

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (Inc.)

" P O H O K U R A "

Bulletin No. 90.

April 1962.

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PRACTICE SEARCHES

In the past fortnight I have had to do some fossicking into early club history for Rex Evans. Odd bits of information have bobbed up which I had either completely overlooked at the time or long since forgotten and some of these are worth putting on record as they help to explain the H.T.C. and what makes a tramping club tick - all tramping clubs in some degree but one club in particular.

The Armstrong Search (1935) was the start of everything and Ian Powell (whatever he or anyone else may say) was the man who sparked it off. Ian was actually in Shut Eye when Armstrong landed over the saddle; A fortnight later when the first scatty search was called off it was Ian who went back and found the plane sitting in the middle of his proposed ski run, he guided the Tikokino party in on a second search and after they had drawn a blank it was his statement "If there'd been a tramping club here ..." that started the ball rolling.

The H.T.C. came into existence six months later, a mixed bag of shooters, skiers, trampers and nature lovers, and for a start it was touch and go what it was going to be. The design of the club badge is a relic of the proposal that it should become a branch of the Ruapehu Ski Club, the club colours are a link with the Aero Club and we were going to be the Hawke's Bay, Kaweka or Hastings Tramping Club till some genius put up "Heretaunga".

What amazes me in looking up the records is that it was an unsuccessful search that started the club yet it was $2\frac{1}{2}$ years before we made our first practice search. This sounds crazy, yet when I come to think back I can partly see why.

The club began as a magnificent bunch of mavericks (naming no names), and the few of us who had served our time in the metropolitan clubs, (Janet, A.S.C., Ian, Hutt Valley, Kath and I in the Tararuas) pretty soon found out if we hadn't learnt before that Hawke's Bay wasn't Wellington. People joined for fun, to enjoy themselves with their particular gang, cook colossal meals, sing and natter. Any serious-minded organizer asking them to be on time or do contact search through a dirty patch of scrub could go and chase himself.

Individualists - my oath! Club meetings for the first nine months were a series of frenzied battles over club colours, badges, lizards and similar problems.

The first search was a sweep of Triplex Creek; but it was not until the second search in the club's third year that home grown talent, Doug Callow for one, appears in the search reports. This search was a sweep downhill from the wreckage of the plane combined with a contact search through leatherwood - quite an experience for beginners.

faly/ The war stopped a planned 3-day reconnaissance of the Maropea and after the war there was a run of searches, Kiwi Saddle, Tacon, Howletts and Ignimbrite being the main ones, which gave us all the practising we wanted - but it is surprising to find that there was a gap of 15 years before Wally Romanes organized a trial search in the Cook's Horn Basin with live victims. Their performance was complicated by an unforeseen snow-which made it impossible for them to escape from the Kaweka Hut without leaving tracks.

Since then searches have been run almost every year. In 1955 up Search Creek in the Makaroro a gale cut power off in Hastings and messed up communications, but the missing party were tracked down blood hound-fashion by their smoke. Later in the same year a party spent an interesting day with a St. John party and a Neil-Robertson stretcher in the scrub at Bottley Creek. The proceedings have been immortalized in song.

Next year problems of a long night carry were uppermost in everybody's mind, in consequence of certain events at Kiwi Hut. A carry down Big Hill stream gave sufficient experience as was shown when the Club Captain sprained his ankle there a few weeks later and was heartlessly given a rough pair of crutches and told to get out under his own steam.

Panic stand bys and police calls took the place of practices in the next two years, since when practices have been annual performances. 1959 was a contact search in a patch of bush on the Black Birch. Mobile radio was used effectively - the most interesting feature being that an unmapped creek fork on a boundary put two parties out of contact, and it so happened that a dummy had been craftily concealed there.

1960 was our most ambitious turn-out with police and St. John's participation and a pair of N.A.D. field officers as observers, making a total of 49 in the field. This took the form of the search of a limited area out of the Waipawa River valley and a contact search down the adjacent slope. The operation ended spectacularly when Edna, cocooned in a Neil-Robertson stretcher and supported by a web of ropes, descended from a 40 foot cliff into the middle of the riverbed.

After a run of limited operations it was time we gave the boys a gallop, so in 1961 the search committee decided to make it a reconnaissance over as wide an area as could be covered in a day, the Waipawa and Triplex Valleys with the adjacent ridges. The most impressive feature of the whole operation was the work of the clue-laying parties who navigated all day in thick mist. The following day was one out of the box. Seven parties spread themselves over the landscape and though hindered by non-existent tracks, leatherwood and photography, reported enough clues for it to be possible for the search controller to direct most parties into a probable area. Outside communication again proved difficult. The photographs however were an unqualified success.

The recent Lotkow practice will be fresh in everyone's memory. Following criticism of the limited scale of the local search organization a meeting had been held with both Napier and Hastings Deerstalkers representatives and ourselves at which it was agreed to run a weekend practice in early autumn before the roar started. Various suggestions were made and as a result the aero-club were notified and the success of the recent Manawatu radio broadcast of a practice brought to the notice of the N.B.S. Again a trail was laid and a dummy planted beforehand in the Donald-Gorge Stream area ready for a full weekend combining reconnaissance with focussed search and planned for a large turn out. Unfortunately the weather turned crook and only the R.E.C.. Police and about half the H.T.C. entry turned up at dawn on Saturday. A simplified reconnaissance was organized and with a temporary improvement in the weather, was achieved, though the southern party only struggled into Lotkow Hut at 10pm. Quite a strong H.T.C. party came out to the roadhead that night and more next morning, giving a fair turnout for Sunday's operations in spite of the revolting weather. Two parties worked up from Lotkow following Saturday's clues, while two roadhead parties worked down to meet them, three parties converging on the dummy within 10 minutes with a police sergeant present to inspect the corpse.

N.L.E.

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

WATERFALL CREEK HUT

10-11th February, 1962.

Well, the H.T.C. finally made a record. Imagine! we left Holt's at 6.10am. Not bad eh? With Russell Berry at the wheel we set off for the Waipawa River, which, incidentally was dirty. We left the truck at 8.40, and 11.10 saw us at the saddle. It was a bit chilly there, but the weather was fine and clear.

