

**THE HISTORY OF  
THE NORTH CANTERBURY  
ALPINE TRUST  
&  
THE BOYLE RIVER  
OUTDOOR EDUCATION  
CENTRE**

**1978- 2008**

By Colin East

2008

# CONTENTS

TOPIC	PAGE
Introduction.	5
The Beginnings.	7
Site Selection.	8
Plans Prepared.	12
Rotary Clubs Adopt the Project.	12
North Canterbury Alpine Trust Established.	13
Water Supply Installation.	21
Hanmer Forest Camp Proposal.	22
Preparing the Foundations	23
Site Construction Commences.	27
The Official Opening Function 27September 1978.	33
Staffing the Lodge.	35
Promoting Usage and Bookings	37
Confidence Course and Additional Amenities	40
First Caretaker Appointed.	45
Proposed Forest Service Information Centre.	45
Electricity Installed.	46
St James Walkway Parking Service.	48
Meteorological Services.	50
Section acquired for Resident Teacher House.	53
Management Committee Expanded.	54
Negotiations for Permanent Staffing Arrangements.	55
Opening of Resident Teacher's House 22 July 1985.	59
Safety Issues.	60
Rotary Involvement Evaluated.	65
Valuable Voluntary Maintenance Work.	68
Additional Land Acquisition.	71
10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	72
Additions to Sinclair Cottage	73
Grants Received.	75
Community User Groups.	77
Risk Management and Safety.	79
Financial Crisis 1991.	80
Canterbury Education Services Contracted.	81
Resident Teacher Payment System.	81
Community Opportunity Grants Scheme (COGS).	81
Adventure Camps. Rotary Sponsored.	83
Transport Costs.	86
Marketing Strategies.	87
Accommodation Additions.	88
High Ropes Construction	93
Guardians of the Boyle.	94

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Occupational Health and Safety Standards.	95
Leadership Courses	96
Staff Training Courses.	98
Pamper Pole	99
29 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	102
Kitchen Improvements.	104
Gaining Unit Standard Credits.	104
Additional Staff Accommodation.	106
The Big Freeze 2001.	108
Main Highway Bridge Safety.	109
Funding Responses and Charitable Dependence.	110
New Centre Manager Appointed 2002.	111
Cadet Scheme	112
Information Technology. Internet and Web Site.	113
Recognition of Excellence.	114
Roof Painting	117
Water and Sewerage Systems.	118
Staff Accommodation Plans.	119
Radio Repeater System.	120
The Future.	124

## **APPENDICES**

	<b>Page</b>
List of Trustees.	127-129
List of Chair Persons.	130
List of Secretaries/ Treasurers.	130
Wardens/Resident Teachers/ Centre Managers.	130
Management Committees.	131
Cadet Training Scheme Students.	131
Caretakers/Instructors/ Staff Assistants/ Volunteers.	132
User Groups.	133-134
Copy of Trust Deed 1975 and revised version 2000.	134-141
Index of Persons Named in the History Publication.	142-143



## **INTRODUCTION.**

The Boyle River Project was essentially a People's Project carried out by People for the benefit of People.

It is extremely difficult to relate the history of the development of the Boyle River Lodge without making reference to the so many people who were involved in the development of the project.

For some, this involved a considerable period of time and for others they gave generously of whatever time they had available. They all added their contribution towards achieving the end result of providing a facility which was ultimately acclaimed as the best Outdoor Education operation in New Zealand.

It is regrettable that there may be some names which have not been recorded but who nevertheless, made a significant contribution to the Lodge. This omission must be accepted as unintentional.

An article in The Press in April 1977 highlighted the growing interest and involvement of Schools to include Outdoor Education as an integral part of the school curriculum.

By taking part in outdoor camps it was recognised that pupils had the opportunity to broaden their experience through bush-craft, mapping, orienteering, tramping, confidence course and camping skills.

Pupils were also provided with an opportunity to take part in practical work relating to their academic studies, with the aim to widen their experience and direct them towards increased contact with the New Zealand outdoors.

It was also commented that Outdoor Education camps provided opportunities for senior students to advance their leadership qualities and prepare them for adopting responsibility in the wider community.

The decision to construct a facility at the Boyle River to provide an opportunity to meet the above mentioned objectives was an ambitious one, but one which fired the enthusiasts for the project to meet the challenge.

It is pertinent to note that at the tenth anniversary celebration function of the Lodge in 1988, a Department of Education official commented that-

*. "As long as the Trust and as long as the school professionals continue to consider what are the needs of our schools and of our students as related to the curriculum and to sound practice, then the future role of the Boyle is assured."*

*"If this communication between the "consumers" and the "controlling authorities" is lost then the operation here, or at any similar establishment, becomes irrelevant and the costs associated with sending a student to a place like this becomes an unwelcome and even unnecessary burden to parents."*



The following pages will hopefully reveal to the reader that the North Canterbury Alpine Trust and the management and staff of the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre have striven tirelessly for thirty years to achieve lines of communication between “consumers” and “controlling authorities” in order to ensure that all users of the Centre receive value for money.

The Trust has always aimed to achieve those objectives, even when financial resources have been a limiting factor.

Appreciation is expressed to the North Canterbury Alpine Trust, the Management Committee and staff of Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre and also others who have supplied information, reports and photos which have been helpful in compiling the record of the history of the Lodge.

**TERMINOLOGY.** The Trust is officially registered as The North Canterbury Alpine Trust and continues to determine policy matters and carry out the functions as referred to in the Trust Deed.

The Lodge is managed by a Management Committee which reports to the Trust.

The facility, its buildings and location have had several changes in name references. In 1984 the Trust decided that the Lodge be referred to as the “Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre”.

During earlier times it was referred to as the “Lodge”, the “Boyle” or the “Boyle Lodge”; the “Boyle Outdoor Education Lodge”, the “Boyle River Centre” and other variations. These names continue to be used.

There would appear to be some inconsistency with the use of terminology for naming the Lodge throughout the following pages.

For many it continues to be affectionately referred to as, “The Boyle Lodge”.

Colin C. East.  
July 2008

## **THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BOYLE RIVER LODGE WAS A COMBINED ROTARY AND COMMUNITY GROUPS PROJECT**



# HISTORY OF THE NORTH CANTERBURY ALPINE TRUST AND THE BOYLE RIVER OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE. 1978-2008

## **THE BEGINNINGS.**

In 1972 at a committee meeting of the Rotary Club of Belfast, Christchurch, New Zealand, members were keen to explore ideas for a worthwhile project for the benefit of High School Students in the Belfast area.

A suggestion was put forward – *“Why not build a tin shed somewhere up in the mountains where our local high school kids can experience the high country of Canterbury.”*

**The seed of an idea was sown:’ *from small seeds great oaks are grown*’.**

The suggestion received enthusiastic support, as it seemed a simple idea to put up a tin shelter shed with a fireplace, for young people to take cover and keep warm while having their picnic lunch.

It wasn’t long before the original idea, which was put forward by club member Bob Hawkins, became embellished and moved on from the tin shack concept to involve the plan of building an overnight accommodation, with appropriate facilities to meet standards expected of a school educational facility.

One immediate problem arose when it was realized that there was no High School in the Belfast Rotary Club’s territorial area. However, there were many high school pupils in the Belfast area and these attended either Kaiapoi, Rangiora or the Christchurch city high schools.

The then Belfast Club President, Cliff Dean and the Vocational Committee Director Colin East, made an approach to the Rotary Club of Kaiapoi to gain their approval for the Belfast Club to discuss the Alpine Hut proposal with the Kaiapoi High School Principal, Mr. Ernie French, who was also a member of the Kaiapoi Rotary Club.

It was agreed that that there was considerable merit in the suggestion and that further discussions were planned to develop the idea and investigate some of the practical issues that would be involved.

## **SPREADING THE NET OF INTEREST.**

The Kaiapoi Rotary Club expressed their wish to be involved in the project, as it was one which would be of considerable benefit to pupils in the Kaiapoi region.

When it was considered that the main users of such a planned project would involve a wider area in North Canterbury, it was agreed to make an approach to both the Rotary Club and the High School of Rangiora and to ascertain their degree of support and willingness to be involved in the proposed project.

As the net widened by involving more Rotary Clubs and more High Schools, so the embryo of the concept developed into a more detailed complex, involving possibly larger sums of money to be raised to fulfil the dream.

The natural consequence of this early enthusiastic acceptance of the idea necessitated the formation of an exploratory committee to look at critical issues such as selecting a suitable site, deciding upon an appropriate building design and investigating financial resources to carry out the project.

### **SELECTING A SITE.**

Initial correspondence was entered into with the Department of Lands and Survey on 15 February 1973 to inquire about the availability of a possible accommodation site on the Barrett's Poplar Station Block at the Boyle River, near the Lewis Pass.

The stated activities envisaged to be carried out by school pupils included ecological, geological and biological studies of the mountain area. Tramping; Adventure Camps; Duke of Edinburgh Award Courses; Social Education to provide pupils with an opportunity to live and work together. It was also envisaged that other Community groups would use the proposed facility and particular reference was made to the sponsorship of camps for under-privileged and orphaned children, as well as. Scouts, Guides, Tramping Clubs and other responsible community groups.

By July 1973 the Commissioner of Crown Lands indicated that a site of approximately one acre could be made available near the Boyle River residential village area.

To gain support of the members of the Rotary Clubs and High Schools involved, it was also essential to establish an approximate cost of the project and other important details, in order to gain assurance and support that the project was feasible.

With this in mind, a meeting was convened on 17 April 1973 at the Kaiapoi High School which was attended by representatives from the Belfast, Kaiapoi and Rangiora Rotary Clubs and also from the two High Schools of Kaiapoi and Rangiora.

Those in attendance included Cliff Dean, Denis Costelloe and Colin East from the Belfast Rotary Club; Ken Francis and Jack Sutherland from the Kaiapoi Rotary Club; Ken Jack and George Scott from the Rangiora Rotary Club; Tom Penny and Roy Young from Rangiora High School and Ernie French from the Kaiapoi High School.



The project investigating committee was named as the “North Canterbury Rotary Alpine Lodge Committee” and it was further agreed that a site name would be later added to identify with the location of the proposed Lodge. Ken Francis was appointed chairman of the investigating committee and Ernie French as committee Secretary.

An early interest was shown in the Boyle River area as a possible site location for the Lodge and contact was made with the Commissioner of Lands requesting a suitable section, if one was available in the area. It was noted that already sections had been made available for holiday homes at the Boyle River.

However, the Commissioner indicated that while the residential subdivision area may not be desirable for the site of the proposed Lodge, it was possible that pastoral lease land held by the Barrett Brothers of the Poplars Station may later become available.

Favourable reports were also received from the Forestry Department on likely improved road access to the head of Lake Sumner, with the possibility that a Forest Ranger Station could be established in the area.

At the second Project Investigating committee meeting held on 10 May 1973, it was agreed that a visit be made by committee members to the Lake Rotoiti Lodge in the Nelson Lakes area. This successful Outdoor Education facility had been provided through a combined service clubs major effort to address the needs of youth in the Nelson/ Marlborough region. The project was initiated and spearheaded by Noel Oxam, a former Sergeant of Police, who was a prime mover for establishing the Lake Rotoiti Lodge.

#### **VISIT TO LAKE ROTOITI LODGE.**

The visit to the Rotoiti Lodge provided the committee with an opportunity to assess the type of facilities required and they were successful in securing some surplus stoves for their proposed project.

Much information was gathered about the Rotoiti Lodge, particularly concerning the building and administration of the facility. It was agreed that the size of the Rotoiti Lodge would be too ambitious for the North Canterbury Alpine Lodge committee to consider or undertake. Nevertheless, a considerable amount of very useful information was gathered by the committee's visit to Lake Rotoiti.

On returning from Lake Rotoiti the committee were enthused to look at options for a possible site to locate the proposed Lodge. It was regarded that the site should provide suitable recreational and educational benefits and to have reasonable access. It was essential that the location provided an environment conducive for young people to develop an appreciation of the outdoors and an understanding of the need for the conservation and preservation of the mountain area environment.

Mr Kerry Burke M.P. facilitated contact with the Minister of Lands to progress the investigation of possible sites in the Boyle River area.

### **LEASE APPROVAL 1975.**

A lease arrangement was finally signed in 1975, following approvals given by local and government authorities.

All schools in the North Canterbury area were notified about the proposed project to provide an Outdoor Education facility for pupils in the region. Articles had also been published in the Press and other news media publications giving good publicity about the proposed project.

Members of the Investigating Committee undertook to visit community organisations in the North Canterbury area to inform them about the project and enlist the support of other groups such as Lions, Jaycees and School Committees.

### **LOOKING AT ALTERNATIVE SITES.**

Keen interest was shown during 1974 in a possible site at the Mount Thomas area, including the Whare Stream, Maori Gully and Fox's Creek. Members of the site investigating committee found none of these to be ideally suited and others were not available as they were too close to planned forestation blocks.

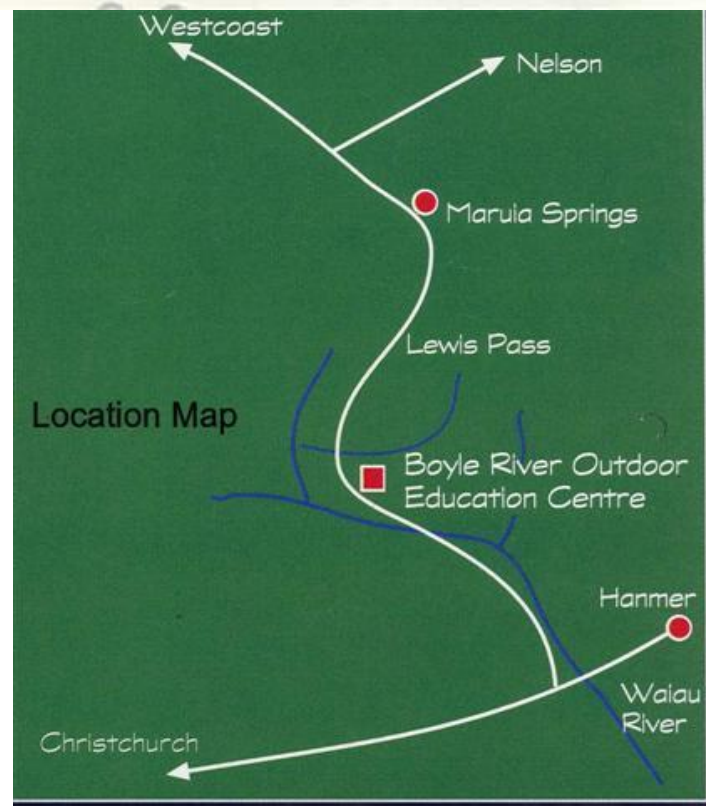
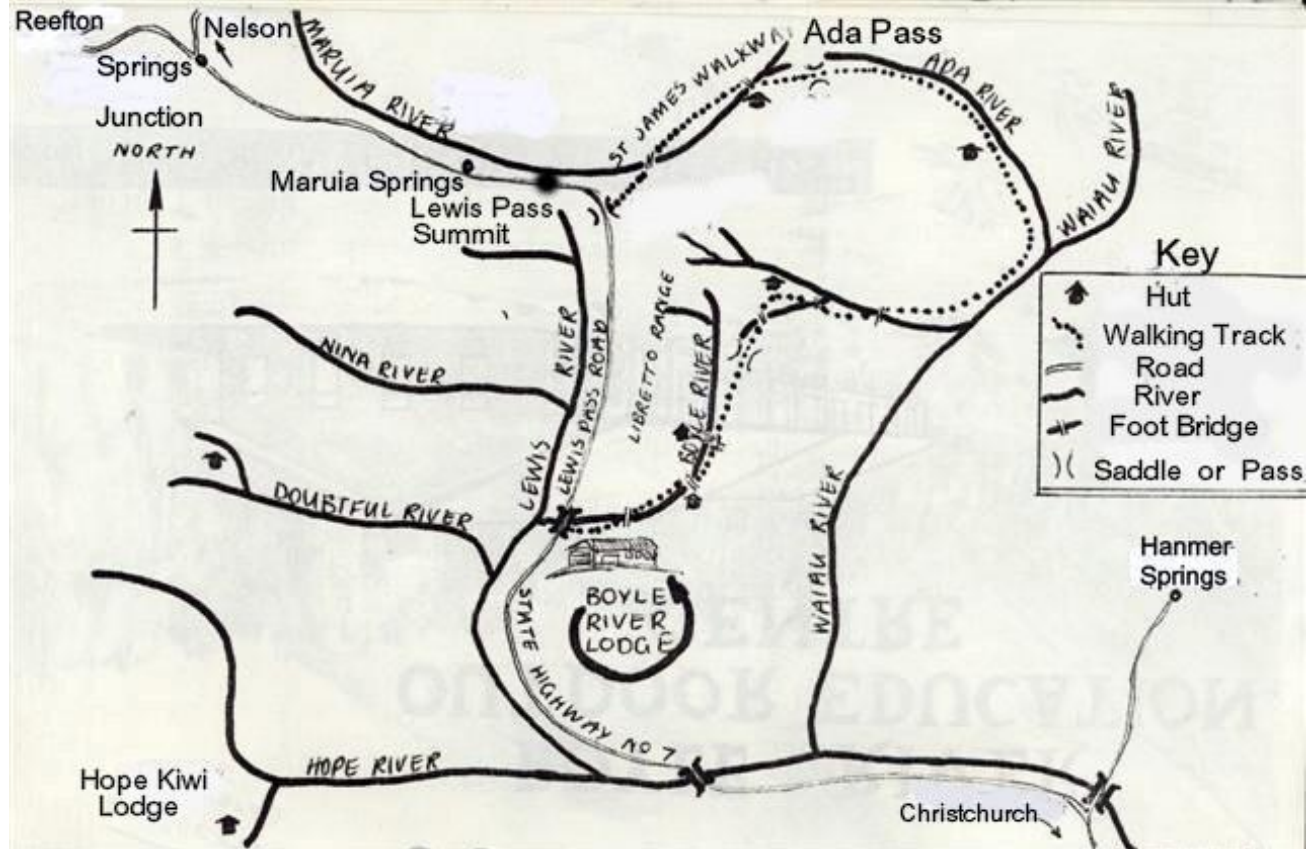
The proximity of the Fox's Creek site was seen as an advantage as it minimized travel distance to any proposed facility, as compared to the two and a half hour bus trip to the Boyle River from Christchurch.

Consideration was given to utilising both sites. The Fox's Creek site was seen as a convenient location for day field trips by school groups and the more distant site of the Boyle River area to be used for longer overnight camp activities.

The Boyle River site is approximately 160 kilometres from Christchurch and covers a land area of 3962 square metres, on a low terrace adjacent to where the Boyle River crosses the main highway.

A small settlement of private holiday homes is situated on a terrace immediately above the Lodge site.

The surrounding area was found to be ideally suited for tramping and climbing, with adequate exercise and training areas adjacent to the site of the Lodge. Nearby tramping areas include the Magdalene Valley, the St James Walkway, the Nina Valley; the Hope Valley, the Doubtful Valley; the Kiwi Pass leading to Lake Sarah and Lake Sumner and then onto the Harper Pass. There are several low mountains and bush walks suitable for day or part day walks, as well as rivers suitable for canoeing and trout fishing



### **INTEREST SHOWN BY NORTH CANTERBURY SCHOOLS.**

Interest in the project continued to gather momentum throughout North Canterbury with the Fernside School showing their keen support by being the first School to make an advance booking for the end of 1975.

Mr Roy Young (Rangiora High School), convenor of the site investigating committee, submitted a detailed report which recommended that the preferred site for the proposed Lodge be at the Boyle River.

The site investigating committee also conducted a survey of all schools in the North Canterbury region to gauge a usage assessment by schools for the proposed facility. An approximate assessment of costs for the users was also estimated for the school user groups.

Preliminary discussions were held with the Amuri County Council who indicated that consideration would be given to an application for the erection of a suitable building on the site.

Following the visit to Lake Rotoiti it was decided to draft some layout plans to cater for a minimum of facilities including a social room and kitchen, separate boys and girls dormitories, showers and toilets, a drying room and separate staff cubicles.

### **INITIAL PLANS ARE DRAUGHTED.**

These plans were based on the concept of having three A Frame buildings and were prepared by Jack Tourell, a builder in the Rotary Club of Kaiapoi. The North Canterbury Rotary Alpine Lodge Committee agreed 10 June 1974 that a meeting be arranged with the Chief Surveyor of the Lands and Survey Department to submit the sketch plans of the Lodge and apply for a lease of the site at the Boyle River. It was also agreed at the same time to make application to the Amuri County Council for a permit to build a mountain hut on the Boyle River site.

A very early estimate of cost was a minimum \$15,000 for a building of about 232 square metres.

It was at this time that the committee agreed to request George Scott of the Rangiora Rotary Club to prepare documents for a proposed Trust to replace the then existing North Canterbury Rotary Alpine Lodge Committee.

### **AGREEMENT BY THREE ROTARY CLUBS TO ADOPT THE PROJECT.**

Upon the retirement of Ken Francis as chairman of the investigating committee, Colin East of the Belfast Rotary Club assumed that position.

Negotiations continued regarding securing a site at the Boyle River and the preparation of acceptable building plans proceeded. These required final approval from the Land and Survey Department.

Each of the three Rotary Clubs involved in the project had discussed in depth the implications of undertaking what was increasingly being regarded as a major combined club project. It was realised that it would involve a considerable time commitment, on-site work and extensive fund raising to achieve the objectives of the project.

The three clubs finally agreed in principle to adopt the project, but required more detail on financial costings before finally committing the members of their clubs.

Eventually, following a detailed presentation regarding the design and construction of the proposed Lodge, mutual agreement between the three clubs was ratified and approval given to nominate two representatives from each Rotary club to be members of the newly formed North Canterbury Alpine Trust.

#### **THE NORTH CANTERBURY ALPINE TRUST ESTABLISHED 1974.**

The Alpine Lodge Committee agreed that the composition of the proposed Trust should be eight and no more than ten members.

In addition to the Rotary club representation on the Trust, provision was made for representation of one member each from the Rangiora and Kaiapoi High Schools, or their alternate representatives. Provision was also made for two additional or co-opted members to be appointed by the Trust. These additional appointees have sometimes subsequently been referred to as "Foot Loose" members, representing a community interest.

The members of the first North Canterbury Alpine Trust were Messrs. John Holloway, Donald Smith (Rangiora Rotary): Tom Penny, Rangiora High School; Roy Young (co-opted member): Jack Sutherland, Murray Ruddenklau, (Kaiapoi Rotary): Ernie French (Kaiapoi High School): Cliff Dean, Colin East (Belfast Rotary).

Colin East was appointed chairman and Ernie French as secretary to the Trust.

The first priority of the newly formed Trust was to appoint a building committee to arrange the preparation of sketch plans which would be acceptable to satisfy local body requirements, including the environmental requirements of the Department of Lands and Survey.

It was also important to submit to the Rotary clubs the cost estimates for the building of the Lodge and an estimate of labour time required for constructing the facility.

#### **PREPARATION OF PLANS.**

A Planning and Building committee was given the responsibility to finalise the preparation of plans which were required for approval by Lands and Survey before they could initiate the transfer of the Boyle River site.

Neil Harrison, Rangiora Rotary, was invited to join the Building committee.

A Finance and Publicity Committee was formed for the purpose of promoting the project throughout the North Canterbury area and initiate planning on ways and means to achieve cost estimates for the project. It was also regarded as important for this committee to prepare a potential Donor list for securing donations, grants or loans, as well as donations and gifts of building materials.

### **TRUST DEED ADOPTED FEBRUARY 1975.**

The North Canterbury Alpine Lodge Committee adopted the Trust Deed of the The North Canterbury Alpine Trust.

Andy Thom and Rangi Atkinson from Kaiapoi Rotary and Lawrie Young and Ross Smith from Belfast Rotary were appointed to the Finance and Publicity committee.



### **EARLY BUILDING PLANS. CHALET STYLE "A" FRAMES**

In March 1975 the Building committee submitted an 'A' Frame design of building which offered many advantages including simplicity of design suitable for off-site prefabrication and ideal for construction involvement by unskilled voluntary workers.

It was envisaged that three units would be required. The sleeping accommodation units for fifteen

persons each were planned to be 7.4m x 5.5m x 6.5m high, complete with a mezzanine floor. It was envisaged that each of the three clubs would accept the responsibility to construct and erect one 'A' frame unit.

