NEWS: Births: To Kath and Alan Berry, a son.  
To Ron and Alison Procter (née Elder), a son.

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#### SOCIAL PROGRAMME.

Jan. 18th: Films and short talks by various members on their occupations.  
Feb. 1st: Further talks on occupations.  
Feb. 15th: Talk on forestry huts.  
March 1st: Slides by Helen and Hal.  
March 15th: Films.  
March 29th: Quiz Evening.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY: Remember the Jungle Evening to be held on December 16th.  
Bring all your friends. Ladies a plate, Gentlemen, 3/-.

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<u>Date:</u>	<u>F I X T U R E</u>	<u>TRIP:</u>	<u>1st</u> <u>S T.</u>	<u>Leader.</u>	<u>Fare:</u>
Dec. 10-11:	Kairakau Beach.			Edna Ansell.	9/-
<u>Christmas:</u>	Dec. 24-27:	Colenso Lake via Colenso Spur.		Nancy Tanner.	10/-
Jan. 22nd:	Tangoio Beach.			Ken Tustin.	7/-
Feb. 4-5th:	Cook's Cottage, South Spur, Ballard Hut, Dick's Spur - Northern Kaweka.			Keith Garratt.	10/-
Feb. 19th:	Bushcraft: Milne's Homestead to S. Tuki-			Maurie Taylor.	10/-
March 4-5th:	Te Atumahuru, tarns, Gold Creek, ) plus Easy Trip - Gold Creek )			N. Ruahines Cy Hargreaves.	10/-
March 19th:	Trial Search - Triplex Creek area.			Alan Berry.	10/-
<u>Easter:</u>	Mar. 31- No Man's Hut, Shute's, Lessong's -			Phil Bayens.	10/-
April 3rd:				N. Ruahines. Bob Adams.	
April 16th:	Three Johns from North Spur track.			Els Bayens.	10/-
April 29-30th:	Tutaekuri R., Macintosh Hut, Lawrence.			Nigel Thompson.	10/-
<u>N.B.:</u>	These fares are reducible by 2/- if paid before or on the trip.				

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A Merry Christmas to all members, and good tramping in 1961.

Subscriptions Reduced from 25/- to £1 if paid by December 31st.

First Meeting in 1961 will be held in the Radiant Living Hall on Jan. 18th.

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Heretaunga Tramping Club

Invite Members and Friends to a

# JUNGLE EVENING

IN THE MINIATURE RIFLE CLUB HALL - HASTINGS ST. W.

On December 16th. at 8 p.m.

LADIES A PLATE GENTS 3/-

N.B. 1/- Extra Penalty for No Costume