Waikamaka was reached at 11.40, and we found two Deerstalkers who were also making their way to Waterfall Creek. As the billy was put on to boil, the Deerstalkers left, and Graeme and David Evans placed a rain-gauge about 25 yards west of the Hut. The had removed it from the Waipawa Saddle.

At 1.45 we packed up and bashed our way through? over? beneath? the track to Rangi Saddle. We saw our Deerstalkers making their way to Rangiateatua. After finding the track it was a pleasant drop into Rangi

Stream, which was reached at 3.35. We left for Waterfall Creek at 3.50, heading down Rangī Creek to the Kawhataū River.

N.B: Just before Rangī Creek joins the Kawhataū there are some yellow discs which seem to go up a ridge on the left. This is not a track. Investigation proved that they marked the site of Forestry plots.

4.10 saw us in the Kawhataū River, the prettiest valley I have seen yet with grassed river banks and bush covered slopes. Five minutes upstream saw us at Waterfall Creek Hut.

Dinner that night was started off with a brew, then toasted cheese sandwiches, stew, rice and apricots, fruit salad with custard, and rounded off with another brew. Ah, it was lovely.

Sunday saw us up at 7.30am and away at 10.20 when we made our way back to Rangī Saddle, arriving at 11.35. Another hour saw us on top of Rangī. While Graeme went to South Rangī to take photos, the rest of us had lunch and rested in the glorious sunshine. At 1.45 the party proceeded to Three Johns. Why? To find the or a shingle slide back into the Waipawa.

Advice: Stay well clear of Three Johns. Graeme and I spent an hour or more following a slide which led to a waterfall, making us bash our way (here we go again) through, under, over, between, sometimes not at all, but somehow managed to get through the leatherwood to unite with the rest of the party on top.

From there it meant bashing down the ridge to the Waipawa River. We arrived opposite the Forks at 5.25pm and reached the truck at 6.15pm. A stop on the way home to chat to Nancy and Hal and party who had been in to Hinerua Hut. We collected some venison from our Deerstalkers who also stopped and thus rounded off a perfect weekend.

No. in party: 7

Leader: A. Corbin

G. Evans, D. Evans, A. Tremewan, R. Berry, J. Lynn, P. Curnow.

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UREWERA

7-12th January, 1962.

Helen and I left Hastings on the Sunday and had a leisurely drive through Wairoa and round Waikaremoana to Ruatahuna. Here we were to join a party of Forest and Birders, led by an enthusiastic crusader, in a noxious weed eradication campaign. Our headquarters turned out to be the local Forestry base house, complete with all mod. cons, hot showers and foam rubber mattresses on the bunks. We made the numbers up to five, and found our enemies were ragwort, thistles, blackberry, broom, heather and the odd foxglove.

A 5am start the first morning after only a cuppa, and three of us decided our internal economy would be better suited by 6am rising, breakfast, and then work from 7ish. The ragwort was the most prevalent on the stretch we were working on, both along the road and on open flats of the Whakatane River. Those in flower could be pulled out, the smaller seedlings needed tedious hoeing. Four mornings of this saw a couple of

miles or so of bush-fringed road on each side of the bridge over the Whakatane, and a camping ground, as clear as we could make them. What lasting success it will have remains to be seen. Real requirements are an army of workers and spray to combat these noxious weeds.

From about mid-day on we lunched and then spent the remainder of the day resting, reading, walking, eating, talking, etc. The weather was lovely and fine, though quite often cloudy as can be expected at this altitude in bush country. We were fascinated by the beauty of this Urewera National Park, though all the bush ridges and knobs wander aimlessly round and look awfully easy to get lost in. Flowering rata made magnificent splashes of colour, and birds abounded. An early start on Friday brought us back to the mid-day heat of H.B.

H. Hill and N. Tanner.

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Forestry Trip

MAKARORO RIVER

11-14th January.

As we had several things to do and a choice of routes we started from the Forestry base hut, 45 minutes from the river at Gold Creek and quite a useful route in. The Makaroro was very low and the slopes very dry, dust, fresh shingle and the occasional rock bowling down a rock chute - moving deer perhaps but no animals sighted. We spent the afternoon poking about and looking into the river terraces, leaving a note on the frame of Cy's bivouac which is still standing at the foot of Colenso's Track. (This was for Alan's benefit but was also of use to the field officers who came out ahead of us.)

Half an hour upstream we stumbled upon the Mid Makaroro hut, some distance below the fly camp, in fact about the foot of the disused Barlow's Track. This is one of the bigger 6-bunk huts with more floor space and a skylight, but still the previous herring-gutted bunks. Here we learnt that two field officers were a couple of days ahead of us so next day we ambled on to the upper hut on the off-chance that they might be working at the head of the valley. No luck. They had only stopped for a boil-up and had pushed on over the range to the Remutupo fly camp as had various hunters dropping in for ammo - quite a heavy traffic.

A detailed map in the hut log shows cut tracks north to Hut Ruin and west to Trig U. We had some tarns to look at under Trig U so this looked bang on. As we were taking off a couple of forest survey lads blew in off the tops where they had spent the night, and on the track we met the rest of the party Graeme Evans and his mate coming over from Colenso's Lake. The track is a quick way up to the bush-edge, but there is then a long flounder through scrubby tussock. With a driving drizzle and the mist shutting down prospects were uninviting and presently we turned back. The route down is all right if you keep well left a little down the northern slope to round a tongue of bush keeping in tussock till you sight red squares. We meant to return by way of Ellis's but our last day was not our best. We followed blazes too far along the top, took off down a feeble blaze which petered out and spent about 5 hours bashing through waist-high fern in mist and drizzle before striking logging tracks and coming out at John Groome's eucalypt plantation.

N.L.E.

TE ATUAMAHURU, MARORAREA, MAROPEA, GOLD CREEK

7th January.

We reckoned if we started good and early we would just have time to do the round trip:- Up Colenso's Spur, over Te Atuahuru, south along the Main Divide to Maropea, then drop off down a track to Gold Creek Hut and out. The whole plan depended on our being able to find the turn-off down to the hut so we made a detailed study of the area from the road before we reached the road-head.

