

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)

"POHOKURA"

Bulletin No. 113

December 1969

President:

Mr. P. Bayens, St. George's Rd Nth, R.D. 2 Hastings
Phone 34-498

Hon. Secretary:

Mr. G. Griffiths, Box 854, Hastings, Phone Olive 623

Hon. Treasurer:

Mrs. M. McConnell, 306 McLean St. Hastings. Phone 69655

Club Captain:

Mr. G. Thorp, 133 Vigor Brown St., Napier Phone 5260N

ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another year's tramping ended and without doubt it has been a most successful year.

The Club's activities have been many and varied. On the Social side we have had very interesting evenings. A high light was George and Sue Lowe's visit to one of our meetings.

Another event which is becoming very popular is the photographic competition. Mr. Baldwin's judging and constructive criticism have greatly helped members. This was shown by the high standard of the slides in the second competition.

The Christmas party and Guy Fawkes night always appear to be very successful.

The day trips seem to be the most popular with numbers sometimes running into the thirties. Some members did

extensive climbing in the South Island. Others took part in an instruction course.

This year again was accident free apart from a broken elbow and some close calls e.g. the Ngaruroro incident and the exposure incident. Thinking back over the years, I find that the margin between a successful trip and a disastrous one is terrifyingly narrow. Make a wrong decision over a ridge or creek and you are in trouble. The only advice I can give you is to go tramping and be prepared. Don't take anything for granted and use lots of commonsense.

Once again I would like to thank the committee members for their support in running the Club. In particular I would like to thank the Secretary, Treasurer and the Editor for the fine work they do. I don't think the members realise what it involves to be any one of these three. Take the Editor for example. For as long as I have been associated with the Club, Janet has been doing "Pohokura". Others assist, but Janet does the spade work. Every meeting you can see her keeping a watchful eye on any news item, squeezing reports from members etc., "Pohokura" is more widely read than most of us realise and quite a few articles get reprinted in other club magazines.

The Secretary. A lot of his time is taken up with correspondence, and we all know what writing a letter is like. That gives you some idea of his job.

Treasurer. When the treasurer arrives everybody unloads his or her financial worry. The treasurer spends a quarter of the meeting writing out receipts and putting money in a little tin. That is not all. At the end of the year the books have to balance. We all know how hard it is to keep track of our own money, let alone someone else's. Once again, many thanks.

One more word of thanks to Pam and the Social Committee who have given us so many interesting evenings.

Membership: Appears to be increasing slowly 1968, 127
1969, 133

P.B.

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Looking through the past year's activities, it is interesting to see that, although patronage has remained the same on day trips (with an average of 26) and is only

slightly down on weekend trips with an average of 12), there has been a marked increase in the number of private trips. There have been some really adventurous excursions by small private parties into a number of the more inaccessible places in the South Island, and a large number of larger private parties going into the National Parks and high country closer to home.

With Public transport and private transport so readily available these days, it's not surprising that the number of private trips has increased, and I am sure that this is the main reason for the drop in numbers on the weekend trips, although there have been an unusual number of long weekend trips this year and obviously it is much harder for some people to get out on these occasions. For the second year in succession, the Club has run a very successful trip to the South Island. This time it was the Copland Pass that was visited and I am sure that all who attended were well rewarded with the perfect weather and snow conditions that we were so fortunate to experience. Once again this trip probably wouldn't have taken place if it hadn't been for the efforts of Pam Lewis and we are all very grateful for the work that she put into its organisation.

Members' knowledge of first aid was put to the test with an unusual exposure case on Mt. Tongariro, and a broken arm on Te Waka. These things can happen at any time and anyone may be called on to help.

It only needs a quick glance back through the "Pohokuras" of about four or five years ago to see that conditions for trampers today are becoming more and more civilised. It is interesting to see that as many as eight of the year's weekend trips of that period were camping trips where huts were not used, whereas in the past year, with the exception of the trial search, there was only one trip on the fixture list in which tents were intended to be used. One of the best ways to build up a more co-operative club spirit is to have a few trips like this in bad weather where everyone has to pull their weight and I feel sure that it would do the Club no harm to have a few more trips of this type in the coming fixture lists.

Once again I would like to thank the farmers for permitting us to cross their land and also Forestry who controls the country we use. Without the help of these people it would be hopeless trying to run a tramping club.

Lastly I would like to thank all the members of the Club who helped with the working parties and assisted in making our trips so worthwhile.

G. R. T.

TRUCK REPORT

In the year which has just passed, we have seen the departure of our old truck and the purchase of a new one. The canopy from the old truck was sold separately and the truck was later sold for wrecking.

The Committee had been looking for a suitable replacement for the old truck and, in February, a 1956 Bedford was purchased. A full length canopy was fitted with room for packs over the cab. To add to the comfort of the new truck, a couple of the lumpy kapok mattresses were replaced with two foam rubber chip mattresses.

On occasions, the truck has returned home from various trips minus mirrors, mudflap etc., These had to be fixed or replaced.

At the moment, the truck is being given a valve grind and an extra petrol tank. I feel that a couple of small working parties will bring the truck up to scratch.

G. H. G.

HUT, TRACK & FIXTURES REPORT

Fixtures: Again this year we have had our usual wide selection of trips ranging from the popular lilo - picnic type, through to easy day trips, and on to the "further-afield" type whenever long weekends came around. This year we visited the Tararua Main Range at Easter, the Ketetahi Springs on Tongariro at Queen's Birthday; and, just recently, at Labour weekend, Mt. Egmont.

Another notable club trip was the successful crossing of the Copland Pass on the last day of 1968 by fifteen of our members. This was the largest party ever to have crossed the Pass, and our thanks here go to Pam Lewis for her leadership and organising ability.

Huts and Tracks: There was no maintenance carried out on Kaweka Hut this year, but just recently Kiwi Saddle and Waikamaka have both been visited. At Kiwi Saddle a very profitable weekend was spent doing major repairs to one of the walls. By the way, this hut is now equipped with foam rubber mattresses.

Several trips have been made to Waikamaka and the hut has now received its first coat of paint. With the exception of a few draughts it is in very good shape.

There is only one track on which to report any maintenance and that is Kaweka track. It has now been cleared of scrub and marked with yellow discs, so once again it is fairly respectable
B. L. C. T.

GEAR CUSTODIAN'S REPORT

During the year a new day pack was bought as these are much in demand. We now have two as well as numerous "kidney-puncher" weekend packs. Roy Swain has left us his bergen-type pack, either to sell or to hire out. The club billies have received a new look from the fine new lids made by Maury. Two new foam chip mattresses, with removable duck covers, were bought for the comfort of travellers on the back of the truck.

Hire fees brought in:-

Ice-axes	(7 hirings)	2.80
Packs	(30 ")	7.30
Parkas	(15 ")	4.20
Sleeping bag covers	(3 ")	1.50
tents	(4 ")	2.05
boots	(15 ")	3.20
billy	(2 ")	.50
rope	(1 ")	1.00
snow goggles	(2 ")	20
		<u>\$22.75</u>

Please tell me about any gear needing repairs so that I can have them done.