A community hall was planned for the second stage of site construction, which would include a kitchen and living area enclosed in an area of 7.5m wide by 15m long. Concrete blocks were planned to a height of 1.5m on the outside walls, with buttressed roof beams and a porch for wet weather clothing. Kitchen and ablution facilities would be attached to the end of the community hall, using concrete blocks, concrete floors and a flat timber frame roof.

Favourable reports were received from each of the three Rotary clubs regarding the proposed "A" Frame chalet style plans. .

### **FUND RAISING AND PUBLICITY**

Fund raising received early attention by the Rangiora High School Parent Teacher Association (PTA), who had organised a monster raffle. This initial fund raising effort was subsequently successful in raising \$4,000 towards the Lodge project.

A combined Rotary Club scrap metal drive was also being planned with Maury Combe, Belfast Rotary, acting as convenor.

Other early fund raising schemes included selling Rotary ties through the 49 Rotary clubs of the then Rotary District 298, which covered all of the South Island. Over 500 Rotary ties were ordered and sold for \$4.95 each. The project netted over \$900.



A Steptoe Auction, run by Kaiapoi Rotary and the Kaiapoi High School PTA, provided a further \$500 for the Lodge project.

The supply of electric power and the availability of a constant supply of quality fresh water were matters which received early attention and a Water and Drainage sub-committee of the Building Committee was established to investigate these matters. Murray Ruddenklau was convenor of that committee.

#### **ELECTRIC POWER NOT AVAILABLE.**

Enquiries regarding the availability of electric power revealed that there would be a very high basic usage charge. The capital expense of extending the supply from the Ministry of Works camp six kilometres away would be an exorbitant cost which could not be managed by the Trust. Nor was there sufficient interest to be involved in this capital expenditure by the neighbouring residential properties at the Boyle River settlement.

Consequently further discussions regarding electric power concentrated on procuring an on-site mobile generator.

#### **EARLY RESPONSE FOR BUILDING MATERIAL.**

The building supplies industry responded generously to requests for construction material for the Boyle River Lodge. Much of this was stored in the Drill Hall at Rangiora.

With the gathering momentum of interest in the project, each Rotary Club was requested, in July 1975, to deposit \$500 with the Trust to help meet outgoing costs, which were increasingly occurring.

#### **INITIAL FUNDING.**

The Finance committee advised that a preliminary budget target for each Rotary Club should be \$5,000. The two High Schools and PTAs had pledged \$10,000 between them. Clubs were requested to support a combined application to local authorities for a Sport and Recreation financial grant. It was also recommended that the Trust apply to the JR McKenzie Trust for an allocation for financial assistance.

News media publicity continued to attract wide interest in the proposed project.

#### **PLANNING CO-OPERATION WITH LAND AND SURVEY DEPARTMENT.**

An indication was received from Land and Survey that their Planning Surveyor requested to have further discussions with the Trust's Building Committee regarding the proposed A Frame plans. Concern was expressed about the height of the 'A' Frame style of construction.

While the general principle of establishing a Lodge had been favourably received within the political environment, there were nevertheless some environmental concerns which required to be addressed.

A milestone meeting was held on 17 December 1975 between members of the North Canterbury Alpine Trust and officials from the Department of Lands and Survey, who had indicated that the 'A' Frame style of plans previously submitted by the Trust, were definitely not acceptable.

The reason for the rejection of the plans was primarily based upon environmental impact factors. It was considered that 'A' Frames were not compatible with the surrounding contour of the landscape, which predominantly consists of rounded hilltops and low mountain bush vegetation.

Their decision was based on the considered viewpoint that 'A' Frames were more suited to areas where there were tall trees and sharp mountain peaks. To re-enforce their submissions the Land and Survey staff took a series of photographs from the end of the stretch road near the Sylvian Spring, which clearly showed a marker pole erected on the Boyle River site at a height approximating the height of the proposed 'A' Frames. It became quite apparent that such a building height would be regarded as an "eye-sore".

Even although lower height 'A' Frame buildings had been allowed to be erected in the residential subdivision on the plateau above the proposed Lodge site, this did not influence the department in taking any other view than to reject the 'A' Frame style of construction.

Disappointedly, this was a major set back for Trust members, particularly those who had spent tireless hours preparing drawings for site plans. In effect the decision set progress on Lodge back twelve months and it was a case of "back to the drawing board".

#### **REVISION OF DESIGN PLAN.**

Wise counsel and advice was given by officials of the Lands and Survey and the Trust adopted their recommendation to engage the services of a professional architect, who would be able to work in with Land and Survey Department planners, to ensure that what was planned met with departmental approval.

Mr George Lucking, a member of the Christchurch South Rotary Club and well known for his involvement in planning facilities at the Hanmer Springs Hot Pools complex, very generously offered his services on a voluntary basis.

From that stage the planning proceeded harmoniously with the knowledge that what was planned would meet with the approval of the Lands and Survey Department.

It was necessary to revert back to a single building type of complex and one which would meet the severe climatic conditions experienced in the mountain environment of the Boyle River.

The revised plan provided for accommodation for about fifty pupils, with facilities for sleeping, separate staff quarters, cooking, eating, heating, ablutions, a drying room plus a common room area, all involving an area of 223 square metres under one roof.

It was appreciated that there was no immediate likelihood of having an electricity supply, which consequently required planning for the installation of using gas for cooking purposes.

George Lucking strongly recommended that as much as possible of the building framework should be prefabricated off-site, which he considered would be cheaper than transporting men and materials to the construction site.

### **PLANNING PROGRESS.**

It was suggested that the project could be constructed in stages, but once final costing had been done there was confidence that there was sufficient good will and enthusiasm to accept the challenge of constructing the total complex.

Although the rejection of the 'A' Frame plans was received with disappointment and caused a degree of resentment amongst some Rotary club members, it was soon realised that the use of the professional services of the architect working with the advisory services of Lands and Survey Department convinced everyone that the project would result in one which would receive positive support from the wider community.

Application was made in December 1975 to the Amuri County Council for a Change of Use of the proposed Boyle River site, once it had been transferred to the Trust.

An offer had been received from Mr Hislop, an adjoining run holder, who offered to use his bulldozer to level the Boyle River site, in preparation for the construction team to commence the concrete foundation work.

A combined Rotary Club picnic was planned to be held on the site in February 1976 to provide an opportunity for all supporters of the project to inspect the area of the proposed Boyle River facility.

In the meantime, a sub-committee was appointed of Donald Mackay (Rangiora), Murray Ruddenklau, (Kaiapoi) and the Trust chairman, to meet with architect George Lucking to make a detailed study of the plans for stage 1 of the Lodge construction.

### **ESTIMATE OF BUILDING COSTS.**

Phil Baldwin (Belfast Rotary), a Quantity Surveyor, submitted a cost estimate of \$25,000 for the supply of building materials for stage 1 of the plan. These included the following costs.

	\$
Foundation and Floor slab	3000
Wall, ceiling and roof framing	5000
Roofing Iron	1300
Exterior Windows and glass	3500
Exterior wall lining	1200
Doors, screens and kitchen fittings	2500
Interior lining and finishing	2000
Electrical	1000
Plumbing	3000
Juno Heaters	1500
Drainage	<u>1000</u>
	\$25,000

At that stage there was no inclusion for the costs involved in floor covering, water supply, a power generator, cooker or drying room facilities

The Trust met with the directors from the three clubs to discuss and seek formal approval of the plans.

An increasing need became apparent for a building supervisor to liaise with the architect and the various project sub-committees. A recommendation was made that the Trust engages the services of a construction site building overseer.

It was agreed that the chairman act as overall co-ordinator of the project and that he appoint a person to act as on-the-site Building Supervisor.

The following sub-committees were either established or confirmed with instructions to operate under the supervision of the Building Supervisor.

### **ESTABLISHING A PROJECT COMMITTEE STRUCTURE.**

Cliff Dean had accepted to undertake the duty of Building Supervisor on the site and Rangi Atkinson, Murray Ruddenklau (Kaiapoi) and Geoff Wells,(Belfast) were willing to supervise the water supply, plumbing and drainage requirements.

TRANSPORT was supervised by Roy Young, (Rangiora High School)

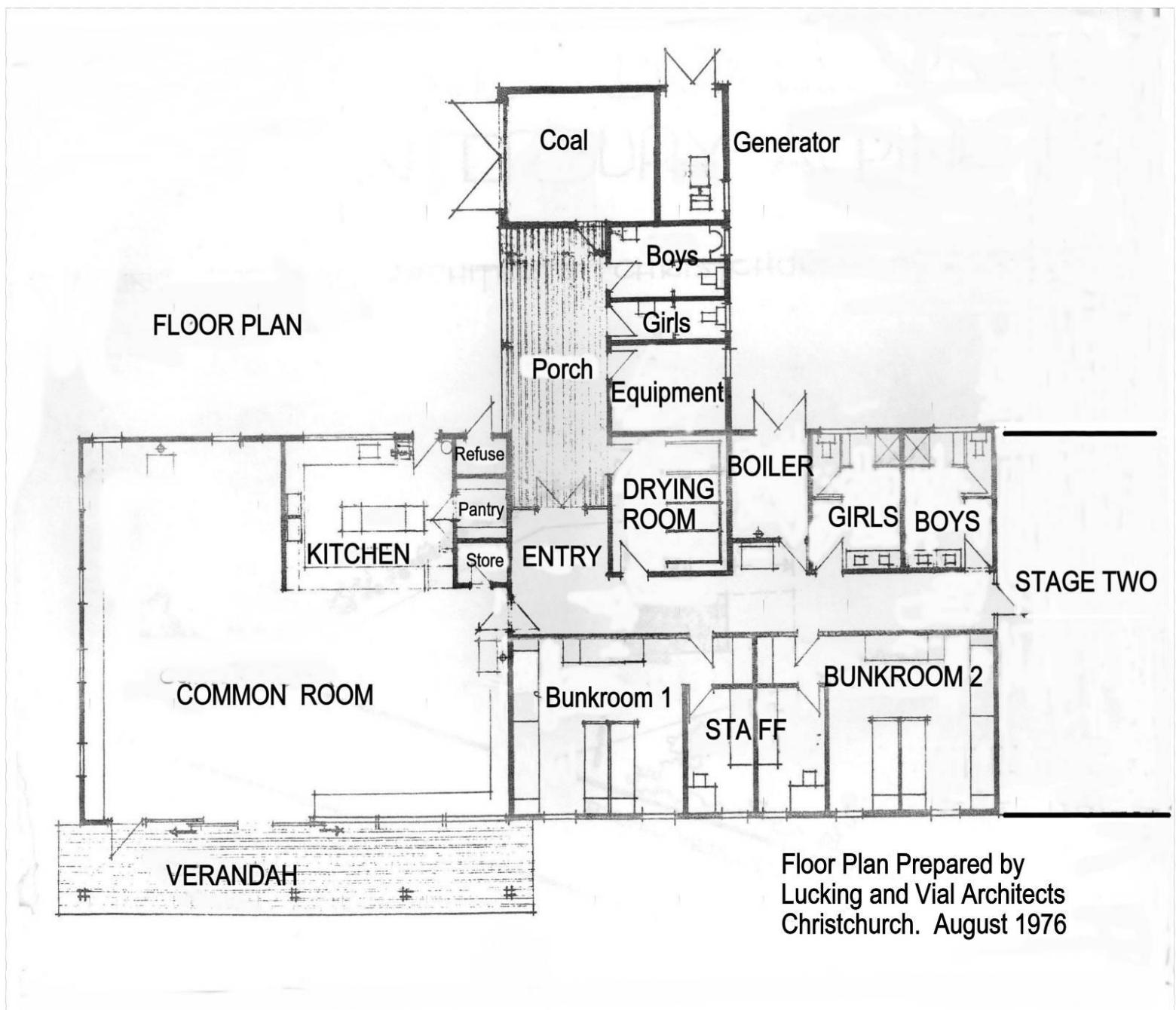
BUILDING MATERIALS (Donald Mackay, Rangiora Rotary)

LABOUR REQUIREMENTS were supervised by, (Murray Ruddenklau, Kaiapoi Rotary) and Geoff Wells, (Belfast Rotary)

FINANCE AND PUBLICITY, Don Smith, (Rangiora Rotary) and Ken Francis, (Kaiapoi Rotary).

CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION (John Holloway, Rangiora Rotary).

Donald Mackay (Rangiora Rotary) and Geoff Wells, (Belfast Rotary) were appointed as new Trust members in September 1976.



Cliff Dean (Belfast) and Don Smith (Rangiora) resigned as Trustees from the North Canterbury Alpine Trust, but continued to actively support the project

**THE TRANSFER OF LAND TITLE AGREEMENT: AUGUST 1976.**

Documents were received by the Trust from Lands and Survey granting the Trust licence to occupy the Boyle River site, with \$45 being paid for the first year's site rental. Transfer of Title to the site would take place once the Trust had completed the construction of the Lodge.

### **BUILDING SUPPLIES AND SERVICES AVAILABLE.**

The Forestry Service agreed to supply sufficient Hanmer Forest Corsican pine for milling to meet the requirements for framing the building.

Transport of the logs to McAlpines Timber Mill was provided by North Canterbury Transport Company, who also made concession arrangements for the transport and supply of screened shingle to the Boyle River site.

Land and Survey gave approval for installing a 22,700 litre water tank on the terrace directly above the Lodge site.

Cement was procured from Reefton, at a concession rate, and also a hydro mixer for on-site concrete mixing. Local investigations were undertaken to assess the availability of a suitable stream as a source for water supply.

The nearby Forestry Service hut, complete with bunkhouse space for eight persons, was made available to accommodate working bees.

Accommodation facilities for working teams were also offered by some of the holiday home owners on the plateau above the Lodge site.

It was planned to be ready to pour the concrete floor slab before Christmas 1976 and to commence with the timber framing after the new year of 1977.

### **SITE PREPARATION.**

The building site for the Lodge was pegged out on 27 September 1976, which was followed a week later by the site being levelled by a bulldozer supplied by run holder Mr Hislop.



An early approach had been made by the Baptist Church to be involved in the Boyle River Lodge project. They were willing to make a considerable financial contribution in exchange for specified time usage. This was



planned as an alternative to replacing their run down camp situated at Glenroy. Future progress on this proposal did not eventuate.

### **PROGRESS ON FUND RAISING.**

A Fund Raising information report in 1976 indicated that the Kaiapoi Rotary Club had raised \$3,100; the Belfast Rotary Club \$4,319; Rangiora Rotary \$4,000; the Kaiapoi High School \$3,600 and the Rangiora High School, which with other Trust funds provided a total-to-date of \$20,920.

Murray Ruddenklau listed a range of skills from a survey done of members of the three Rotary Clubs, which demonstrated an encouraging range of skills and experience available from the Rotary club members.

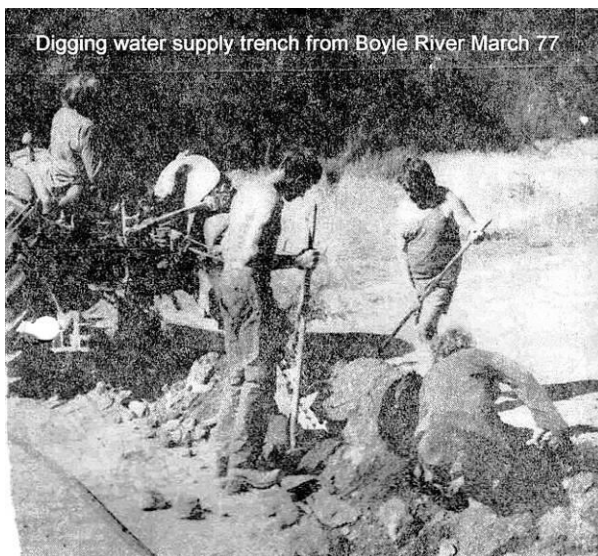
The Publicity Committee was active in planning to produce a special Lodge feature edition for the North Canterbury News, which was duly published by the North Canterbury News on Tuesday 22 November 1977

### **OBJECTIONS TO CHANGE OF USE.**

The Solicitors for the Trust, Corcoran, Thwaites and Brown had received notice in January 1977 of an Objection from two Boyle River residents regarding the Change of Use. An Objection was also received from the Ministry of Works regarding the need to comply with the Rural Fires Act.

Meetings were subsequently held with the objectors and the issues of concern resolved, including issues relating to decibel readings from a stationary power generating motor. These matters caused further delays in meeting with the Amuri County to make representations concerning the Change of Land Use and the issuing of a building permit.

Notification was received that once the plans had been approved by the Amuri County Council they were required to be submitted to the Education Board to seek their approval to meet the requirements under the School Camps Scheme.



**WATER SUPPLY.** Installation was authorised to be undertaken in readiness for the commencement of pouring concrete for the floor slab.

The Boyle River was considered to be the best possible source of supply for water. This would require laying about 360 metres of piping to the Lodge site and the installation of a pump house at the river side.

A working party was organised for the first weekend in March 1977 to start on trenching and laying the

polythene pipe from the Boyle River to the building site. A bus provided by Bill Bell (Kaiapoi), was made available for the transport and sleeping requirements of the workers.

It was still aimed to have the water reticulation and the concrete foundations completed before the winter weather set in.

Readily available additional sources of shingle aggregate were obtainable in close proximity to the Boyle River site.

### **THE HANMER FOREST CAMP PROPOSAL.**

The Trust was approached by the Hanmer Ratepayers Association in March 1977, who communicated a statement from the Forestry Department indicating that the Department was considering disposing of the Single Men's Camp at the Hanmer Forest.

An opportunity was given to the North Canterbury Alpine Trust to express whether they had an interest in being involved with the acquisition of the Single Men's Camp facilities.

These extensive accommodation and other service facilities could be seen as an alternative proposal for an Outdoor Education facility, situated nearer an established township and the residential area of Hanmer Springs.

North Canterbury Alpine Trust members showed an interest in the proposal and attended the early exploratory public meetings which investigated the possible future usage of the Forest Camp.

The Camp covered an area of 2.5 hectares. The facilities included a kitchen dining room complex with caterer's quarters and a small recreation room. There were fifty two single men's huts which had room for two bunks each. The total complex was serviced by underground electrical wiring and a reticulated water supply. There was a laundry, toilet and ablution blocks which would require modification for use by both sexes.

Buildings were of timber construction which could involve substantial ongoing maintenance work.

It transpired that there were several organisations in the North Canterbury area who declared an interest in the property. A public meeting eventually decided that a separate Hanmer Forest Camp Trust be established. The Rotary Club of Papanui played a substantial role in the establishment of the Trust, whose intention was to establish Outdoor Education facilities for the North Canterbury Schools.

However, the emphasis of the Hanmer Forest Project was more directed towards servicing the needs of Primary Schools.

High School Staff members of the North Canterbury Alpine Trust organised a survey of the merits of both the Boyle River and the Hanmer Forest Camp sites for Outdoor Education potential. The unanimous decision was that the

Boyle River site had more to offer for Outdoor Education purposes and activities, particularly for High Schools.

There was also a general opinion expressed that the unfortunate delays experienced with progressing the Boyle site had had an adverse affect on Rotary Club morale. It was considered of high priority to get working parties involved in the Boyle River site which would have the beneficial affect of restoring morale and confidence in the project, through the fellowship which would be generated by teams working together on the site over the weekends.

Consequently the Hanmer Springs Forest Camp initiative was regarded as a separate venture offering a complementary Outdoor Education facility.

### **BUILDING PERMIT GRANTED.**

The Amuri County Council approval of the Change of Use and the granting of a building permit were finally notified in March 1977.

Murray Ruddenklau continued to maintain and update a list of worker volunteers, while Donald Mackay and builder representatives from the three Rotary clubs continued to discuss with architect George Lucking the final details prior to commencing work on the foundations.

Arrangements were made to draw a schedule of working bees to start on the foundation work.

### **PREPARATIONS FOR THE BUILDING FOUNDATIONS.**

The Rangiora Rotary Club, under the supervision of Donald Mackay, started the first foundation working bee on 1-3 April 1977. This was followed on the weekend on 15-17 April with a team from the Belfast Rotary Club supervised by Russell Smith. Next, it was the turn of the Kaiapoi Rotary club on 22-26 April, supervised by Jack Tourell and then on 29-31 April the Rangiora club held another working bee on the foundations.

It must be stressed that the digging of the outside foundation footing for the concrete floor slab was a particularly arduous task. It was all done by pick and shovel with no mechanical devices used, which would have made the task of continuously chipping through solid rock considerably easier. It was not unusual for one person to achieve no more than two or three metres of foundation excavation in one day!

Once the exterior foundation boxing was completed, work commenced on boxing for the interior foundations. Arrangements were made with the Ministry of Works for the supply of backfill material as part of the final preparation prior to pouring the concrete, which was planned to be held over until the spring time, due to the severity of winter frosts in the region.

### **OVERNIGHT FELLOWSHIP AND FUN AT THE BOYLE.**

For these early working bees each club was responsible to supply their own food and transport requirements. A mobile caravan was used at times as an on-site kitchen and the nearby bunkhouse of the Forest Service supplied room for overnight sleeping quarters. The hut had its own power generator which enabled some additional home comforts.

These weekends at the Forestry Service hut provided great opportunities for fellowship. Stories never ceased to be told and re-told, with much embellished enthusiasm, about the hilarity which was experienced by all. These stories also included many of the escapades which took place by those who enjoyed extended fellowship over the hill at the Maruia Springs hotel on a Saturday night.

It can not be doubted that the fellowship and fun generated by these combined fellowship working bees at the Boyle laid the foundation for developing the strong friendships which continued between all Rotary members and High School staff who worked together at the Boyle.

The commencement of work on the site also constituted part of the 'cement' of fellowship which created close ties between the three Rotary clubs and the two High Schools, something which continued even thirty years after the opening of the Boyle River Lodge.

### **FIVE YEARS OF PLANNING COMES TO FRUITION.**

The Lodge had finally started after nearly five years of talking, planning, establishing committees, negotiating with local government agencies and dealing with the frustrations of bureaucracy at the highest level.

Enthusiasm for the project had been re-vitalised once members of the three Rotary Clubs and the two High Schools could see some tangible results for their efforts.

### **WORKING BEES GET FULLY INVOLVED.**

A team from Kaiapoi completed the boxing for the interior foundations on the weekend of 25 April 1977. This was followed a week later with the outside concrete foundations being poured by a team from Rangiora on the weekend of 30 April-1 May, using premix supplied by the Ministry of Works.



Septic tank construction

Geoff Wells, (Belfast), organised a team of Rotary club members with their families to enjoy a weekend on the site in beautiful weather on 7-8 May. They stripped off all the timber



boxing from the foundations.

A Kaiapoi team under the supervision of Basil Begg was on the site over the weekend of 13-15 May and attended to making a start on drainage work, with the valuable assistance of a borrowed ditch digger, which greatly helped in

doing work on the septic tank and drainage soak pits.

Some backfill material was also used to improve the access road to the Lodge site.

### **DRAINAGE SYSTEMS.**

The seventeen man Drainage working bee made remarkable progress by achieving most of the connection work and drainage systems for all the toilets.

In just over a month of weekend working bees an amazing amount of initial construction progress had been made and a genuine interest and enthusiasm had been generated through seeing such good progress being achieved.

It was decided to wait until the spring time before resuming on-site construction work.

Much of the foundation work was achieved so quickly and efficiently, not only because of the enthusiastic labour support for the working bees, but also because of the generous assistance by donations and price concessions received for the supply of material and services.

The Hawarden Bus Company and Bligh's Road Service Station made gifts of transport. Ministry of Works provided material and machinery to help with the foundations; Canterbury Frozen Meat helped with the supply of cement made available through Guardian Cement Westport. The Amuri County Council charged a concession rate for permit fees and timber for foundation boxing was made available from Hanmer Forest Service and McAlpines Timber Mill.

### **WINTER SETS IN.**

During the winter of 1977 limited work continued off-site in readiness for the spring assault on the major framing and construction phase of the Lodge project.

It was decided not to paint the roofing iron prior to positioning it. A decision, which in hindsight 20 years later, may not have been a wise one, as the iron had later suffered severe corrosion, attributable to poor storage prior to use.

A Summary of Receipts and Expenditure from 1 August 1973 to 30 June 1977 included a schedule of man days of labour used on the site by volunteers from Rotary Clubs and High Schools. These added up to 83 man days by the end of June 1977.

Donald Mackay (Rangiora) offered the services of the staff of his building and construction company to be responsible for the laying of the concrete floor pad in the spring of 1977.

The death occurred at this time of Trustee Dr John Holloway, who through the depth of his knowledge and experience in the outdoor environment had made a significant contribution in the selection of the Boyle River site and the early planning stages of the Lodge.

Mr Rangi Atkinson, representing the Rotary Club of Kaiapoi, was appointed as a member of the North Canterbury Alpine Trust in 1977.

