

# OUTDOORS

Secretary:  
G. A. PEARSON,  
P.O. Box 462, Dunedin.

The Official Organ of  
The Otago Tramping Club, Inc.

Editor:  
J. C. LUCAS,  
34 Russell Street, Dunedin.

Contributions Invited.

September, 1934.

Issued Quarterly.

Volume 1, Number 1.

A quotation from the poets—definitely highbrow—or should it be “Dear Readers?” How to commence a paper such as this is by far the most pressing of all the vexed questions which confront an amateur editor striving to find a suitable opening. It has been suggested that the correct beginning is an apology for launching yet another publication on a long suffering world and, whilst we may be prepared to admit that this may be technically correct we are not sufficiently egotistic to think that the Otago Tramping Club is a large enough portion of the world to justify our using the correct technical opening. This, of course, leaves the problem still to be faced but as we appear to be getting on fairly well at the moment perhaps we can shelve the pressing question of a suitable opening and proceed.

Whilst we do not apologise for our appearance it may be appropriate to mention the main objects we hope to achieve. These are, in addition to an anticipation that we will assist in attaining the objects set out in the club rules, a desire to provide an outlet for the literary talent of O.T.C. members and thereby the provision of a permanent record of the activities of the club. We will accordingly be glad to have articles from those fortunate members who go further afield than the average member is able to do and also from those other members who can write an interesting account of an ordinary club trip. Under this category will be included the leaders of club outings who will please supply for publication short details of the expeditions under their control. We have arranged to have a short photographic column in each issue and are confident that this will prove a popular feature. In addition reprints of suitable material will be made as space is available and here again you can co-operate by bringing to our notice any interesting matter you may have discovered.

The form in which our journal is now presented is the result of a careful investigation into such mundane matters as costs of production etc., and, needless to say, this is the least expensive of the proposals considered. We feel it better to start thus leaving plenty of room for the improvement which your active co-operation will bring in each successive issue. Whilst dealing with this aspect of our paper we recollect the first occasion when a magazine was discussed on one of the club outings. The suggestions were many and varied but by far the most popular was for a publication com-

plete with photographs and coloured plates like a ‘National Geographic.’ We have not forgotten this suggestion but from the more or less lofty eminence of our recently acquired knowledge of the publishing business we can only see our journal in such a guise as a faint star on a far horizon. It is not our desire that you should be contented with our efforts but rather that you should realise we are attempting to cut our coat according to our cloth and, remembering these limits, we ask you to send in your criticism. Will each and every reader take this as an invitation to write to the editor saying what he thinks of the club’s latest venture and how he considers it can best be improved? Such a general request for letters might almost give one the idea that the club is to get a commission on the postal revenue so we hasten to say that this is not the case but that when it does come about we will remodel our paper on ‘National Geographic’ lines.

At present the only official place for airing any complaints you may have is the annual meeting and as this opportunity is available but once each year, we will provide space for brief “Letters to the Editor.” You will note that we said “brief” letters.

Official notices to members will be published in our columns. With the idea of reducing costs where possible we commence this custom by including the club’s annual report in this issue.

And a word about advertising. Mention has already been made of our recently acquired knowledge of the publishing business. The term “recently acquired” also applies to our information anent advertising. For one setting out almost gaily in lunch hours and evenings with an idea of getting writers’ cramp taking down orders for advertisement space it came something of a shock to get four refusals in one short half hour. Each name taken off the list of “possibles” reduced the probable size of the paper but fortunately a sufficient number of public spirited firms agreed to give us an advertisement to permit the production of this sheet so we ask you to rally round and give your custom to the firms who are advertising herein. Remember they are paying the bulk of the cost of producing this paper and as they wrap up your parcels say “I saw your advertisement in the Otago Tramping Club’s paper.” Can we leave this to you?

We leave our efforts to your judgment with anticipations of a full post bag containing your comments on this issue and your contributions for the next.

## YOUTH HOSTEL ASSOCIATION.

The Canterbury Regional Council of the Youth Hostel Association is holding a combined Tramping Clubs’ outing on Sunday, September 23, from Motukarara to Charteris Bay. O.T.C. members who are in Christchurch during this week-end are given a cordial invitation to take part in the trip. Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary.

## THE FEDERATED MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF NEW ZEALAND.

We now have the facilities to hand on to our members some of the information which is regularly received from the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand, whose third annual report records the capable manner in which the interests of trampers are being safeguarded. Mention may be made of the preparation of a complete list of huts throughout New Zealand which work has now been practically completed. Information in respect of this list may be obtained on application. The Federation has also made application to the Minister of Internal Affairs for a grant of £2,000 to form the nucleus of a search fund for lost trampers. From time to time we will keep you advised of their further activities on our behalf.

