

Whose slides are these?

In 2023, several boxes of 35-millimetre transparencies (slides) of the Tararua Range were found in the attic of a house in Johnsonville, Wellington. All are labelled, but they are undated and the people in them are mostly unnamed.

The huts, bridges and cars shown suggest that the slides were taken in the 1950s.

Scans of some of the more interesting photographs follow, with their original captions. Dates, where known, have been added.

Who was the photographer?

Who are the people in the photographs?



1. Looking out of truck

Taken from the back of a truck travelling north on the Hutt Road, probably on the way to the Tararuas, this suggests that the photographer belonged to a Wellington-based tramping club.



2. Ōhau Hut



3. Crossing
Ōhau just below
hut



4. Bridge over Blackwater

Built by the Army , 1957



5. Te Matawai Hut

Replaced 1975



6. Near big tarn
Arete

*The first Arete
bivouac was built in
1967.*



7. Rainbow at Forks



8. New Army bridge
at Otaki Forks

Built 1958



9. Farmer about to
ford Otaki

*Charlie Arcus, who farmed
at Otaki Forks until 1975*



10. Field Hut



11. Kime Hut

Replaced 1978



12. Brian Cropp,
lost 2 days, at
Hector Cross

*Cropp (18) was lost in
the Holdsworth area in
December 1957.*



13. Alpha Hut

This is the second Alpha Hut, built in 1952 and replaced in 1984



14. Allaway-Dickson
Hut

Demolished 1972



15. Tauwharenikau Hut



16. Building
Tauwharenīkau flood
wall

1956-57



17. Tauwharenīkau
Hut with wall



18. New
Tauwharenīkau Hut

*Rebuild on new site
completed 1958*



19. Inside
Tauwharenīkau Hut



20. Smith Creek Hut

Demolished 1965



21. Top of the
Puffer



Detail from previous slide



22. Boiling the billy
Tauherenikau Gorge



23. Drying out clothes
Tauherenikau Gorge



24. Changing shelter
Kaitoke

Built 1957/58



25. Crossing on wire
by Mitre Flats

*This three-wire bridge was
built in 1955 and replaced in
1963.*



26. Waitewaewae Hut

Built 1950



27. Tōtara Flats from
the Sentinel



Detail from previous slide



28. Bridge above Bannister Hut

Bannister Hut was near today's Holdsworth Lodge, which replaced it in 1967.

This bridge was built by Masterton Tramping Club, probably in 1951/52, and replaced with a wire walkway bridge by the Forest Service in 1962.



29. Powell Hut

*Built by Hutt Valley
Tramping Club in
1939 and replaced in
1980*



30. West Peak in background

In the 1950s the Tararuas had two West Peaks: one at the north end of Dundas Ridge and another seen (under snow) from Table Top in this photograph. This was renamed Bridge Peak in 1978.



31. West Peak in background

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