

throughout New Zealand and has increased public interest in, and concern for, the preservation of our remaining areas of wilderness.

As a suitable event to mark the fiftieth year of the Federation, a decision was made in 1980 to host the first New Zealand Wilderness Conference at Lake Rotoiti in August 1981. The Conference is expected to be an important meeting of wilderness managers and users such as mountaineers, hunters and canoeists. The Federation's Wilderness Policy and Strategy for protection of key wilderness areas will be presented and government spokesmen will explain their proposals for the management of these areas.

At the time of publication, the proceedings of a successful conference have been produced with ten suggested wilderness areas included. These are:— Raukumara (Motu) 44,000 ha; Kaimanawa-Kaweka 47,000 ha; Tasman 94,000 ha; Paparoa 36,000 ha; Adams 54,000 ha; Hooker 44,000 ha; Olivine 55,000 ha; Garvies 43,000 ha; Waitutu (complementary to the proposed Preservation Wilderness of Fiordland) and Pegasus 63,000 ha. A Wilderness Advisory Group has also been appointed by Government, J. McConchie and L.F. Molloy representing the Federation.

5.4. ACCESS TO MOUNTAIN LANDS:

Rights of Access:

During the discussion at the annual general meeting in 1936 on the proposed Federation's publication later known as "Safety in the Mountains" it was considered that one of the benefits from a published booklet was to preserve the privilege of crossing private property enjoyed at that time. Although free access to State Forest reserves should be accorded any member of the general public, subject to authorisation by officers of the New Zealand Forest Service, it became apparent during an unofficial discussion with both Forest Service and Lands Department that no rights of access over private property to reserves existed in favour of the public. The Government could take right of way on roads over pastoral runs without compensation if so desired. In consequence the Executive recommended that the present method of obtaining access by consent of the owner be continued and strongly urged the maintenance of a standard of behaviour that would enable a landowner to allow such concessions indefinitely. Any specific difficulties of access should be referred to the Federation and clubs should check the public notices for advertisements related to the closing of public roads which had any bearing on access to tramping or mountaineering areas.

National and Forest Parks:

In a questionnaire survey of recreational users of National and Forest Parks by the Executive in 1966, it was recorded that the main problem was

one of access. Again it was stressed that Clubs are better able to arrange for access over individual properties and this could usually be obtained if a suitable approach was made to the owner concerned. The creation of the Forest Park concept did not necessarily alter the problem of access to reserve areas and the co-operation of neighbouring landowners was still an essential feature for their recreational use. When deer farming began to be established, the Federation expressed its concern in 1968 to the Director-General of Agriculture, Director-General of Forests and the Director-General of Lands that access to mountain lands could be inhibited and requested that this be kept in mind when permits were issued for deer farming.

By 1970 reports from many areas indicated that fences were being erected across land which was legally public road without a defined boundary. The difficulty in this case lay in the definition of the road line and in many cases this could only be determined by survey which was probably a costly process in back country stations. To provide clarification as to the whereabouts and the limitations of access to mountain land an article was prepared by A.S.D. Evans and published in Bulletin 39, July 1971. This article differentiated between legal designated roads; waterways and riverbeds; marginal strips on Crown Land under the 1948 Land Act; access tracks under the Counties Act 1956 and tracks or roads under the Public Works Act 1928. At the National Development Conference in 1969, the Executive made a submission to the Committee for Physical Environment recommending, among other matters, that all possible steps be taken to ensure reasonable public access to New



The start of the "official" opening in 1974 of the Poronui Access track to the Kaimanawa Forest Park — about 200 members of Clubs took part. Arnold Heine

Zealand's bush and mountain country, much of which is locked in by privately owned or leasehold farmland. Although the Federation has enjoyed the co-operation over the years of many landowners who have allowed club members access over their land, some instances have been known where access to mountain areas has been unreasonably withheld in the Federation's view. Some definite form of protection or legislation to ensure access is required in many areas.