N. T.

LIBRARY REPORT

There seems to be an increasing interest in the library with the acquisition of a few new books on the shelves although feats on Everest and at the Antarctic are still being read.

"Men Aspiring" was donated to the Club by two members leaving the district.

Unfortunately one of our new reference books "On Snow and Rock" has gone missing. Please, members, have a look on your shelves for this book.

K. B.

"POHOKURA"

Thanks to the sterling work of all contributors, typists, duplicators and staplers the usual three issues of "Pohokura" have been produced this year. Members should hand in accounts of all private trips as these often cover ground not included in Club trips.

J. L.

CLUB ALBUM

Looking through the Club's Album, I find it's been a very lean year compared with previous years. Now that we have a few members who are interested in photo processing we can get more prints for the album, but we can't do this if we are not approached with negatives.

Just think of all the memories and fun you will get out of looking through the albums in about 10 years time. So please remember the album when you see a good photo and click another off for the Club.

My thanks go to all who have contributed and to those who have helped to print the negatives.

T.T.B.

PUBLICITY

Reports of most Club trips have been published in the local papers and the Club has received additional publicity as a result of members' participation in the Y.M.C.A. Walkabout. No major publicity projects have been undertaken during the year, although the Club was associated with the Search and Rescue display at the Hastings Police "open day".

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Despite the fact that more and more people, young and old, experienced and otherwise, visit the ranges every year, the past twelve months have been remarkably free of incident. There have been one or two alerts but members did not even get to the stage of putting their boots on this year.

The trial search has been deferred until November to tie in with R.N.Z.A.P. helicopter support.

A.V.B.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Social Committee has again had an active year providing speakers and film entertainment at the fortnightly Club Meetings. Some ten minute educational talks have been given by Club members and special events such as the Guy Fawkes Barbecue, Christmas Party and Photographic competition have been separately reported on in "Pohokura" previously.

Subjects covered over the year included Anikiwa Outward Bound School, Amateur Bushman's Club, Santiago, Police work with the C.I.B. Kaweka Catchment, Forestry Research, Raoul Island, African Safari movies and Sarawak.

Club members have provided interesting evenings with talks and slides of their own trips to Fiji, Antarctica, a European tour with climbing in Switzerland and South Island trips including the Wangapeka track and climbing in the Southern Alps.

Members' slides of local trips and club activities have provided material for six evenings and with the wide range of films now available to us through the National Film Library we have enjoyed four evenings and movies.

Our grateful thanks to Club members who have provided so willingly and often at short notice, material for our evenings, and thanks especially to the guest speakers who have given up their time for our enjoyment and education. It has been most gratifying to see such excellent attendances at the meetings and social functions over the year.

As this concludes my term on the Social Committee, I would like to personally thank the Committee members for the way they have helped and supported me, and for the sound suggestions and help I have received from so many members over the past years.

P.M.L.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the Annual General Meeting held on October 29th 1969 the following officers were elected:-

Patron: Dr. D.A. Bathgate

President: Mr. P. Bayens

Vice-Presidents: Miss. N. Tanner, Messrs. A.V. Berry and G. Thorp

Club Captain: Mr. G. Thorp

Secretary: Mr. G. Griffiths

Treasurer: Mrs. M. McConnell

Auditor: Mr. R.W. Chaplin

Executive Committee:

Maury Taylor, Peter Lewis, Bertie McConnell, Brian Turner, David White, Trevor Baldwin, Pam Lewis.

Social Committee:

Alan Thurston, Trevor Baldwin, David White, Jackie Smith
Sue Greer, Marilyn Challice.

SUB-COMMITTEES:

The Executive Committee has appointed the following
sub-committees and officers:-

Fixture, Hut and Track:

David White, Graham Thorp, Pam Lewis, Brian Turner.

Search:

Alan Berry, Maury Taylor, Phil Bayens, Graham Thorp,
Graham Griffiths.

Truck: M. Taylor, Graham Griffiths, Phil Bayens.

Editor: J. Lloyd

Publicity: Alan Berry, B. McConnell

Gear custodian: Nancy Tanner

Photo Album: Trevor Baldwin, Brian Turner

Librarian: David White

Scrap Album: David White.

AUDITOR'S 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.

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 and 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
1969 and of the results of its activities for the year ended
on that date.

R.W. Chaplin F.C.A.N.Z.

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1969.

1968	<u>INCOME:</u> The Club's Income comprised -	
192	Subscriptions	216.00
17	Equipment Hire	22.75
64	Meeting Contributions	65.57
-	Donations	5.45
124	Working Party Earnings	40.00
60	Interest	77.97
25	Profit on Maps	20.18
1	Library Fees	1.21
10	S.A.R. Administration Grant	-
29	Surplus on Transport	55.00
		<hr/>
<u>522</u>		504.13

	<u>EXPENDITURE:</u> The Expenses incurred in running the Club were:	
69	Rent of Meeting Room	69.10
3	Advertising	-
16	Supper and Social Expenses	6.00
21	Equipment Maintenance	13.85
6	Subscriptions: Royal Society, Alpine Club etc.	3.50
14	F.M.C. Capitation	15.96
3	Insurance	3.02
20	Stationery	-
7	Books Purchased for Library	9.35
18	Petty Cash and General Expenses	12.35
66	Bulletin Expenses	74.59
	Transport Costs	315.53
	Balance of old truck written off	1.71
	New Truck Depreciation	100.00
		<hr/>
		417.24
	Less Fares Received	472.24
		<hr/>
	Surplus to Income	55.00
		<hr/> <hr/>

<u>243</u>		207.72
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<u>279</u>	There was therefore a surplus of Income over Expenditure of -	\$ 296.41
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10.
HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1969.

<u>1968</u>	At Balance date the Club owned the following Assets:	
1369	Bank of New South Wales	609.92
835	Post Office Savings Bank	59.88
4	Account owing for Maps	4.00
97	Equipment	96.60
1	Cash on Hand	1.00
160	Stocks	157.35
-	Owing for Truck sold	100.00
	Bedford Truck at Cost	921.71
	Less Depreciation to 1968	800.00
		121.71
122	Sold during year for	120.00
		1.71
	Loss on Sale transferred to Income & Expenditure Account	
-	Bedford Truck (New) At Cost	1203.00
	Less Depreciation	100.00
		1103.00
-	Investment - Hastings City Council Huts valued in the books as follows -	1000.00
	Kaweka	10.00
	Kiwi	50.00
	Waikamaka	54.79
115		114.79
50	Projector	50.00
<u>2753</u>	The total value of the Assets being	3296.54
	However, of this amount there has been set aside for -	
69	Reunion Funds	69.38
24	Search Fund	20.49
36	Maintenance of Rescue Kits	36.26
89	Hut Maintenance	128.63
3	Subscriptions received in Advance	14.00
<u>221</u>		268.76
<u>2532</u>	Leaving a surplus of Assets over Liabilities of	\$3027.78

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

Balance 1st October, 1968	2531.37
Plus Legacy Late Angus Russell	200.00
Surplus of Income over Expenditure for year	296.41
	\$3027.78

TRAINING FOR RAOUL ISLAND.