Kaiapoi High School decided to allocate the proceeds of their annual fair towards the Boyle River Lodge facilities.

### **GENEROUS BUILDING SERVICES AVAILABLE**

Backfill for the floor site at the Lodge was completed by a volunteer team from Belfast.

An offer was received for the free supply of metal fascia and spouting material and also two pot-belly stoves for heating were made available at a cost of \$150 each.

Stoneyhurst Sawmill, (Bob Hawkins) Belfast, offered an attractive rate to do the pre-cutting of the timber trusses and permitted Rotary volunteer manpower to contribute towards doing the work at his premises. Having the roof trusses pre-cut and ready for on-site assembly was a substantial benefit in reducing a heavy burden which would otherwise have fallen on largely unskilled volunteer labour.

### **CONCRETE FLOOR POURED.**

25-30 September was the date set for Donald Mackay and his construction team to do the concrete work for the floor pad of the Lodge. The great effort put in by this team during their week at the Boyle River was only marred by an unfortunate sudden cold snap of weather, which had a bad effect on the last day's pouring of concrete. This necessitated a return visit by Donald Mackay to carry out some repair work to the affected area of concrete.

### **PROMOTION.**

The Publicity committee prepared illustrated brochures which promoted the potential usage of the Lodge. Every opportunity was being used to promote the project, including a Rotary fair at Kaiapoi and the annual Rangiora Show.

Some of the sub-committees were re-structured due to changing personnel. Donald Mackay chaired the building committee consisting of Russell Smith,



(Belfast) and Basil Begg, (Kaiapoi). The publicity committee continued to be chaired by Don Smith, (Rangiora), with the assistance of Roy Young, Andy Williams, Noel Parker, Bob Hawkins, Brian Cossar, Trevor Wyatt and Tom Banks. Catering and accommodation requirements were in future to be the responsibility of each club or group.

#### **GRANTS RECEIVED FROM LOCAL COUNCILS.**

Sport and Recreation Grants were applied for in 1977 from various county councils and positive responses were received from Rangiora, \$200; Eyre \$500 and Waimairi \$500.

A 2,700 litre tank was made available from the Rangiora High School and several options for a power generator were being investigated.

As the momentum of the building construction gathered force, so also did the forward planning of equipping the Lodge with furniture and fittings to make it functional. Some surplus equipment was obtained from the closed down Godley Head Camp. Material included thirteen folding tables, sixty folding chairs and sundry kitchen equipment for \$325.

Such was the interest in the project that an advance booking was received in November 1977 for January 1979 by the Canterbury Botanical Society.

#### **THE FINANCIAL STRAIN.**

As work proceeded the accounts for payments became an increasing matter for concern for the Trust. At the November 1977 meeting of the Trust a total of over \$12,500 for building material was due for payment. At that stage the Trust's funds had a credit of only \$262. Consequently, the Rotary clubs and High Schools were asked to transfer \$2,500 each to the Trust fund to enable the current accounts to be paid.

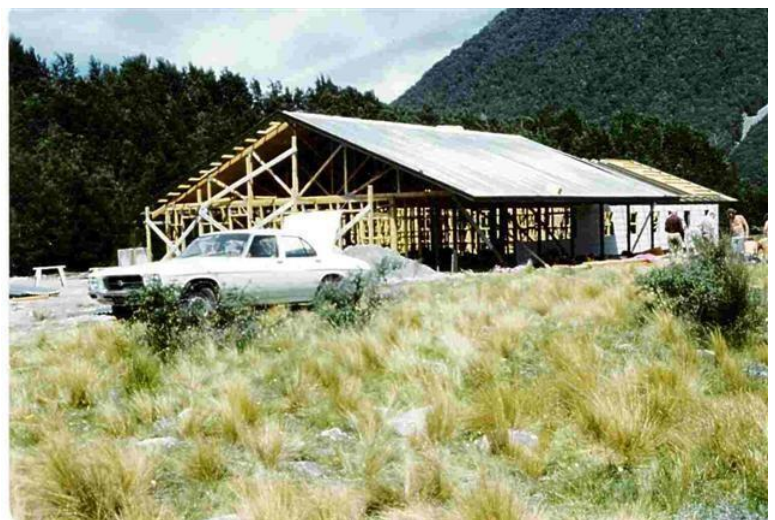
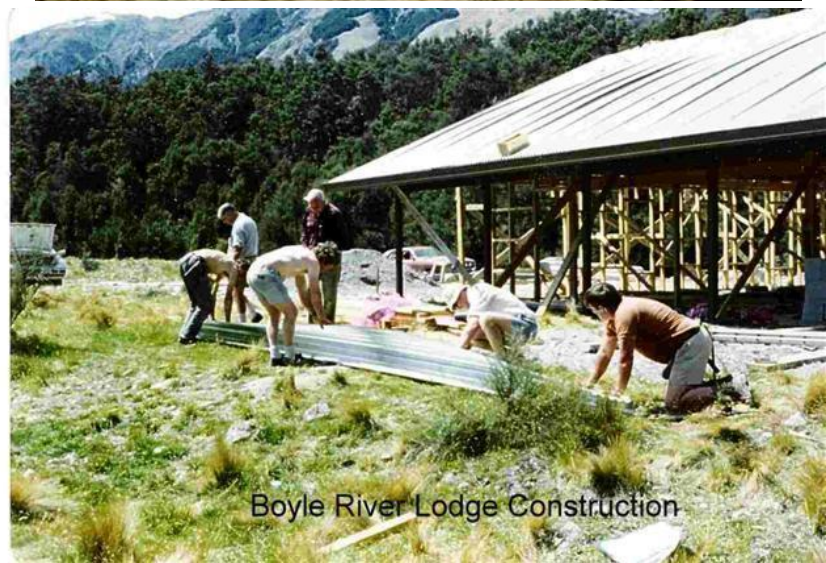
Additional fund raising from the Rotary Clubs became an urgent matter requiring a concerted effort.

It was pleasing to note at the following Trust meeting in December 1977 that all current and outstanding accounts had been paid, clubs and schools had lodged an additional \$14,445.00 and the Trust account had a credit balance of \$7,169

#### **CONSTRUCTION WORK COMMENCES.**

Progress on the construction work continued at an amazing pace, with large working bees on the Boyle River site every weekend. By mid November the walls and partitions had been framed and work commenced on erecting the roof trusses. Additional voluntary labour was offered from many sources and extra help was secured from a Student Unemployment Labour Scheme. This enabled help with fixing the exterior cladding and painting the exposed roof beams.

The objective was to have the Raylight aluminium windows fitted and the Lodge totally closed in by the time of the Christmas holiday period.





### **STUDENT LABOUR SCHEME.**

The student labour scheme provided very timely assistance in achieving the objective of having the building closed in by Christmas. They also took considerable pressure off the volunteer working bees, which were well deserving of the work relief which the additional labour force gave them. The labour team was under the supervision of Rangi Atkinson, Ernie French, Roy Young and Geoff Wells.



### **PUBLICITY**

Strong publicity promoted by the Public Relations committee advanced the increasing public interest and support for the project. A special North Canterbury News supplement greatly contributed to spreading the news of the Boyle River Lodge, as well as information packs sent to all schools in the area, together with displays set up in North Canterbury business windows.

The 1978 New Year working bees saw the commencement of the interior lining of the Lodge, following the installation of the electrical wiring.

During the finishing stages of the Lodge it was seen necessary to engage the services of skilled tradesmen to do some of the work which required qualified carpenters. The Trust advertised for two carpenters for up to four weeks work.

### **WATER INSTALLATION.**

The water supply continued to be a major exercise requiring the installation of a 16,360 litre underground tank, plus making all the necessary storm water connections to the water supply tanks.

The Amuri County council provided heavy machinery to assist with installing the underground water tank.

It was decided that the main water supply source would be from rain water collected in underground storage tanks, supplemented by a back-up supply by pumping from the Boyle River to an overhead storage tank erected on a stand on the plateau above the Lodge. Water from there would be by gravity feed to the main on-site underground storage tanks.

### **PUBLICITY PROMPTS INTEREST IN BOOKINGS.**

Roy Young, (Rangiora High), submitted a detailed report on the development of the Boyle River project for distribution to schools and community groups. A positive response from this information was evident by the increased inquiries for booking the Lodge, once completed.

This prompted the need for the Education sub-committee to establish guidelines for schools about the types of activities suited to the area and rules for the use of the facility.

### **SOLAR PANELS.**

Auxiliary lighting was installed and to keep the batteries charged, solar panels were put in place.

All electric wiring was completed by March 1978 and exterior frames for outside doors were fitted and the doors hung.

Foam plastic mattresses with plasticised zip covers were ordered and dressed rimu timber ordered from McAlpines for constructing the bunks.

Foundations were extended over the area previously planned for a coal storage bunker and concrete slabs were poured for a front terrace and also to provide a concrete area outside the kitchen.

By the month of April successive working bees and relief labour had carried out work lining the common room, the toilets and the kitchen. A second-hand diesel generator had been purchased for installation. John Rodgers and his team of electricians carried out all the necessary installation work for the generator. A boiler had been procured for \$280 and transported to the Boyle from Kaiapoi.

The “Hot Dog” heaters, which had been previously procured from the Lake Rotoiti Lodge, were installed.

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE.**

A report on financial contributions indicated that the three Rotary Clubs had each contributed \$3,500; Rangiora High school \$6,314 and Kaiapoi High school \$4,238 giving a total of \$21,052. The Rotary clubs were urgently requested to forward an additional \$1,500 each and a fund raising

committee of the Trust set a target to raise an additional \$10,000, needed to complete the project.

A financial report at the end of May 1978 indicated that a total \$29,993.11 had been received from the contributing organisations and various grants. Approximately \$22,000 had been spent on building material and fittings and about \$3,000 on wages and allowances to tradesmen.

### **PUBLICITY COMMITTEE KEEPS THE PUBLIC INFORMED.**

The publicity committee continued with a good public relations exercise by keeping schools well informed of the progress of the Lodge and what educational benefits would be available once completed and operational.

The Education Department Outdoor Education Committee had been provided with information and progress about the Boyle River project. Confidence and satisfaction in the continued rate of progress provided the Trust with assurance that the Lodge would be ready for the official opening on 23 September 1978.



### **LOCAL FARMERS AND LIONS CLUB PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.**

Valuable assistance was given by twelve Culverden farmers, organised through their local Lions Club, who provided labour for pouring the concrete foundations for the generator shed and help with erecting additional bunk rooms. Later help was also given with the final installation work of the 13,650 litre water tank.

There was plenty of opportunity for unskilled labour to volunteer to do the extensive amount of painting and varnishing work required during the finishing stages of the Lodge. The Kaiapoi Community Centre and its Community Work Scheme was able to provide four painters for two days work at the Lodge to complete some of the unfinished work.

Sam Laing (Belfast) was the supervisor responsible for the extensive work load involved in the total painting and varnishing of the Lodge. This work involved a large number of voluntary hours by a wide range of community groups, including Rotary and the Schools of North Canterbury.

### **HEATING AND ELECTRIC POWER.**

The cost of installation for electric power was still well outside affordability by the Trust as the minimum guarantee charge, plus the capital cost of connection, ranged from at least \$9,000 and up to \$15,000.

This situation forced the Trust to consider alternative means of power for cooking purposes and it was finally agreed that the most cost effective means would be to purchase a gas stove, for which a system of operating on exchange gas bottles was available.

John Rogers and his electrical team supervised the successful installation of the diesel generator and Graham Don, plumber from Belfast, organised the connection of the boiler for hot water and the drying room.

### **FUNDING.**

Des Moore (Rangiora) agreed to chair the Fundraising committee which had liaised with Primary Schools in North Canterbury to hold a Rag Drive. The Kaiapoi Rotary club planned a Scrap metal Drive and the Rangiora Rotary Club planned a major effort by organising a Steptoe Auction with the objective of raising \$10,000.

These fund raising efforts were required to raise the necessary money to cover the costs to complete the Lodge. It was hoped to open the Lodge debt free. As the time for the completion of the Lodge grew closer an increasing number of accounts associated with construction and installation work were required to be paid. At a meeting prior to the opening function of the Lodge, it was noted that the Trust account went into an overdraft of about \$250, following the payment of all outstanding accounts.

### **NEW APPOINTMENTS.**

Tom Penny retired as Principal of Rangiora High School in 1978 but was appreciative of the opportunity to continue as one of the co-opted Trustees, as provided for in the Trust Deed of the North Canterbury Alpine Trust.

Colin Macintosh, the new Principal of Rangiora High School was appointed as a Trustee representing Rangiora High.

The minutes of 22 May 1978 recorded, for the first time, the name of Arthur Sutherland of the Kaiapoi High School, who with Ian Stephenson of the Rangiora High School had been co-opted onto the Publicity Committee. They were responsible for submitting to the Trust information which was considered important to include in further publicity material planned for release to the schools of North Canterbury.

Arthur's contribution to that meeting started his long association with the Boyle River Lodge.

Geoff Wells indicated his appreciation for the co-operation of Trust members during his time as a Trustee and declared his intention to retire from the Trust.



Bill Allison of the Rotary Club of Belfast was appointed as a Trustee in 1978. As a builder, Bill made a significant contribution during the construction stages of the Lodge.

Another builder who made a significant contribution during the construction of the Lodge was Dave Dwyer. He was later invited to join the Belfast Rotary Club in 1978 but sadly died of cancer two years later. The Dave Dwyer Memorial Hammer prize was later instituted at the Belfast School and continues to be annually awarded to the most promising wood work student.

### **A FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENT.**

Further grants from Sport and Recreation and the Canterbury Savings Bank assisted with the cash flow.

At the time of the Official Opening, the Lodge was virtually debt free, except for some accounts amounting to about \$2500.

The total costs incurred were approximately \$44,000, which was about \$20,000 in excess of a very early estimate of the original "Alpine Hut" concept back in 1972. For insurance purposes the Lodge was valued at \$110,000 at the time of the official opening.

A Kaiapoi working bee of 22-23 July used loaders and trucks which had been taken up to the site and used to improve the terrain surrounding the Lodge. 130 metres of shingle were spread on the driveway and 30 metres of soil spread on the area outside the front patio and terrace. The finishing touches were done to some of the interior of the building, including the completion of the bunk rooms, which had been undertaken by school groups. Important plumbing work had still to be completed.

Publicity throughout North Canterbury concentrated on promoting the monster Steptoe Auction which generated considerable interest and was responsible for adding a further \$2,000 to the Trust's funds.

### **PLANNING THE GRAND OPENING.**

Tom Penny was invited to chair a committee responsible for the arrangements of the opening function.

Plans for the grand opening of the Lodge were initiated and an extensive invitation list was prepared, including neighbouring run holders, government departmental representatives, local body organisations and all who had assisted with the project.

The Deputy Director General of Lands and Survey, Mr Lucas was unable to attend but spoke at a Kaiapoi Rotary meeting on 14 August 1978 and outlined his Department's policy for the Lewis Pass area.

The opening function was scheduled to be held between 2 to 5pm on Saturday 23 September and the Rotary clubs were invited to stay at the Lodge overnight, which would be an occasion for a social function with family members and friends.

**OPENING OF THE LODGE 23 SEPTEMBER 1978.**





The ladies of the Belfast Inner Wheel Rotary group had generously offered to make the curtains for the Lodge, which provided a warm, friendly and welcoming atmosphere for a great opening evening of celebration and socialising.

One hundred and eighty guests attended the Opening Day function. In spite of the cool day a very successful official event was held, marking the culmination of over six years work of planning and construction.

Rotary District Governor Jim Travers and Derek Quigley MP performed the official opening and appropriate speeches gave due recognition to all who had laboured to make the North Canterbury Alpine Lodge a successful project.

The fellowship function continued throughout the evening and the three Rotary clubs ensured that each of their club banners was firmly fixed on the highest possible position on a ceiling rafter.

### **THE FINAL FINISHING TOUCHES.**

There were still many 'loose ends' to complete after the opening of the Lodge, but none that deterred the immediate usage of the Lodge by School groups.

One 'last minute hitch' was getting approval from the Fire Safety Authority, as the Trust had not used fire resistant material between the bunk room and the common room. This issue was rectified and the Fire Safety Officer issued the necessary permit for the Lodge to operate, in compliance with fire standards.

The first school group in attendance following the opening was one from Kaiapoi High School under the leadership of Arthur Sutherland. This visit resulted in an operational list being prepared of those things requiring attention and suggestions for future management.

### **STAFFING THE LODGE.**

An early application was lodged with the Labour Department for a Resident Instructor to supervise the school groups, which the Trust anticipated would be applying for a booking to attend the Lodge for Outdoor Educational purposes. This application for funding a Resident Teacher was declined.

**Thus started prolonged endeavours to obtain recognition and funding for a Resident Teacher at the Lodge.**

**The Community had provided the facility and it appeared that the Community would be responsible for the funding of the Boyle Lodge staff.**

As the construction phase of the Lodge drew to an end it became rapidly apparent that the management of the Boyle Lodge would become a major issue which would require to be addressed by the Trust.

Up until that stage all the enthusiasm and effort was concentrated upon providing the facility for Outdoor Education.

As the completion date for the Boyle River Lodge drew near, the Trust was aware that through the generous assistance from so many community groups, the objective of providing an Outdoor Education facility had been successfully achieved.

**However, the question to be answered was, "*Who is going to manage and look after it on a day-to-day basis?*"**

### **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.**

The answer to that question led to the formation of a Committee of Management.

It was agreed that it was essential to have a close liaison between the Alpine Trust and the Committee of Management and that each should be represented at, and attend each others respective meetings.

It was recommended that a committee of about five persons be appointed to form the management committee and that they be commissioned to be responsible for the day-to-day management of the operation of the Lodge.

They would also be responsible for looking after the bookings for the Lodge and to supervise the educational resources for the Lodge, to ensure that visits were a worthwhile and enjoyable experience for school groups in residence at the Lodge.

In the early months of operation arrangements were made to have the key to the Lodge made available from personnel at the Ministry of Works Camp. They also provided a custodial role by 'keeping an eye' of the site and helped out with any urgent repair work.

### **CUSTODIAL SUPERVISION.**

From the very beginning of Lodge usage there was an obvious need for on-site custodial supervision, combined with the requirement for a resident teacher.

This became an issue which was dealt with on an 'ad hoc' basis, until financial resources enabled improved staffing arrangements to be implemented. The major difficulty was the lack of available funding to pay for Outdoor Education staff.

There appeared to be an anomaly that whilst there was departmental recognition and support for Outdoor Education as part of the school curriculum, financial support to fund the payment of staff to teach and supervise Outdoor Education activities appeared to have limited recognition. Considerable time and effort was put into alleviating this situation, including meeting with the Deputy Director General of Education.

A sympathetic hearing was always given to deputations seeking financial assistance for staffing the lodge. But, as always, the bottom line answer was the lack of sufficient funding for teaching a subject which was then regarded to be in its early fledging stage.

At the conclusion of one particular meeting the delegate was reminded that:-

<p><b><i>“COMMUNITIES MUST AT ALL TIMES BE AWARE OF THE NEED TO PRESERVE THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM.”</i></b></p>
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Consequently, there developed a strong need for the user pay philosophy, which put extra stress on both schools and parents.

The Trustees from the Kaiapoi and Rangiora High Schools provided valuable assistance with the management of the Lodge during the initial

stages of operation and the Kaiapoi High School office provided the service for managing the bookings during 1979.

### **CAR RAFFLE.**

Cooper Henderson Motors, in February 1979, provided a car for a fund raising raffle, in order to meet the financial debt which had accrued during the final stages of construction. Limited income was being generated through usage by school groups and grants from charitable Trusts.

Other sources helped the Trust to gradually make progress in getting established and to organise and operate a user pay system.

### **PROMOTING USAGE AND BOOKINGS.**

Bookings for the Lodge were reasonable until the end of April during the first year of operation. Interest in the winter term was minimal and efforts were made to encourage community groups to take advantage of booking at the Lodge.

Early concern was expressed about the lack of sufficient notification regarding cancellation of a booking, as this caused loss of income for the Trust, with little or no opportunity to make alternative booking arrangements to replace cancelled bookings.

User groups were consequently notified about stricter terms and conditions relating to making a booking at the Lodge.

Publicity covered a wider approach than just that aimed at schools. The news media provided informative articles through a range of newspapers and radio programmes, which helped to give a greater awareness of the outdoor education facility which Rotary and the High Schools had contributed for the benefit of all communities in North Canterbury.

The Official magazine for Rotary in the South West Pacific region published articles on the Lodge from time to time. Trustee Tom Penny (Rangiora) prepared a detailed article following the opening of the Lodge which was published in Rotary Down Under in 1979.

Ben Johns (Belfast) commissioned a carved notice of the name of the Lodge to be erected on the roadside entrance to the Lodge. Also a suitable plaque was ordered to be placed inside the Lodge noting the details relating to the opening of the Lodge and listing key benefactors, such as the JR McKenzie Trust.

A piano, comfortable chairs and couch were gifted to help provide an atmosphere of home comfort in the common room.

### **DEVELOPING THE DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF THE LODGE.**

Discussions which took place in March 1979 about the operation of the Management Committee recognised the division of functions of that committee.



There were those functions which related to administration and those which related to activities, programmes and teaching techniques.

The Management Committee was to be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Lodge and the organisation and running of courses and teaching lessons.

It was agreed that the role of the Trust was to move away from day-to-day management and to be responsible for property maintenance, the establishing of policy and carrying out its statutory requirements according to the Trust Deed.

Membership of the new Management Committee consisted of Arthur Sutherland and Bruce Johnston from Kaiapoi High School; Ian Stephenson, Buzz Byrom and Ted Garlick from Rangiora High School and Rhys Griffiths from Christchurch Teachers Training College, who accepted the invitation to be chairman of the Management Committee.

Rhys Griffiths resigned as chairman of the Management Committee in April 1980 and Colin East was requested to take over the chairmanship.

A detailed brochure had been prepared by the Management Committee covering all aspects of the usage of the Lodge, such as Administration, Activities and Programmes and Teaching Techniques.

The Management Committee, now being responsible for the day-to-day running of the Lodge, was required to report to the Trust and make recommendations about matters requiring attention.



### **IMPROVED FINANCIAL SITUATION.**

The financial situation of the Trust benefited from the excellent response to the car raffle organised by an enthusiastic committee. In excess of \$4,400 was raised. Additional revenue was also received from Sport and Recreation grants through local authorities and assistance for the purchase of equipment through the JR McKenzie Trust.

Urgently needed finance was obtained by a loan from the Canterbury Savings Bank of \$3,000 and a loan of \$1,200 from the Rotary Club of Belfast. The Steptoe Auction raised over \$2,000. The Rotary Clubs and Parent Teacher Association groups also made additional allocation of funds over and above their original pledged contributions.

### **REVENUE INCREASES.**

With this additional revenue the Trust was able to meet some of the loan repayments and also to repay the outstanding balance of the land purchase price of \$555 to the Department of Lands and Survey. The Trust had been



paying rental to the Department Lands and Survey, who recognised these payments as part payment for the section price.

It was encouraging to note that not long after the opening of the Lodge the Trust was able to report a financial credit balance of \$3,731, with operational expenses being able to be met through the revenue generated by user groups.

However, there were still areas which required substantial expenditure to bring the Lodge up to full operational efficiency, particularly the capital cost of installing electricity, when it became available and affordable.

Another additional cost involved the expenditure associated with a resident teacher and the provision of adequate accommodation facilities for such a person.

### **THE FUTURE OF CONTINUED ROTARY INVOLVEMENT.**

Concern was being expressed, once the Lodge project was virtually completed, that Rotary clubs had a responsibility to meet other community needs and that there should be an understanding that future financial assistance to the Lodge would be treated as a special request.

Although the Trust continued to have Trustee representation from the three Rotary clubs, there was no obligation on the part of the individual Rotary Clubs to have a financial responsibility for the operation or development of the Lodge.

It was agreed that Rotary Clubs would be free to make whatever contribution which their members decided upon from time to time.

It was also brought to the attention of the Rotary clubs that they could exercise the option of nominating an alternative or substitute nominee to represent the particular Rotary Club or High School as a Trustee of the North Canterbury Alpine Trust.

### **TRUSTEE CHANGES.**

The meeting of 21 May 1979 marked the start of a new era for the Trust as some of the original Trustees gave notice of termination of office. These included Donald McKay who had played a key role in supervising the construction of the Lodge and had contributed tirelessly and generously by often supplying the labour from his own Building Company's construction team.