Leaving the car at 7am we made good time to the foot of Colenso's Spur. With rain coming down on and off we started the long plod up the spur. We soon had our shirts off and we kept a good steady pace. At 10.30am we had lunch cum morning tea at "The Waters of Weariness". Half way between there and the top the rain started in earnest.

Once on the top at mid-day the rain came down in buckets full and stayed with us for the rest of the day. With cloud right down it meant work with map and compass in the wind and rain which wasn't very pleasant. Luckily we had the odd few seconds break in the cloud to check our way ahead. We groped over Marorarea (4935') then down and up again over an unnamed point. By about 3pm we had reached Maropea (4860') a hundred yards beyond which we turned off east down into the leatherwood.

With a big sigh of relief all round we struck the track which took us quickly down towards Gold Creek. For some unknown reason instead of going straight down the crest of the spur, about half way down it dropped off into the dirtiest of little creeks. We were getting a bit tired at this stage and every log jam was like climbing over a 100' wall. We joined Gold Creek 100 yards down stream from the hut and being cold and wet through stopped for a hot drink.

It was getting a bit late when we left the hut at 5.45pm but the food and drink made a difference and we were out at the car at 7.30pm. It was a long, weary day but well worth while.

Hal Christian, Alan Berry, Jim Glass, Russell Berry.

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MILL FARM - HINERUA HUT

11th February.

The transport was provided by Nancy - the idea was a pleasant day's outing with a further thought of finding exactly where Hinerua Hut is.

We left the car about 9, found our way across the Tukituki, had several stops including lunch before entering the bush. A good track led up Foote's Mistake to the hut, where we had another lunch some 4 hours later. On the trip home we gathered some mushrooms and had a chat with the club party on the hill leading into Waipawa.

Nancy Tanner, Madge Cooper, Helen Hill, Bert McConnell, Hal Christian.

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KAWEKAS

27-29th December, 1961.

On the Wednesday morning following Christmas Bunny Hare and I decided, on the spur of the moment, to do a trip. We left town at about 3pm and headed for Kuripapango, arriving at the pine tree in time to start walking by 6.30pm. We were carrying a rifle.

We arrived at Kaweka Hut just on dark, had tea, and after a discussion, decided against going on that night as we had intended. Having an alarm clock with us, we were able to get away early in the morning, and dawn found us well on the way up to the tops, with the weather fine and a hot day in the offing. There were a number of deer on the tops, but most of them saw us before we saw them, and none of them were at all sociable.

We reached Kaweka J at about 7.30am and turned down the ridge toward Back Ridge Hut. While still several hundred feet above the hut we saw deer on the creek flats, and by dropping into the creek and working down through the bush, surprised them and shot two stags in velvet within 100 yards of the hut. We took the heads and sufficient meat for that night's tea, had a second breakfast, and at about 10.30 climbed up on to the Back Ridge and headed off along it.

No more deer came our way that day. They probably had a lot more sense than we did and kept to the bush. We reached Kiwi Mouth Hut at about 6pm and were surprised by a sudden change in the weather. Rain started to fall heavily and the Ngaruroro became muddy within 15 minutes.

The next morning was fine, but the river was still high, squashing our plans of going back to Kuripapango down the river. We headed up the Kiwi Stream, picked the wrong ridge up, and after a long, steep slog arrived at Kiwi Hut from where we made our way back to the car.

Graeme Hare, Keith Garratt.

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SWEETCORN FINANCE

Gross Takings:	£82.15. 9
Expenses:	16. 5. 5
Net Profit:	£66.10. 4

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Our thanks to Mr. Thompson for the use of his land and to Phil for his management of the crop.

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THE ARATIATIA RAPIDS

My own guess is that a lot of people have heard of the Aratiatia Rapids or seen pictures of them in the Christmas annuals but that few have ever visited them. A couple of years ago it was a one-way dead-end several miles off the Rotorua road. An A.A. sign directed you through a dismal-looking Public Works camp and you bumped through a mess of blackberry and delapidated shacks for about four miles where the road ended. You then followed a track through scrub and fern to a lookout over the rapids. These were all and more than the Huka Falls apart from the flotsam and jetsam of Taupo township littering the backwaters.

For better or for worse these days are gone. The Ministry of Works have taken over not only to build a power station but to landscape the surroundings into a tourist attraction.

An earth dam has obliterated the head of the rapid and over it sweeps a main highway making an alternative route to Taupo. Off this a large car park has all mod. cons. including a lolly-shop and railed off paths and promenades giving views of the whole construction area and what remains of the rapids. The bottom end has become a large hole to accomodate the power-house. There is a shelter for all-weather viewing and a map indicating the main features of interest. The least attractive feature is the works camp strung out along the upper slope.

Bulldozers have cleared the slopes around and these have been grassed down, but this is only temporary. Off the back road which leads into Taupo the Lands Department have set up a nursery for re-planting, with the intention of bringing the slopes round Aratiatia into bush. This is being tackled with intelligence and imagination. At present the nursery is full of quick growing nurse plants such as tutu, so it looks as if the aim is to employ the natural stages by which bush comes back and to use the nursery as a starter and later as a booster to speed the processes up.

Bernard Shaw says somewhere that any experienced nursemaid knows that children prefer a pretty fake to the genuine article. Something like this applies to the tourist trade. Aratiatia is becoming a pretty fake and it looks a safe bet that it is going to become far more popular with the bitumen-hugging passer-by.

N. L. E.

Extracts from F.M.C. Bulletin:

REPORT ON THE ACCIDENT - MT. EGMONT, 3/7/60

On 3rd July, 1960, two climbers ascended Mt. Egmont via Fanthams Peak. Roped and climbing with crampons, one of the climbers stumbled on the descent on an icy patch about 200 feet below the shoulder of Fanthams Peak, broke his companion's pick belay and both slid down the steep slope.

One climber, while still trying to control his fall with his axe, hit a rock and injured both legs. The slide continued uncontroll- ed but without further mishap to about 800 feet from the start.

In spite of broken bones in both legs, the injured climber dealt with the situation very capably. With one leg splinted with an ice axe, and with crampons on his hands, he regained the ridge using steps cut by his companion, who had not been injured in the fall.