## EXCHANGES.

We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of numerous publications from kindred societies throughout New Zealand. These have been most helpful in our invasion into the world of journalism. In addition to the papers mentioned we have received a copy of ‘The Sydney Bush Walker Annual’ in which the doings of our Australian friends are recorded in a most interesting manner.

## Labour Week-end Trips.

### No. 1.—Middlemarch and Rock and Pillar Range.

Leave Dunedin by 11.40 a.m. train on Saturday, 20th October. Approximate cost, 30/-. As it will be necessary to arrange for hotel accommodation, names of those wishing to take part in this trip must reach the Secretary **not later than 6th October.** A deposit of 10/- must accompany each application.

### No. 2.—Club Hut and Hindon.

Approximate cost, 5/-. An inexpensive trip in good tramping country.

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING APPEARS ON PAGE 3.

## EARLY TRAMPING CLUB DAYS.

For eleven years this club has been in operation and giving much pleasure and enjoyment to all its members. What a series of beautiful pictures flits before our eyes when we look back on the past—sunrise from Ben Dhoran, moonlight on the harbour, clear views from mountain tops, here and there a misty day with rocks and trees looming immense and weird through the fog, splashing through the sea on the beaches, or wading knee-deep in moss and ferns under the glorious New Zealand foliage; and always a merry throng, full of happiness and good nature, pressing on through these wonderful natural beauties.

In August, 1923, the club was formed, and forthwith, as a sturdy infant, set out to walk. In the early days so many attended that the parties had to be divided. Sometimes three trips were arranged for one day. However, by the time the club had found itself, when the weak followers had dropped out, and the others got together, we settled down to work with a programme very much like the present.

In the early years, the Red Hut was very much visited. Its place is now taken by our own hut on Green Hill, from which the whole of the Silver Peak range can be reached. The club in its longer holidays has visited Cecil Peak, Naseby, Dansey Pass, Catlins, Papatowai, Milford, Hampden, Rock and Pillar, Fox Glacier, Lake Gunn, Eglinton Valley, and Matukituki Valley, and has tramped many long miles through those districts.

We still go weekly to some of the many charming beauty spots around Dunedin, and our numbers are about the same as we had in the first year, after the first attraction of novelty had gone.

It is noteworthy how faithful our old members have been to the club, and what a large number we still have of the "Old Brigade."

The first tramp of the club was held on Saturday, September 1, 1923, when about fifty members set out from Ross Creek Reservoir to climb Flagstaff. The weather was clear but a strong and bitterly cold south-west wind was encountered (don't we all know it well!). As the trampers set in to Ross's Track in Indian file, the line of members was so long that the leaders were at the top when some were only entering the bush.

On September 23, one party of nineteen went to Mount Cargill when they were enveloped in mist, but got safely out: while a still larger party went over Flagstaff to Craiglowan. Ben Rudd took strong exception to so many people invading his solitude, and forcibly stopped some of the younger members of the club. However, when Mr Balk came along, Ben was more reasonable and offered to cut a track through the manuka scrub for the club for £5. This offer was subsequently accepted by the committee, and the track was duly cut, and has proved of very great benefit to our members.

The first Labour Day was the occasion of three parties going out to the Silver Peak range. Mr Balk and a party of fourteen went to Whare Flat, spent the night there; next day walked to Mount Allan homestead, where they slept in the shearers' quarters and found the night uncommonly cold, and on the Monday went to Silver Peak and Waitati.

Another party of about forty, including Mr Thompson, our president, Mr Knox, and Mr Hamel, went by train on Monday morning to Mount Allan, and walked to the Peak and thence to Waitati.

A third party, including Mr Clayton and Mr Gilkison, went to the Red Hut on Saturday, and on Labour Day descended to the Waikouaiti River and thence by the Long Spur climbed to the peak. Altogether, about seventy gathered on the peak that day and, after a time, water became scarce, and we had to go long distances to fill the billys.

At Christmas, 1923, members were busy. While a large number did the usual walks round Dunedin, including Waipori, Maungatua, and the Peak, a party of seven proceeded to Wakatipu under the leadership of Mr Knox, and spent a splendid holiday at Cecil Peak Station, where they were allowed to occupy the shearers' quarters.