Ernie French gave notice that he would serve for only one more year. His workload as Secretary/Treasurer for the Trust had been immense and extended back to the early stages of the Investigating Committee set up in 1972.

Colin East was acknowledged for his role as chairman of the Trust and as a member of the original Investigating Committee. He announced his intention to vacate the chair at the next Annual General meeting, but to continue as a Trustee.

Roy Young (Rangiora) also retired from the Trust. He was involved in the project since its inception and produced valuable detailed reports on some of the early sites investigated. He carried out surveys of the North Canterbury Schools and made a significant contribution in promotion and publicity work, including the keeping an updated photographic record of the project.

### **IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WATER SUPPLY.**

Early usage discovered that improvements were needed to the water supply. Groups had to frequently pump additional water from the Boyle River to replenish the supply.

Increasing energy costs were being incurred because of the need to frequently run the generator to pump the water. Subsequent alterations provided an improved gravity feed system from the backup supply tank on the terrace above the Lodge.

### **CAMPS FOR THE DISADVANTAGED.**

The Trust, through the three Rotary clubs, responded positively to a request from the Christchurch Mayoress's Holiday Camp committee to sponsor disadvantaged children to attend the Boyle River camp for a week during the Christmas holiday period.

### **REVIEW OF CHARGES.**

The initial charge rate set by the Management Committee was \$20 per night minimum with a nightly \$1 per head charge for groups over twenty. There was also a \$20 deposit fee which was deducted from the final account.

The aim was to keep the charges as low as possible, particularly for school groups.

Charges reviewed for the 1980 year were set at \$2.00 per night per person for non school groups and \$1.30 per person per night for school groups, plus a non recoverable deposit of \$20. The secretary had discretionary power to apply discount rates in special circumstances.

### **CONFIDENCE COURSE.**

The construction of a confidence course was seen as a necessary outdoor educational instruction aid and both the Army and the Student Work Scheme were seen as possible sources to carry out the on-site construction work.

An intensive four weeks exercise at the beginning of the last term of 1979 involved local secondary schools and students from Teachers College.

This provided an opportunity for some in-depth analysis of the immediate needs required for the Boyle River Lodge to function more efficiently.



Gaining Confidence

Recommendations from the Management Committee which arose from the detailed study and report on the Boyle River operation were also the result of looking at similar facilities at Lake Rotoiti, Borland Lodge Southland and TauTuku, Otago.

### **IMPROVING THE FACILITIES.**

First and foremost a properly equipped and racked drying room was seen as an urgent requirement to meet the needs of groups returning from field trips. These often experienced sudden weather changes which commonly occurred in the Lewis Pass region.

At the initial stage the drying of wet clothes and equipment was carried out in the common room and a comment recorded in one report noted that *“the thought of a lot of wet, smelly gear being dried in the lounge over the pot belly stoves does not really impress me”*.

The early groups provided an opportunity to sort out teething problems and to develop an operational standard which met with basic requirements for health and safety.

Suggestions for additional needs to improve the efficiency of the Lodge were continually being added to a list of “things required or things to do”.

There were environmental issues which required attention, such as the disposal of a significant amount of rubbish and where and how to dump it. Toilet requirements in “the bush” had to be provided for groups doing an overnight camp-out in locations such as the Nina Valley.



The thoroughness of these early Management Committee sessions at the Boyle River is demonstrated by a report that recommended that every window in the Lodge be numbered and the size of each pane of window glass be designated to that numbered window, so that a reported breakage would ensure prompt and accurate replacement.

Whilst the period of building the Lodge as a functional complex had been virtually completed, there was another ‘building’ activity being carried out at the same time.

This involved the 'building' or formulation of a sound operational plan for the management and administration of the Lodge.

The objective was to ensure that the Lodge fulfilled the purpose for which it was built, which was to provide instruction in outdoor education, to instil an appreciation for the environment and for students to develop a custodial responsibility to protect and maintain the great outdoors.

Consequently, the workload of the Management Committee had the extra responsibility of developing courses which would endeavour to achieve the aims, objectives and the purpose of having the Boyle River Lodge.

### **TEACHING STAFF ENTHUSIASTIC.**

The enthusiasm of the teaching staff perhaps did not receive the full recognition for the countless hours spent in preparing suitable teaching material to use for teaching pupils from the city about the wonders of the mountain environment.

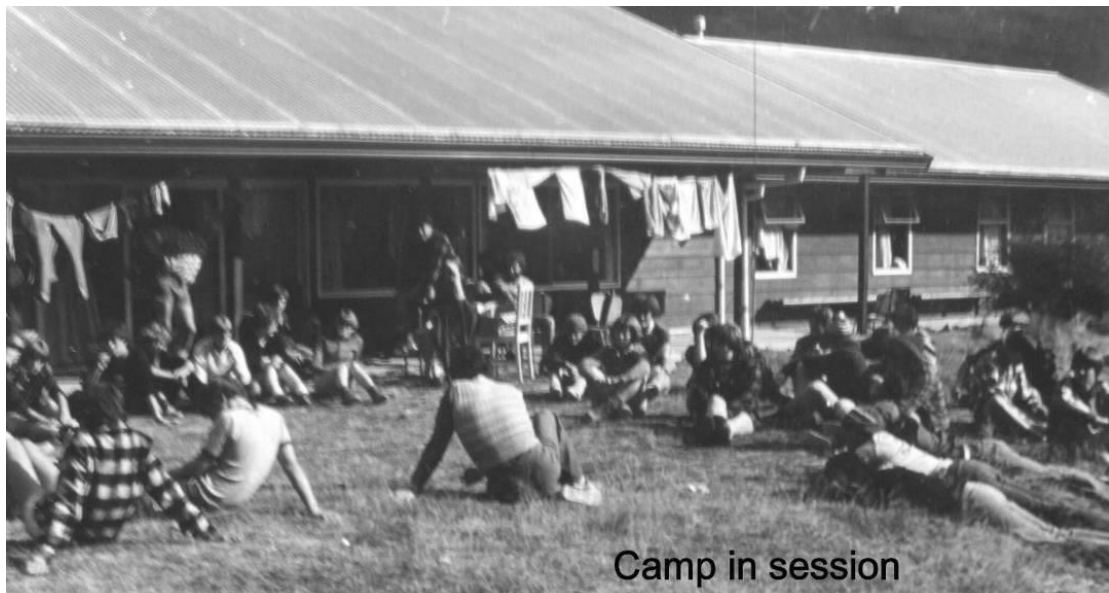
The establishment of an orienteering course was a valuable addition and was recognised as an important and popular activity by the students.

Outdoor Education was a relatively new curriculum subject and although it drew information from the allied subjects of geography, geology, natural science and social studies, the presentation of such information was in a new context of the outdoor environment, as distinct from being taught in a classroom.

Over a period of time the library of teaching material and aids steadily grew to provide an ever improving facility for Outdoor Education.

Reports from early camps highlighted the great benefits which were being achieved by providing 'kids' with an outdoor camp experience.

It was observed that one pupil in a school group was a 'bit-of-a-loner'. But by the end of the camp he was seen to grow in self esteem. The training course had an ability to draw kids out, to the extent that they came to grips with themselves.



Camp in session

### **HOLIDAY CAMPS.**

Successful holiday camps were held in February 1980 for disadvantage children and the three Rotary clubs paid \$150 to sponsor each of the fifteen students.

### **CARETAKER ACCOMMODATION.**

It was agreed that an approach be made through the Ministry of Recreation and Sport to consider an application for financial assistance for a caretaker's residence at the Boyle River site.

### **TRUST SECRETARY/TREASURER, MR ERNIE FRENCH RETIRES.**

The resignation of the Secretary/Treasurer, Mr Ernie French, Principal of Kaiapoi High School, was received at the Annual General meeting of 21 July 1980. The meeting recorded the *"Trust's appreciation of the tremendous contribution made by the Secretary-Treasurer at all stages of the project. His hard work, often behind the scenes, and his keen mind for detail had been unrelenting and brought the project to its successful fruition"*.

There is no doubt that Ernie French did a colossal amount of secretarial work and the Trust expressed their appreciation for the magnificent job he had done.

He spent countless hours following through every possible avenue for sourcing finance and grants from Government Departments, Local Authorities and numerable Charitable Trusts.

Ernie French had filled the role as Secretary-Treasurer since the first committee was appointed to investigate the feasibility of the project in 1972.

To mark the occasion of his retirement from the Trust and in appreciation of his outstanding contribution to the fruition of the North Canterbury Alpine Lodge, Ernie was presented with a framed enlarged photograph of the Lodge to serve as a reminder to him of his association with such a successful project.

It was agreed that subsequent secretarial work be carried out at the Rangiora High School as a newly appointed Executive Officer, (Roger Harper,) would be able to take over the responsibility of administering the bookings for the Lodge and to carry out the role as Treasurer.`

### **REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE.**

During the first year of operation of the Alpine Lodge as an Outdoor Education facility, there were several jobs which needed to be completed and many of these were carried out by members of the Management Committee, the staffs of Rangiora and Kaiapoi High Schools and members of the Belfast Rotary Club. Some of this work involved undertaking the construction and fitting out of the Drying Room and improving the water storage system.



An old Railway water tank at the Kaiapoi Railway Station was purchased for \$1, but as it was found to be unsuitable for use at the Boyle River Lodge, it nevertheless provided some excellent timber which was used for constructing tables and seats for outside use at the Lodge.

As a result of a comprehensive operational survey done by the Management Committee, additional equipment for Outdoor Education was purchased as funds became available.

### **IMPROVING FINANCES.**

The financial position at the end of the first year showed a positive improvement with a credit balance in the current account of \$1,808 and \$3,500 was invested with the Canterbury Savings Bank.

### **OUTDOOR EDUCATION TRAINING COURSES.**

Members of the Management Committee took the opportunity to interact with other Outdoor Education organisations and attended training courses in order to assist with improved teaching and training techniques for use at the Boyle River Lodge.

### **GETTING SYSTEMS ESTABLISHED.**

In recording the development and progress of establishing functional operational systems for Outdoor Education at the Boyle River Lodge, due credit must be given to the dedication of the early Management Committee members for their tireless efforts to ensure the establishment of an efficient operation. There was a tremendous input by those involved in the day-to-day management of the Lodge. They had to pioneer the establishment of teaching courses and organise supporting aids and material for those courses.

There was also the myriad of 'in-house' rules and regulations to be established for the responsible supervision of groups of students, who were in the care of the Lodge whilst housed, fed and taught when in residence or out on field trips.

Added to this was the ever present frustration of having no resident teacher to alleviate the workload of personnel from either the Management Committee or by staff members from participating schools who had the job of oversight of the daily operation.

The pressure of this workload on some members of the Management Committee caused early resignations as the time commitment to the task had a detrimental affect on their normal work and domestic commitments.

It may have been a matter of political expediency for 'those in authority' to state that we should never deny our communities the opportunity for the



“spirit of volunteerism”, but such an altruistic attitude was a soft option for avoiding the responsibility for the justifiable expenditure for a Resident Teacher.

Such a decision had an unjustifiable detrimental impact on the lives of individuals who did not shun meeting a need and commitment to follow through with a responsibility.

### **TONY SINCLAIR APPOINTED CARETAKER.**

A recommendation was made by the Management Committee in 1980 that the Trust employs a part time Caretaker, preferably someone from the adjacent village or the nearby Ministry of Works camp. Their main tasks would involve the welcome of new groups on arrival and supervise their departure. Other tasks planned were to supervise and check equipment and ensure that instructions were followed for the proper use of equipment.

The Trust subsequently applied to the Labour Department, in July 1980 for a person to be employed under the Temporary Employment Plan (TEP) to carry out approved environmental work at the Lodge.

Mr Tony Sinclair from Kaiapoi was employed for this work and also continued in employment as general caretaker of the Lodge. Tony was a foundation pupil at Kaiapoi High School in 1972 and developed a strong affinity with the outdoor environment, which was further enhanced through his experience of opossum hunting, tree planting, a visit to the Chatham Islands, track cutting for the formation of the Walkway and preparing tracks at the Fox Glacier and Copland Pass.

As the recipient of a Rotary Youth Leadership Award he gained experience at the Tautuku Outdoor Education facility in Southland.

The ability to meet the funding of his salary at the Boyle River Lodge was assisted by having the continued allowance from the Department of Labour supplemented by allocations of funds from the user groups; the use of allocated teacher ancillary time; a pooling of time from other user Schools; plus and a levy of 30 cents per pupil.

Although this was not a permanent funding system for the Resident Teacher, what had been put in place provided considerable financial relief and allowed the Trust to progress some of its management plans.

User group fees were reviewed and non school groups increased to \$4 per head and the booking fee increased from \$20 to \$40.

### **FOREST SERVICE PLANS FOR AN INFORMATION CENTRE.**

Discussions were held with Mr Levy, the Conservator of Forests for the Canterbury Conservancy, regarding a proposal which was being promoted by the Forest Service to establish an Information Centre on their site



adjacent to the Boyle. Many of the early working parties on the Boyle River Lodge had used their accommodation hut for overnight sleeping.

In conjunction with the Information Centre, it was planned to build two houses for Forestry staff members.

It was suggested that once these facilities were in place, planned for 1984, that the Forest Service staff might be in a position to help the Lodge user groups with the programmes run by the Boyle River Lodge.

The Forest Service acknowledged that school teachers would be better placed to be able to handle groups in the field instruction situation.

Forestry staff could make a significant contribution towards developing the tracks and picnic spots in the area, which would link up with the Lodge to avoid the necessity of groups having to access the State Highway.

Work on this Forestry Service project was budgeted to proceed in the 1981-82 financial year and the project operational in 1984.

The development of this area was seen to be part of the expanding interest since the development of the St. James Walkway, which either began, or ended, at the Boyle River site.

History records that no subsequent action was followed through by the Forestry Service for the development of the Information Centre.

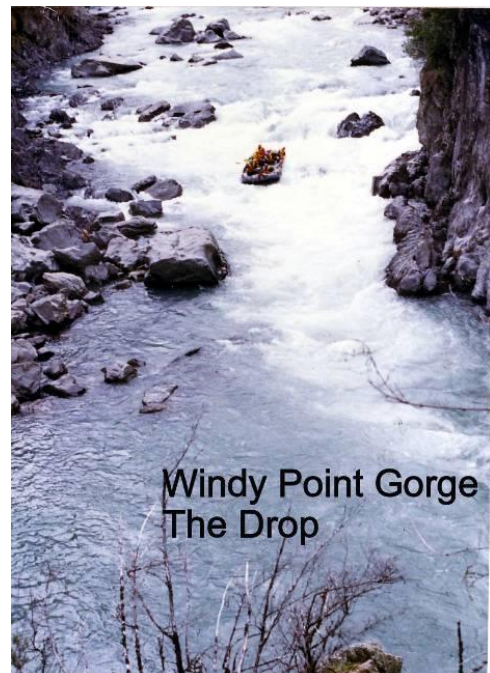
### **BIOLOGY INFORMATION HANDBOOK.**

In the meantime, in 1981, staff of the Rangiora High School was responsible for publishing a Biology Information booklet for students using the Lodge. It provided detailed information about a whole range of natural phenomena which could be observed and studied on nature walkways in the area. Students were made aware of the complex life which existed in the flora and fauna of the mountainous landscape and the many creatures which could be discovered in the bush, the rivers and the streams, which abounded.

Students were also made aware of the fragile nature of the environment and also the dangers which could be encountered in a climate subject to rapid changes. Consequently, instruction on survival issues was an important part of outdoor education.

### **ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CONNECTED.**

Forestry Service indicated that it was negotiating for the installation of electric power by the North Canterbury electric Power Board.



Preliminary quotations on the cost of power supply to the Forestry Boyle Base, just south of the Boyle River Lodge, would be \$15,000 plus a minimum usage charge of \$2,000 per annum.

Murray Ruddenklau did extensive work evaluating the costs involved for the Trust to run electrical appliances and other charges involved when the Lodge changed over to electricity.

Notice was received that the North Canterbury Power Board would be commencing in February 1981 to position power poles for conveying electrical power to the Boyle River site. Equipment would also be installed for carrying telephone cables.

This news was received with delight by the Trust, as the time and expense involved in keeping the diesel generator in a state of functioning consistently had been fraught with many ongoing problems, including one occasion of seepage of diesel into the water supply of the Lodge.

The advent of electric power onto the Boyle River Lodge site was a welcomed arrival. It enabled the luxury of 'throwing' a switch to get power without having to depend upon the vagaries and uncertainties of starting a motorised power generator.

However, there were costs involved in having this new benefit. The power charges were not on a comparable basis as the power charges used by urban dwellers in the city. It was found to be more cost effective to retain the use of gas for cooking purposes, in order to minimise electric power usage to an affordable level.

Night storage heaters were installed and additional radiant heaters procured for use, if and when required. The solar panels were sold and the Drying Room was fitted with 3kw fan heaters with the elements operating on off-peak load rates.

The generator and diesel storage tanks were sold by tender and the building which housed the generator was converted to provide on-site accommodation for the resident caretaker.

Ongoing improvements were a regular feature during the formative years of the Lodge. Working bees made improvements to the Ropes Course and a whole range of outdoor education equipment was continuously being added. Minor improvements and alterations to the Lodge also received regular attention from working bees organised through the Management Committee, in many cases using senior student labour.

Rotary clubs continued to offer assistance with voluntary labour to attend to requests to help various repairs and maintenance projects at the Lodge.



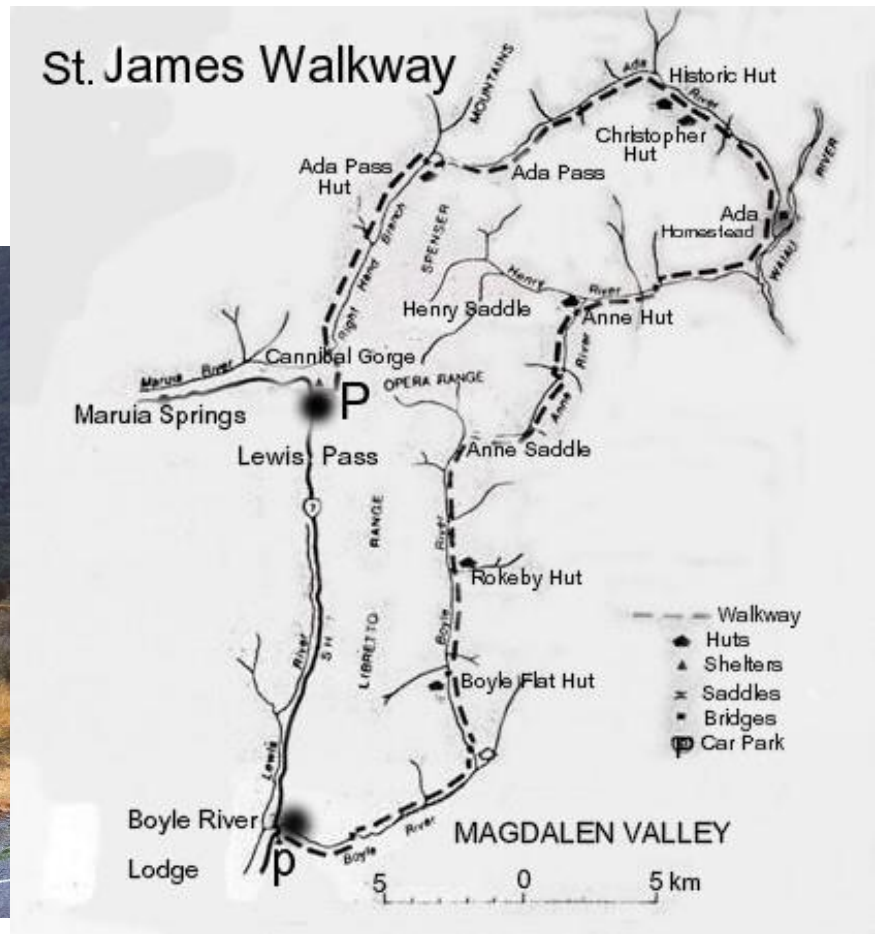
**BBQ INSTALLED.** A magnificent barbeque, complete with stone and steelwork was erected.

Once the electric power was connected further work was done by Rotary Club tradesmen to connect metre boards and provide additional wiring for heaters and emergency lighting. Generous donations were made of several night store heaters, and Kaiapoi Rotary donated wall heaters.

Assistance continued to be given by the Ministry of Works Camp for on-site levelling and ground improvements.

### **ST JAMES WALKWAY PARKING SERVICE.**

With the increased popularity and usage of the St. James Walkway, the Caretaker at the Lodge was also increasingly called upon to provide a transport service to those who had parked vehicles at either end of the track and needed to be ferried one way or other. The Lodge generated revenue from the service provided and also later developed a suitable secure fee



paying parking area. Those trampers using the track preferred to park their vehicles at the Boyle River end of the St James Walkway and then be ferried to the Lewis Pass end to start walking the track. This provided better security protection for the vehicles.

### **HIRE EQUIPMENT.**

As the inventory of equipment increased it was necessary to rationalise what items were available at no charge and those which were to be subject to a user charge. Items such as safety helmets, stretchers, maps and orienteering sheets had no charge. The more expensive equipment of tents, packs, cooking utensils had a user charge. Damage beyond fair wear and tear was to be charged against the user group. This hire charge was initially set at \$25 per group.

### **RURAL MAIL DELIVERY SERVICE.**

To improve the ability to communicate with the Lodge an application was lodged with the postal authority, in May 1981, for a Rural Private Bag Service at an annual fee cost of \$67, plus an annual service fee of \$15 for the Monday to Friday daily delivery.

### **NETWORKING WITH AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS.**

Advantages were seen for establishing contact with other organisations involved in Outdoor Education and to share information on programmes and other resource material for use at the Lodge. Such organisations included the Federation of Mountain Clubs; the Christchurch College of Education; the Outdoor Training Advisory Board, which provided guidance with the training of leaders; the Canterbury Outdoor Education Teachers Association and the Department of Sport and Recreation. All of these were seen as important organisations with whom to liaise, in order to expand the efficiency of the Boyle River Lodge.

The Teachers' Association, which had been formed in 1980, for any organisation related to outdoor education, gave recognition to the Boyle by rating it first in a profile series published in a newsletter for its sixty members and used the Boyle for training and assessment of teachers as did the College of Education.

### **ELECTRICITY BOOSTS LODGE BOOKINGS.**

One of the benefits of having the electric power connected was the increased interest in making bookings for the winter term and five groups took advantage of this. In spite of the capital and installation costs of connecting electric power to the Lodge, the Trust's 1981 end of financial year report showed a small credit balance, sufficient to meet most of the outstanding accounts.

### **APPOINTMENT OF LODGE WARDEN.**

Tony Sinclair did a commendable job following his appointment as resident caretaker. The Trust was successful in obtaining an allowance from the Education Department towards the cost of a realistic wage for Tony Sinclair, whose position was confirmed as "The Warden" of the Lodge. Living first in the annex and then in the generator shed Tony was responsible for carrying



out an extensive planting programme of many trees and shrubs around the Lodge, as well as undertaking numerous maintenance tasks.

### **BOOKING FEES**

Fees for school groups for 1982 were set at \$2 per student, maintaining the \$20 minimum group charge. It was also decided that even when groups 'camp out', that the minimum charge be paid, or the number of those occupying beds, whichever was the greater. For non-school groups, the \$40 deposit remained, which became a minimum charge. The fee per head was set at \$4.00 for adults and \$2 for those under 17 years of age.

It was seen as important that the two major schools users, Rangiora and Kaiapoi High Schools co-ordinate their booking plans well in advance.

A horse was procured for the Warden as a means of transport in the bush and mountain terrain surrounding the Lodge. There appears to be no report to clarify whether it was used to procure and transport goods and services from Hanmer Springs.

### **TRUST ON-SITE INSPECTION.**

The meeting of the Trust held at the Boyle River on 3 October 1981 provided Trust members with an opportunity for an on-site inspection of all the facilities. An overnight fellowship occasion was also provided and a total of twenty nine guests attended the Saturday night dinner and hospitality organised by the Trust.

### **METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES.**

A five year contract was entered into with the Meteorological authorities, in 1981, for the Lodge staff to take climatological recordings for a daily weather report. Readings of wet and dry bulb; minimum and maximum temperature readings; rain gauge readings and other data were collected for the Met Service, for which the Trust received payment.



### **CONTROLLING MALICIOUS DAMAGE.**

Student misdemeanours are common in every generation. The ready supply of fire extinguishers prominently displayed to cope with an emergency in such a high risk environment, were perhaps an excusable temptation for students to investigate how they were activated. However, the Trust took firm action by approving to charge offenders who maliciously let off extinguishers.

