

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

Bulletin No. 10

1st. November, 1937.

This Bulletin serves to introduce members to our Third Year which we sincerely trust will be as successful as previous years. How do you do? - or words to that effect. We're glad you are still with us.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting, held on October 8th, was fairly well reported in the local press but for the information of absentee and other members who do not receive our news medium, extracts from the Annual Report are as follows:

MEMBERSHIP: The membership of the Club still totals 87

Full Members	69
Absentee Members	11
Associate Members	1
Honorary Members	6

TRAMPING: Last year 26 scheduled trips were carried out and the number of weekend, or longer trips, increased to 10 (5). The average attendance on trips dropped to 19 (25).

Trips were again distributed fairly evenly over the available territory. The influence of the Kawaka Hut is shown by the six trips and four working parties that went into Kuripapanga. An increased interest in the Northern Ruahines is shown by four trips from Kereru and two from Yeoman and Gardner's. Only two official parties went in from McCullough's Mill, but several parties have been out. Club parties also went in from Titikura, Whanawhana and Ashley-Clinton, the official Easter party of 29 visited Tongariro National Park and the Chateau and three local trips were made.

The Club Picnic at Waimarama developed into a well-attended weekend and a very successful one.

A fair variety of private trips have been made during the year. In addition to several members joining other parties in the South Island, a crossing from Kuripapanga to the Tauranga-Taupo was successfully made by a mixed party without much assistance from the weather, a party made a preliminary investigation of the country between Waikaremoana and the Rangi-taiki, a High School party was taken across the Kawekas.

Other trips include a 4 day round trip, covering the main peaks of the Ruahine Range, some successful exploration of the head waters of the Tukituki, and various day trips, including a winter ascent of "88" and a traverse of Three Johns under hard snow conditions, on which the Club's new ice axes came in very useful. Incidentally on this trip the track up Three Johns' spur was opened up and more blazing done, giving a useful all weather emergency exit from the Rangī-o-te-Atua section of the range.

HUTS & TRACKS: In the course of the year the Kaweka Hut was completed and as an additional precaution the original malthoid roof covered with corrugated iron. As a matter of interest the amount expended by the Club on the erection was £25.10.4. The Hut has proved very popular, the names in the visitors' book totalling 167 as far back as Anzac Day. Apart from the scarfing or felling of a few of the larger trees that afford valuable protection to the building no damage has been done to the Hut or its surroundings.

The thanks of the Club are due to Members who gave so willingly of their time and labour, the members of the Easter party who allowed the profit to be used for iron, also to Mr. John Holt who treated the Club so well with timber and other materials.

A proposal by the Ruahine Tramping Club to build a hut in the Ruahines near the site of Howlett's Hut on the ridge to Te Raha has been received. Our Club has been invited to co-operate and a combined trip to consider the site has been arranged for Labour weekend.

ASSOCIATED CLUBS: The Club is affiliated to the Federation of Mountain Clubs of New Zealand. Our Captain, Mr. N. Elder, has been elected a member of the Executive.

In addition the Club is a member or supporter of the following organisations; Hastings Historical Society, N. Z. Bird Protection Society and the Progress League (Auckland).

SOCIAL: Thanks are due to the Social Committee for arranging supper at all meetings, several small dances and for the Club's Annual Dance which was held on the 1st. October.

During the year a number of interesting talks were given on Skiing, First Aid, Roping and Climbing, Compass Reading, Aerial Photography etc.

SEARCH ORGANISATION: The importance of an adequate search organisation has been realised by the Committee and steps have been taken to perfect a scheme embracing the country between the Mohaka and Tukituki rivers. A permanent sub-committee consisting of the President, Club Captain and Secretary has been set up and arrangements made to co-operate with the Federated Mountain Clubs, our neighbouring Tramping Clubs, the Radio Emergency Corps, H.B. & E.C. Aero Club and the Police Department.

The "Safety First" booklets issued by the Federation have been distributed and the Committee hopes that these will prove of great assistance.

APPRECIATION: The thanks of the Club are due to -

The various speakers at Club Meetings  
Landowners for their courtesy in permitting tramping on  
their properties.

All those who, throughout the year, have helped the Club  
in many ways.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: After the reading of the Annual Report the Meeting proceeded to the election of an Executive.