Since those days the club has gone on and prospered. All the beauty spots near Dunedin have been visited many times, and, in the long holidays, far off mountains have been scaled and distant places have been visited. We are no longer lonely trampers, for the cult is now fashionable, and, for one walker we used to meet on the hilltops, there are now probably five. Health and pleasure and good-fellowship have been our reward. Our memories are

stored with hundreds of happy incidents. To all old and new members we wish many future happy expeditions with the Otago Tramping Club.

R. Gilkison.

### VERY FRIENDLY ROBINS.

Would you make friends with the friendliest little birds of our New Zealand bush? Then when next Christmas holidays come round, why not go on board or camp at Paradise, at the head of Lake Wakatipu?

In January last some of the happiest half hours our party spent were with the robins in the back forest there. On a sunny morning, with biscuits in our pockets, we would wander quietly, sometimes singly, sometimes in pairs, into the bush beyond the cottage garden. Presently, we would hear the clear shrill whistle of a robin somewhere near. We would at once settle ourselves on a fallen log or sunny slope, scratch up the dead beech leaves beside us to uncover some grubs or insects, and by whistling or other forms of invitation, attract the bird toward us.

The biscuit crumbs usually brought him within a yard or two. Then his inquisitiveness did the rest. He would hop all around us and peck the buttons or laces on our shoes, the worsted of our stockings, the brown speckles on our coat. Sometimes he even hopped up our legs, on to our laps and actually pecked our finger nails. Billies, tin-openers, bangles—anything bright—was sure to attract his attention. Four of us had cameras, and we vied with one another in taking snaps of him at close range. The most successful one shows very clearly his long black legs and beady eyes.

Sometimes a second robin appeared close at hand, but our first friend usually regarded him as an intruder to be promptly sent about his business. The first would presently return to us, still hissing out his anger. My companion on such occasions was a lively young schoolgirl of nine; but even she had no difficulty in sitting quietly, and she marvelled at the ways of these trusting creatures of the bush.

I feel sure that the memory of the gentle friendly robins will draw us back again to the glorious valleys of the Dart and Rees, to Diamond Lake and Paradise.—By H.K.D. in 'New Zealand Native Bird Society's Bulletin,' No. 33.

### NGARO-TE-KOTARE.

During the afternoon and early evening of a recent Saturday, trampers arrived from various directions at the Auckland Tramping Club's hut—the base for many interesting outings—until about 7.30 p.m., when fifteen enthusiastic folk had collected for the night. Tea over and everything tidied, a bright impromptu social gathering took place, men and girls alike joining in the fun of "party" games until 11 p.m., when the strict rule of the hut ordered all to bed in readiness for the next day's outing.

The hut (called "Ngaro-te-Kotare" or "The Hidden Look-out") is a substantial wooden building of three rooms prettily situated on the Waitakere Ranges commanding a magnificent view of the bush covered hills with Murawai Beach in the distance. It has a central common-room containing a large fireplace, table and forms, with

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a bunk room at either side, each having twelve bunks complete with mattresses, pillows, and blankets.

At 8.30 a.m. on Sunday everyone was ready to fulfil the day's programme. The first destination was the Cascades, a delightful stream in one of the many gullies of the ranges. We reached here at 11 a.m. and awaited the Sunday party whom we had seen in the distance from the top of the hill.

The bush with numerous nikau palms and tall tree ferns is very pretty especially with glimpses of sunshine to make everything sparkle. One large area is known as Kauri Park. Except for an occasional kauri tree here and there, this is the only place where they are seen in numbers. They are called the kauri rikas, being only fifty to sixty years old, and they differ from the aged kauri in that the branches do not appear until the tree is quite old.

After a happy meeting when the news of the day was exchanged we were soon on our way again climbing the bushy hillsides eventually to reach North Ridge. The rain of the past few weeks had made the tracks very dirty so that it was not an easy climb, but with plenty of hand grip we were soon on top to enjoy a good walk through the bush but still with plenty of ups and downs. The billy was boiled at the top about 12.30—the leader for the day carries the club billy, sugar, and tea, all these being kept at the club room in town. Owing to the damp a small alpine stove was used so that tea was soon ready, and almost as soon disposed of. At 1.30 p.m. off we set again and had some good scrambles through the bush eventually reaching the road at 4 p.m. when a good fire was made and the billy again boiled for an afternoon snack. A nearby stream was well patronised to wash off the day's mud. Once again refreshed, the last four miles to where the Sunday people had left the bus was an easy matter in spite of being a good steady climb on a winding bush road. At 5.45 p.m. we had reached our destination and were soon on the way home just comfortably tired after a very happy day.—C.M.L.