### **FUND RAISING RAFFLE.**

A Raffle for fund raising was organised for February–March 1982 to raise money for camping equipment and to pay off existing debts. It was aimed to sell 100,000 tickets, with the assistance of participating schools. Prizes included a video recorder; a record player and a colour Television set and were allocated to those who sold twenty or more books of raffle tickets. They would be eligible for one of four, ten speed bicycles. The raffle successfully raised \$5,800.

### **CONTINUING FINANCIAL SUPPORT.**

The Trust appreciated the generosity of local authorities, educational organisations and supportive groups who recognised the value of the work undertaken by the Lodge through the allocation of funding to the Trust's finances. A grant of \$905 was received in February 1982 from the Canterbury Education Board for the purpose of purchasing equipment for the Outdoor Education Centre.

The School Camps Advisory Committee allocated \$2,200 for the purchase of equipment such as safety helmets, life jackets, tents, billys, and packs. Canterbury Savings Bank also made a grant of \$500 and twenty blankets were donated by the Hornby High School. The financial situation had improved considerably through increased revenue from a higher fee rate and greater usage of the Lodge. With all accounts paid, the Trust was able to deposit \$3,850 on a short term investment.

### **TELEPHONE.**

\$100 was paid in 1983 for the telephone installation for a five day party line, with a two monthly rental of \$60. All calls were either 'collect' or 'transfer' calls, with no calls being charged to the Lodge number. A concession had been granted by the Post Office for the phone charges in recognition of the use of the Boyle River Lodge site for the installation of their radio telephone transmission box.

### **GUIDE LINES FOR THE USE OF THE LODGE.**

The Management Committee established a detailed set of rules and guidelines of responsibility for the Warden. They specifically emphasised that resident groups had the responsibility for organising and conducting their own activities. The Warden was not to be at the 'beck and call' of groups, but would offer assistance with occasional activities if necessary, or convenient.

Trust members showed a keenness to acquire additional land on the western boundary of the plateau which was still included in the Poplars run-holder's title, held by Mr Barrett. There were indications that a change of ownership was imminent and discussions were held with the Commissioner of Lands regarding the acquisition of additional land.

### **EXTRA TEACHER ACCOMMODATION INVESTIGATION.**

An opportunity arose in 1983 to investigate the possibility of obtaining a dwelling on the plateau above the Lodge. This was planned to be used as a residence for the Warden, which would be a cheaper alternative for the Trust than building an accommodation house on the Lodge site. The Trust also considered the option to purchase an existing dwelling in the Boyle River Village for use as a Warden's house.

### **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE EXPANDED.**

The Management Committee appointed Arthur Sutherland, (Kaiapoi High School), as secretary to the committee and expanded the committee's representation to include the user schools of Rangiora High, Kaiapoi High, Hornby, Amuri, Hawarden, plus a Trust member, the Resident Teacher and any co-opted additional member/s.

### **RESIGNATION OF WARDEN.**

Tony Sinclair had made an outstanding contribution towards getting the Lodge established as a successful and functional Outdoor Education facility. Through his pioneering endeavours the Lodge had received recognition and acclaim. This was evidenced by the increasing usage of the Lodge which had become a popular facility for students to gain a greater understanding of the mountain environment.

Tony was succeeded by Chris Heaphy, a relief teacher at Kaiapoi High School who was looking for a position which could offer long term opportunities. Chris was equipped with tertiary academic qualifications, including Outdoor Education and had been on expeditions to the South Pole.

Mr Derek Quigley MP requested that the Trust provide supporting information on staffing requirements, with the objective of gaining a more permanent salary structure for servicing the position of the Boyle River Lodge Warden.

An invitation was received from the Forest Service in October 1983 to discuss the role of the Lodge in establishing nature walks in the Boyle River area. They also requested accommodation at the Boyle Lodge for Forest Service staff involved in investigating the project.

### **THE WARDEN'S ROLE.**

Chris Heaphy's employment was confirmed under the Labour Scheme (Voluntary Organisation Training Programme) with a salary of \$13,298. Additional allowance of \$20 per week was paid by the Trust.

The VOTP Scheme was a programme to train employees in the use of skills which would secure permanent employment for the employee. Chris



Heaphy's objective was the promotion and development of Outdoor Education programmes.

The Warden's main responsibility was the development, maintenance and operation of the Lodge facility supervising camp programmes was seen as the responsibility of the camp leader, as specified under Department of Education regulations. Many Schools had successful Outdoor Education programmes and tended to develop their own programme content, to suit their own needs with minimum involvement of the Warden.

### **DESIGNATION OF RESIDENT TEACHER APPROVED.**

It was considered that a designation of 'Resident Teacher' would allow the person to be more actively involved as a resource person and instructor in designated activities. There was consequently a need seen to put a professional label on the designation of the Lodge appointee, as well as also on the name of the title of the facility.

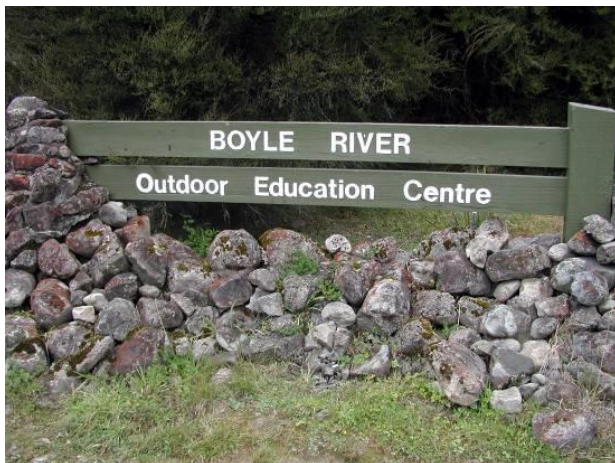
Opportunities were also provided by the Lodge for the training of teachers in experiences outside the four walls of the class room. They were given the chance to assist camp leaders with the control of pupils, day and night. They had the opportunity to observe record, instruct and teach Outdoor Education and be involved in the day-to-day activities of the camp.

### **LODGE RE-NAMED.**

The Trust agreed at the December meeting 1984 that the title of the Boyle River Lodge be known as the:-

**"BOYLE RIVER OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE".**

The New Zealand Forest Service was requested to provide a new sign at the road entrance way to the Lodge.



The Lodge assumed its new name as a title to more fittingly describe its function.

Previous title names of the Lodge were even misinterpreted to mean an institution for geriatric rehabilitation!!

### **BUILDING SECTION BECOMES AVAILABLE.**

Advice was received from the Department of Lands and Survey that section #13 on the plateau

above the Lodge site had become available to the Trust at a cost of \$2500. The site was to be used for a proposed house for the Resident Teacher. The transaction was dependent upon approval from Amuri County Council and the successful change of zoning to allow a building to be constructed.

The Trust supported the recommendation that site #13, only three minutes walk from the Lodge, would be an ideal location for the Teacher's residence as it provided an opportunity for some privacy for the Teacher, which was not available by working, living and sleeping on the same site as the Lodge.

The Trust agreed to discontinue negotiations regarding possible purchase of a dwelling in the Boyle River Village and to proceed with the acquisition of site #13 for the purpose of building a Teacher's residence.

The Trust applied to the Trust Bank for a loan of \$20,000 for the purpose of building a Warden's residence and an application was made to the Lotteries Board for a grant of \$5,000.

As a result of the continued improvement to the building and facilities of the Lodge, its valuation in 1984, for insurance purposes, had increased to \$271,300, as compared to a valuation of \$110,000 when the Lodge was opened in 1978.

#### **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE EXPANDED.**

Some new members were appointed to the Management Committee in November 1984. These included Jean Anderson & Ron Mackie (Rangiora High School); Graeme Frith and David Brown (Amuri Area School); Clive (Smith, Hawarden School); Gavin Hawkes (Kaiapoi High School) Frank Allen (Hawarden High School).

Jean took over the role of supervising and budgeting the expenses incurred by the Management Committee and presented reports on those matters to the Committee and the Trust. The financial authority still remained vested in the Trust, with the exception of a small discretionary expense allowance for the Warden.

#### **ADDITIONS AND LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS.**

Extensive plantings of Hebes, Lacebarks, Broadleaf, Red Tussock and Native Flaxes were carried out on the Lodge site. The crucial factor in getting these plants established was regular watering and installing a fence and a cattle stop, as earlier plantings had been destroyed by straying cattle.

A Shade House was erected for the propagation of seedlings and a vegetable garden established. Landscaping with boulders, rockery gardens and post-and-rail fences were built, as well as volleyball net and a smoke house being erected.

Tracks to the upper terrace and walkway styles over fence lines were installed. Recreational areas were developed with outdoor seating, tables and benches. New decking was installed along the front of the Lodge and raised garden areas constructed from old railway sleepers. These additions

all contributed to improving the environs of the Lodge and provided areas for relaxation.

Interior additions to the Lodge included the mounting of notice boards and display boards for educational material. A library was established comprising of books, slides and films appropriate for improving knowledge of the outdoor environment.

The uncovered concrete floor surface in the common room was a matter of concern for some time, as it had suffered badly from frost damage immediately following the pouring of that section of the concrete floor. The lack of funding, at that stage, prevented any remedial action to improve the floor surface by laying carpet.

Planning commenced to convert the boys outside porch toilet into a shower for use by staff members and also to convert the girl's toilets for unisex use. Vandalism was reported on the Ropes Course in November 1983. The ropes had been cut and stolen. Insurance cover assisted with the replacement of the damaged and stolen material.

Additional labour assistance was received through the employment of David Pollard during the summer of 1983-4, using accumulated Teacher Ancillary Time to pay for his wages. He was accommodated in the builders shed which at some point had been designated the "Colin East Shed" in recognition of its origins.

#### **NEGOTIATIONS FOR A PERMANENT TEACHER APPOINTMENT.**

Approaches were made to the District Senior Inspector of Secondary Schools to seek assistance to secure the employment services of a full time permanent teacher at the Lodge and thus overcome the unsettling situation created by the uncertainty. The Trust continued to negotiate to have this situation addressed. Unfortunately the District Senior Inspector of Schools was unable to give any assistance in having the staffing of Outdoor Education facilities recognised as qualifying for staffing remuneration, other than through the contribution by user schools of the allocation of Weekly Teacher Half Days.

#### **ESTABLISHING A PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR THE WARDEN.**

Application was made to the Labour Department requesting them to recognise the creation of a job, under the Government's new Job Creation Scheme. This was yet another attempt by the Trust to achieve official recognition for the head position at the Lodge of Resident Warden or Teacher, and give the position a degree of permanence, security and credibility. The position would involve the duties and responsibilities as a Warden of the Boyle River Lodge. Contributions to the payment of salary were scheduled to come from Ancillary hours allocated by the District Senior Inspector Secondary Schools and administered by the North Canterbury

Alpine Trust. The Trust planned to also make an additional allowance of \$80 per week to ensure a net weekly income of \$200.

Although the participating Area Schools were not in a position to allocate staffing hours towards the cost of the Warden's salary, however, their School or Parent Teacher Association Committees made grants to assist.

### **STAFFING ISSUES.**

The staffing issue was not a problem confined to the Boyle River Lodge, as the Outdoor Education Inspector actively pursued the concept of obtaining recognition to have six Outdoor Education resource people available at the various Lodges throughout the country.

The recognition of the need to have satisfactory salary arrangements for Outdoor Education Resident Teachers was an ongoing saga of bureaucratic hedging by government departments to accept responsibility for the payment of the remuneration for Outdoor Education.

Many high level discussions were held between heads of government departments, Ministers of the Crown, delegations from interested groups, including several representations from the North Canterbury Alpine Trust.

In the meantime 'piece meal' arrangements continued to collect what money was available from a range of educational financial resources, grants and "piggy-bank" accounts, to enable the Lodge to pay the wages of the Resident Teacher.

A "User Pay" system appeared to be an entrenched philosophy for administering Outdoor Education.

A grant of \$5,000 was received in December 1984 from the JR McKenzie Trust to assist with the salary payment of the resident Teacher.

The Trust agreed to have a plaque mounted on the wall of the common room acknowledging the charitable contributions of the Mckenzie Trust and for their ongoing generosity to the North Canterbury Alpine Trust. This grant together with a grant of \$4,000 from the Teachers College enabled the Trust to proceed with arranging full time employment for Chris Heaphy during 1985.

Fund raising once again became a major issue to meet the needs of paying salaried staff and the cost of building a Warden's residence.

Ideas and suggestions for fund raising included the raffle of a Peter Stevens Home and to prepare a promotional package to develop the idea of sponsorship for some of the requirements of the Lodge.

### **CARETAKING.**

An approach was made to John Boyce, a resident of the Boyle River Village settlement, offering him the opportunity to undertake caretaking and supervision of the Lodge over weekends.

### **ELECTRICITY SUPPLIED TO RESIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT.**

The residents of the Boyle River Village were originally not supportive of having electric power installed, mainly because of the high capital cost involved. However, following the installation of power at the Boyle River Lodge, an increasing interest was shown in being able to have the convenience of electricity, particularly as costs had become more affordable. When power was installed to the Village holiday homes the Trust recommended the use of underground wiring to service the residential extension, in preference to overhead wires and poles, which could interfere with the Lodge site.

### **ON-SITE INSPECTION.**

From time to time combined meetings were held with the Management Committee and Trustees of the North Canterbury Alpine Trust.

Some of these meetings were held on-site at the Boyle River Lodge and provided an opportunity to inspect the facilities and to observe any work requiring repairs or maintenance. Such occasions gave a much deeper appreciation of the needs of the Lodge and to obtain a better understanding of the issues confronting the Warden, as manager of the Lodge.

Hospitality and fellowship were always features of these combined meetings and provided an opportunity to have a meal together, which added to the pleasure of meeting and working together.

The Trust issued clear instructions of "DO'S and DON'TS" which were sent out to all user groups when bookings were confirmed. Amongst the rules was the banning of the use of alcohol from the Lodge while school groups were in residence. Non school student groups were required to obtain prior approval from the Trust chair for the use of alcohol.

### **WORKING BEES.**

There was seldom ever a time when the Lodge was not in the need for a working bee to keep up with the wear and tear on the building, plus the need to provide additional improvements.

The 1984 year was no exception to this and members of the Maintenance Committee and volunteer Teachers and Rotarians gave freely of their time and skills.

The list of some of the jobs completed in one weekend included track maintenance, cutting steps and erecting seat benches; installing wire ropes in the Ropes Course; repairing slats and ladders in the bunk room; painting a shower room; storm water down pipes repaired; water tank cleaned out; fence repairs; patio extensions; window latches repaired, electrical fittings repaired; two bunks built in the 'Colin East Shed'; alterations to the staff toilets; kitchen cleaned and painted; firewood supply replenished; stacking

and covering building timber; established a R&M room etc. No mean effort for a weekend working bee. `

**THE NEWTON DODGE HOLIDAY CAMPS** continued to give regular annual support during the New Year holiday period and their usage charge for the Lodge and equipment covered the running expenses of the Lodge for that holiday period.

### **CAMP FIRES.**

With the increasing popularity of the Boyle River area, there came also the increasing demands upon the local environment and its infrastructure. The popularity of the St James Walkway and the Magdalene Hut region put added pressure on the resources of the Boyle River location.

One of the great delights enjoyed by all those who experience the 'great outdoors' is sitting around a camp fire at the end of a hard days tramp.

Having just enjoyed the meal cooked over the camp fire, such scenes are synonymous with summer holidays or mountain expeditions in high country of New Zealand.

One downside affect of this was the increasing demand for dry firewood to burn on the camp fire, which had become such a social focal point of camp life.



The consequent acute shortage of dry firewood resulted in instructions being issued by the Forest Service restricting campers from collecting firewood and the use of outdoor camp fires. The Forest Service had to fly in wood supplies from other sources to service the trampers' huts on the St James Walkway and they also requested the Boyle River Lodge to discontinue the practice of campfires.

The Lodge adapted to this situation by recommending people use lightweight and easy to use liquid or gas stoves. The Lodge offered a hire



service for Trangia methylated spirits portable stoves and also recommended that efficiency could be improved by carrying in food which only needs to be reheated rather than cooked. The Lodge kitchen was available to pre-cook any camp-out food.



### **WARDEN'S RESIDENCE.**

Trust Chairman, Maury Combe, concluded negotiations with Peter Stevens for his company to supply a prefabricated home for the Resident Teacher.

Construction work commenced at the end of 1984 and the Home was transported to section #13 at the Boyle River residential area. The on-site work was carried out

by builders S P and R Ryder under the supervision of Warwick Hart. A loan was uplifted from the Trustee Bank Canterbury for \$20,370 to assist with the payment of the new residential accommodation which, at a cost of about \$38,000, was officially opened on July 22 1985 by the Honourable Mr R J Gerard, Member of Parliament for Rangiora.

With the change of ownership of the "Poplars" Station it was necessary to gain ongoing permission from the new owner for the Lodge to continue to use that area of land on which the Ropes Course was located.

### **CHANGE OF TIME FOR AGM.**

The 1984 Annual General Meeting was the first to be held at the approved new time. The Trust year changed to begin 1 January and end 31 December of each year. This coincided with the school teaching year rather than the former AGM time which was based on the Rotary year of 1 July to 30 June.

### **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RE-ORGANISED.**

The Trust also decided to re-structure its committee organisation by replacing the Management Committee with the three separate committees of Finance, Works and Education Committees. The objective was to better distribute the work load amongst all members of the Trust.

An Education charge of \$1.50 per pupil per camp was levied on user schools to provide a fund for books, paper and other educational requirements.

Following an encouraging response from schools, plus the additional support from the Teachers College, the JR McKenzie Trust and the Department of Education, it was decided to advertise for a two year relieving teaching position for a resident teacher at the Lodge, to be administered under the staffing of the Kaiapoi High School. This appointment worked in well with the decision of providing accommodation for the resident teacher in the Boyle River Village on the plateau above the Lodge.

The Boyle River Lodge Education Advisory Committee extended invitations to schools to send representatives to its inaugural meeting on 5 June 1985. The aim of the committee was to provide a forum to discuss and plan future development of the Lodge.

### **SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS.**

It was agreed in 1985 to deposit a key to the Lodge with the Hanmer Police. This was in a response to an emergency, when the Boyle River Lodge provided valuable assistance during a Search and Rescue Operation. The occasion provided an opportunity to request the purchase of satisfactory police radio equipment, capable of working in the remote mountain areas.

### **SAFETY AND ACCIDENTS.**

With so many groups of students and others using the Boyle River Lodge and its facilities, the risk of an accident was always a matter of concern. The Outdoor Training specialists were well trained to be aware of safety issues and every effort was made to prevent such incidents.

However, accidents did happen from time to time. A girl was required to be sent to hospital in 1985 as she 'blacked out' and fell from the top of the net on the Confidence Course. This prompted the use of soft material as ground cover and the use of a belay system.

### **COMFORT AND SAFETY.**

Of equal importance to safety there was also the need to ensure the comfort of students. It was seen as important that students took away with them impressions that the experience at the Boyle River Lodge was enjoyable. This would assist in promoting continued patronage of the facility.

One of the chief concerns causing discomfort to students was lack of warmth, particularly during the increasing usage time of the winter months. Camp night-outs, either in a tent or a hut, were becoming a popular adventure feature for students, so it became important to maintain a wide margin for safety and positive enjoyment.



To assist in this direction the Warden recommended the purchase of sleeping bags as a realistic way of guaranteeing necessary comfort and a margin of safety. Good gear was seen as essential for conducting a good camp. There was no room for comprising and lessening the enjoyment, particularly in the harsh and volatile environment which can be experienced in the Boyle River area. Sleeping bags were purchased and hired out at a charge of \$2 per night.

### **DEFINING THE ROLE OF THE RESIDENT TEACHER.**

In April 1985 efforts were directed towards clarifying and defining the role of the Resident Teacher by formulating the duties and responsibilities associated with the position. As an employee of the Kaiapoi High School, the Resident Teacher was responsible to the Principal of the High School. The position also had delegated responsibility from the North Canterbury Alpine Trust. Arthur Sutherland, as the Head of Department for Social Sciences and Teacher in charge of Outdoor Education at the Kaiapoi High School, had oversight of the professional aspects of the work of the Resident Teacher.

The job specification included teaching school groups using the Boyle River Outdoor Centre; developing appropriate programmes and supervising the planned programmes of schools; developing displays at the Centre; supervising all plant and equipment and undertaking administrative duties as defined by the Trust.

Peter Jackson was appointed under the VOTP Scheme (Voluntary Organisation Training Programme), to assist the Resident Teacher with the preparation of educational resource material and displays, as well as supervising outdoor education equipment and facilities at the Lodge.

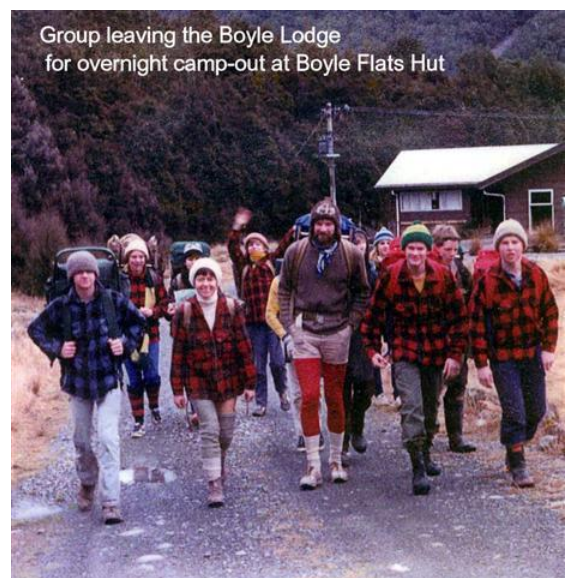
The VOTP Scheme was administered by the Secondary Schools Council and the Trust received a \$10 per week allowance for administration costs.

The daily caretaking duties of the Lodge were funded in 1985 through the PEP Employment Programme, a scheme which was administered by the Secondary Schools Council. Mrs Robyn Phillips commenced her duties in this position on 24 June 1985.

The Resident Teacher at the Lodge was offered the position as Honorary Ranger by the Forest Service.

### **TRAMPING EXPEDITIONS.**

During the summer school holiday period of December 1985 the Trust offered the opportunity to senior High School students to take part in a variety of tramping experiences. These included those into the St James Walkway and routes over passes





onto the 'tops' and down into the valleys of the Boyle River region. They were interesting and stimulating routes and were led by experienced Boyle River staff, for a cost of \$35 per person to cover accommodation and equipment hire.

### **DEVELOPING POSITIVE EXPERIENCES.**

With the increasing usage of the Outdoor Education Centre, particularly during the winter term, which became quite popular, there was a need to offer more flexibility in some of the programmes activities.

It was recognised that the traditional attitude of "walk 'em to tire them out", adopted for camp-out groups who trudged for three hours up the Magdalene Valley, erected tents, stayed overnight and then trudged back down the valley the next morning, arriving back tired and listless.

Such an experience tended to turn kids off the idea of ever tramping again, which became an unnecessary negative experience.



Chris Heaphy stressed the importance that to appreciate the mountains and enhance the experience, the camping-out exercise needed to be carried out into areas much closer to the Lodge and to be able to be climbed without heavy packs. This would enable greater rewards from the views at the tops, followed by the excitement and fun of going down again.

Positive reports were received from the Outdoor Education Coordinator of the Rural Education Activities Programme, on the high standards being achieved by the staff of the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre. This reflected well upon the direction which the work at the Boyle River was taking and contributed towards creating excellent publicity and promotion for the Lodge.

### **ROTARY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO ARTHUR SUTHERLAND.**

Trust member Arthur Sutherland received the best wishes, in 1985, from his fellow Trustees as he, accompanied by his family, departed for a year's Study Leave, on Outdoor Education, in the United States of America.

Arthur was successful in being nominated by the Rotary Club of Kaiapoi for a Rotary Foundation Scholarship and took up his study appointment in 1985 at the University of East Washington at Spokane.

Arthur gained considerable experience in various locations in America studying Outdoor Education methods and administration in a wide range of world class facilities. This training and experience provided Arthur with a depth of knowledge which was useful for his own advancement in Outdoor Education knowledge and practical skills, which proved to be of excellent value in providing improved benefit for the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre, upon his return to New Zealand. In 1989 he directed the first NZ Risk Management training course and the subsequent assessment course, both staged at the Boyle.

### **NO PETS ALLOWED.**

The Trust made a decision in 1985 that when staff appointments were made, that new appointees are made aware that the policy of the Trust is not to allow pets or animals at the Lodge. This decision was made in the interests of ensuring that the Trust was adopting a responsible policy regarding the protection of the mountain environment and also safeguarding the interests of local farmers by avoiding harm to their valuable stock.