The following are extracts from a letter written by Roy Swain just before he left for Raoul Island where he has been appointed head of the meteorological unit:-

"I have finished my medical training now and feel quite competent to handle most injuries, having been trained by being thrown in at the deep end as it were on a host of vicious Car accident injuries, successfully sutured hundreds of deep cuts and gashes, removed foreign bodies from eyes and flesh ranging from glass to needles and one bullet! .22! extracted 168 teeth, reduced and plastered dozens of fractures!! etc, etc. In addition I have performed several stomach washouts and assisted with miscarriage / abortion victims and one childbirth.

We will be taking 100 tons of stores to Raoul Island plus 2 cows in calf, one ram! one sow in farrow! one boar! The "Holmburn" will anchor $\frac{1}{4}$ mile off shore and the stores will be ferried ashore in the life boat which only holds 2 tons a time, it takes 1 hour each round trip including unloading onto the fishing rock wharf via the basket and crane! so that's 50 hours to unload the ship!! We will be on our "benders" after 3 days especially as the stores have to be brought up the 200' cliff, then 4 miles to the station.

The Dominion Museum entomologists want me to look for an extremely rare water beetle, 3cm in length!!! so I am equipped with nets and magnifying glasses! In addition they want a careful collection of every type of insect, animal, bird and plant, so can you imagine me crawling around on my hands and knees everywhere with a pair of tweezers, 4 gallons of alcohol (the pickling variety) and a jar. !!!**! I shall have blisters on my knees and bruises on my head from banging into trees!

Seriously though, I didn't think insects could be so interesting but after a week at Wild Life and the Natural History Museum, their enthusiasm has affected me considerably. The Marine Dept. want a few hundred samples of fish, larvae, snails, crabs, in fact everything that moves, swims or crawls, but that's a little more difficult due to the shark danger! "

CLUB TRIPS.PARIHAKA.

No. 892.

10th August.

The truck left Holt's on time but was held up at Taradale for about 20mins while we awaited the arrival of the Kombi with

some of the Napier crowd. After a few passengers transferred to the truck, we moved on until we reached the bridge across the Mohaka, and here we met another member who had come out early.

The vehicles were left up by the barn on Mr. Dagg's farm. From here we wandered across the paddocks and then down the pumice cliffs to cross the Ripia. On the other side we had to walk through a large patch of burnt-off scrub, but once on the main ridge the grass was green again.

A nice grassy slope was found for lunch-time break and some bods went to find the water which was a fair distance away. After lunch, as the weather had started to close in, it was decided to retrace our steps and then follow another ridge down and cross the Ripia lower down. During the descent to the river it started to rain and the wind blew also and it was quite chilly for a while.

The party arrived back at the barn just after 3pm. and we proceeded down to the Mohaka River for a brew and a change of clothes, before setting off for home.

No. in Party. 29.

Leader. Geoff Persen

Grant Spackman, John Preece, Geoff Richards, Robert Weterings, Marilyn Challice, Sue Adcock, Peter Lewis, David White, Jim Wilshere, Sue Greer, Graham Thorn, Vivian Hope, Mervyn Hope, Graham Griffiths, Irene Watt, Glenys Richdale, Karenne Sparling, Mary Essox, Suzanne Tucker, Marion Moran, Denice Simms, Pat Roberts, Alan Thurston, Wendy Smith, Sheree Pink, Deborah Easton, Ken Zambra, Toby Simon.

MAKAHU SADDLE HUT.

No. 893.

23rd-24th. August.

The weather was rather depressing, to the least, and perhaps many were too shrewd, because the four bods from Napier found only one other waiting in Hastings, and out of the five of us, only two had been on a club trip before! Shortly before we picked up Tom in Puketitiri we had a glimpse, through the rain, of the snow-line halfway down the Black Birch, with heavy clouds a few hundred feet above hiding the rest of the ranges.

When we reached the snow, it seemed a good idea to put chains on while it was still easy to do so, rather than waiting until we got bogged. Some hunters in a landrover roared past with cheeky remarks, but when we followed them a few minutes later, we found the depth of snow increased rapidly with every hundred feet of extra altitude, and up round a few more corners they were stuck. The Kombi was just able to

scratch past before it, too, required all passengers out to push but by now we were high enough for the snow to be less slushy and soon the pushers were left behind to make their own way to the top, alternately pushing and riding on the Landrover. All except one, that is, who wasn't quick enough after one stop and arrived at the top, rather breathless, much later!

Little's Clearing was bleak and windswept, with drifts of snow 6in. to 2ft. deep and barely 50 yard visibility. After leaving the warmth of our vehicle at the bush edge on the far side, and plodding into Makahu Saddle past trees loaded to near breaking-point with snow, it was obvious that any attempt to reach Ballard's Hut, as originally planned, would be quite out of the question. Two keen types did go part way up the Donald and climbed out on to Makahu Spur above Dominic, but returned rather subdued. The hunters also returned quite soon, cold, soaked and unsuccessful. As some compensation for conditions outside our two cooks prepared a really excellent meal, after which one bod, obviously a "tiger for punishment" went out with the hunters to extricate their landrover from the mud back along the track, and then for a wild, bumpy, freezing ride looking for deer with a spotlight. (Total wildlife seen - one rapidly disappearing hare!)

Sunday morning was little better, but most of the party went up to Dominie, at which point the ice was becoming to dangerous, before returning and joining up with the day party to go round by road towards the Mohaka River. Here we divided, some heading towards the Parihaka to look for some gear left behind on a previous trip, while the rest made for the Hot Springs. The Parihaka trip provided some entertaining mishaps when crossing the Mohaka, while for the others, the hot springs were most enjoyable but getting out of the hot water into the cold drizzle was not!

Weekend Party. 6

Leader. Peter Lewis.

Geoff Persen, Chris Harmer, Suzanne Berridge, Rob Lusher, Tom Whittle.

Day Party. 5

Trevor Baldwin, David White, Alan Thurston, Ruth Osborne, John Titchener.

TE IRINGA.

No. 894.

Sept, 7th.

We left the truck at the top of Gentle Annie and set off for Te Iringa under a cloudy sky with a strong wind blowing.

Following a track that took us onto a ridge where the wind blew stronger than ever we headed up it and as the going was steady the party soon spread out, but frequent stops kept us together.

We arrived at the trig in a cold strong wind with rain not far off to the north. It didn't come our way altogether and we had lunch on the south side of the trig, that gave a better view.

After lunch we went down to some rock out-crops where some did rockclimbing and abseiling. At 3pm. the slower ones headed out followed by the faster bods soon after. All had arrived at the truck by 4.30pm. after which we headed home.

D.W.

No. in Party. 24

Leader. Russell Millington.

Peter Lewis, David White, Jackie Smith, Geoff Persen, Karl Longley, Pam Lewis, Chris Persen, Richard Moran, Tom Whittle, Brian Turner, Denton Smith, John Preece, Elizabeth Pindar, Sue Greer, Pat Roberts, Sue Adcock, Glenys Richdale, Marion Moran, Denise Simms, Irene Watt, Sue Beveridge, Wendy Smith, Sheree Pink.