The climbers were seen from Dawsons Falls and Mr T. Purdie reached them about 5 p.m. A stretcher party arrived about 8.

COMMENTS The fall was apparently due to a mishap when climbing downhill after the hardest work of the day was done and attention somewhat relaxed.

This accident emphasises that such inattention may have serious consequences. In the first place, the stumble should not have occurred and secondly an adequate belay should have checked the fall.

After the initial slip, both climbers behaved in a very competent manner.

S U R V I V A L

(Extracts reprinted from an article in the Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal)

....."Physically, the most important things to avoid - if survival is to be ensured - are loss of body heat and over-exertion. Absorption, generation and conservation of heat and regular nourishment and rest are vital to the party's physical state. The degree of satisfaction of any one of these requirements lessens dependence on the others."

An example given is in the case of plentiful food and unrestricted movement where it may be better to push ahead than waste time. On the other hand, if time can or must be spared, then a fire to take numbness from limbs and to provide hot food or drink, will probably do the party good.

"The chief bodily process of heat production is the oxidation occurring with muscular contraction. Strength and warmth therefore stem from one source - plenty of fuel for the muscles: so food is required at regular intervals".

To stop, undo packs, and eat in cold weather may seem tiresome but could be essential. It would not be necessary to prolong the stop but eating could be undertaken whilst moving slowly. However, the food should be plentiful, easily accessible and easily assimilated.

"Of greatest importance, even to well-nourished parties, is adequacy of clothing. Clothing is worn to retain warm insulating air round the body. A windproof outer shell to prevent atmospheric dispersal of this warm air is vital. Next to the skin, plenty of light woollen air-retaining fabrics serve best, not those that soak up water and become cold or heavily sodden; Complete waterproofing is impossible (and underisable). and sleet storms are peculiarly chilling. Wet wool remains warm. Clothes should not be so tight as to restrict circulation of blood or warm air and entry of cold air at neck, waist and ankles must be prevented.

CENTRAL KAIMANAWA MAP

In the New Year of 1931, just before the Hawke's Bay earthquake, Geof Wilson arranged a trip from Puketitiri to Waikouru, across the Kaweka and Kaimanawa Ranges. We had a sort of patchwork map of district sheets and bits of country maps, with lots of blanks and some curious items of information like a stream shown running from a peak in one map and continued in another to another peak. So we fumbled our way across country, sketching in the blanks and taking panoramas from trigs, and two years later another party came back by a different route adding more detail.

This was the basis of the Central Kaimanawa Map which was quite a reliable map up to a point, but as time went on and various parties had troubles in the Waimarino, Tauranga-Taupo and Oamaru it became more and more difficult to fit information in round the head of the Oamaru where the Auckland, Wellington and Hawke's Bay land Districts meet.

The Napier Survey Office then made a welcome offer to help redraw the map so as to resolve the discrepancies between the three land districts. Unluckily when the job was in progress fresh aerial cover came to hand which could not be incorporated so that the map was left uncompleted and being now out of the H.T.C.'s hands could not be brought up to date, a further disadvantage was a steep increase in price. It has been fortunate that the H.T.C. Northern Kaimanawa map overlaps in the worst area, the headwaters of the Tauranga-Taupo.

When an order for Central Kaimanawa maps could not be filled because the tracing and data in the Napier Office had been transferred to the head office for redrafting the news was unexpected but welcome.

There was just time to collect all available corrections and hand them over to the Wellington draughtsman while the new tracing was still on the board and the result NZMS 196 is as good as we can expect to get. This is perhaps the last of the bush maps. Aerial cover will soon be general and there are even rumours of an interest being taken in contours.

N. L. E.

ANOMALOUS DISCS

Several parties have been surprised lately while following some out-of-the-way track or ridge to come quite suddenly on a line of dirty big yellow discs pointing somewhere away into the boo-i. Orange or yellow discs have over the past 15 years become accepted as a convenient substitute for blazes on main tracks. These are something else. Discs have been adopted by various Forestry groups to mark plots and such - the three pairs found in Middle Creek lately appear to be photo points connected with deer control. Like trappers' blazes they have a minor nuisance value, but once recognized should cause little confusion.

In the Kawekas Forestry are making a start in marking tracks with strips of two-colour venetian blind, but are not yet taking advantage of its conventions to indicate changes of direction, etc.

N.L.E.

CLUB TRIPS

No. 675.

Nov. 25-26th.

WAIKAMAKA

(Hut & Track Maintenance)

After dragging one member out of bed by phone, 14 eventually left Hastings on a perfect summer's morning nearer 7 than 6 am. The Waipawa was very low with a fair amount of green weed and slime, and the water was unusually warm. Three lasses decided to spend a lazy, sunbathing weekend at the Forks fly camp. The fast party cut poles for the head of the Waipawa to the head of the Waikamaka stretch, and cut the track up through the bush (Waipawa). This latter is eroding seriously and an alternative route will soon become imperative.

The slow party wandered along and sited the snow poles, and eventually met the slasher party embarking on some track cutting to improve the route down the Waikamaka. A length of spouting taken in to deflect rain from the roof running down into the fireplace, was used on the lean-to as the afore-mentioned defect had already been remedied. A tin "hat" was bolted to the chimney - though this may well go the way of its predecessor which now lies discarded in the lean-to! It did not appear to improve the draught, but in the fine almost calm weather prevailing it was impossible to get any real results. Cutting and stowing firewood completed the day's work. A three course meal was duly served and eaten, followed by an early night.

Next morning the fast party of 7 got away at 8.15am for "66", Shut-eye, and thence to the Waipawa via the creek of last year's search. Another bod set off soon after to keep an eye on the Forks party. The rearguard measured up the hut to facilitate future planning of improvements, and tightened the sacking on a badly sagging bunk. A hammer and nails, also a pick head (makes 2 heads and 1 complete pick now) were left in the hut and the axe changed over with our spare. The route up over the waterfall to the saddle is also pretty nearly dangerous and will soon need resiting. Discd snowpoles were put in at the top of the shingle slide and between that and the saddle marker. Several more poles were inserted on the way down to the Waipawa and at the foot of the bush - a slasher makes quite a good hole digger. The lemon yellow discs we were using did not show up at all well against a tussack background, - the old orange red ones are much better.