### **IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BOOKING SYSTEM.**

It was agreed that in order to deliver a more efficient and consistent advance booking system that future procedures would require that all bookings were to be received by the end of term two in 1985 and for those bookings to be confirmed and allocated in term three.

Priorities were to be given to North Canterbury Schools and regular users of the Lodge who had contributed to the Resident Teacher's salary.

Fee charges continued to be \$3 per night per pupil and \$5 for adults.

A minimum charge of \$50 per night was set and the rate for the bulk hire of equipment was set at \$50 per camp. This excluded sleeping bags at \$3 per night, stoves at \$2 per night and abseiling equipment at \$10 per session.

### **INCREASING WEAR AND TEAR ON THE LODGE.**

Over 3,000 people were reported to have used the Lodge during 1985. Consequently, the wear and tear on the facilities was increasing and constant checking became necessary. This was particularly evident with the mattress covers, which required replacing with a harder wearing and more durable material.

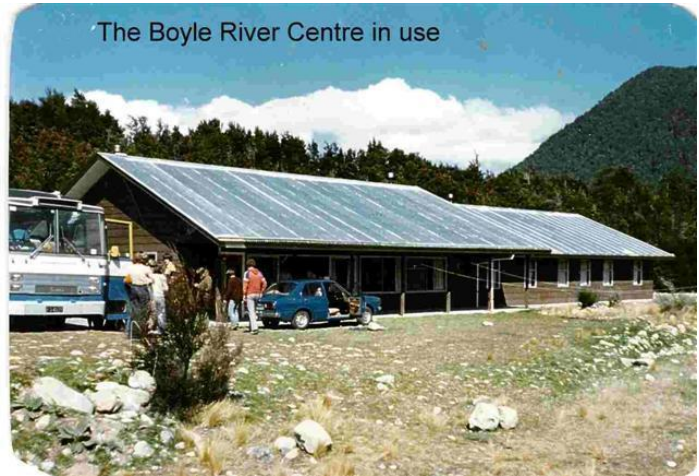
Vandalism also tended to contribute to damage of the Lodge fittings.

Ongoing repairs and maintenance work was constantly required to ensure the efficiency and safety of all aspects of the day-to-day operation of the Lodge. It is significant to note that much of this repair work was undertaken by voluntary labour. Volunteers not only gave of their time, but also in many instances supplied, or contributed towards the supply of the material and services required, at no cost to the Trust.

### **R & M WORK AND THE GENEROSITY OF VOLUNTEERS.**

For example; Lawrie Waring and family replaced the coverings on the mattresses.

Colin Pullen and family installed new heater fans in the drying room. Many other electrical projects were also undertaken and the Trust benefited considerably from the generosity of discounted time spent by Rotarians, Teaching staff and contractors when doing work for the Lodge.

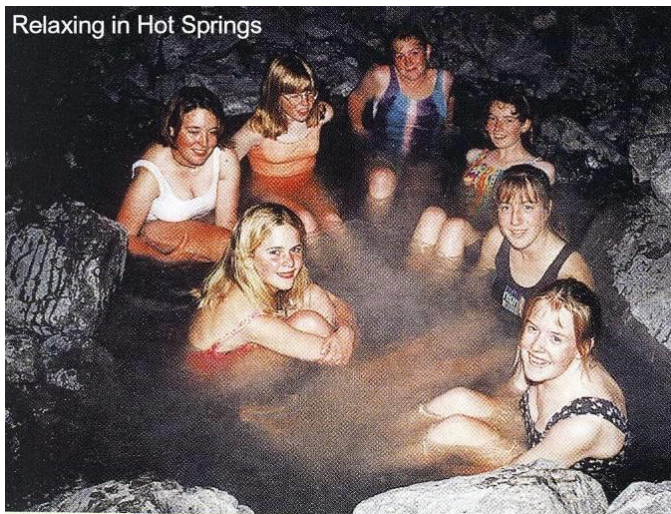


Some of the projects undertaken by the Works Committee during the 1986 year included upgrading a staff shower; adding bunks to the cottage; replacing some doors and locks; additional shelving in the kitchen and equipment room; repairs to the common room floor; providing a garage for storage; carrying out an upgrade of the electric and gas stoves; improvements to the water supply; laying of paving stones; interior and exterior painting of the Lodge; repairs to bunkrooms; the installation of freezer facilities and the outside sinks. Graham Yorston and his company Hawarden Transport assisted with the transportation of goods to the Lodge.

The Confidence Course, the Rock Traverse and the Abseiling Course all received regular attention to improve performance ability and safety.

### **ENJOYING THE MOUNTAIN ENVIRONMENT.**

Winter camp-outs moved away from the Spartan rigors of spending freezing nights under canvas. Greater use was made of the huts on the Boyle and Magdalene Flats, where it was not uncommon to experience frosts of  $-13^{\circ}\text{C}$  and snow falls of 30cm.



It was also not unusual, after an exhausting outdoor experience, for groups to relax and enjoy a soak in the hot spring up the road from the Lodge near the Sylvian falls In the Lewis River.

The Forest Service continued to supply assistance with the Nature Trails, upgrading tracks and providing markers and botanical labels, as well as



educational material for staff lecturing school groups.

John Boyce continued to be engaged by the Trust to carry out some of the repair work and to look after the Lodge over the weekend periods.

Peter Jackson terminated his time as a PEP worker in June 1986 and was replaced by Mike Parsons, whose first task was to construct steps to the pump at the Boyle River and build a level pad on which to mount the pump. It was becoming increasingly more evident that a plan was required for the long term improvement to the water supply system.

### **INVENTORY OF OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS.**

With the expansion of outdoor programmes and activities, together with the increasing interest shown by school groups to take part in such activities, it was necessary for the Lodge to be adding to its already considerable inventory of outdoor equipment, such as tents, packs, helmets, cell mats, billies, laminated topographical maps. etc.

An inventory of Lodge equipment was prepared which proved useful in being able to maintain regular checks on the condition and safety of the assets of the Trust.

With hired staff now taking over the responsibility of carrying out much of the repair work around the Lodge it was necessary to add to the tools and machinery in the workshop of the Trust and an additional allocation of \$500 was granted for this purpose.

### **ROTARY INVOLVEMENT.**

The role in which Rotary Clubs should play in the continuing operation of the Lodge became an issue for discussion in planning the future direction of the Lodge. The clubs were requested to report back to the Trust at a future time regarding their policy of continued involvement in the Lodge.

Subsequent meetings and discussions held by the three Rotary clubs, whose representatives were involved as Trustees on the North Canterbury Alpine Trust, concluded that the Rotary Clubs should continue with their commitment to the North Canterbury Alpine Trust.

The project was originally initiated by Rotary who had an ongoing responsibility to ensure that the function of the Lodge was continued to be used for the purpose for which it was built, as provided for in the Trust Deed.

The membership of the Trust had expanded, through the appointment of co-opted members, which was in accordance with the terms of the Trust Deed. User Schools and specialist members made a significant contribution to the effective working of the Lodge, particularly through their involvement in the management committee.

Rotary Clubs could maintain their representation on the Trust by using their entitlement to appoint an alternate nominee, if they so decided.

### **ADMINISTRATION CHANGES.**

Following the consultations and discussions, alterations were submitted in 1987 for changes to the administration of the Trust. These included the following recommendations, some of which had already been previously actioned.

- That the Trust meets twice yearly. At the AGM in February of each year and again in August.
- That the management of the Lodge be under the guidance of the Education, Works and Finance Committees. That these three committees meet at least once each school term.
- That the Finance Committee consisted of the Trust Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer; chairman of the Works and Education committees.
- That the Secretary /Treasurer to provide Secretarial services to the Education and Works committees and that the minutes of these minutes be circulated to all Trust members.
- That the budget for the following year be presented to the Trust by the first week in December preceding the AGM.
- Fee changes must be approved by the August meeting of the Trust.

### **RESIDENT TEACHER ADMINISTRATION.**

The Trust aimed to explore all avenues to secure the means to financially support a Resident Teacher at the Boyle River Lodge and requested the Board of Governors of the Kaiapoi High School to be responsible for the position.

The Resident Teacher continued to be administered through the staffing arrangements of the Kaiapoi High School, in consultation with the North Canterbury Alpine Trust.

Chris Heaphy resigned as Resident Teacher in October 1986.

He was duly recognised for the excellent work carried out during his four years as Resident Teacher and Warden of the Lodge. Many favourable reports were received in respect of his work with young people at the Lodge.

### **EXPANDING THE USE OF THE LODGE.**

Every effort was made to have the Lodge accommodated during the summer school recess season. Advertisements were placed in the Public Notices of North Canterbury Newspapers, encouraging people to take advantage of the facilities in the hope that this would ensure protection of the Lodge during the period when the Resident Teacher was on holiday.

Financial assistance was made available from the School Camps Advisory Committee for pupils who would otherwise be unable to attend camps at the Boyle River.

A national seminar, assisted by Arthur Sutherland and Ron Mackie, was held at the Lodge in November 1986 for the benefit of Resident Teachers and Outdoor Education Coordinators from Auckland to Southland. Twenty five persons attended what was considered to be an excellent and worthwhile course.

### **NEW RESIDENT TEACHER'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.**

Malcolm Anderson was appointed to the position of Resident Teacher for the 1987-88 year. It was noted at that time that the Education Department had agreed to recognise the special nature of the position of Resident Teacher at the Boyle River Lodge by providing removal expenses one way for each appointee. This recognition was much appreciated by the Trust.

Malcolm's objective during his tenure of office was "to put the Centre on the map as the best managed and developed Outdoor Centre in the South Island".

His first report to the Trust highlighted the need to address the issue of expanding the accommodation needs; the evaluation of off site development; the establishment of a permanent caretaker and the need to develop the publicity and commercialisation of the Lodge. To achieve these objectives he recommended that the Trust prepare a five year plan of its goals and a time frame to meet the growing demands being placed upon the Lodge by the approximately 6000 users each year.

It was pleasing to note that at the commencement of the 1987 year that the last week in the third term was the only spare week not booked. However, concern was expressed that usage figures on a per night basis were barely adequate to cover running costs.

A Trust meeting at the Lodge was held in March 1987 with Trust members travelling together by mini bus from Christchurch. Several invited guests were also in attendance. These included representatives from the Hanmer Police; the New Zealand Forest Service Hanmer; Lands and Survey Springs Junction; Ministry of Works staff and local farmers and residents.

Sponsorship was obtained for mountain equipment and other amenities from several firms who generously recognised the need to help the work of the Boyle River Lodge. Some of these included Macpac Wilderness Equipment; Tait Electronics, for the supply of a base radio and also for portable radios; Piper Inflatables; Sunshine Leisure products; Donaghys Industries; Fairy Down Limited; Rangiora Toyota.

Grants continued to be sought and obtained from District Councils, the Lotteries Board, the Environmental Council and other charitable organisations.

**ADDITIONAL AMENITIES.** The procurement of additional utensils and equipment was an ongoing part of the programme of keeping the Lodge up to a high standard of performance.

A video recorder and a colour monitor were obtained and a library collection of educational tapes was started.

In 1987 some of the older fittings in the showers were replaced, including stainless steel gratings and shower railings. Additional toilets were provided and improvements made to the septic tank drainage and an improved kitchen hot water supply was installed.

A water ram pump was installed at the river site and extra underground water storage provided to reduce the overflow wastage of rainwater.

Malcolm Gray (Principal Kaiapoi High School) retired as secretary to the Trust in 1986 and the position was taken over by Jean Anderson.

### **REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE.**

The improvements to the Lodge during the 1987-1988 year included completing the exterior painting and much of the interior was also re-painted.

**GRAFFITI** was a problem from time to time, but was quickly stamped out by catching the culprit and having the offensive material removed. Also, the setting up of a graffiti board outside the Lodge was readily available for those who felt they had an urge to use it.

Some of the paid caretaking work carried out during the year was done by two women from the nearby Ministry of Works Camp.

**KITCHEN UPGRADE.** The organisation of the kitchen was improved and an upstairs loft above the showers was installed for storage.

Additional cupboard space in the lounge was provided and alterations done to the Sinclair Cottage and the Colin East Shed.

The amazing amount of voluntary work done by the members of the Works Committee enabled the Lodge to progress towards an efficient operation in the delivery of excellence in the field of Outdoor Education.

### **VALUABLE VOLUNTARY MAINTENANCE WORK.**

Particular merit should be recorded of the work achieved by the Works Committee team under the chairmanship of Gavin Hawkes, whose driving force and enthusiasm ensured that work was carried out in a timely manner, in spite of the financial constraints which were ever present. Much of the work was done by volunteers, who always found time, in spite of their own personal busy time schedules. The team members all had valuable skills which they used for the benefit of the Lodge.

Roger Farr was noted for his ability to get three dollars worth of work out of one dollar worth of material. Lawrie Waring established himself as the Fire Extinguisher expert; Rangi Atkinson knew all about the plumbing and gas idiosyncrasies of the Lodge. Colin Pullen tirelessly used his skills as the “sparky genius” and a drying room expert; Graham Yorston gave regular transport assistance with materials to the Lodge and his diligence in searching for an alternative water supply. Brian James of the Kaiapoi High School led a group of Sixth Form Students doing construction work at the Lodge. Ron Mackie put in many hours helping with working bees organised by the Works Committee, as well as making a significant contribution to the Lodge during his term as Trust chairman, and also as a member of the Education Committee. Ron regularly visited schools to address staff members and parent meetings, as well as co-ordinating displays at various events. A two monthly Newsletter was a regular feature of improving communication with the school groups and providing Public Relations awareness.

### **PROMOTING THE BOYLE RIVER CENTRE.**

The Resident Teacher spent worthwhile time visiting schools prior to their time staying at the Lodge. This helped with the familiarisation of the Outdoor Education programme at the Boyle River.

Visits were also made by the Resident Teacher to other schools to promote the benefits of what the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre had to offer schools to enhance their school curriculum.

As well as these visits the Resident Teacher attended specialist training courses to keep him/herself well informed on new techniques in advancing the knowledge of Outdoor Education and in particular features involving mountain safety.

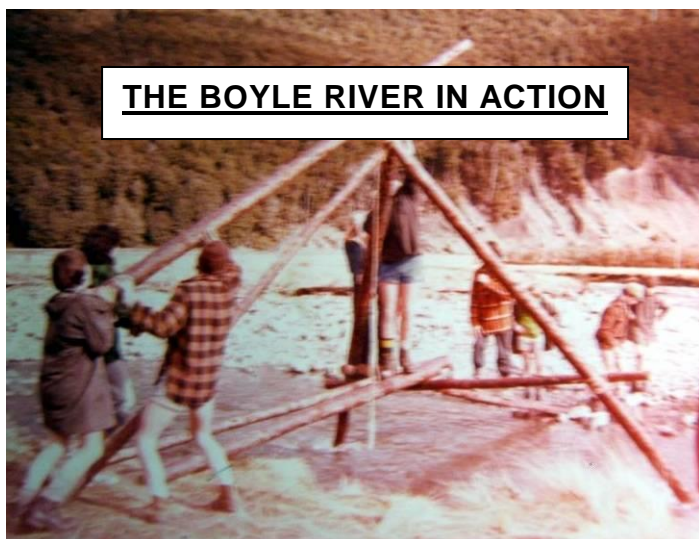
These visits were supplemented by extensive visits made by Arthur Sutherland, chairman of the Education Committee, who visited Principals of Secondary Schools, Area Schools, Primary Schools and Teachers-in-Charge in the Christchurch and North Canterbury areas. These visits greatly facilitated the booking procedures for the Lodge, which during 1988 reported 4,279 bed nights for students and 1732 adult bed nights.

### **TONY SINCLAIR RECOGNISED.**

Recognition was given to Tony Sinclair for his four years of pioneering work as the first Warden. The newly appointed cottage was named “The Sinclair Cottage”.



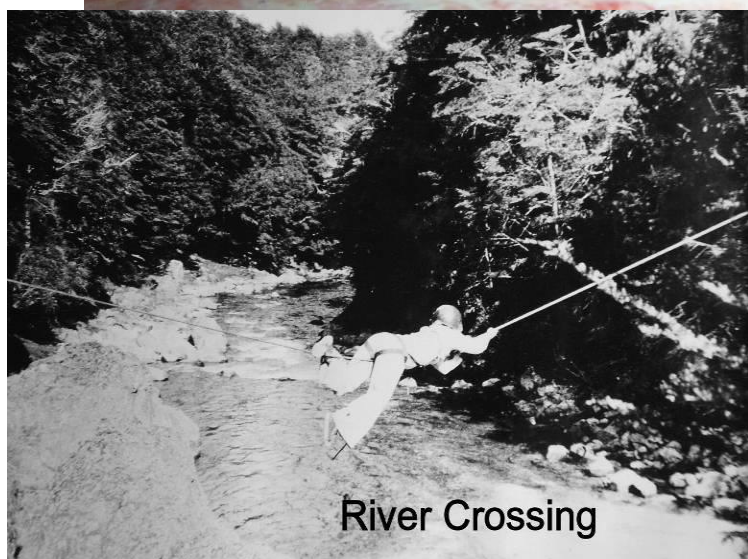




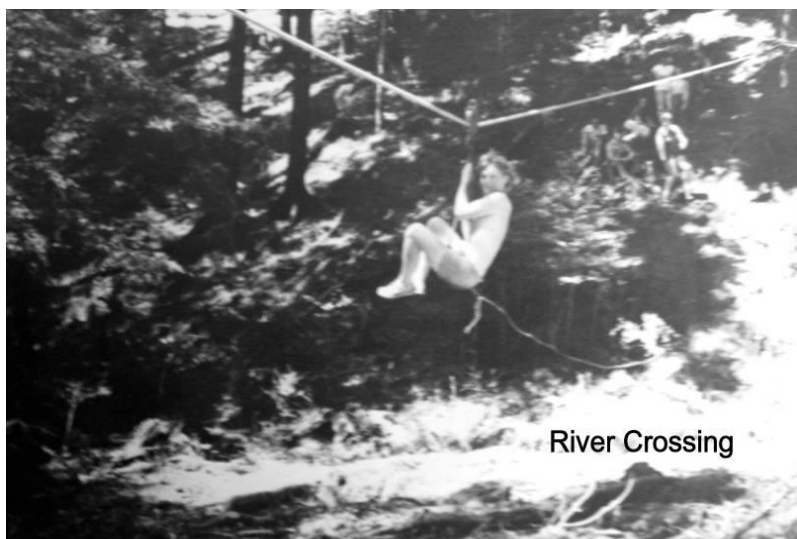
**THE BOYLE RIVER IN ACTION**



White water kayaking



River Crossing



River Crossing

I

### **THE IMPACT OF THE BOYLE CENTRE ON EDUCATIONAL GROUPS.**

As the awareness of what the Boyle River Lodge Outdoor Education Centre had to offer became more and more widely known, it was being booked by a diverse range of organisations associated with the outdoor experiences, using the Lodge as a training ground. Some of these groups included the Christchurch Teachers College, Lincoln College and Physical Education Students from Dunedin College. At the same time the government land department administration of the Boyle River region came under the control of the Department of Conservation in 1987, following administrative changes which took place in the Forest Service.

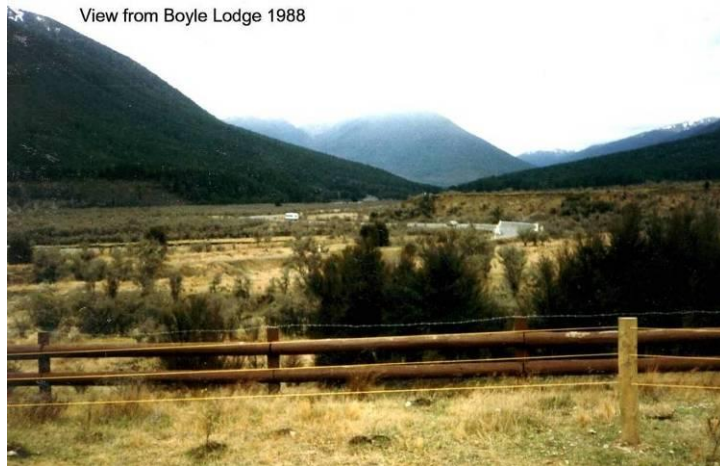
### **CHRIS HEAPHY RECOGNISED.**

A campsite at the Boyle was renamed as "The Heaphy Campsite" in appreciation of the work done by Chris Heaphy.



### **THE ZEAL OF RON MACKIE ACKNOWLEDGED.**

Recognition was also given to Ron Mackie on the occasion of his retirement as chairman of the Trust. Ron had tirelessly, and with much energetic enthusiasm, been a dynamic supporter of the Lodge over several years. Many were the working bees in which Ron toiled for the benefit of the Lodge and his zeal was an inspiration to all who had the pleasure to work alongside him.



### **ADDITIONAL LAND ACQUISITION.**

Discussions were held with the Land and Survey Department early in 1989 concerning the extra flat land on the Boyle site which was not included in the site title, when it was originally surveyed and still remained as part of the Poplars Station Run.

An early assessment of the land cost was \$1,000 but the costs associated with surveying and land transfer were estimated to be a further \$2,200.

Subsequent negotiations resulted in an assurance, given by the new land owner of the Poplars Run, that the additional flat land required on the Lodge site would be made available to the Lodge by means of a Covenant with the Department Of Conservation and Landcorp, at a minimal rental cost to the North Canterbury Alpine Trust.

### **RESIDENT TEACHER PAYMENT.**

Based on 'equivalent weeks', the 1988 Weekly Teaching Half Days (WTHD) staffing situation was that ten contributing schools allocated a total of 8.7 WTHDays towards the Resident Teacher's wages.

The Trust made up the difference through increased charges on non-contributing schools.

User schools had the option of contributing Weekly Teacher Half Days or to contribute a lump sum to the Resident Teacher's salary, in lieu of allocating staffing hours.



However there was a strong request from user schools that the Department of Education should make a greater contribution and that all user schools accept their share of the cost of the teacher's salary.

This was the method of payment used by the Southland and Otago Schools, whereby each

school was asked to contribute two weekly teaching half days out of their staffing entitlement to accumulate sufficient staffing for the warden of the Lodge.

### **TRAILER PURCHASE.**

The Works Committee recommended the purchase of a trailer with high sides for the transport of tubes, canoes and materials. The purchase of a vehicle for use at the Lodge was also seen as a necessary future acquisition.

### **10TH ANNIVERSARY.**

A successful Tenth Anniversary celebration of the opening of the Lodge was held on the weekend of 24-25 October 1988.

Former Trust Secretary Ernie French assisted with the organisation of the special function which was well attended and many took the opportunity to experience some of the outdoor activities, including rafting, the ropes adventure course, abseiling and the nature trail. Pleasant socialising and an evening meal at the Lodge all made for an enjoyable and memorable occasion

Many who had worked on the site ten years previously were generous in their praise of the condition of the Lodge and what had been achieved in the development of outdoor education at the Boyle during its first decade of operation





## **FINANCIAL REPORT.**

The AGM at the beginning of 1989 presented a Financial Balance sheet which indicated that the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre represented an asset worth \$330,566.17, with \$1,167.95 owing on the bank loan for the Resident Teacher's House.

Income from accommodation, hire charges and Grants totalled approximately \$49,000 and total expenditure incurred from administration costs totalled over \$44,000, providing an excess income over expenditure of \$4,273. These figures indicate the fine margin on which the Trust managed its funds to ensure the survival of the operation.

The death was reported of Trustee Robert Treleaven, of the Rotary Club of Belfast, and Trust members paid respect to Robert at the February meeting in 1989.

## **RESIDENT TEACHER'S REPORT & WORKS COMMITTEE USER HANDBOOK REVISED.**

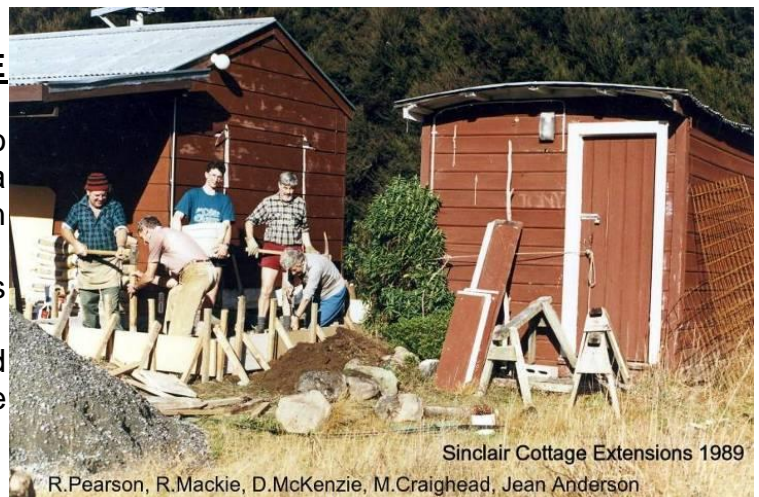
Malcolm Anderson gave recognition to the considerable effort made by those who had contributed towards producing a Handbook for all user groups. This handbook had been progressively updated over previous years. The new Handbook was compiled by Malcolm from material gathered from other Outdoor Education Centres, such as Lake Rotoiti Outdoor Education Centre; Borland Lodge; Tautuku Outdoor Education Centre and material supplied by Alison Lindores a Parks and Recreation student in 1987.