KIWI SADDLE. (WORKING PARTY.)

No. 895

Sept. 20-21st.

Well once again another working party went into Kiwi, taking in the necessary materials to make repairs to the rear wall.

On Saturday morning eleven of us left Holt's at 6.15. Peter took eight in his Kombi with the middle seat out to make room for the iron, while the rest had a more comfortable ride in Trevor's wagon.

We had a slow heavy plod up to 4,100 with some of us carrying well over 60lbs, also marking the track as we made our way slowly upward. But once on the tops the going was pretty easy and most of us appreciated the cool breeze that was blowing.

On reaching the hut we were all pretty worn out. After having a quick brew to regain some of our energy, we started on the hut. By now we had another two in the party, Tom who had left from Baldy earlier in the morning and David who came up to do some shooting.

It was just like the family supermarket. Some were helping with the stew, some were restoring the firewood while the rest were chopping down trees for the uprights and studs. After we had all the material we needed, we retired for the night hoping for a good early start in the morning.

Sunday morning clouds were beginning to bank up and there was a cold wind blowing. It was hard to decide whether or not to start on the hut, in case the weather took a turn for the worse. We all decided to take a chance and started tearing off the black paper. Many hands soon made light work of demolishing the wall. All the uprights and studs were rotten, the foundation that held the back wall had given way so that had to be renewed. We had a bigger job on our hands than we had bargained for and such short time to do it.

We soon had the timber cut to size and started putting in the uprights and then the studs. All the joints were treated and then the tin went on. The hut was completely finished at about 2.30.

Going out was alot easier than coming in and we made quick time to the shingle slide. We arrived at the cars at about 5.30 and headed back home.

No. in Party. 12

Leader. Alan Thurston.

Pam Lewis, Peter Lewis, Trevor Baldwin, Elizabeth Pindar, John Griffiths, John Preece, Wendy Smith, Tom Whittle, David White, Chris O'Kane, Sheree Pink.

WAKARARA RANGE.

No. 896.

October 5th.

The 7 o'clock start was somewhat delayed and we didn't leave the roadside at the West of Smedley Station until nearly 10. The climb up a shingle slide at the very start proved hot work in such terrific weather but it wasn't too slow and the view was worth it. Everyone trundled off down from this peak along a rock-ridden ridge and then grunted their way up to another peak - to be fooled again. For miles ahead there were peaks and ridges, leading nowhere in particular but definitely going somewhere.

Hunger called, so it was suggested that we dine on a green patch near a stream at the end of one of the many ridges. Four of the fitter boys galloped into the distance amid clouds of dust with the intention of going on ahead and meeting us at the truck later.

By 3, the mighty trampers had eaten their fill and it was suggested that we follow a creek back to the truck. We reached it at 3.30, climbed aboard and stopped further down the road for a brew at Tim Hut.

A dag of a day.

No. in Party. 30

Leader. Sandra Smith.

16

Pam Lewis, Wendy Smith, Sherée Pink, Sue Adcock, Glenys Richdale, 2 Prebbles, Elizabeth Pindar, Sue Greer, Marion Moran, Denise Simms, Vivian Hope, Lynette Paramore, Jackie Smith, Peter Lewis, Robert Weterings, John Griffiths, Trevor Hope, Mervyn Hope, Richard Moran, Roy Peacock, Geoff Persen, Kit Persen, John Furninger, Simon Easton, Barry Clayton, Geoff Richards, Brian Turner.

WALKABOUT.

Saturday a.m. 18th Oct; 1969.

7.15am. in bright sunshine, and 13 H.T.C.'s were on their way down Heretaunga Street with impressively bulging packs of doubtful contents, and colourful placards, to take part in the Y.M.C.A. Walkabout from Hastings to Napier. With a \$40 sponsorship we gaily trotted along the hard bitumen, covering the first four miles in 55 minutes, and completing the total 14 miles in 3 hours 20 minutes. Short work was made of the sandwiches and tea provided at the Napier Y.M.C.A., then onto a bus and back to Hastings by 11.45am. Some of us prepared for the afternoon stroll into Waikamaka Hut by a blissful sock of hot feet in a paddling pool before leaving again at 1pm.

Sue Adcock, Denise Simms, David Bacon, Keith Garratt, Marion Moran, Trevor Baldwin, Sue Berridge, John Furninger, Ross Berry, Brian Turner, Sue Greer, +1, Adrian Turner, David White, Pam Lewis.

WAIKAMAKA WORKING PARTY.

No. 897

Oct. 18-19th.

At 1pm. the same afternoon most of the members who had recently completed the Walkabout, plus a number of others, assembled at the Y.M.C.A. for our trip to Waikamaka Hut. As the club truck was out of action, transport was by private cars, and we arrived at the roadhead at 3pm. Peter Lewis with his advanced party of 10 were already at the hut, having walked in earlier that morning carrying a quantity of paint. Our group of 17 left our vehicles at 3.15pm and arrived at the hut at 7.45pm.

On Sunday morning we gave the hut its first coat of paint - orange roof and blue sides. A large quantity of rocks was also carried up to the hut and then were used to enlarge the present pathway and to improve the drainage of stormwater at one end of the hut. Further working bees are still necessary at this hut.

No. in Party. 30

Leader. Brian Turner

Trevor Baldwin, John Furminger, Chris Persen, Sue Berridge, Jackie Smith, Liz Pindar, Lynette Paramore, Vivian Hope, Mervyn Hopw, Alan Thurston, Annette Tindell, Peter O'Kane, Irene Watt, John Preece, Wendy Smith, Sheree Pink, Clare Wetherall, Robin Heath, Geoff Richards, David White, Peter Lewis, Sue Greer, Madeline Charlton, Catherine Treloar, Bronwyn Guillemot, Anne Kinney, Helen Hill, Pam Lewis,

DON JUAN.

No. 898

November 2nd.

The truck left Holt's at 7.30am., stopped on the way to pick up the Napier bods then headed for the hills. Picked me up at about 9am., and in due course arrived at Bald Hill, or rather on the Forestry track above the Green Flats. Three others were waiting for us there. Two forestry men were there also, who praised the club for keeping the tracks open.

We left the truck at about 10am. and after an uneventful but pleasant walk, we arrived at Lotkow Hut. (Time approx 11.30am.) After we had lunch, a few of us went up to the top to have a look around, while others stayed to sleep or swot as there were exams the next day. Up on the top the wind was blowing a cold Southerly. The visibility was good. The Kawekas above the level of Studholme Saddle were under thick cloud.

Back at the hut we had another brew. Replenishing the wood supply was an arduous task with a blunt axe and hard Kanuka logs.

On the whole it was a good trip and, on a track like that, fine weather makes all the difference.

No. in Party. 28

Leader. Tom Whittle.