The crunch point had come in 1969 when the new owner of Poronui Station denied the use of an unformed road, Taharua Road, for access into the Kaimanawa Ranges. A deputation of A.J. Heine, R.W. Burrell, and B.R. Hunt waited on the Minister of Forests and Lands to discuss ways and means of marking and identifying unformed legal roads to National Parks, Forestry Reserves, Unoccupied Crown Lands and other relevant recreational lands. Officers of Forest Service, with the Federation and its affiliated clubs using the area, combined to try to resolve the conflict by negotiation, but by the annual general meeting of 1971 it was evident that it would be necessary for the Federation to take forceful action to obtain right of access and to press for the 'paper' road to be established by peg line. By 1972 surveyors were establishing the line with the assistance of club working parties. In March 1973 the Taupo County Council became involved by declaring that any construction of roads within the county must be up to Council standards. As this seemed an unreasonable requirement for what was virtually just an access on unformed road, a deputation once more sought assistance from the Minister of Internal Affairs and from the Director-General of Forests. A petition was forwarded to the Taupo County Council seeking the removal of fences across Taharua Road, but this was rejected by the Council. The Federation, in conjunction with the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association, appealed to the Magistrates Court. The result of the hearing held in Taupo early in 1974 which upheld the request for the removal of the fences, was outlined to the annual general meeting of that year. The Executive was given a mandate by the meeting to pursue the unresolved problem of restricted access to the Kaimanawa Forest Park via Taharua Road, with all its resources within the law. Shortly after this, however, it was reported that fifteen gates had been placed on the road in lieu of the fences and clubs were consequently encouraged to use the Taharua Road for access to the Park. The Federation marked the occasion by an "official" opening of the access. Although the matter seemed to rest there, evidence of the need for constant vigilance came when in March 1980, it was reported that Poronui Station had changed ownership and it was considered that contact should be made with the new owner to ensure preservation of access along Taharua Road into the Kaimanawa Forest Park.

Requests to clubs for information on problems of access over the years resulted in other issues being taken up with the Minister and other

authorities including Erewhon Station, Forest Creek, Lilybank Station, some of which were negotiated satisfactorily between landowner, the Federation and the Department.

Unoccupied Crown Land:

In 1969, it was reported to the Federation that Catchment Authorities were carrying out land capability surveys on leasehold land in the upper river catchments of the South Island. Run plans were drawn up where areas of high country were, by virtue of altitude, erosion, hazard or lack of grazing potential, classified as class VIII and a subsidised scheme of works was being offered to the run holder which included the retirement from grazing of the class VIII areas.

In many cases these were large isolated blocks of high country with no boundary other than remaining occupied crown leasehold and when retired the runholder was given a Pastoral Occupation Licence to the area for a period of 21 years — regardless of altitude. No allowance was being made to provide access through adjoining leasehold land to these areas which were eminently suitable for recreational use and no right of access was to be given the sportsman to use the area except by courtesy of the lessee. In effect, while the runholder had no right to run stock on this land, he could deny the use of the area to any other person for any other reason. It was resolved that the matter be taken up with the Director-General of Lands and subsequently a deputation of A.S.D. Evans, R.W. Burrell and M.S. Milne met the Land Settlement Board to present the case for the recreational use of unoccupied Crown Land. In July 1972 the Executive agreed to distribute to all affiliated clubs a report on the whole matter, prepared by A.S.D. Evans.

In 1974, the annual general meeting was told of the appointment of a High Country Committee by the Lands and Survey Department and the delegates at that meeting expressed strong concern that the Federation's previous offer of recreational advice for the future retirement of mountain lands had been apparently ignored. The following March the Executive was informed of the newly published policy of the Land Settlement Board and although seemingly acceptable, it was hoped that the manner of its implementation would be satisfactory. A review of the Federation's objective confirmed that it should continue to attain or regain the recreational use of high country lands to be retired from grazing and it would thereby encourage the implementation of the policy determined by the Water and Soil Council, the Lands and Survey Department, the New Zealand Forest Service and adopted by the Land Settlement Board.