Both parties met at the fly camp about 3.30pm. Good time had been made by the fast party over 66 to Shut-eye for lunch. After ambling down the river we were all back at the truck by 5.30 and in Hastings at 7.40pm.

Quite a fair amount had been achieved, with a pretty good balance between work and play. Perfect weather made a big difference to the success of the trip. Many of the mountain flowers were in bloom, the the giant buttercups being especially striking on the shingle slide, about the waterfall and down the stream. Less welcome evidence of the reduction in the deer population was the luxuriant growth of the vicious sharp-pointed "spaniard".

No. in party: 14

Leader: Nancy Tanner

Kath Berry, Annette Tremewan, Margaret Mison, Adrienne Low, Pam McKain, Graeme Evans, Hugh Wilde, Bob Adams, Chris Johnson, Peter Lewis, Ken Tustin, Russell Berry, Bruce Robertson.

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No. 676

SWEETCORN WORKING PARTY

Dec. 9th.

After the social evening at the barbcue at Haumoana the night before only eight turned up for the weeding party. We didn't manage to complete the job, so the next day's beach trip got hi-jacked into finishing it before they left for Kairakau.

No. in party: 8

Leader: Phil Bayens.

Nancy Tanner, Annette Tremewan, Janet Lloyd, Nigel Thompson, Tony Collins, Graeme Evans, Bob Adams,

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No. 677

KAIRAKAU BEACH

Dec. 10th

FAMILY PICNIC

After a brief stop at the sweetcorn patch to pull out a few weeds the main body of the party continued on to Kairakau Beach. In the hot sunny weather we set up two camps. Most of the families seemed to stay in one and the young single members in the other.

Five minutes in the sea was enough for most of us as the water was so cold. This was most surprising as it has been so warm at the local beaches.

After a long and leisurely lunch some went for a walk along the beach. Some just slept. Fathers made sand castles and gave their daughters rides on the see-saw.

After what was a most pleasant day we went home in dribs

drabs after four o'clock.

No. in party: 40

Leader: Jim Glass.

Kath Berry, Alan Berry, Ross Berry, Jan Berry, Els Bayens, Phil Bayens, Phillip Bayens, Debbie Bayens, Les Holt Merg Holt, Sally Holt, John Holt, Nancy Tanner, Janet Lloyd, Russell Berry, Wendy Forder, Jeff Scarbough, Valerie Scarbough, Jack Van Bavel, Wil Van Bavel, Roger VanBavel, Ingrid VanBavel, Tony Hammond, Tricia Hammond, Athol Mace, Fred Mace, Graeme Evans, Trevor Rendell, David Wilson, David Evans, Peter Lewis, Bob Adams, Chris Johnson, Annette Tremewan, Adrienne Low, Margaret Mison, Doreen Glass, Jim Glass, Susan Glass, Karen Glass.

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No. 678.

RUAPEHU

Dec. 1-3rd 61.

MOUNTAINCRAFT.

At 9.20 pm on Friday evening the truck pulled away from Holt's bound for the H.B.S.C. Lodge on Ruapehu for a mountaineering weekend. A stop at Napier to pick up our host Hilton Meyor, also Stan White and Y.L. and Edna Ansell. A quick stop at the Waipunga for a cup of coffee and change of drivers and away again to another halt at the Nat. Park - Desert Road turn-off for more coffee and another change of drivers. Compulsory stops eventually brought to light a lack of air in the main petrol tank, hence no petrol. Off again to drop Edna at Nat. Park and then back to the mountain eventually arriving at the Lodge at 6.25 am, with ~~loads~~ a load of weary bodies. For most, a cuppa and a bite to eat then a horizontal work out till 11.30. Brunch at 12 ish and away up the mountain to find some snow, and the lowest suitable turned out to be the same patch used by the F.M.C. course a few weeks previously.

With Tony doing the Hard Labour and self assisting vocally, our course was away to a flying start. Being so late in the season the snow, naturally, was not at all suitable, but we did our best to put across techniques etc. (see previous "Pohokura"). Sat. evening saw us sit down to a sumptuous meal with all the trimmings. After several long, lengthy and drawn out discussions on belaying methods, knots, etc., the majority hit the sack at 11.30 with a few diehards still up at 2.30. On the move early next morning to our patch of snow which had hardened considerably overnight, more and yet more practice till knock-off time at 11.30, then away for lunch and a clean up of the lodge, leaving at 1.15 for the Chateau-Nat. Park turnoff to collect Edna and on to Taupo for a swim and the usual F. & C. The baths were invaded once again but after half an hour calm reigned once more as we departed for Napier and Hastings. Our very special thanks must go to

the H.B.S.C. for generously allowing us the use of their excellently appointed lodge, for without this concession the trip could not possibly have been the success it turned out to be (we hope).

If everyone enjoyed the trip as much as Tony and I did, then it was your cooperation that helped make the trip the success that it was. Many thanks one and all.

No. in party: Leaders: Maurie Taylor & Tony Corbin.

Nancy Tanner, Pat Bolt, Annette Tremewan, Hilton Meyor, Stan White & Y.L., Hal Christian & party, Bob Adams, Jim Beer, Bruce Roberts, Graeme Evans, Hugh Wilde, John Townshend, Derek Boshier, Frank Whitehead. With Edna Ansell as supercargo.

P.S. Are there any who participated in the trip whose names are not included in the above list? If so, my apologies, and please advise.

M.T.

-ooOoo-

No 679.

CHRISTMAS TRIP 1961

Dec. 23 - 27th.

PUKETITIRI - BACK RIDGE - STUDHOLMS SADDLE -
MACKINTOSH - SWAMP COTTAGE.

It was our intention to enter the Omaru Stream from Poronui Station which is situated on the Kaiangaroa Plains. From Poronui, we were hoping to head west to pass through Boyd's Hut, Golden Hills Hut, Kimanawa Hut, and thence out to Ngamatea Station on the Taihape Rd.

6.30 am. Left Hastings - weather overcast and mild.

8.25 - 8.45 Stopped to look at Mohaka River bridge on the Taupo Rd.