Brian Turner, Peter Lewis, Chris Persen, Keith Garrott, Geoff Richards, Toby Easton, Simon Easton Alan Clayton, Arthur Lacheny, Geoff Rodder, John Preece, John Barnes, Sue Greer, Sue Adcock, Graham Jobey, Irene Watt, Pam Lewis, Jackie Smith, Sue Tucker, Wendy Smith, Sandra Watt, Sandra Smith, Janice Cheer, Sue Berridge, Kareene Sparling, Norah Hobcroft, Helen Hill.

CAIRN TRIP.

No. 899

Nov. 15-16th.

Weekend Party.

The truck left Holt's about 6.15am. on Saturday with only 5 of us Hastings bods. However, the number soon swelled to a

good sized party when we picked up the Napier types at Wharerangi Road.

The truck was using a considerable amount of oil and once we had turned off the Puketitiri road onto the road into Makahu there was the occasional flash of the oil light. Further along the road when it had come on continuously, we thought it time to stop. So Peter went back to his home at Puketitiri and returned with a can of oil. After a delay of an hour or so we continued onwards.

We reached Makahu Hut at about 12.30pm. After some lunch a party of 9 went off ahead of the others up to Kaweka J and over to Black Hut.

Next morning as we were preparing to leave, three keen types in the form of Tom Whittle, David White and dog, came down from the top for a stroll. They, and the rest of the party had spent the night at the cairn. They apparently had a comfortable night despite the miserable weather.

At 11 o'clock all were assembled at the cairn for a short service conducted by Phil Bayens. Soon after this all set out for the mad scramble down to Makahu Hut, then back to the transport.

No. in Weekend Party. 18 Leader. Kelvin Walls.

Sandra Smith, Clare Wetherill, Irene Watt, Glenys Richdale, Geoff Richards, Trevor Ploughman, Arthur Lacheny, John Griffiths.
(Black Hut Party.)

Peter Lewis, Geoff Persen, Brian Turner, David White, Elizabeth Pindar, Sue Berridge, Pam Lewis, David Schatz, Tom Whittle.

Day Trip.

This was another typical Cairn Trip - overcast and drizzling all the time. The Cairn Trips with really fine weather one can count on one's hand.

With civilisation encroaching further into the hills, the Kaweka tops are getting closer and closer to the roadhead. Not so long ago Makahu Saddle was a day trip, starting from Whittles woolshed, over Baldy, down Gorge Stream, up Little's Clearing and then you picked your way through the bush and hoped you would come out at Makahu. But now you drive right over Little's Clearing to the Bush, slosh over an extremely muddy bulldozed track and get to Makahu in approx 45mins. Gone is the pleasant track through the bush. Is it all worth the sacrifice?

Unfortunately I could not make the weekend, so I left on Sunday early, with Helen and Sue. We caught up with Maury and family and Jim and family. Got to Makahu and much to our surprise, there was nobody in residence. All had gone to the top and some to Back Hut. Weather - light drizzle and overcast with low cloud. Took it easy going up Makahu Ridge and got to the Cairn with plenty of time to spare. Held the service, 34 present and got Kevin Taylor to lay the wreath.

The weather did not encourage us to stay long on the tops and we all made our way down in good time. Through the bush, over the muddy track to the transport and home at 5. Not bad going from 5am to 5pm.

No. in Day Trip. 13

Phil Bayens Leader

Helen Hill, Sue Adcock, Maury & Barbara Taylor with Robyn, Susan, and Kevin; Jim Glass with Susan & Karen; Malcolm & Roslin Ellis.

GUY FAWKES

5th Nov. 1969.

H.T.C.'s celebration of Guy Fawkes went off with the usual bang and roar, this time on the Awatoto waterfront. Thanks to Phil and with the use of his big truck and a working party of three, we gathered a large load of tinder dry material from a newly demolished old house and transported it out to the waterfront where a bonfire was soon constructed with the aid of a dozen old tyres. As darkness approached more bodies kept coming until, in all, 80 big and little children swarmed around enjoying the fun of fireworks and munching sizzled sausages. Two characters had an unscheduled swim in the tide, otherwise the evening passed very happily without accident, and the dying embers of a successful bonfire were doused by the last stragglers at 10pm.

----- P.M.L.

TRUCK MATTRESSES COVERED IN MUD

Over the past twenty years WE have owned four trucks, all of which have given us good service. To keep fares at a reasonable figure working parties have been held to offset truck costs; e.g. licence fees, registration, tyres, batteries, valve grinds, gear box repairs and other maintenance costs.

Quite a substantial amount of OUR money has been invested in our latest truck, its canopy, a motor overhaul and also four new mattresses purchased for OUR comfort. These new mattresses have been treated as doormats judging by the muddy footprints on them. Bring a plastic bag for your filthy footwear. No boots should be worn on OUR truck. Bring another plastic bag for all your lolly papers and greasy fish and chip wrappings. The first ones back at the truck at the end of a trip could use the broom provided to give it a good sweep out. Do YOUR part to keep it clean.

As I'd missed the annual meeting two years running and a number of interesting addresses by people whose work I had been interested in I made a bird of attending this one though it was being held away down at Dunedin. However you can fly nowadays, and, however expensive, it is quick, so I buzzed straight down and back.

Papers on snowgrass, silver beech (Tararuas), Westland National Park, deer and chamois (Travers Valley), Chathams, Kidnappers, How to mark Grass-hoppers, Himitungi Sand-dunes, Rooks in Scotland, as well as learned ones chock-a-block with complicated mathematical formulae, so that though there was no tramping, even on the field-day round the back of the Maungatua Block where there were still a few late snowdrifts, we covered a lot of country in words and pictures, if not on foot.

What makes it worth putting on record for "Pohokura" is the number of H.T.C. and Hawkes Bay representatives. Ken Tustin, back from British Columbia to Forestry at Rangiora; Dick Esson, an early member of the Club, and Robertson, whom I'd taught at Hereworth. Several people had been on the forest surveys in the Ruahines or Kawekas and the Forester in charge of the plantations round Lake Mahinerangi, had just come down from the Mohaka Forest at Kotemaori a week previously. All this talent made it a sort of Hawkes Bay reunion, and a gay time was had by all.

Most of the mob took off at the end of the field day on the Saturday afternoon, but even for the rearguard the fun wasn't quite over. I found myself roped in on the Sunday morning to go hunting for a couple of colonies of supplejack reported in the Leith Valley, on its southern limit. Our information put us pretty well spot-on and after a bit of scrambling round and arguing over the map we were successful in locating both. This made us ravenous and before catching our plane we managed to persuade a surprised but friendly restaurant, very posh, to give us a meal, wreathed though we were with garlands of supplejack.

N.L.E.

ALPINE INSTRUCTION COURSE

The Alpine Instruction Course consisted of three separate sessions as follows:-

Titahi Bay - 9-10 August 1969

Assembled at Porirua railway station at 11 on Saturday morning and travelled to Titahi Bay. While waiting for the heavy rain to stop, listened to talks and demonstrations on the use and care of climbing equipment. The rain stopped late in the afternoon and allowed a small amount of practical work such as belaying and rope handling with the emphasis being on the development of a good style. Tea was followed by films on snow-craft and rock-climbing and general discussion. Returned to the rocks at Titahi Bay on Sunday morning for more practical climbing - belaying, safe use of runners, abseiling. Left for home at 4pm.