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### KNOW YOUR CAMERA.

Cameras vary from high-speed focal plane cameras to the simple box-type camera, costing only a few shillings. Nevertheless, the box camera properly operated will give better results than the most expensive camera poorly operated. It is of prime importance then to know how to use the various controls on a camera, why they are there, and what they do. All cameras have three main controls: **firstly**, the SHUTTER which varies the speed at which the picture is taken; **secondly**, the focussing device which brings the image to a clear sharp focus on the film; and **thirdly**, the diaphragm which varies the aperture through which the light passes on its way through the lens to the film.

The SHUTTER.—On box cameras, the shutter is controlled by a spring and is set to give approximately 1/25th of a second's exposure. By pulling out a control on the top of the camera, this shutter will also give time exposures. This is all that can be done with the shutter on a box camera.

On the folding type of camera, exposures from 1/25th to 1/100th or less part of a second can be obtained by varying the exposure setting control. The object of the shutter is to vary the time during which the light passes through the lens and acts on the film. If the light is allowed to play on the film for too long a time the picture will be over-exposed, while if the passage of light is too short, the film will be under exposed, and no picture will be registered on it. Correct exposure is absolutely essential before good pictures can be hoped for.

The DIAPHRAM varies the size of the hole through which the light passes. On Box Cameras this control is generally situated next to the time exposure control, and gives three different sizes of aperture or hole. The use of this diaphragm is often not very well understood by beginners, but it is worth while spending a little time and thought getting the "whyfor" of it.

**Firstly**, then, the aperture can be used to vary the exposure. Varying the shutter varies the time during

which the light acts on the film. Varying the diaphragm varies the size of the window through which the light passes and therefore varies the amount of light which acts on the film.

**Secondly**, the diaphragm is used to increase the depth of focus. In order to understand the term "depth of focus" it may be as well to say a few words about the third control on our camera—the focussing scale. Again taking the box camera, we find that it has no focussing scale but it is so constructed that it gives good sharp pictures of objects situated from fifteen feet or so from the camera to distant objects miles away. If it is desired to get a clear picture of an object four or five feet away, it is necessary to use a portrait attachment which is an auxiliary lens placed in front of the permanent lens and which acts instead of a focussing device. Folding cameras have focussing scales varying from six feet or so to infinity. The object of the focussing device is to bring the rays of light from the object being photographed to a clear sharp image on the film.

Next to bad exposures, bad focus is the cause of many snaps being failures.

Now we may consider the focussing of a camera in conjunction with this "Depth of focus."

Let us suppose that we have a camera, say a box camera, working with its biggest aperture or a folding camera set with the focus on infinity and using its largest aperture. Now, let us photograph a fence in such a way that the fence is running from us away into the distance and we photograph it so that the nearest part in the picture is three or four feet distant, while the rest of the fence gets further and further away. The result should show the fence clear cut and sharp until it gets to fifteen feet or so from the camera when it will start to get fuzzy. Now, if we take another picture with the camera in the same position but with the diaphragm working on the smallest hole, and remember this will need a much longer exposure, we will find that the fence remains sharp and clear much nearer to the camera than before—by stopping down (in other words, by making the hole smaller) we will find we have increased the depth of focus. Stopping the camera down to increase the depth of focus can be very useful when it is desired to get some object close to the camera in focus and still have the distant parts sharp and clear. We now come to the most important question of exposure, which will be dealt with in the next issue

E. P. Cameron.

### Annual Meeting.

The Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Otago Tramping Club (Incorporated) will be held in LAKE'S RESTAURANT on TUESDAY, 18th SEPTEMBER, 1934, commencing punctually at 7.45 p.m. Prospective members are cordially invited.

#### BUSINESS.

Adoption of Annual Report and Accounts.  
Election of Officers.  
General.

G. A. PEARSON,  
Hon. Secretary.  
Dunedin, 8th September, 1934.

## ANNUAL REPORT.

Your president and committee have pleasure in presenting the eleventh annual report, which marks the close of another successful twelve months of the club's activities.