Early in 1979 the Land Settlement Board toured the high country in discussion with run holders, but to the Federation's dismay, not with any recreational clubs or groups, who were only able to present written submissions on policy matters. A.S.D. Evans was invited to make submissions accordingly.



Class VIII Unoccupied Crown Land, typical of the South Island High Country most of which is held under Pastoral Lease. *Lloyd Homer (N.Z. Geological Survey)*

Trespass:

A bill was introduced into the House of Representatives in 1967 entitled the Criminal Trespass Bill. The Federation was concerned at various aspects of this bill and consequently presented a submission to the Parliamentary Committee considering the legislation. The Federation claimed that it had always urged on its member clubs the necessity of maintaining the best relationship possible with landowners and of ensuring that individual parties obtained permission (in advance wherever possible) to cross private property, and that parties should always maintain a high standard of behaviour. In general, member clubs had in the past had little difficulty in obtaining permission from landowners, even though some local problems had arisen from time to time.

In nearly every case organised club parties would only wish to cross private land to reach bush and mountain areas beyond. Much of the New Zealand high country is either state forest or crown land and has little or no legal access, and it was this type of access which was of great concern to the Federation. The cost of purchasing and surveying proper access could be prohibitive in most cases. The right of the landowner or occupier to refuse access was accepted, especially when this could directly affect farming operations such as lambing, mustering, etc, but the Federation

asked for some safeguards to ensure that permission to cross property was not unreasonably withheld. The Federation had no objection to the aims of the new bill and never has had sympathy for persons or parties who commit acts of vandalism or who shoot, maim or wilfully disturb stock. It would always support well founded and practical measures to penalise offenders but it noted that measures in previous legislative acts presumably had not led to the detection or punishment of many offenders.

In its submission, the Federation requested clarification or revision of a number of items. These mainly concerned the request by the landowner or occupier to leave the property, and clarification was requested by the inclusion of the words "by the shortest possible route to a legal roadway". In many cases if a party is proceeding out of the hills and because of an enforced change of route has not previously obtained permission to cross the property concerned, they could, if met by the occupier near the "back" boundary, be directed back into the hills again with possibly a journey of up to several days to the nearest alternative access. However, as most station and farm homesteads are located near the front boundary of the property, parties coming out of the hills by an alternative route have to traverse the larger part of the property to ask for verbal permission to cross.

In other circumstances, flooded rivers or storm conditions in the high country could force a change of plan which would bring a party out by the shortest possible route in order to prevent delays or the possible implementation of a search operation. Minor injury, ill health or simple loss of the route could have the same result without necessarily affecting the safety of the party concerned at the time. The Federation felt that it would be most unreasonable in any of these circumstances for those involved to be faced with the possibility of a 'criminal' conviction with the possible consequence of loss of job or compromise of career.

The other parts of the Federation's submission related to the carriage of firearms, even if disassembled in the pack, and the consequent claim of stock disturbance. The request was made that this wording be amended to include "wilfully and recklessly disturbs" stock to clarify the offence against the carriage of firearms.

The Statutes Revision Committee made a number of changes to the draft bill in line with much that the Federation could reasonably have hoped for. Farming organisations, however, were dissatisfied and made direct representations to Government which made substantial amendments before the bill was presented back to Parliament. The bill, renamed the "Trespass Bill", became law in January 1969. The Federation was disappointed that the bill as proposed by the Statutes Revision Committee was so drastically amended, but at that stage little further effective action could be taken. It was evident that access to the mountain land would remain dependent upon the co-operation, goodwill and good behaviour of everybody concerned.

In 1979 a further bill was introduced into Parliament tightening up provisions of the 1969 Trespass Act. The Federation again made a submission, but the concluding amendment to the Act in this fiftieth year confirmed the concern of the Executive that future trespass provisions were to the detriment of the mountain recreationalist seeking access to the mountains.