Egmont - 6-7 September.

Left Palmerston North at 5pm on Friday and arrived at Dawson Falls at 9pm. Waited here until 12pm for the rest of the party and set off for Kapuni Lodge soon after they arrived. Made an early start on Saturday morning and spent all the morning on snow-craft, step-cutting, belaying and self-arresting. The afternoon was spent carrying an injured climber, who had fallen and broken his ankle, out to the road to a waiting ambulance. Returned to Kapuni Lodge in the late evening. Weather on Sunday morning showed signs of breaking but we managed a bit of crampon work and returned to the hut at lunch-time just as the weather broke. A hurried lunch and clean out of the hut with a wet trip out to the road and off home just before 3pm.

Ruapehu - Labour Weekend.

Arrived at the "Top-of-the-Bruce" at 12pm on Friday and after sorting out the gear, set off for the N.Z. Alpine Club Hut where most of the party had arrived by 3.30am. Saturday morning was spent on crevasse rescue work and a general revision of techniques. The afternoon was spent climbing some small bluffs near the Hut. At twilight we had a good variety show of people learning to ski, while some even attempted to slide down a slope on a large piece of wood. An early start on Sunday as a climb to the top was planned, and most spent the day climbing the peaks around the crater lake as well as the top. Monday morning ushered in foul weather, so we packed up the gear, cleaned up the Hut and left for the road.

Club members on the Course: John Titchener, Tom Whittle, Chris Pensen.

PRIVATE TRIPS

ROUND TRIP IN THE KAIMANAWAS

Nov. 8-16th

At 9.15am on 8th November six bods left the vehicles at the end of access 15 on the Desert Road and headed up the Waikato (Tongariro) River. The weather was perfect and our enthusiasm for nine days in the Kaimanawas high. A short distance above the confluence of the Waikato and the Waipahihi Rivers we left the Waikato and tramped up a spur leading to the "Needles" and Waipahihi (5072'). A battle with scrub and lawyer followed that left scars for the rest of the trip, and it was not until lunchtime that we could actually see our goal. At 2.15pm we reached the tussocked tops and stopped for a welcome brew at a small stream. Much revived we then climbed up Waipahihi and took in a fine view. From here we moved along the ridge which divides the east and west branches of the Moawhango River and made camp on the edge of a patch of bush just before dusk.

The next day dawned clear and promised to be even hotter than the last. Leaving late, at 8.45am, we dropped down to the Moawhango East River and climbed to the divide of the Moawhango and upper Pangitikei watersheds, then moved down this low broad ridge to Motumatai. This took most of the day, the shimmering tussock and almost still air giving us no relief from the brilliant sun. The Motumatai hut site (hut destroyed) was the camp site that night and a delicious stew was devoured followed by fruit and pudding and copious quantities of tea.

The Pinnacles lying to the east of our camp were a tempting challenge for the next day, but these were left for the next trip. Instead, we crossed to the Rangitikei River and made our way up a side creek just downstream from the Waihinaki Stream. This proved to be a good move as apart from a single waterfall the going was not too difficult and we reached open tussock by lunchtime. In the afternoon we climbed the end of the range containing Tawaki Tohunga to view on the eastern side the great tussock-covered Ngamatea Plateau and the Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges in the distance.

Moving north along the ridge it became apparent that the objective - Golden Hills Hut - could not possibly be reached that night, so the next best alternative was settled for - Peter's Hut. From the knob above Peter's Creek estimates were made as to the position of the hut, and after some fossicking around it was located in a beautiful spot on the bush edge with a fine view south to Aorangi. The hut, built of hand-hewn timber and malthoid, was not impervious to the less desirable forms of wildlife, and most of us elected to sleep outside.

Next day we climbed Tawaki Tohunga then moved north along the tops, stopping for lunch on the way, until we reached the old bridle track which connects the Te Apunga (Kaimanawa) Hut and the Golden Hills Hut. From here an easy downhill tramp brought us to Golden Hills Hut by 4pm. Some of the local history is given in the hut book here and it was read with much interest. Although some prospecting was done in the area, the name is derived from the colour of the tussock rather than the presence of the mineral. Because we were behind schedule we pushed on to Boyd's Hut, three hours away. This hut is situated below a high pinnacle called Boyd's Rock, the view from which, by all accounts in the hut book, justifies the climb up. A new "Boyd's Lodge" complete with airstrip has been built near the old hut, and we met an aircraft engineer who was repairing a recently damaged plane there.

Climbing a low saddle on the eastern side of the Ngaruroro River next day, brought us to the headwaters of the Oamaru Stream, a tributary of the Mohaka River. A good disced track was then followed and the open river bed above the confluence with the Kaipo Stream was reached by lunchtime. We headed up the Kaipo Stream but were overtaken by darkness. The party was divided on whether to tramp on to Dunkirk Hut but the decision to stop there was a wise one as the estimated half hour in the dark stretched into three and a half hours next day. The Kaipo Stream appears to be a good fishing spot - lots of deep pools, no waterfalls, and easy tracks - we even saw some trout too!

A substantial morning tea at Dunkirk Hut next day set us right for the climb to Ngapuketuru. Fortunately the route was well disced so no navigation problems held up progress. By 2.50pm we were above the bush-line and 4pm saw us on the top. From this point we could see Lake Taupo and Lake Rotoaira but the view south was spoilt by some ominous clouds. Moving quickly, as time was against us once again, we reached the Ignimbrite saddle by 6.30pm. Camp should have been made here but thinking the Waipakihi Hut was still within reach we carried on. At dusk we made ourselves as comfortable as possible on a narrow sloping ledge just below the ridge top, ate a few apricots, and went to sleep.

We awoke at 5am next morning in a cloud, had a few more apricots and got under way as quickly as possible. We reached Waipakihi Hut in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours at 6.45am and set about the serious business of catching up on meals - having last night's tea, breakfast and lunch almost in one sitting. As the hut was pretty dirty we spent the rest of the day cleaning out the hut and the meat safe, much to the satisfaction of all.

The last two days were spent returning to the vehicles via the Middle Range. On Saturday we climbed back to the tops and headed south to Thunderbolt and west to Karikaringa. A high camp was made that night just before Karikaringa. Sunday saw us on Karikaringa, on Patutu, then crashing down to the Waipakihi Stream and the vehicles. The last view, from Patutu was magnificent. The entire Kaimanawas were visible and we could pick out our full circle route with much satisfaction. In the nine days we covered a great distance and passed through a wide variety of country. The time spent in each area was far too little to appreciate them fully and although some parts of the trip were described as "onciers" I think most of it will see us there again before too long.

C.B.S.

MIDDLE HILL - MAKAHU

16-17th August

On arriving at Jack Nicholas's bach late on Saturday afternoon the party quickly ambled off with Pete to set our course to Middle Hill Hut. After half an hour our temporary guide returned to the Kombi via Round Hill while the big three continued on to the Hut. One and a half hours later, in semi-darkness, the red haven was spotted from on top of Ihaka.