Patron	Mr. E. J. Herrick
President	Dr. D. A. Bathgate
Vice-Presidents	Mrs. N. Elder, Messrs. D. Christie S. Craven
Club Captain	Mr. N. Elder
Secretary	Mr. L. Wilson
Treasurer	Mr. F. Green
Auditor	Mr. M. McCormick
Committee	Miss J. Moncrieff, L. Matheson, Messrs. R. Keys, L. Holt, A. Toop, D. Callow, G. Piesse.
Social Committee	Misses, J. Lovell-Smith, J. Budd, A. Baird, M. Treneman, Messrs. R. Keys, L. Holt.

ANNUAL DANCE: As last year, an amazingly well dressed crowd of people foregathered at the Havelock North Town Board Hall on 1st. October. It is strange how ordinary people like trampers can don or discard, at will, the veneer of civilization. The Hall was not quite so crowded and though there was somewhat more scope for dancing there was a good turnout of members. There were several bunches of people outside part of the time - but who knows, they may have been arranging private trips anyhow. The birthday cake, adorned with two massive tapers (invaluable for firelighting in rain!) was cut by the President with becoming solemnity. The Social Committee reported a profit on the venture.

Opportunity was taken to congratulate Norman Collinge and Hilary Fendall on the announcement of their engagement (The Club is still not responsible)

PAST TRIPS:

No. 51. Sept. 12th. Longfellow Range & Taruarau Forks. A pleasant day in spite of occasional dampness in the air. After lunch at the top some went down a spur to a bay in the Ngaruroro, a little above the actual forks. Interest mainly botanical.

About 15. N. Elder.

No. 52. Sept. 25-26th. Hot Springs Mchaka. After a comfortable and extremely quiet night at Holt's shearers' whare the party made fast time in on Sunday, having time to poke round discovering a nest of wild bees, caves, and to bathe etc.

10. D. Williams.

No. 53. Oct. 10th. Shut Eye (Search Workout) The whole party went in up the creek using one of the flats as a base. Conditions looked icy on top at first but thawed rapidly. Eleven set out for the top via Shut Eye Shack, divided into three parties at the saddle (Holt, Toop and Piesso) the first working into one arm of the creek and the other two, the intervening spurs. Arch Toop made good progress and soon connected with the other parties who were delayed by heavy scrub on the bush line (Bounced-out is the word). The timing worked out well all parties reaching the forks at an interval of 10-15 minutes. A few traces of previous visitors were noticed in the northern section and some debris, blown off the saddle, in the western, but in general the valley off the saddle seems an unlikely route for anyone to attempt. The only hitch in the day was that the base garrison, who were to give a demonstration of smoke signals, decided to make a round trip of the basin instead.

22. I. Farrelly.

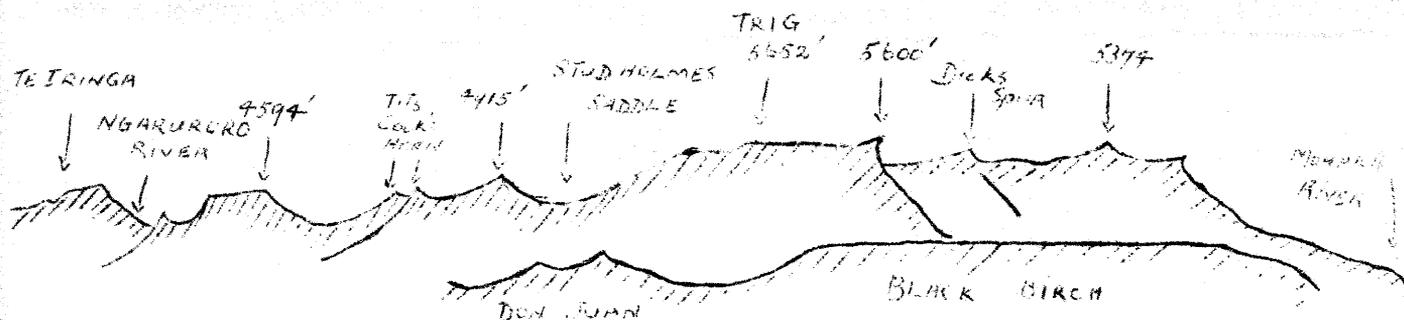
No. 54. Oct. 23-25th. Moorcock Stream. No luck at all was experienced with the weather and the full itinerary was not attempted. A scheme to send a party down the range had already been abandoned and the whole party went to the Stag's Head Hut. The arrangements were that the main Ruahine party were to go by the same route to the Pohangina Hut, two other parties crossing from Umitoi and Rangiwahia, while a Taihape party was to traverse the Hikurangi range, all parties converging on the Howlett's site on Sunday. The Ruahine party came in late, getting off the track in the Moorcock. Sir Galahad and Don Quixote (Les Holt and Arch Toop) did a nice spot of gathering and eventually managed to get the party to the Stag's Head, where they spent the night. Meantime a Heretaunga party had pushed onto the Pohangina Hut. Heavy rain set in during the night and Sunday was wet with low visibility, the various parties staying where they were. On Sunday night there was a considerable fall of snow on the tops and on Monday the main parties, after making the turn off at Otumore for the benefit of the Umitoi party separated, the H.T.C. returning via the Moorcock to pick up the lorry at Mill farm, where they just missed a party, presumably the Rangiwahia one, which had come down the river.