10.25: Poronui Station. We were told that no permission to go through the station could be obtained from there. Tried to contact Mr. Tinkham, Lands & Survey Dept., Rotorua. - Useless, Poronui phone was out of order.

10.50: Trundled back to Rangitsiki Hotel. Managed to contact Mr. Tinkham. He was off to a funeral and seemed undecided about giving us permission. Hung around Hotel and got thoroughly bored - Cost us 2/- to get a small billy of tea boiled (Highway Robbery).

1.30 pm: Contacted Rotorua again - definitely no permission because of high forest fire danger.

1.45: Left for Napier.

2.35 - 3.00 Tarawera. The locals had no maps of the vicinity-

(ours were at home).

3.25pm.: M.O.W. informed us we could drive to within an hour's walking of Pakututu Station.

4.00 At the turnoff half way up the new deviation at Turangukumo we talked our way out of a jam and decided to push through to Puketitiri.

6.30 - Lewis's - Lovely tea - Slept in new woolshed.

24th Dec.

4.50 am: Rose - weather fine and clear.

6.45 Left Lewis's - proceeded to Trig I.

9.05 Trig I. Lowly view of Kawekas.

10.10 Littles Clearing - amble to Makahu Hut - 11.50.

3.30 pm. After pleasant rest, left for Cairn - 6.30.

7.15 - 8.00: Dropped into Back Ridge Hut. Had a lovely meal.

10.45 Bedded down.

25th Dec.

6.30 am: Breakfast etc., - weather very soupy.

9.30 Left for Cairn and Mackintosh via Studholme's Saddle.

11.0 - 11.30: Cairn + rest.

12.20: Down ridge to Mackintosh Hut. (Ha. Ha!)

2.10 / After several complicated manoeuvres with map and compass found ourselves near upper Donald River - lunch - back-peddalled to top again.

4.40 On top of main range - proceeded S.W.

5.30 Saw disced markers on a knob. Managed to sort out that it was the take-off to Dog Box and Studholme's Saddle Hut.

6.05 Studholme's Saddle Hut - Big Christmas dinner etc,

11.00 Bed.

26th Dec:

8.30 am Breakfast - weather fine (thank goodness).

12.00 Managed to drag ourselves away from the hut.

12.30 Arrived at saddle.

1.10 pm Down ridge to Mackintosh Hut - arrived at 2.45 pm., being first H.T.C party to visit the Hut.

4.15 Left for Swamp Cottage.

6.55-7.25 A few of us took a swim in the Tutakuri - it then started to rain.

8.20 Swamp Cottage - Bed 11.00. (Had plenty of rats and bees to keep us company).

27th Dec:

Early breakfast - cleaned up the cottage which was in a shocking state.

11.00 am: Met Alan Berry and Norm Elder at the road with transport-Chinwag.

12.00: Hastings.

Special thanks to Maurie for driving us over 200 miles just to get us to Puketitiri. Also thanks to Alan and Norm for providing us with transport home. Thanks also to the Lewis's for putting up with us and providing a tasty tea and breakfast.

No. in party: 7

Leader: Tony Corbin.

Nancy Tanner, Graeme Evans, Jeff Lynn, Hal Christian, John Blundell, Alex Buchanan.

-ooOoo-

No. 680.

WAIPATIKI BEACH

21st Jan, 1962.

23 odd bods left Holt's at 6am Sunday, the idea being to go to Nigel's and strip pick our sweetcorn crop. This we finished at 8.00am with approx. 15 boxes of good sweetcorn and 11 boxes of rejects. We took all this round to Phil Bayens's and dumped it, keeping a few hundred or so it seemed, to eat out at the beach.

We left Napier at 8.45, after picking up 3 people at the boundary and arrived at Waipatiki at about 10.15am.

For some reason the water held an irresistible attraction (89 deg.) and later the boys went spearfishing round the rocks, but got mainly(?) which I might add don't need spearing! After a delectable lunch of sweetcorn, and still more sweetcorn and butter from ear to ear, everyone seemed content to have a siesta or try their hand at fishing again. About 2pm a shark made an appearance offshore and you could gradually see the surf empty. We stood on the hill and watched, until a man with a rifle scared it off.

We left for home at about 6pm arriving in Hastings at 7.30 pm odd, after giving Pam Lewis a lift to the boundary where she hitched to Palmerston Nth Hospital.

A very sunburnt time was had by all !

No. in party: 23

Leader: Margaret Mison.

Kath Berry, Alen Berry, Russell Berry, Nancy Tanner, Gae Lobben, Annette Tremewan, Rosemary Wood, Pam Lewis, Barbara Wallace, Sally Holt, Roy & Jackie Peacock, Tony Corbin, David Wilde, John Holt, Chris Johnson, Roger Anderson, Athol Mace, Peter Lewis, Christopher (?), Bob Adams, Graeme Evans,

-ooOoo-

No. 681.

FIREFIGHTING PRACTICE

Feb. 3-4th.

The Wakarara episode and the continuing dry summer prompted us to approach the Forest Service with the request that they should give us some instruction in firefighting. After all, we are on the official firefighting list so would be expected to know a bit about it in an emergency.

The programme got away to a good start on Saturday evening at the F.S. headquarters at Kuripapanga, with a discussion on fire tools and their uses, and a run over the workings of the met. station and films on firefighting and other topics at Maurie Robson's.

A practical exercise was held on Sunday, in the area between Kohinga and the road at the Cattle Hill track take-off. The exercise was very capably conducted by Forestry officer Bent Morpe and in the morning took the form of cutting a fire-break through fern and scrub-covered country, to halt a fire assumed to be sweeping over from the Omahaki direction. Later in the afternoon a demonstration was given of the Wajax portable pump and hoses and also of the Knapsack pumps and other hand tools for direct use against a fire.

A well planned and executed practice. A worthwhile day.

No. in party: 15.

Leader: Alan Berry.

Annette Tremewan, Helen Hill, Nancy Tanner, Edna Ansell, Russell Berry, Ken Tustin, Norm Elder, Graeme Evans, Jim Glass, Hugh Wilde, Tony Corbin, Jeff Shakespeare, Peter Lewis, Bob Anderson.