Every effort has been made to provide the greatest possible variety in the walks listed in the fixture cards, at the same time keeping the cost down to a minimum, and attendances have been very satisfactory. The East Matukituki Valley was the site of the Christmas camp, and a party of twenty-five spent a most enjoyable ten days exploring the district. The many kindnesses shown to the party by Mr and Mrs Aspinall, contributed very largely towards the success of the trip. Various other trips were undertaken by other smaller parties of club members. Some of the routes followed were the Rees Valley, Greenstone River, and Mavora Lakes, and Milford Sound and the new Manapouri-Doubtful Sound track (in company with the Hutt Valley Tramping Club party). For the Easter holidays a visit to Papatowai was arranged, and twenty members enjoyed their trips amongst the wonderful bush, rivers, waterfalls, and beaches of south-eastern Otago. In addition a small party climbed Mount Earnslaw.

The Social Committee again arranged monthly social evenings during the winter months. The attendance at these was good, but there is no reason why it should not have been much better. The annual display of holiday photos was held in March, when a comprehensive series of snaps was exhibited.

The club hut at Green Peak has proved most popular, especially during the summer months, and very few week-ends pass without at least some of the bunks being occupied. From time to time working parties have attended to the upkeep of the hut, and also to the improvement of the surroundings.

Incorporation of the club has now been completed. In this connection we acknowledge our indebtedness to Mr R. Gilkison for his valuable work as hon. solicitor.

An attempt has been made to create public interest in the Youth Hostel movement, with a view to forming a live Otago Regional Council, but so far the response has been rather disappointing. Here again Mr Gilkison has done much valuable work.

The Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand, Youth Hostel Association, and New Zealand Native Bird Protection Society are three bodies whose work is both directly and indirectly of great value to our members. Further information about their activities may be obtained from your secretary.

An important feature of the year's work has been the decision to inaugurate a club magazine, which will appear in the meantime as a quarterly publication. We hope that it will stimulate interest in the club.

Once again we express our gratitude to the various people who permit us to cross their properties. We again impress upon members the necessity for exercising the greatest care at all

times. We also thank the Otago Expansion League for the use of their board room, and the Press for publishing accounts of our activities.

The membership at August 31 was 149.

A. J. THOMPSON,  
President.

## Annual Subscription.

Members are reminded that the Annual Subscription is now 10/-, reducible to 7/6 if paid by 1st December.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR  
ENDING 31/8/34.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance at 31/8/33—				Printing and Typing ... ..	10	11	3.
Cash in Hand ...	2	15	1	Advertising ... ..		0	10 0
Cash in Bank ...	33	15	8	Stationery ... ..		1	2 10
				Postages and Telegrams ... ..		2	7 3
Subscriptions ...				Expenses Annual Meeting, 1933 ...		3	5 0
Sale of Badges ...				Photos for Album		1	0 0
Hut Fees and Hire Equipment ...				Rule Books ... ..		5	0 4
Profit Photo Evening ... ..				Wreath ... ..		1	1 0
Fares Bus Trips ...				Insurance and Improvements Hut			
Interest ... ..				Loss Social Committee ... ..		0	3 3
				Telephone Rent—			
				14 Months ... ..		11	1 7
				Incorporation Expenses ... ..		2	13 0
				Subscriptions to Other Clubs ...		3	16 0
				Hire of Buses ... ..		22	10 0
						66	6 6
				Balance at 31/8/34—			
				Cash in hand ...	1	16	6
				Cash in Bank ...	35	0	4
						36	16 10
	£103	3	4				

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Cash in Hand at 31/8/33 ...	0	8	2	Expenses of Socials ... ..	13	14	8
Receipts at Socials ... ..	13	3	3				
Loss Transferred General Fund ... ..	0	3	3				
	£13	14	8		£13	14	8

## BALANCE-SHEET AS AT 31st AUGUST, 1934.

LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Subscription Paid in Advance ... ..				Cash in Hand ... ..	1	16	6
Excess of Assets Over Liabilities ... ..	49	9	10	Cash in Dunedin Savings Bank ... ..	35	0	4
				Subscriptions Due, but Not Paid ... ..		6	7 6
				11 Badges—at Cost ... ..		1	13 0
				Club Property—			
				Gramophone, Tents, Hut, etc.	5	0	0
	£49	17	4			£49	17 4
Audited and found correct, E. W. HUNTER, Hon. Auditor, 4/9/34.				G. A. PEARSON, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.			

## CHRISTMAS TRIP.

The following are the suggestions for the Christmas camp:—

1. Stewart Island ... .. Approximate cost, £5.
2. Queenstown ... .. Approximate cost, £5.
3. Routeburn ... .. Approximate cost, £8.

The camp will be discussed at the annual meeting. All interested are expected to take this opportunity to express their preference.