The User Manual was a comprehensive publication and provided detailed guidelines for user groups and staff members regarding the proper care and administration of the Lodge. A comprehensive range of outdoor activities were listed, including guidelines for the use of equipment. Information was supplied about the history of the Lodge, its location, layout plan, conditions of use, The hire charges where applicable were also listed, as well as drawing attention to Health and Safety issues, plus a list of "Do's and Don'ts".

## **REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE WORK ON SINCLAIR COTTAGE.**

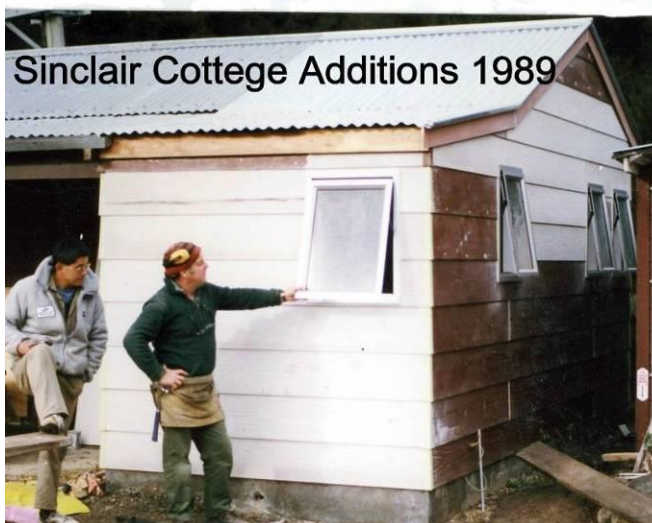
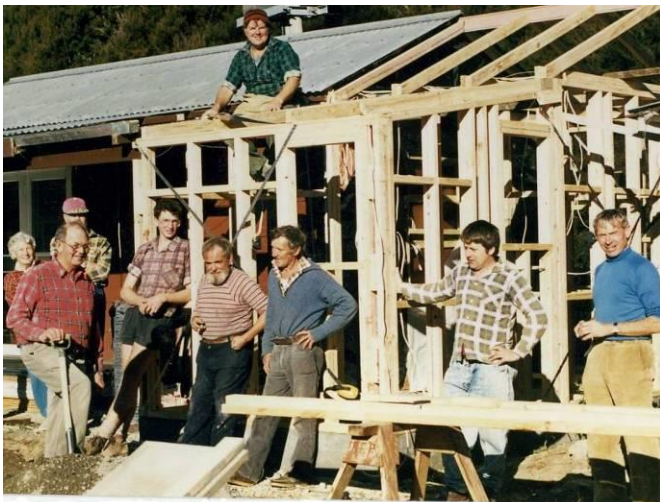
A porch and shower had been added to the Residents Teacher's house and a kitchen ceiling was installed with an extractor fan in the Lodge.

Extensions to the ablution facilities were completed in the Sinclair cottage. Plans were prepared for a covered area to improve the operation of the outside sink.



Sinclair Cottage Extensions 1989

R.Pearson, R.Mackie, D.McKenzie, M.Craighead, Jean Anderson



Increasing need was seen to pressure for the appointment of an assistant for the Resident Teacher.

### **C.O.G.S.**

Financial assistance of a grant in July 1989 of \$7,000 was forthcoming from the new Government scheme of COGS (Community Organisations Grants Scheme).

The work which of the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre carried out for the benefit of Communities in Canterbury was recognised by this grant. The Lodge was seen as an organisation which well qualified as a recipient for the allocation of funding.

The Resident Teacher's report expressed appreciation for the work done by Trust members and supporters of the Boyle Lodge, The tireless hours which they voluntarily gave to

working bees at the Lodge was indispensable for the successful operation of the facility.

It was also noted that the Resident Teacher, Malcolm Anderson, had established a strong rapport and excellent relationship with Ministry of Works staff and the local Station owners. His care of the Trust facilities at the Boyle River was of the highest standard.

The North Canterbury Alpine Trust was appointed as an agent for the Department Of Conservation for the Back Country Huts Charging scheme.

### **WINDY POINT BUILDING FOR SALE.**

An option was investigated by the Trust to purchase from DOC the buildings at the Windy Point complex, not far from the Boyle River Works Camp.

It was envisaged that the buildings could be shifted and re-sited at the Boyle River Lodge and used for additional casual accommodation and separate ablution facilities for staff.

Consideration was also given to utilising the existing buildings at the location of the Windy Point site.

However, this was not an acceptable option because of the high risk of vandalism. To transport the buildings to the Boyle site was also decided against because of the difficulties and costs involved in such an exercise.

The buildings were eventually taken over by the Amuri Area School.

**REVIEW OF USER CHARGES** in 1990 resulted in the following schedule of charges being established.

A \$6 per night per person charge with a minimum of \$180 per night per person fee (PP).

.25 cents PP was set as the Weekly Withholding Day rate, (WTHD) for a 4 or 5 day week.

Other youth group bookings were set at \$7 per person.

Company groups to be charged \$20 PP, with a minimum of \$180.

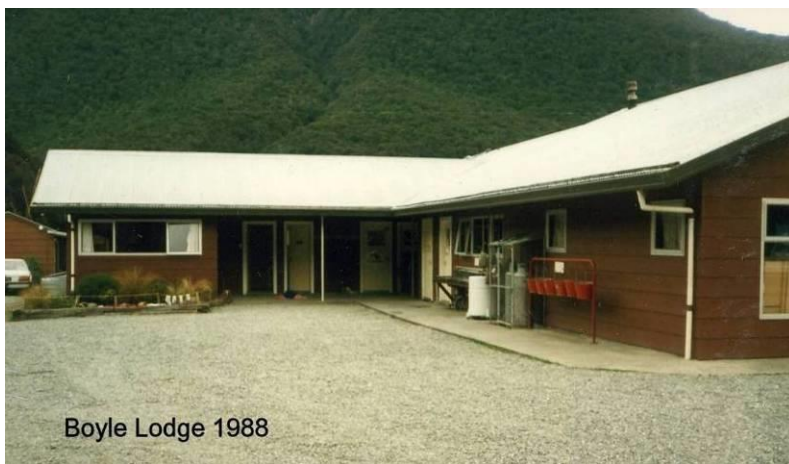
Other Groups, for 15-19 persons the charge was \$12 PP per night and \$9 PP per night for groups in excess of twenty persons.

### **FLUCTUATIONS IN SCHOOL USAGE.**

As can be expected, changing circumstances can cause changes in the ability of schools to make an advance booking for the Lodge. Consequently, some schools were unable to continue to make bookings while others were glad of the opportunity to avail themselves of the facilities, when the opportunity arose to be able to take advantage of what the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre had to offer.

Christ's College and Hogben School were new additions in 1989 and Aranui High School had a temporary spell from making bookings at the Lodge.

**NEW CARETAKER.** Brendon Jolly was employed as a caretaker at the Lodge from January 1988 to February 1990 and Mark Woodgate served as caretaker for two and a half weeks in January 1990.



Boyle Lodge 1988

### **FURTHER GRANTS RECEIVED.**

The JR McKenzie Trust contributed a further \$3,000 to the North Canterbury Alpine Trust who was informed that this allocation would be the final of many received from the J.R. McKenzie Trust's annual distribution.

Other Grants during 1989 included the Lottery



Board \$1,100; Community Opportunities Grant Scheme (COGS) in excess of \$7,000; Ministry of Environment \$850; Todd Foundation \$2,000; Sargood Bequest \$1,000; Canterbury Education Board \$6,187; Mac Pac Wilderness \$2,000 for equipment; the Maurice Carter Trust,(\$1,000); Paparua; Paparoa and Riccarton Local bodies (\$500 each); Trust Bank Canterbury \$3,500. Grants and Donations-in-kind realised over Fifty Five Thousand dollars (\$55,000), for the year.

It was considered that the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre had progressed to a stage when it was considered to be one of the best facilities in the South Island. A considerable amount of this progress was due to the expertise and dedication of the Management team of the Trust together with the keenness of the Resident Teachers to implement policies to improve the performance of the Centre.

Changes to policy in the Education Department had the effect that the Resident Teacher was not permitted to visit schools for a pre-camp



instruction session. It was considered that this could disadvantage the effectiveness of the programmes run at the Centre.

A new abseiling area was established for the more advanced practitioners of this skill. A new orienteering map was prepared, as well as work carried out on the camp-site platforms and the rafting and tubing operations were extended.

### **THE RE-START PROGRAMME.**

This new government programme was assigned to assist long-term unemployed persons through a programme of worthwhile community projects sponsored by local authorities, Government Departments or approved community groups.



Eligible Providers had to demonstrate that the work programme was additional to its current work programme; that the work did not replace existing employment opportunities and that the work consisted of short term projects.

### **COMMUNITY GROUPS SHOW INTEREST IN LODGE PROGRAMMES.**

Interest was being shown by groups, other than schools, as a result of canvassing for support by the Resident Teacher.

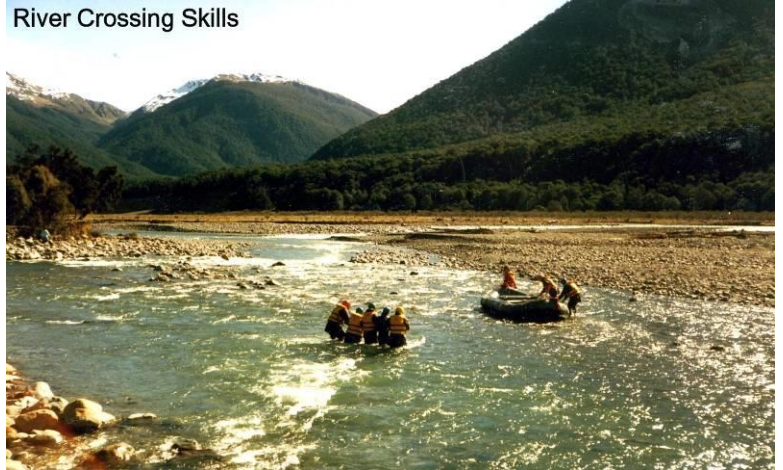
Interest in courses was shown by the Social Welfare Department; the College of Education; the Institute of Management; Access Courses and also courses for the Department of Education, the Girls Brigade and the Templeton Centre.

The Blenheim Forest and Bird Society, the Rangiora Photographic Club, and the Oxford Youth-In-Action were new groups which took advantage of what the Boyle Centre had to offer for a successful weekend camp experience.

The National Association of Area Schools also showed interest in securing the services of the Boyle River Resident Teacher to run courses for them in Christchurch.

Enquiries were also received from companies who wished to use some of the variety of courses which the Boyle River Centre had to offer for developing leadership skills.

River Crossing Skills



Recognition was given in 1990 to the high standard of work which Rodney Main carried out at the Lodge doing building repair jobs and helping with many groups as an instructor. He resigned later in the year and was replaced by Jim Young who demonstrated a high standard of achievement in the work which he undertook at the Lodge.

### **RESIDENT TEACHER MALCOLM ANDERSON RESIGNS.**

A letter of resignation was received from the Resident Teacher, Malcolm Anderson, effective from 23 February 1990. Malcolm had made a significant contribution towards the development of the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre. Often this involved working under difficult conditions as the Centre went through a process of evolution.

Management had to cope with limited resources, tight financial conditions and were unable to employ sufficient staff to ensure a continuity of good business administration.

On his departure from the Boyle Centre, Malcolm recommended that the Trust should give serious consideration to using only professional

instructors for Outdoor Education, in order to provide a quality experience designed for safety and enjoyed by all participants.

### **DEPENDANCE UPON VOLUNTEERS.**

The Trust continued to be very dependant upon the goodwill of volunteers whose work and effort far exceeded even a reasonable expectation of their duties and responsibilities. Without the willingness of the voluntary workers, the Trust would have been unable to meet the costs involved in hiring trades people to do the repairs and maintenance work.

### **NEW RESIDENT TEACHER APPOINTMENT.**

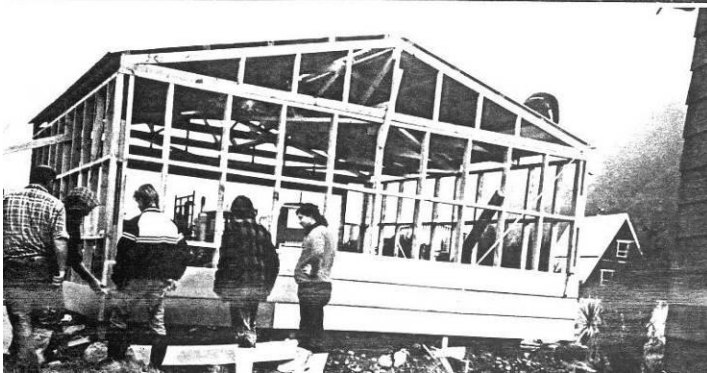
Alan Gordon from Greymouth was appointed by the Kaiapoi High School in early 1990 for the position at the Lodge as Resident Teacher. The School Board of Trustees subsequently recorded that he was showing commendable thoughtfulness in carrying out his duties at the Lodge.

### **THE ROPES COURSE.**

After thirteen years of use the Ropes Course was in need of upgrading and development, this became a necessary prerequisite in order to meet approved safety and environmental standards.



Garage for Resident Teacher's House  
Construction 1990



### **WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING.**

The Trust agreed in August 1990 to purchase a pre-cut garage for the price of \$5,602 and to erect it on the Resident Teacher's house site.

Discussions continued from time to time regarding a suitable transport vehicle for the Trust to meet the transport needs of groups for people, goods and material etc. Finance continued to be a limiting factor and support for sponsorship had not met with a positive response.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT COURSES.**

As Outdoor Education became more and more

recognised as an important part of the school curriculum, greater emphasis was placed on the need to have trained specialists teaching the skills of Outdoor Education. The Boyle led the way in Risk Management training. Arthur Sutherland, contracted by the Ministry of Education, along with Mountain Safety, Hillary Commission and the newly formed NZ Outdoor Instructors Association developed and trialled Risk Management modules at the Boyle. These courses were funded by the foretold bodies and set the scene for the regional courses that followed in the early nineties. Further, Arthur and Eric Schusser delivered the first NZ Project Adventure Adventure Based counselling course. Participation lists are evidence that NZ's leading outdoor instructors, facilitators and educators were in attendance. Risk Management has become an important aspect in all forms of business administration and specialist courses have been introduced to meet statutory requirements.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY.**

The Trust management through the Resident, Teacher, took on the responsibility of staff training in skills to handle outdoor situations where risk factors were a major issue requiring vigilance.

The Trust was fortunate that Risk Management was well advanced at the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre due to the expertise and experience which Arthur Sutherland had brought back with him on his return from his year's study of Outdoor Education in the United States of America.

Resident Teachers consistently stressed the importance of establishing guidelines to be used for all activities at the Centre. All groups were in need of being reminded of these basic safety rules, as safety was an issue which could not be taken for granted.

### **OUTDOOR ADVENTURE---OVERCOMING FEAR.**

An article by a teacher leader in a local North Canterbury News publication highlighted the benefits which a group of girls received from their initial experience at the Boyle and their first night camp-out in freezing conditions.



But the memories of those rigors were quickly dispelled when, on the next day, with warmer weather, the girls took on some challenging activities on the confidence course.

Here, they overcame the hardest thing of all;- their own fear.

By accomplishing the “two-wire” they knew they could meet and master any challenge.

To financially assist with the continuance of Risk Management Courses and to also upgrade the Ropes Course, the Trust applied to the Keith Laugesen Trust for assistance and received the sum of \$4,480 towards the cost of \$12,780 needed for both projects.

Erin Boardman was appointed Resident Teacher to fill the vacancy during Term I, following the resignation of Malcolm Anderson. Erin’s appointment received encouraging commendation for the manner in which she carried out her duties.

### **THE TRUST IN FINANCIAL CRISIS.**

A financial crisis situation was avoided in late 1991 when the Trust had monthly expenditure regularly exceeding income. The prime cause was too many un-booked weeks for Lodge usage and thus the Trust was having to cover a greater percentage of the costs of the Resident Teacher. Also, the many sources of charitable grants were becoming more difficult to obtain, as the Trust’s response from the litany of appeals to these sources was beginning to be exhausted. Six months payment was outstanding to the Kaiapoi High School for wages paid to the Resident Teacher. The Kaiapoi Board of Trustees offered to defer for six months the payment of the money owing. There was a shortfall of about \$6,000 of income over expenditure and a projected shortfall of a further \$13,000 to meet the running costs to the end of 1991. The financial break-even point for occupation of the Lodge was approximately forty two full week’s utilisation.

The Trust became involved in a brain storming exercise to seek solutions to rectify the financial problem.

### **NEED FOR INCREASED USAGE.**

All members of the Trust agreed that an all out effort had to be made to canvass every avenue for increase support and usage from schools. A pamphlet was produced and widely distributed, including to forty Secondary Schools.

Applications continued to be made to several charitable Trusts to explore possibilities for grants to help the Trust meet its financial obligations.

### **PRIVATISATION OF THE LODGE ?**

An extreme suggestion was put forward, but fortunately lacked support, that the Lodge move into liquidation or investigate the option of privatising the operation and management of the Lodge.



The Trustees agreed to adopt a policy of strict financial control and monitoring. It was agreed to appoint a newly structured executive committee to be responsible for the running of the Lodge on behalf of the North Canterbury Alpine Trust.

### **CANTERBURY EDUCATION SERVICES PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.**

In an attempt to rationalise the accounting procedures and systems of the Trust, an approach was made to Canterbury Education Services for them to quote a price for providing a regular financial service for the North Canterbury Alpine Trust.

The Trust later approved entering into a contractual arrangement with Canterbury Educational Services Society for the delivery of annual accounts and monthly reports for an annual cost charge cost of \$1,500, plus an establishment fee. The new service provided an improved monitoring system for the Trustees.

### **RESIDENT TEACHER PAYMENT SYSTEM.**

The administrative payment of the Resident Teacher salary of approximately \$39,000 became the responsibility of the Kaiapoi High School and the Canterbury Education Services. The High School office issued invoices to schools, or to the Trust. The Teacher's salary no longer became part of the Trust's finances. 90% of the salary continued to be paid by user groups and the Trust was invoiced for the balance.

The Caretaker continued to be paid by the Trust at the rate of \$8.21 per hour and the Secretary /Treasurer carried out five hours work a week for the Trust at the rate of \$10 per hour. These payments were all administered through the Canterbury Education Services.

### **COMMUNITY OPPPORTUNITIES GRANT SCHEME (COGS).**

Further assistance was received from this scheme with the appointment of Community Worker-Instructor, (Brian Tuffnell), for thirty-five weeks in 1990, a position which was subsidised by the New Zealand Employment Service. The objective was to develop and provide instruction for community based programmes at the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre.

### **HILLARY COMMISSION.**

A contract was signed with the Hillary Commission and the Kaiapoi High School for the Resident Teacher to be responsible to undertake teacher training; to promote the use of the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre and to visit user schools to aid in the



development of programmes used at the Boyle.

This agreement effectively covered the cost of ten weeks of the Resident Teacher's salary.

### **USER GROUP COMBINED MEETINGS.**

The Trust organised periodical meetings at the College of Education for staff from user schools to discuss booking arrangements and comment on the operation of the Boyle River Centre. Suggestions were also put forward on how the Boyle River Centre could improve its operation. Schools had placed importance on the previous pre-visit by the Resident Teacher to introduce user groups to what to expect when they took part in an Outdoor Education programme.

The increasing costs for the Outdoor Education course and the charges for the hire of equipment were a regular subject for comment at these combined user group meetings. Concern was also being expressed about the effect which large groups were having upon the Boyle River environment and the need to adopt greater awareness to provide environmental training and instruction by staff to user groups.

Praise was always readily forthcoming by school staff for the high quality of instruction and the expertise of supervision provided by the Resident Teacher.

### **USER GROUP REPRESENTATION.**

The user group agreed at a meeting in 1990 to continue to support their practice of having representation on the Trust.

Specially co-opted members from user schools and other groups had made a significant contribution to the effective working of both the Trust and its Management Committees over the years.

**FEE CHARGES.** For 1992 School bookings were established at \$6 per person per night and 0.25 cents per person contribution to the Weekly Teacher Half Day allowance for the Resident Teachers Salary; or an allocated lump sum per school of \$1,000 for a 4-5 day camp or \$200 for one weekday or one weekend day.

**GEAR HIRE.** A bulk deal for camping and tramping was available at \$50 per week. The Rock Climbing and Tubing charge was \$15 per session (\$1.50 per pupil for a maximum group of 10).

The Rafting charge was \$16 per one hour on the water or \$24 for an hour and a half (8 person raft).

**DOC HUT AND FACILITY FEES.** The Boyle Flats was \$8 per adult and \$4 per school child over eleven years. \$4 per night was charged for camping next to the Boyle River Flats hut and other huts on the St James Walkway



and also the Magdalene Hut. For a school child over eleven years the charge was \$2pp.

### **AGM ELECTIONS 1992.**

Arthur Sutherland was elected as chairman of the Trust at the February 1992 Annual General Meeting.

Gavin Hawkes resigned from the Trust after ten years service. Gavin committed countless hours to ensuring that the repairs and maintenance of the Lodge was always carried out as promptly as possible, in order for the Lodge to retain its reputation for providing quality service and facilities.

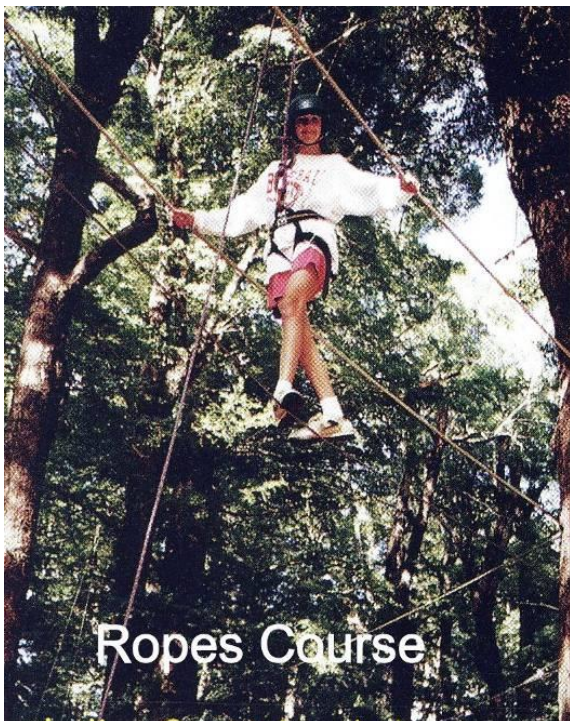
### **JEAN ANDERSON MEMORIAL TREE PLANTED.**

Trust members attending a meeting at the Boyle River site on 16 August 1992 had a further opportunity for on-site inspection of the property and the facilities.

They also took the opportunity to pay respects and make a tribute to the work of Jean Anderson who had recently died. Jean had been of valuable assistance in supervising the financial administration and the secretarial records of the Trust. Members planted a commemorative Totara tree at the northern boundary of the Lodge to mark her dedicated contribution.

The Executive officer at the Rangiora High School, Roger Harper, and the Resident Teacher took over much of the work previously done by Jean.

### **ROTARY SPONSORED ADVENTURE CAMPS.**



Enthusiastic support was growing for the establishment of a Rotary sponsored summer camp to provide outdoor experiences for young people. It was envisaged that the thirty four Rotary clubs would put forward names of students for sponsorship.

Early attempts to get this established were initially disappointing but enthusiasm to support the camps increased as the experiences enjoyed by those who attended became more known and well accepted.

The four night camp was held in early December with a target group of 30 - 50 of those who may not otherwise have an opportunity to take part in a routine school group camp at the Boyle River.

The aim was to build confidence and self esteem; communication skills and teamwork.

