

Now that the Club Badge has appeared in all its glory requests have been made that the oft-told story of its lizard should be put into print. The first club trip's meeting with a lizard recalled the story of the mascot of a celebrated pioneer.

POHOKURA

On the arrival of the Takitumu canoe, the newcomers finding the land already inhabited, proceeded down the east coast to pick up a suitable site for settlement. The most venturesome of them was Tamatea, known as Pokai Whenua, - Tamatea the Map-Roller - from the extent of his explorations. On reaching Heretaunga he set off up-country to pick up the lie of the land and eventually came to a pa called Otupae on the snowy shoulder of the Ruahines that we see opposite Ruapehu in the Taruarau gap. Here while he sat and rested he put down the calabash which always accompanied him, containing his two pets, Pohokura, a lizard, and Kahu-o-te-Rangi, a crayfish, and when he came to pick it up his pets had escaped. Pohokura's outlines are visible today in the ridges of the Ruahine Range and the moaning of Kahu-o-te-Rangi, who lurks in the valleys, can still be heard when bad weather is approaching.

FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS

At the sixth Annual Meeting on May 15th. N.L.Elder was present as H.T.C. delegate, and together with I.L.Powell was elected to the Committee. The Federation's activities cover a wide range of matters affecting Tramping Clubs, chiefly in the direction of formulating broad lines of policy, negotiating with the authorities and distributing information.

National Parks:

Important changes were made in policy, affirming the primary importance of their preservation in their natural state, with the extermination of vermin and subject to this their development for recreation without restriction on access. In furtherance of this policy the desirability was suggested of member clubs joining the local Councils of Conservation decided upon by a recent conference called by the Government.

Suggestions were put before the authorities for the better control of National Parks and also for the licensing of guides legislation on which should appear next session.

Information: Copies of the Safety Rules' booklet will shortly be sent to club secretaries for distribution and should be of great value in establishing sound climbing and tramping practice.

Hut folios are being issued, the data for the main Ruahine Hute now being in. These give very full information of locality, accommodation etc.

Detailed information of the various maps available is also being collected.

Concessions:

The Railway Department have agreed to consider special cases where members of a "sporting party" (the minimum number being six) assemble from different places and only make part of the journey together. This would particularly apply to parties assembling at Palmerston North for the National Park.

This looks like being a snowy winter, if so ice-axes will be needed before long. The Club is purchasing a couple which will be available for hire. Snow conditions vary enormously and cannot be treated lightly.

Preliminary maps of the Kaimanawas, Kawekas, Northern Ruahines and Central Ruahines will soon be available as helio prints. Any information, particularly about local names, etc., would be appreciated.

With John von Dadelszen's departure to Wellington the Club has lost an enterprising member, whose eye for country and willingness to tackle the rough stuff off the beaten track made him especially valuable. Of his social, vocal and diplomatic abilities what need be said?

On May 26th Club members were kindly invited by the Hastings Women's Community Club to an address by Miss Kate Gardiner on her climbs this season in the Southern Alps illustrated by a large number of interesting slides and cine-kodak films, the latter in particular giving a vivid impression of height and expanse in vertical and horizontal traversing. Her Aspiring and Tutoko ascents were fully illustrated and gave a good idea of the route of approach. Particularly impressive was an aerial photograph showing Aspiring as an incredibly slender three sided pinnacle rising from an ice plateau, an end on view of Sefton from near the Copeland Pass, a cine-kodak shot from near the southern peak of Cook up the whole western face from the Hooker to the main summit and the party in a gust of wind on the approach to Haidinger.

Several members also attended a second address to the Havelock North Women's Institute.

Ian's Rakaiia lecture at the Clubroom on June 4th made an interesting contrast: more mist, more moraine, and more fording of glacier streams. Sou'westers were much in evidence. The slides shown covered the Ramsay and Clark glaciers with a trip down the Whitcombe and up a tributary to an attempt on Mt. Evans. (As evidence of the interest of the audience, even - stopped rough - housing part of the time.)

On June 18th. Lloyd Wilson gave a talk on photography illustrated with some fine enlargements and some interesting portfolios of views of familiar country.

A Search Organisation Committee has been appointed and all those who would be willing to assist in the case of an emergency are asked to give their names to N. Elder, to the Hon. Sec Mr. Lloyd Wilson, c/o P. O. Box 273, Hastings, or the Hon. Treas. c/o Messrs Kelly & McNeil, Queen Street, Hastings.

PAST TRIPS

Working Party: Kaweka Hut 15th and 16th May. 14 hands carried in all the materials for completing the roofing in corrugated iron.

43. Pohatuhaha: 22nd - 23rd May: The trig was reached but it is a deceptive peak, well worth a star in the fixture list. Saturday to Little Andrews in the cool of a still evening. Large camp fire and choruses, assisted by Maori pighunters from hut. Sunday tents frozen stiff. Still 2½ hours to foot of range and nearly 3000 feet climb, some of it steep bluffs. Top a little monkey bridge of bare rock above forested plateau. Indistinct connecting saddle to north with bad gullies all along Kereru face. Patchy fog along tops, Piopio, Te Atua, 66, Rangī streaked with snow. Long trek back - 6½ hours to lorry - and the deep gullies of the Wairangi and Poporangi to cross at the last.

14 in party, Leader, Chas Higgs.

Working Party, Kaweka Hut 29th - 30th. May: A party of eight found the job of putting the iron on the roof a comparatively light one. The other window was put in the gable end improving the lighting greatly.

44. Blackburn Ridge: 6th. June: A clear cold morning after two days snow which lay thickly above 2000 feet. A carload of Waipukurau members picked us up at the Waipawa Bridge and piloted us in. The trip started with a good deal of s campering about and snowballing but soon settled down to a steady trudge in single file through soft snow. The bush was a beautiful sight, the snow-capped twigs of leatherwood giving a rhododendron effect. A high wind was blowing up above and snow plumes rose like smoke along the ridges of Rangī-o-te-Atua. A wonderful trip but - a fairly early return!

22 in party, Leader, Janet Moncrieff.

45. Kaweka Hut June 19th - 20th. Some of the party went in on Saturday and two carloads on Sunday. The weather was ideal with heavy snow above 3000 feet and a trip was made to 4915 and back via Cook's Horn sighting two or three parties of stalkers.

14 in party, Leader, Dave Christie

FUTURE TRIPS

46. July 4th: Matarau and Ocean Beach via Craggy Range. An easy trip across the Maraetotara Stream to the pa site at Matarau
D. Williams. 22

47. July 18th: Shut Eye Shack. Judging from present conditions there should be plenty of snow this winter. —

48. Aug. 1st: Titiokura Taraponui. A club party has not yet done this trip which gives a great view of the Ahimanawa and Te Hoe country.
L. Wilson. 19.

49. Aug. 15th: Kuripapanga Te Iringa
L. Matheson. (15) 9

50. Aug 28th. Ruahine Three Johns Traverse
M. McCormick. (15)

CLUB ROOM FIXTURES

July 16th	P. van Asch - Aerial Photography
July 30th	J. Palmer - Ski-ing
Aug 13th	N. Elder - The Art of getting Lost
Aug 27th	St. John's Ambulance Demonstration
Sept 10th	
Sept 15th	Club Dance.