-ooOoo-

No. 682.

LILLO TRIP

Feb. 18th.

Left Holt's by 8.15 and were at the Fernhill bridge by about 8.30. Blew up lilos and changed. We then entered the river near the bridge. As we floated down Russell, Nancy and Peter took the track along the side of the river for about two miles where we stopped. We had a boilup and the "round" ball donated by Dick. In this stretch of river the water was cold. Everybody was pleased to thaw out.

From here Nancy and Russell also took to lilos while Peter took photographs and drove the truck as far as possible. At that time Nancy went back to take the truck around to Pakowhai. The flow of the water then slowed down and the scorching sun bore down on us. To fill in the time there was quite a bit of by-play to the amazement of swimmers and campers we passed. We

reached Pakowhai at 3pm and after drying out arrived at Holt's about 5.

One point should be made clear and that is those with tender skins should wear some extra clothing.

A very unusual and enjoyable time was had by all.

No. in party: 13.

Leader: David Evans.

Nancy Tanner, Annette Tremewan, Russell Berry, Athol Mace, Peter Lewis, Alex Buchanan, John Carroll, Trevor Rendell, Bob Anderson, and Vera Shewan, Jennifer Louie, Loraine (?) Rangers.

-ooOoo-

No. 683.

MAJ. MAC HADDIT SEARCH PREPARATION

Feb. 24-25th.

In perfect weather a party of six club members arrived at Whittle's at 9am., and proceeded to make the necessary preparations for the trial search scheduled to take place the following week-end.

Clues were laid at the lowest point in Middle Ridge. From here we strolled to the east side of the east branch of Gorge Stream, where Major Mac Haddit wrote his last note and died beside a gorse bush. The Major had had a good meal and a boil-up at the west branch of Gorge Stream - our lunch stop. From here we made our way to Lotkow Hut, laying clues, taking wrong turnings, and generally having a very nice easy time. We arrived at the hut at 4pm.

Care was taken by most of us to keep our mouths shut during the night, as little white grubs, commonly known as maggots, kept dropping onto the floor from nowhere. The source of these was found in a bag of rotten potatoes by Kath Elder the following morning.

At 8am four of us set out, leaving Norm and Kath to lay clues from the hut to the top of Spike Ridge, via Makahu Track. All was going well with our party, until we found that we had climbed out of West Cable Creek too soon, and were in dense Manuka and not on a track as we were meant to be. Lo and behold, as we pushed our way on to Spike Ridge a main highway appeared out of the blue, - well out of the scrub anyway. Following this track down we arrived at the Donald River at 9.45 am. Up the Donald, past Jap Creek, Black Birch, and Matauria Ridge, just beyond which we had a hurried lunch.

At noon we headed down stream again leaving on the lunch site a large collection of empty tins etc., and further clues were left at several places as we proceeded, including one at the cairn at the Black Birch turn-off. This clue stated that Major Mac

Haddit was unable to go any further down the Donald and that he was going up the Jap Creek. We came upon a waterfall a short distance up the Jap Creek and from here we pushed, shoved and cursed our way through manuka on to Spike Ridge where we found the track which we had previously followed down. Up this track to the Spike, then down to the saddle behind Lotkow Hut, a bite to eat, a general clean up of the hut, and we were away for Whittle's by 5pm., arriving at the cars at 7.30pm. Thank goodness the cars were a lot further up the track than normal.

We called in at Lewis's and met up with Norm and Kath again. Here we enjoyed the Lewis's hospitality which a number of a members have come to know so well.

A rather late arrival home terminated a very enjoyable and fine weekend.

No. in party: 6

Leader: Russell Berry.

Norm Elder, Kath Elder, Nancy Tanner, Annette Tremewan, Alex Buchanan.

-ooOoo-

No. 684.

TRIAL SEARCH

March 3-4th.

Scheme: A solitary hunter of some experience but no local knowledge was presumed to be making his way out hindered by bad weather and sickness. On the first day a reconnaissance search over the general area was planned aiming at providing enough clues for a more intensive search on the second day.

Locality: A compass route from the Mackintosh Hut towards Puketitiri Hotel was assumed. Reconnaissance parties to cover W. Gorge Stream, Black Birch Range, Matauria Ridge and the valley between the last two, and the middle course of the Donald.

Manpower: Heretaunga Tramping Club and A.R.E.C., N.Z.D.A. parties from Napier and Hastings, possible Aero participation and as observers N.Z. Forest Service and Hastings police.

In the event Aero Club and N.Z. Forest Service dropped out and threatening weather at dawn on Saturday eliminated N.Z.D.A. and reduced H.T.C. turnout.

Communications: 3 mobile sets on Saturday and 2 additional 208 sets on Sunday. Roadhead ZCL (arrangements had been made to utilise power supply at Whittle's shearers wharf, but in the event batteries were used), Hastings base (Carrell) in phone communication with S.A.R. base (Lloyd) thence to police Napier via Hastings watch house.

Reconnaissance: Restricted on account of the limited turn out to two parties, one northern Birch Range and western Gorge Stream, the second the rest of the Birch Range to the Donald, Jap Creek and the Spike. Mist on the tops lifted in the course of the morning and conditions in the middle part of the day were fair.

Advance base operated from roadhead till 2.15 pm when the northern party had finished that part of the range and were on their way down to search Gorge Stream, the other party were then well down the range opposite Spike Saddle but made no further contact that day.

At that point roadhead shut down and advance base shifted to the crest of Birch Range using a mobile set. The weather then deteriorated. Radio contact also became difficult and as the mobile set was not adapted for morse a summary of the day's operations could not be transmitted to Hastings.

The Gorge Stream party reached Lotkow Hut about nightfall. No contact had been made with the second party at shut down. They had a small tent and were assumed to be camping in the Donald or Jap Creek.

An H.T.C. party were reported as having left Hastings at 7pm for the roadhead and might try to operate the roadhead radio, but no contact was made that night.

Sunday: The weather was bad and radio contact with (a) Hastings, (b) roadhead, (c) Lotkow was not made till after 9 a.m. It was then learnt that the Donald party had reached Lotkow at 10 p.m. the previous night and clues had been found in Jap Creek and in Lotkow. Saturday night's summary was transmitted to Hastings (reaching police at 10.30).