15. F. Green.

Special: Oct 31st, White Pine Bush (Tongoio) When Mr. F.E. Smith addressed the Club recently he suggested making a trip to the Reserve and very kindly offered to come out himself to show the party round. The day was superb and after visiting the Reserve went on to the Waipatiki beach for a swim.

26. J. Moncrieff.

A series of profiles of the ranges, as seen from the Heretaunga Plain, has been suggested to assist in picking up the main points. A representation of the Kaweka Range appears below :-



Some years ago a visitor to New Zealand, strolling near Lambton Station midday one Saturday, was amazed to see what appeared to be large numbers of human pack-horses, carrying enormous loads, straining along the Quay. On enquiring why they were so heavily laden he was told that they were going to the Tararuas for the weekend. "Good heavens," he ejaculated. "What on earth do they need all that for?"

A dirty weekend - (does anyone remember Labour Day) in the great open spaces demands ample equipment but there is no need to rival the patient camel, and overequipment is a commoner mistake than underequipment. A very thorough American manual on "Woodcraft" goes so far as to advise emptying one's pack on return into three heaps gear not actually used, gear used perhaps once and gear in use all the time. Then scrap the first two. This is heroic advice.

For our conditions a weight of 17-20 lbs (in the pack) should cover clothing and equipment. Add between 2 and 3 lbs food for each whole day out. A share of tents etc say  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. More is unnecessary, less, on high country or winter trips, risky.

Thus a weekend pack should not exceed 27 lbs, a three day pack 32 lbs, a week's pack 45 lbs, and, in the case of an arduous trip the leader would be quite in order refusing to allow anyone to come out with more.

It has been whispered that Rolf Keys has been let loose as a Minister of Propagander. The idea being that Rolf smells out speakers from among Club Members and anyone with or without talent will be requested to stop hiding their lights under bushels and come out in the open.

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We understand that our leader for Labour Weekend is fairly proficient at the gentle art of getting acquainted. Any members intending to compete in this class are advised to train hard and develop competitive technique.

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A cordial invitation has been received from Ian Powell for any interested members to join a party of the Hutt Valley Tramping Club who are arranging a trip during the Christmas vacation to Mt. Arthur Tableland in Nelson. Further information regarding this trip may be obtained from the Secretary.

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For the information of those who are interested in seeing New Zealand first the Club equipment may be hired at the following rates:

<u>Tents</u>	2/6 per weekend. 5/- per week.	Users to be responsible for any damage. To be returned promptly in good order and condition.
<u>Ice axes</u>	1/- each per weekend. 2/6 per week.	For any period over one week special application must be made to the Committee.

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CLUB ROOM EVENTS: Mr. F. E. Smith gave an interested audience a talk on native trees, in which he covered a lot of ground. His account of the early stages of bush settlement in the Rai Valley described a wealth of plant and bird life which it would be hard to find even on a small scale today.

Mr. E. J. Herrick was unfortunately unable to be present on October 22nd, so the evening was devoted to a report and discussion on the Trial Search which brought up some useful points.

FUTURE TRIPSNo. 55. Nov. 8th. Kaweka Hut

D. Callow.

No. 56. Nov. 21st. Te Kowhai. Climb Don Juan (Te Kowhai Peak)  
from the old homestead.

L. Holt.

No. 57. Dec. 4-5th. Ruahine Hut An advance party will probably follow track as far as the Te Koau then return down the Ngaruroro. Day parties will be able to connect.

A. Toop.

No. 58. Dec. 12th. Shut Eye Shack. Via Waipawa Forks. Advance party traverse of 66 or alternatively a further practice search of the slopes of Trig 60.

G. Piesse.

No. 59. New Year Ruahine Crossing. An historically minded tramper writes from Wellington to point out that Colenso did not cross the Ruahines till several years later than 1838. Apologies for the error. The trip will go through as a Centenary trial.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR ARE NOW DUE.