Early next morning (11.15) in misty rain we left the very comfortable hut for a relatively level trip to Kaweka Flats Bivy. The levelness was extremely debatable after many speedy steep drops into swollen streams and rather slippery climbs back onto the Flats. Most of the time visibility was no more than 25 yards and precious little was learned about the surrounding area. To reach the bivy it took $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours (normally $2\frac{1}{2}$). Here we stopped for lunch. At 3.30pm tracks were made for Makahu Saddle where we had arranged to meet Pete at 5pm. Persistent rain made things cold and miserable but with a song or three time passed more quickly. After a while we met the hunting track which branches off the main track and goes up between Makahu and Dick's Spurs. One or two decided to explore it, so all went along for half an hour to fill in time. Once we had returned to the main track it wasn't long until we reached Makahu Hut where the log was filled in, but because it was late as well as cold no one stopped. After half an hour's sloshing in the immortal mud of the Black Birch we welcomed Pete's cheering company and the Kombi's shelter.

Getting down the Black Birch was only a matter of placing the wheels in ruts made coming up and slithering down in foot deep mud. Dry clothes were donned at the quarry, from where we returned to Napier.

Our sincere thanks to Pete for providing transport and a yarn or two.

G.P., K.P., G.R.

ROCKS AHEAD HUT AND STREAM

16-18th August 1969

Saturday - After an easy walk into Makahu Hut, I wrote my intentions and name in the book, then headed up Makahu Spur into heavy mist. The tops were covered with ice and snow that was unavoidable. A short distance down Back Ridge the mist cleared to reveal an overcast sky. I reached Back Hut at 11.40am had an early lunch then went on over Stern's Saddle to Maminga. From here the snow slowed progress to Back Bivie where I found the track to Rocks Ahead headed and after marking it more clearly arrived at the hut at 3.20pm where a comfortable night was spent.

Sunday - At 6.50am I could think of better places than wading up the cold Rocks Ahead Stream with the weather threatening to rain. Almost four hours later I replenished my body which took over an hour in heavy rain. I had come through two gorges, one filled with large boulders, the other barely 12 feet wide, with a waterfall at the head of each. A short distance after the second a stream entered on my right, that on my map would lead to Back Hut, but didn't look big enough. So I carried on trying to convince myself I was right and came face to face with two big stags (OH HOW I WISH I HAD MY RIFLE) on a flat area on the right side of the streams. From here there were some sharp turns in the stream, then it eased out again to where I sat some distance on.

The map didn't show any sharp turns and from the distance I had assumed I had travelled I should have come to the main turn off by now. Leaving the warm fire was hard but it was good while it lasted. Ten minutes later I came to a fork in the stream, and took the right one that was narrower and more rocky than the main stream. Some distance up I climbed around the right side of a waterfall then, about equal distance further on, another. This I climbed around to my left up about 300 feet and then climbed up to a ridge to see just where I was and found Maminga across the stream and Stern's Saddle to the left. I followed the ridge up but was making no headway so returned to the stream. I had lost valuable time going up the ridge but finding where I was put my mind at ease and with more determination I headed up the now murky stream. Further on was another large waterfall with a side stream and like a nut I continued on until through the low cloud I saw a jagged ridge on my right. By rights this should have been Back Ridge and it hasn't any jagged points. So out with the map and I found that this ridge was between me and the hut. I climbed up to the lower part of the ridge, headed up and could see Stern's Saddle on my right and knew the hut wasn't far off. Further up I started to slide down and at a high point I could see the hut and it wasn't long before I came out of the bush below the hut. The rain had eased off since I left the main stream, but now, only a minute from the hut, it just poured down. It was after 5pm when I stood in the hut cold, wet, fatigued but glad to be there. Going over the top would be out of the question as darkness was falling and weather conditions were bad, so I ate and got into my sleeping bag knowing that things would be rolling back home as I was due out that night.

Monday - At 7.15am in fine rain and with clouds covering the ridges I headed out. On Back Ridge a cold and bitter wind was blowing, snow had fallen during the night and visibility was poor. Once over the top and

heading down Makahu Spur the wind and mist weren't so bad and the mist cleared just above the hut. I entered my arrival in the book and went to the forestry base to get word out that I was all right and was coming out, and arrived in Hastings at 12 noon.

D.W.

UPPER MOHAKA RIVER

Nov. 9th 1969

A day trip, dual-purpose (1) to see how far the first instalment of construction work had taken the track which the Forest Service plan eventually to extend from Puketitiri Hot Springs to Turangi; (2) for the fishermen to try their luck with the Mohaka trout.

The track is quite good, though some parts may wash away next winter. Even though considerable blasting was done, a well-bent mattock, discarded beside the track, gives an indication of the toughness of the rock. The track, until next year's construction starts, ends in the scrub high above the top end of "The Narrows", which is well over halfway up from the Springs to the Makino and could be quite useful as it should now be possible to get down quite easily from the moutn of the Makino without having to swim or climb hundreds of feet around bluffs.

The river was lower than normal summer level, and, for the Mohaka, exceptionally warm; we were able to wade in waist deep without discomfort. Huge fish followed the lures most excitingly but just didn't bite; only one tiny thing, so small it had to be let go again, was caught. But in such pleasant conditions it was the sort of trip to gain new recruits for the Acclimatisation Society and new customers for shops selling fishing rods.

Wendy Smith (& dog), Mr. & Mrs. Smith, Peter Jane, Sandra Smith, Peter Lewis.

POHOKURA / IKAWATEA / OTUPAE RANGE

Aug. 30, 31, Sept. 1st

Having heard about so many newer members' enterprising trips, four "veterans", with between us a total of over 23 years membership of the H.T.C., decided to show that we too were prepared to take on a somewhat longer than usual trip to explore new country. None of us had ever visited Pohokura Outstation, which is in the broad and quite low-lying area of hills and gullies south of the Napier-Taihape road, between the Comet, to the E., and Otupae Range, to the West, so here was our opportunity.

Away from Hastings at a civilised time, between 9 and 10am. First mishap came half a mile after leaving the Taihape road when the driver was too hesitant on approaching mudhole; Kombi bogged; Brenda hurt her back pushing it out. Left vehicle on edge of long descent into valley some 3 or 4 miles in, strolled down and had a chat with one of the farm workers in residence at the hut. Had a leisurely lunch by a small stream. Warm afternoon, easy going along farm road, the miles passed by almost unnoticed. Crossed Taruarau River on an old, narrow swing bridge, wandered up to outstation homestead past several big black bull who pulled unfriendly

faces at us. Chaps at the homestead were quite friendly when they found we had no rifles, but made it quite clear that no shooters are permitted on the place. (They told us of their latest reason to be suspicious of visitors; someone, not long before, had left open the little gates at either end of the swing bridge. A mob of curious sheep had crossed, and then set out to return while others were still crossing. Unable to turn round when they met, and shoved along by other sheep from behind, 28 in-lamb ewes had been smothered).