Water Supply Catchments:

The conflict in the use of upper river catchments for water supply schemes and for recreation was becoming increasingly evident in the post war years with various catchments under threat, notably the Hutt River catchment which was closed by the Wellington and Suburban Water Supply Board to public access. When in 1966 it was reported that a new Soil Conservation and River Control Bill was before Parliament, the Executive resolved to make a submission to the Lands and Agriculture Committee emphasising the increasing recreational use being made of upper river catchments in Forest Park, State Forests and other similar areas of crown land. In its submission the Federation recognised the need for more urban water supply catchments, but asked that an obligation be imposed on the relevant authorities to ensure the installation wherever practicable of the necessary equipment to permit the reasonable recreational use of the catchments concerned (Bulletin 30, May 1968).

The report of the Director-General of Forests for 1967 also referred to this conflict by conceding that while public health considerations were paramount and human entry into water gathering areas could possibly be controlled, the entry of wild animals could not. It therefore seemed unrealistic to assume that freedom from contamination could be assured without treatment of natural water supplies. It was to be hoped that appropriate treatment could be undertaken so that the recreational use of water in the forests could be as liberal as in so many other countries.

In addition, the Federation made a submission to the Pollution Advisory Council objecting to a preliminary classification of "A" to the Eastern Hutt River on the basis that the restricted access implicit in the "A" classification could create a precedent when further areas were developed for water supply. Because of the need to preserve mountain and bush areas for a recreational purpose the Federation asked that water supply catchments be classified "B".

This conflict in classification appeared again at the annual general meeting in 1974 when an affiliated club considered that waterways in national and forest parks should be "A" classification to ensure the purity

A tramping part in the Maungatahikiri Gorge in the Hunua Ranges in the early 1930's. This area was closed for water catchment in the mid - 1960's.

(It should be noted that the Auckland Regional Authority has recently agreed to allow limited access for club parties)

Minnie Barr



of the water but, of course, this would be risking prevention of entry to the watershed. It was therefore resolved by the Executive in 1975 that the Federation should seek adequate safeguards for the recreational use of water by an analysis of each classification as it was issued. Appropriate action would then be taken accordingly. It was further suggested that the Federation could appoint advisers to assist local clubs in objecting to water classification. A request was also made to the Water Resources Council and respective Water Authorities seeking a copy of pending schemes, and requesting invitations to explanatory meetings before the schemes are publicly notified.

When in 1978 the Wellington Regional Water Board proposed the creation of two lakes at Te Marua, north of Upper Hutt, water would normally come from the existing closed Hutt River catchment. However, in times of low river flow water would be drawn from the lower Hutt River resulting in an additional river closure to public access for that period. The Federation, along with local clubs, objected to the proposed access restrictions. A sub-committee of the Board which heard the objections agreed that there should be no restriction of access — a decision which was most gratifying to the Federation and its member clubs.

Representations have also been made to the Auckland Regional Authority for access to the Hunua and Waitakere Ranges without as yet the same degree of satisfaction. The Federation has supported the Auckland clubs in their submissions before the Authority's planning committee in objection to the District Scheme.

Review of Objectives:

It is a matter for regret that after fifty years of Federation work and despite the development of national parks and forest parks, the use of mountain land for recreation remains by courtesy of adjoining landowners, even though in the majority of cases members of clubs affiliated to the Federation continue to enjoy the privileges and goodwill that have existed for many years.

In reviewing the objectives of the Federation in 1975, however, the Executive confirmed that it was essential that adequate access be maintained to recreational lands throughout the country. The application of the Walkways Act is an example of how this can be achieved by negotiation.

5.5. CONSERVATION OF THE BACK COUNTRY ENVIRONMENT:

Early Preservation Issues:

One of the early aims established by the Federation was that native plants and animal life should as far as possible be preserved and that