Roadhead radio was now manned. Those at the roadhead were arranged into two large parties each with a 208 set operated by trappers after instruction. One party (Helen Hill) to search head of W. Gorge Stream then Middle Range, another (Keith Garratt) to cover the flat top (Trig J) south of Whittles, then E. Gorge Stream. One of the Lotkow parties (Russell Berry) was to search that end of Middle Range, the other (Peter Lewis) to come up W. Gorge Stream searching the slopes and side creeks on the way.

Radio contact with the northernmost (Helen's) party was lost for a period while in the head of Gorge Stream; communications with the other three parties were good, and Hastings Search Base (Janet) received hourly reports up to 4 p.m. when the R.E.C. operator was called out to repair gale damage.

When the first of the day's clues were found on the Middle

Range at 2.10 p.m. all parties were on the last leg of the day's sweep, three moving north along Middle Range and the branches of Gorge Stream on either side of it, while the fourth party was coming south along Middle Range to meet them.

The dummy representing the lost hunter was found 45 minutes later, when three parties were within 10 minutes of the position - the fourth party having been instructed to make direct to road-head. The finding of the dummy was logged at the Hastings Watch-house 25 minutes later.

All parties were checked in and roadhead shut down about 5.30. A message to this effect failed to get out. This was not checked when the search parties arrived back in Hastings.

No. in party: 29. Leader: Alan Berry.

Police: (2) Constable Walker, Sergeant Wheeler.

R.E.C. (5) Hilton Meyor, Bob Sheppard, Barry Donkin, Stan White, Jack Carrell (Base).

H.T.C. (22) Peter Lewis, Jim Beer, Derek Boshier, Russell Berry, Nancy Tanner, Helen Hill, Annette Tremewan, Joan Wards, David Evans, Alex Buchanan, Keith Garrett, Hal Christian, Roy Peacock, Ken Tustin, Jim Wilshire, Fred & Christine Prebble, Athol Mace, Pat Bolt, Norm Elder, Janet Lloyd (Base).

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No. 685

MIDDLE CREEK HUT - THREE JOHNS

March 18th

Scheduled as a 6 a.m. start, the truck finally left Hastings at Approx. 6.30, with the leader on board.

At this stage we numbered 12, but 3 more bods were picked up at Waipawa, 2 having travelled through Hastings without seeing the truck and the 3rd one having hitch-hiked, cycling from Napier to Hastings & depositing his bike just out of town.

We parted from the truck at 9.15, crossed the Waipawa River and struck out towards Middle Creek and the Hut. An uneventful trip as far as the saddle just before dropping down into Middle Creek, when 4 bods decided on a short-cut to the creek. Alas - !! for short-cuts !!, finally arriving there at 11 am, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour later & we were at the hut.

Time for a siesta & lunch (& watermelon). Following this the party divided into two groups - a fast party (so called) consisting of five bods, who set off for Three Johns at 1.10 p.m., - and the rest later setting out for the truck via the Smith's

Creek Hut track.

The party of five headed up the ridge which in parts, is very similar to the Shut-eye ridge track. Several rocky outcrops had to be negotiated in a strong and very cold wind. Parkas and gloves were donned and we finally arrived on the highest knob of three Johns at 3.25 p.m.

The aim of this party was to find the shingle slide (the correct one) off Three Johns to the Waipawa River, and this it did, two of the boys reaching the Forks, from the top, in $1\frac{1}{4}$ hrs. Quite a difference from $3\frac{1}{2}$ hrs !!

Unfortunately a sprained ankle made the journey rather slower than usual, but a walking stick then the use of two sturdy shoulders made the going easier. We reached the truck at 7.15, but the other party had not returned, so a fire was lit and a brew prepared. Presently torch lights were seen and everyone clocked in at 8.15.

Our arrival home was delayed by the failure of the truck lights, but never fear, experts were near, so we were off again. At Waipawa Athol's truck was pushed and then cranked into life.

So, we arrived in Hastings at approx. 11 p.m. after an energetic but enjoyable trip.

No. in party: 15. Leader: Annette Tremewan.

Kath Berry, Nancy Tanner, Christine Prebble, Norm Elder, Rex Chaplin, Keith Garrett, Athol Mace, Peter Lewis, David Evans, Chris Johnson, Roy Peacock, Russell Berry, Jim Wilshire, Barry Donkin.

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Social News:

DEPARTURES

Tricia Hammond & Adrienne Low to Christchurch.

Margaret Mison, Bob Adams, & Tony Collins to Ardmore.

Tony Corbin Bob Cooper, & Hugh Wilde to Wellington.

Graeme Evens to Lincoln.

BIRTH

To Barbara and Maurie Taylor - a daughter.

ENGAGEMENTS

Betty Lowe to Lester Jeffrey.

George Lowe to Susan Hunt. -----

FIXTURE LIST

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Trip:</u>	<u>Leader:</u>	<u>Fare:</u>
May 12-13th	Kiwi Hut, maintenance.	Maury Taylor	10/-
May 27th	Pohatuhaha.	Ken Tustin	9/-
June 2-3-4th Queen's Birthday	Otupae Station, Makirikiri Hut, Aorangi, Mangohane Station.	Phil Bayens	17/-
June 10th	Te Waka via Porters Road.	Peter Lewis	9/-
June 23-24th	Big Hill Stream, No-Mans, Ruahine.	Roy Peacock	9/-
July 8th	Te Aratipi via Maraetotara.	George Bee	8/-
July 21-22nd	Lawrence Hut, Mackintosh Hut, Tutaekuri Track.	David Evans	9/-
August 5th	(East Face of "66", Waipawa River. (Armstrong Saddle.	Jim Glass Kath Berry	10/-
Aug. 18-19th	Pohangina Saddle Hut, S. Ruahines (Snowcraft)	Keith Garratt	10/-
Sept. 2nd	Timahanga - Boyd's Bush.	Terry Corbin	10/-
September 8th	Blossom Procession.		
Sept. 15-16th	(Howletts Hut - Saw Tooth. (Howletts - Tiraha.	Alan Berry Rex Chaplin	10/-

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

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