From the outstation we wandered down and crossed the Ikawatea, surprisingly deep and cold, then plodded up an old bulldozed track through the scrub to the south until we came to two old huts, one derelict, the other not so bad but apparently little used and deeply littered with 'possum droppings. By now it was a bit late in the day to be thinking of making for Ikawatea Forks Hut, and this was a most pleasant spot for sleeping out; short dry grass under big trees, with plenty of scrub nearby to make a bed. After a good feed we sat beside the glowing embers resulting from a pile of old pine-cones about a couple of feet high and a yard wide, until the moon came up.

Sunday, we were awakened by a great racket of birds in the trees, blackbirds, thrushes, and all sorts, all trying to out-shout one another, while the clear fine morning light spread over the fog-filled valley below to brighten the dewy grass and the spiderwebs beside us. When we did finally depart, we climbed the hill behind our grassy ledge and spent some time looking over the considerable area of lowland between us and the Ruahines, before scrambling down to the junction of the Ikawatea and the Makirikiri; the former appears narrow and gorgy, but passable, but the latter definitely not, with waterfalls, narrow slits, tumbled boulders and pools.

At this stage, the combination of circumstances - all of the party feeling fit; perfect day; nearness to farmland; led us to a wrong decision. Why not make a "small" detour, up and along the top of Otupae Range, on our way back? Quite forgetting how many miles we were from our transport, and that the map showed a climb of 3000 ft ahead of us, away we went! Not bad at first, the bush soon became thickly clogged with undergrowth, bush-lawyer etc.. We thought it couldn't be as bad as that all the way. It was worse! Higher up, some ice-storm years ago had bent and broken the trees into a horrible tangle. Too late to turn back, we thought the skyline ahead must be the top. It wasn't; neither was the next hump, nor the even nearer vertical one after that. Weather changed; cold rain, fog; ground very slippery. Stop for a feed; on, up and up; out into the gale on the top at 4.50pm, less than two hours of daylight left, visibility 20-50 yds. Push on northwards along the top, squelchy moss and patches of old icy snow, two magnificent deer prancing playfully ahead of us, not quite out of sight in the mist, for most of the way (a sight we may not see again very often as meat-hunters are said to have cleaned out this area since). 5.50pm, in pouring rain, turn off N.E. corner of range down old stock route. Danger of steep wet tussock slopes emphasised by one bad stumbling and hurtling down 30 ft before being able to stop. Darkness at edge of scrub. Stumble on for another hour in the dark, hillside pitted with banks from old pig-rooting, scrub thicker, still hundreds of feet

above farmland, at last we have the sense to say "enough of this"!

Out with the old carbide lamp, cut a pile of scrub to keep us off the ground, spread our 9 ft x 6 ft sheet of polythene to cover from the feet of our sleepingbags up to above waist level; into our sacks, parkas over our heads and shoulders, a bite to eat, and then settle down for an amazingly warm and comfortable night. Up at daylight, weather clearing, down to the Taruarau for a boil-up, and then the long trudge out. Everyone still cheerful and going well, though that last long climb at the finish did seem to slow us.

Driving back; time to think over excuses, and replies for the sarcastic remarks which are bound to be passed. (One advantage experienced trampers do have is that they have fairly well-trained parents who don't worry more than they need to.)

Brian Smith, Paul Frude, Brenda Butcher, Peter Lewis.

SOCIAL NEWS

Births: To Tony and Marion Corbin - a daughter.

To Ian and Pat Berry - a son.

To Sally and Tony Bryan - a son.

Engagements: Pam Lewis to Brian Turner.

Alex Buchanan to Phillipa O'Brien.

Marilyn Challice to Graham Thorp.

Moves: Tony Mott to Dunedin.

Graham Soppitt to Fiji.

Keith Garratt, back from Sarawak, has been appointed to Rotorua.

Roy Swain is now on Raoul Island.

John Titchener is at Massey.

Alex Buchanan has been included in the 1970 Andean Expedition.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the club:-

John Preece, Arthur Lacheny, Sue Tucker (Jr.).

SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due. If paid by 31st December, 1969, they are reducible to \$2. for single members and \$3. for married couples.

THE FIRST MEETING next year will be held on Wednesday, 7th January, 1970, in the Radiant Living Hall, Warren Street North, Hastings.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS to All and Good Tramping in 1970.

FIXTURE LIST

<u>Date</u>	<u>Trip</u>	<u>Fare</u>	<u>Leader, Phone</u>
<u>1969</u>			
<u>DEC.13</u>	<u>Christmas Party at Tukituki River</u>		Sue Adcock Has.78.285
14	<u>Picnic at Ferny Ridge, Puketitiri</u>	\$1.	Kay Johnstone Nap.35.147
<u>1970</u>			
<u>JAN.</u>			
<u>1-4</u>	<u>MAROPEA HUT - COLENZO LAKE, Ruahines.</u>	\$1.	Trevor Baldwin Has. 77.711
	This trip has been designed for everyone. The four days have been spaced so that the speed of the party can dictate where each night is spent.		
11	<u>MARATHON & PICNIC - Kuripapango.</u>	\$1.	Maury Taylor HMN 829
	Now an annual event, the club Marathon and picnic is held at Kuripapango.		
24-25	<u>MAKAHU - KIWI MOUTH - MACKINTOSH, Kawekas.</u>	\$1.	Graham Thorp Nap. 5260
	A Friday night start is intended for a fit party on this trip. An easy trip will also be held around Studholme's Saddle and Mackintosh Plateau.		
<u>FEB.</u>			
8	<u>LILO TRIP, NGARURORO RIVER.</u>	\$1.	Kelvin Walls Has. 84.966 Warren Greer Has. 69.739
	Another popular annual event which is spent liloing down the Ngaruroro river to the north of Kuripapango.		
21-22	<u>WAIKAMAKA WORKING PARTY.</u>	\$1.	Geof Richards Nap. 38.894
	This should be a good chance to finish the painting of the hut. For those who are not engaged in the painting there are track repairs to be made both sides of the Waipawa Saddle.		
<u>MARCH</u>			
8	<u>LAKE OPOUahi (via Tutira)</u>	\$1.	Chris Persen Nap. 35.254
	Rock climbers will be able to give instruction and also gain more experience on the rocks around lake.		
21-22	<u>BUSHCRAFT WEEKEND. (Hot Springs Puketitiri)</u>	\$1.	Fixture Cttee Nap. 5260
	Here is a chance for new members to learn the correct methods of river crossing, compass work and general bushcraft.		
27-30 Easter	<u>RUATAHUNA - WAIKARE JUNCTION, Ureweras.</u>	\$?	David White Has. 86.671
	A chance to explore new country on a round trip in the headwaters of the Whakatane River.		
<u>APRIL</u>			
5	<u>SMITHS CREEK (Via Waipawa Base)</u>	\$1.	Randal Gold- finch Ttle. 8706
	An easy day trip into Smiths Creek from the Waipawa river. The more energetic types can climb to South Rangi.		
18-19	<u>KAWEKA TRACK - MACKINTOSH PLATEAU - LAWRENCE HUT.</u>	\$1.	Geof Persen Nap.35.254
	Intended as a camping trip, this should be a good chance for members to practice what they have learned on the Bushcraft weekend.		