Activities for the course included tramping; survival training; ropes course; confidence course, the wire ropes course, abseiling; navigation; orienteering; bridge building, rock climbing etc.

### **THE BOYLE CENTRE TO THE RESCUE IN AN EMERGENCY.**

The Resident Teacher was involved in an emergency situation towards the latter part of 1992, when assistance was given to the Police and a Search and Rescue team to retrieve the body of a young trumper who had fallen down a cliff and drowned in a pool in the Nina Valley area. Although this was a traumatic experience for Resident Teacher, Alan Gordon, it highlighted the essential need for staff to be trained to handle emergency situations.

### **PARKING AND TRANSPORT FEES.**

Quite significant income had been generated over the years from the increasing usage of the St James Walkway. The safety of the parking area available at the Boyle River area reduced the risk of vandalism to which vehicles were subject, if parked for three or four days at the unattended unsupervised parking area at the Lewis pass end of the track.

Consequently track users were only too willing to pay a fee for the shuttle service to enable trampers to start at the Lewis Pass end but finish the track walk where their vehicle would be safely awaiting them. It was reported in June 1992 that \$1,800 had been collected by the Trust for providing this seasonal service. Special Parking forms were introduced in 1992 for trampers using the Walkway to fill in to facilitate identification in the case of an emergency.

### **EFFECTIVE PUBLICITY.**

Positive results were being evidenced from the efforts put in by the Trust to publicise and extend the usage of the Lodge in order to generate much needed increased income. Five hundred brochures were sent to seventy five user groups.

A group of ten teachers at the Lodge also took an opportunity to do an evaluation survey on what the Centre had to offer. In particular, this group made very favourable comments about the high standard of the Ropes Course.

The North Canterbury Gymnastics Instructors Group was also favourably impressed, as were the



Templeton Hospital group who made further bookings.

### **THE NEVER ENDING LIST OF R & M JOBS.**

With the assistance of Jim Young, the new Caretaker and with help from the Works committee, several R & M assignments were undertaken during 1992. These included a new “long-drop” at the over-night camp; replacement of the climbing net. The gear shed was re-arranged to incorporate an R & M area and to give better access to the stairway to the roof storage area. The Resident Teacher’s house and the Caretaker’s cottage received improvements to the water supply. The kitchen at the Lodge had a re-paint and a wood burner with a ‘wet back’ installed in the Teacher’s house.

### **IMPROVEMENT IN FINANCIAL POSITION.**

The increased occupancy was improving the financial situation, but a close control continued to be exercised on expenditure.

The administration of the Lodge again came up for questioning with a suggestion that it be let out to private contract on a 52 week per year operation basis.

However it was pointed out that although the school year operated on the basis of 40 weeks, the user schools pay on the basis of a 52 week year and the resident Teacher spends considerable time organising and promoting Lodge use for 52 weeks.

The operation of the Lodge was not regarded as a commercial money making business. The aim was to re-cover costs and provide sufficient funds for improvements and development.

After many years of dedicated commitment of working to improve the Lodge facilities, the Trust received a letter of resignation in January 1995 from Ron Mackie, a past member of the staff of the Rangiora High School. Ron’s enthusiasm for every task he undertook was always an inspiration to his fellow workers.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING.**

The Management team of Arthur Sutherland, (Trust Chairman), Paul Eden (Chairman of the Management Committee) and Alan Gordon (Resident Teacher) concentrated their efforts on ensuring that the Centre was being developed to obtain the maximum efficiency within the policy guidelines established by the Trust.

Receiving monthly reports from the Canterbury Education Services Society Limited greatly assisted in the decision making process for both expenditure and budgeting.

Alan Gordon carried out successful Teacher Training courses involving several schools, whose staffs were trained on the using of the Adventure

Ropes Course and matters relating to the Briefing and Debriefing sessions of courses, as well as knowledge on Risk Management; Belaying Techniques and Facilitating the Outdoor Experience.

Similar courses were also held to cater for students with disabilities.

A total occupancy of forty three weeks was achieved in 1992, of which thirty three were utilised by school weeks and ten weeks were funded through the Hillary Commission.

The improved usage was a contributing factor in overcoming the financial difficulties experienced during the 1991 year.

The asset value of the Lodge had grown to \$329,513 and an excess income of \$2,011 over an expenditure of \$52,379 was recorded for the year 1992.

Arthur Sutherland retired from the Chairmanship of the Trust at the 1993 Annual General Meeting, a position which he had held for the previous six years. Trustees were unanimous in expressing their appreciation for the manner in which he had contributed to the Trust and for his unwavering support and enthusiasm for the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre.

Paul Biddington (Belfast Rotary) succeeded Arthur as Chairman of the North Canterbury Alpine Trust and was also appointed a member of the Management Committee Team.

Resident Teacher, Alan Gordon, prepared and presented to the Trust a detailed and comprehensive plan for the future development and expansion of the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre.

The key proposals included an extension of activities offered by the Centre, such as Mountain Biking, which had become a new and fashionable recreational pursuit.

It was recommended that the Lodge be upgraded, especially the sleeping quarters, the kitchen and ablution areas.

### **TRANSPORT COSTS.**

The cost of transport for school groups to visit the Centre was always a matter of concern because of its distance from Christchurch. Trust members were always fully aware of this issue, which was a vigorously debated matter when the site was originally chosen.

However, the benefits of the location have always far exceeded any minor additional costing incurred. It was evident that most of the major Outdoor Education Centres in the South Island, or indeed throughout New Zealand were positioned in localities which involved travel to remote rural or mountain areas.

These factors did not deter the Trust from being mindful of ways and means to minimise transport costs and several ideas and suggestions were put forward from time to time. The greatest difficulty was the availability of

finance for the Trust to own its transport facility and the lack of a sponsor sufficiently generous enough to supply one.

The last mentioned factor precipitated serious discussion by Trust members on ways and means to tackle the never ending problem of lack of sufficient finances to carry out projected development work.

### **DEPENDENCE UPON CHARITABLE TRUSTS.**

The Trust had relied heavily in the past upon the charity of benevolent organisations including a host of charitable Trusts.

There is a limit as to how often requests for charity can be asked from the same sources of generosity.

Consequently, there was a sense of urgency to develop new contacts and a 'brain storming' session suggested that perhaps the Lodge could link in with a Commercial Tourist group or a Travel Company or liaise with Backpackers.

### **MARKETING STRATEGIES.**

As part of the marketing strategy and the future vision expressed in the plan submitted by Alan Gordon, Resident Teacher, it was considered that the Centre could have a future potential by marketing the Lodge to Corporations by offering specialised courses for the benefit of developing leadership skills, the management of risk factors and mastering of the many challenging experiences which the Lodge could expertly offer.

Such courses were becoming increasingly popular in the field of business management and the Institute of Management had recognised the potential role of the Boyle River Centre in providing a vital component to such courses.

It was envisaged that such a course could be run in conjunction with taking advantage of the facilities offered at the Maruia Springs Thermal Resort.

Discussions were held with the Japanese owners of the Maruia Springs complex and films were taken of the Boyle River Lodge and forwarded onto a Travel Agents Conference for promotion.

The 'brain storming' session also suggested the use of Task Force Green staff for upgrading the walking tracks. Labour supplied through a Task Force Green Employment Scheme carried out improvements to tracks, the nature trail and improvements to the orienteering and navigation activities.

It was further recommended that the Resident Teacher visit and research similar operations to gauge how best to resolve the issues confronting the Boyle River operation.

The Resident Teacher subsequently visited many Outdoor Education facilities in the North Island and brought back with him considerable film footage and written information of value to the Trust. This all proved



valuable in formulating future policy for the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre.

Application was made to Trust Bank Canterbury for \$5,000 to purchase mountain bikes.

Jim Young, the caretaker, was hospitalised in 1993 and Bill Nossiter was appointed as his replacement through the Task Force Green Scheme.

The Recreation and Leisure Officer of the Christchurch City Council was notified about the facilities and course activities which the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre was capable of offering and requested that the Boyle Centre be registered with the Council as a provider of Outdoor Experience.

### **THE COMFORT OF CARPET.**

Included in the major improvements undertaken during the 1993 year was the laying of much needed carpet in the common room of the Lodge. This was made available from Autex Industries through the generous assistance provided by Trust member Paul Eden.

The carpet provided a much quieter, warmer and more attractive room.

A restriction of no shoes to be worn in the common room was immediately imposed. The Belfast Rotary club purchased fifty chairs for the Lodge common room.

### **MORE IMPROVEMENTS.**

Other improvements during the year included work on the orienteering course; upgrading the confidence course with a high grade belay system; additional wet weather gear and warm clothing were provided and also extensive improvements undertaken to the camp site.

The Centre took the opportunity to acquire a computer which greatly added to the efficient running operation of the Boyle River Centre.

Following the resignation of Alan Gordon, who had suffered shoulder injuries which caused him considerable incapacitation, Steven Hall was appointed as the new Resident Teacher in February 1994.

This appointment was recognised as being a part of the Kaiapoi High School Teaching Staff.

### **PLANNING FOR ADDITIONAL STAFF ACCOMMODATION.**

#### **FINANCE AVAILABLE FOR EXTRA ACCOMMODATION.**

Chairman Paul Biddington was able to report in 1994 that the Trust had been successful in obtaining approval from the Bank of New Zealand for a ten year loan of \$65,000. This was to be used for the purpose of building extra accommodation and ablution facilities onto the Lodge building. Plans were prepared by Ken Taylor, of Design Shop Architectural Services (Belfast Rotary), which estimated a cost price of about \$62,000 for the additional 22 bed bunkroom, staff quarters for two and extra toilets.



Provision was made for wheelchair access to toilets and a covered way to link the new accommodation and ablution block with the porch area.

These improvements were planned to take place in three stages. The first stage would be the construction of the additional accommodation

for girls, complete with toilet facilities and a covered walkway to link access to the existing building.

The second stage consisted of remodelling the existing toilet facilities for boy's and also provide for unisex wheel chair toilet access. The final stage planned to upgrade the drying room and existing bunkrooms.



The additions would provide for a capacity accommodation of sixty two students, six staff and a two-bed sick room. Toilet capacity provided for eight bowls, ten showers, plus ten hand basins.

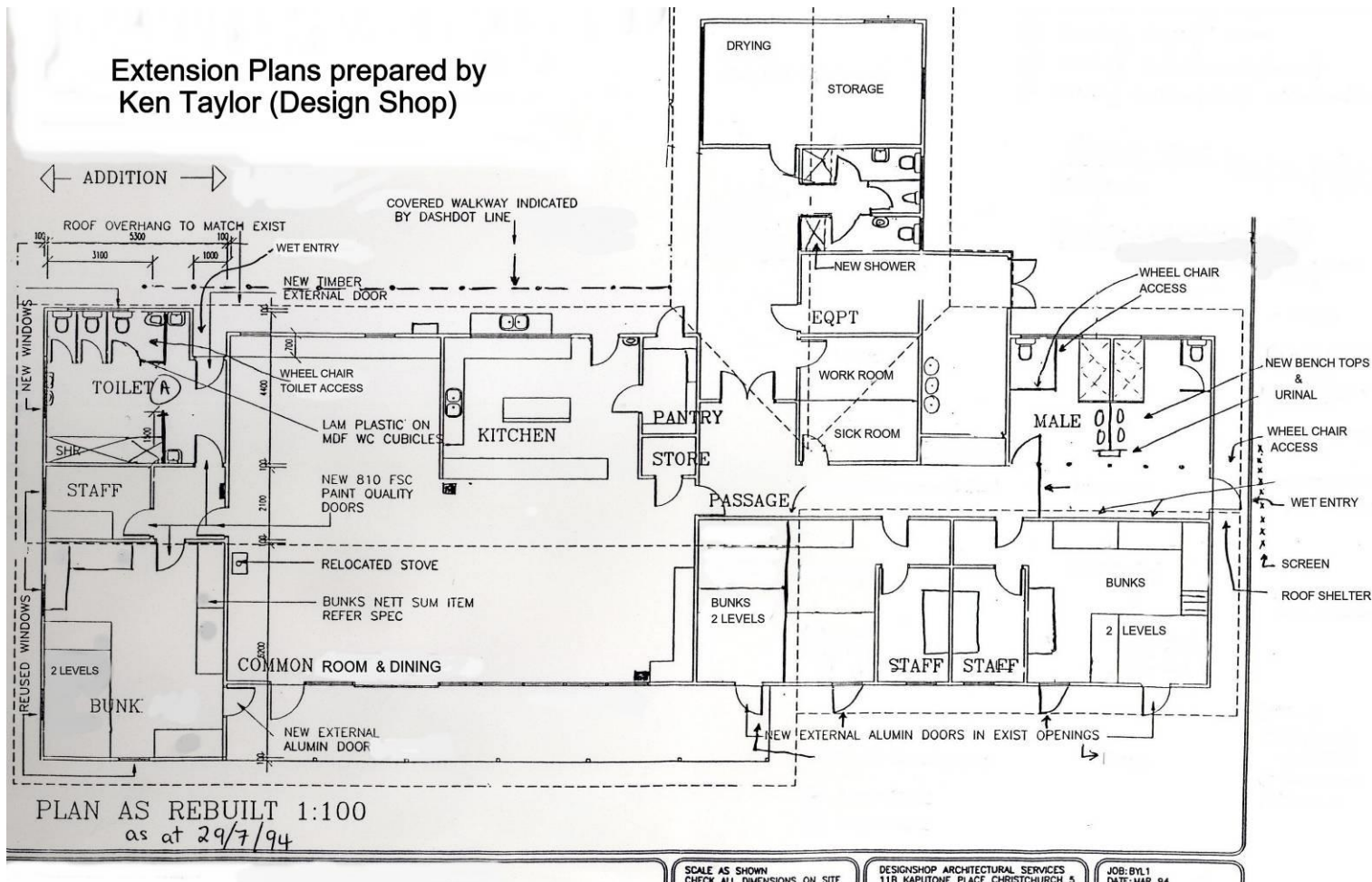
The septic tank had a capacity of 9,000 litres and about 27,000 litres of water was stored in either below ground or above ground storage tanks. Additional water was obtained by using a Water Right to pump 8 cubic metres per day for four weeks per month, at a rate not exceeding 2.3 litres per second, from the Boyle River.

In consultation with Health Protection Officers, the Centre installed Giardia filters and carried out water testing to maintain a high standard of drinking water purity.

During 1996 the annex wing next to the main Lodge received some structural changes with the addition of a wall partition, an extra door and an office for the Centre Manager and also a sleeping annex for four people.

### **BUILDING UPGRADE AND ADDITIONS UNDERTAKEN.**

The Trust accepted the contract price of \$72,752 from Overlander Homes for the construction of the additions to the eastern end of Boyle River Lodge.



The Management Committee meeting in July 1994 agreed that the internal alterations to the toilets, bunkrooms and drying room to be carried out by the staff at the Boyle River Centre, using professional trade's people if required.

Also, during 1994, the Sinclair Cottage on the Boyle River Lodge site was transformed into quite a comfortable residence, with extra windows being added to provide a greater amount of natural light. A partition created two separate living spaces and the whole interior received a refreshing new look with a coat of paint.

### **GENEROUS GRANTS MADE AVAILABLE.**

A successful grant application for \$4,500 was received from the Laugesen Trust and the JR McKenzie was approached for \$20,000 for the building project.

Community Organisations Grants Scheme (COGS) allocated \$3,230 for Youth Leadership Camps and the Lottery Grants Board Youth Committee allocated \$6,000 for Leadership Adventure Camps.

Application was made to Trust Bank Community Trust for \$30,000 to assist with the finance required for the new additions to the Outdoor Education Centre. It was a matter of concern that the importance of the Boyle Centre and its work for the benefit of youth and community groups of the North Canterbury region had not previously been fully recognised by the Community Trust when grants were being allocated.

However, the Canterbury Trust Bank, recognising the value of the work done by the North Canterbury Alpine Trust, approved a loan for \$65,000.

### **INCREASING OCCUPANCY.**

A Management report in September 1994 indicated that year-to-date, 1,200 school children, 370 adults and 100 Templeton residents had visited the Lodge giving a total of 4,900 bed nights and the equivalent of thirty seven weeks occupancy. The Centre experienced a high continuity of usage, which was good from a revenue earning perspective, but put a strain on the staff to cope with virtually no spell between group visits.

The Templeton Residents had been regular users of the Lodge and it was disappointing to lose their patronage and support with the demise of the Templeton Residents institution, following the decision to integrate the residents into local communities around Christchurch.

The Lodge has been fortunate over the years in attracting a high calibre of staff who worked under, at times, difficult conditions and often in isolation. They excelled in the performance of their duties, in spite of the difficulties of operating in a remote area without the luxury of the support and assistance which many of their profession enjoy in an urban environment.

### **THE CARE OF CARETAKERS.**

Caretakers are no exception when dedication to the upkeep of the Boyle River Centre is concerned. Many have been sufficiently versatile in their abilities and flexible enough to tackle a wide variety of assignments, other than the routine jobs associated with keeping the Centre 'spick-and-span'.

A typical example was Nikki Adams, who in the 1994 year did more work as an instructor than as a caretaker. She brought with her a vast array of tools and equipment, as well as a remarkable talent for the job and worked in well with all the user groups.

Nikki Adams subsequently moved onto other employment, but was co-opted as a Trust member. She was contracted to facilitate funding through processing applications for grants and to assist with the marketing of the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre.

Resident Teacher Kerry Palmer carried out significant development in the areas of rock climbing and canyoning activity in the Sylvia Falls area. Due to an ongoing shoulder injury, the Resident Teacher Alan Gordon had to finally resign from his position, in February 1995, which was taken over by Kerry Palmer.

### **IMPORTANCE OF TEACHER TRAINING.**

It was noted that many teachers using the Boyle Centre were not sufficiently familiar with the area and the range of activities which the Centre offered. Teachers were encouraged to attend training courses designed to prepare them for the activities and experiences involved in the outdoors, particularly those which contained hazardous elements.

### **GEAR AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND SPONSORSHIP.**

Most of the gear and equipment at the Centre was subject to considerable wear and tear with hundreds of students each year contributing to the wearing out process.

The Lodge was fortunate to have the support of generous sponsors giving valuable assistance towards the supply and upkeep of some of the gear.

Macpac gave such support over a long period of time and in 1995 helped with the replacement of geothermal 'long johns' and 'crew necks' for which the Kaiapoi Home Science Course students embroidered numbers.

It was observed at that time that other Outdoor Centres had a rotational replacement policy of turning over equipment on a regular basis, to avoid the need of facing a large replacement at any one time. Some Outdoor Education Centres managed to get money back from equipment by selling it before it became worthless or useless.

### **CONTINUING FINANCIAL SUPPORT.**

The Lottery Board made a grant of \$5,000 in 1995 to be used on the Ropes Course.

Considerable effort was put into the application to Trust Bank for \$30,000 for a grant from the Recreation and Leisure allocation.

It was important that the North Canterbury Alpine Trust received a favourable response regarding the allocation of community funding to the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre. Being a major community organisation The Alpine Trust serviced a wide population area of the Trust Bank's clientele base.

In September 1995 Trust Bank Canterbury Community Trust responded positively with a grant of \$30,000 to the Boyle River Centre.

The Trust was able to advise the Community Trust that such generosity would enable the North Canterbury Alpine Trust to continue with its mission



to provide and maintain an excellent Centre for Outdoor Educational and Recreational activities for School and Community groups.

### **MIDNIGHT RENDEZVOUS.**

An interesting note was recorded in a staff report in September 1995 that a new electrical sensor light had been installed outside the dinning room between the boys and girls bunkrooms, in an attempt to reduce the midnight



traffic between these two areas. The report made no comment regarding the direction of the traffic flow?

### **HIGH ROPES COURSE CONSTRUCTION.**

The \$17,000 High Ropes Course was built on the terrace above the Lodge by using the expertise of Project Adventure NZ. The project was funded by a Grant from the Lotteries Board and the Keith Laugesen Trust. This new addition provided some exciting challenges including the Dangle Duo, Pamper Pole, Vertical Play Pen and Multi Vine.

**ADDITION TO THE STAFFING.** Sue Gemmell took over Nikki Adam's position in September 1995. Being a qualified teacher in Physical Education and also in Recreation, she was able to pass on her skills for the benefit of her pupils. She was also a qualified Ski Instructor. Caretaking was a small part of her work.

### **THE MT. FAUST HUT.**

Suggestions were put forward that activities at the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre should be extended to include a snow craft programme to enhance the winter-time programme.

An approach was made to DOC for a twelve bunk hut above the snowline at the top of Mt Faust. This was planned for additional use in the warmer months for senior biology and Geography field trips.

### **MOUNTAIN BIKING AND CANOEING.**

The Activities Programme was also looking to extend the use of mountain biking, which Kaiapoi High School had initiated. The cost of the mountain bikes was a prohibitive factor and even the alternative of hiring them at \$7 per person for a half day was another added cost factor which had to be taken into consideration, when looking at the overall cost of the outdoor experience. Some schools were taking their own bikes, which was an appreciated help given by those schools which were able to do so.

Canadian Canoes were another feature activity receiving increasing interest. The activity took place on the Horseshoe Lake at the Glen Wye Station, beside the main Highway en rout back towards Hanmer Springs. A drive which took about twenty minutes from the Boyle Centre.

This was another activity which once again highlighted the need for the Centre to have its own mini bus to make activities such as canoeing, rafting and rock climbing more accessible to a larger range of groups.

Many Primary School users had comprehensive and well thought out programmes. Their staff gave detailed attention to pre-camp activities and preparation.

It was also noteworthy that many of the Primary School pupils were actively involved in fund raising to take part in a course at the Boyle. This had the positive result of substantially reducing the cost which their parents had to face.

### **THE ROLE OF THE CARETAKER.**

There appeared to be some confusion and ambiguity regarding the role of caretaker, a position which in the past was aimed at providing security to the Outdoor Education Centre during unoccupied periods.

The situation had developed where the caretaker was also filling the role as an extra instructor, which was of benefit to the user groups, often at a personal cost for the extra time involved by the caretaker.

The user schools had the benefit of this extra time given by the instructor/caretaker and in an endeavour to rationalise the situation it was agreed that a system of volunteer caretakers operate on weekends and holidays. This then allowed the schools to have an extra instructor, if they so decided.

It was becoming apparent that there was, in many cases, a need for the BROEC to be able to supply the services of two Resident Teachers.

### **GUARDIANS OF THE BOYLE RIVER LODGE.**

In the mid 1990s a formalised Guardian Scheme was adopted by the Trust to enable the regular staff to take the opportunity to have a weekend away from their work environment. Volunteers offered their services to look after the Lodge which gave them the opportunity to enjoy a weekend carrying out custodial duties to supervise the Centre and ensure that security standards were maintained. The volunteers received petrol vouchers to offset travel costs. Myles Sutherland and Peter McAlister, from Kaiapoi High School, took over the responsibility of being guardians at the Boyle during the holiday period of December 1995 and January 1996. The scheme has flourished and acknowledgement of the volunteers forms part of the annual report of the Trust. Between 1978 and the mid nineties students and ex-students of Kaiapoi and Rangiora High have contributed by looking after The Lodge over the December-January school holiday period. People like Donald McKenzie, the Adams girls, Louise Good, Mark Woodgate, Chris Mitchell, the Sutherland boys, JJJJ French, Tony Milne and Brendan Jolly,

#### **ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT BY TEACHERS.**

#### **OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS.**

There was strong support for teachers to continue to be involved with their classes during their time at the Boyle as it offered teachers the opportunity to instruct and work with their students during the programme. This proved beneficial in developing relationships and rapport with students. Some teachers commented that it was much easier teaching classes after spending time with them on camp.

In order to comply with the requirements of Occupational Health and Safety Standards, consideration had to be given to ensure that leaders on school camps were qualified by attending a staff training course provided by the Boyle. Teachers were required to be more accountable when managing risks in the outdoor environment. To assist teachers and group leaders with compliance the Trust formulated a Code of Practice which was distributed to all user groups.

#### **FURTHER BUILDING EXTENSIONS PLANNED.**

At the November 1995 Management Committee meeting, planning continued with the building development and it was agreed to obtain quotes for an upgrade of the male ablution block and the previously planned covered walkway from the new additions to the bunkroom.

Re-painting was carried out on the boy's bunkroom. Platform bunks were also built in the two rooms created by the split of the original girls' bunkroom, which was completely remodelled during November by builder Graham Slow.

The Lodge received its first Warrant of Fitness, by meeting the new building standards, which included the upgrading of the wall board to meet fire standard requirements.

The financial position as at the end of 1995 indicated that the Trust had an excess of income over expenditures of \$25,000, of which \$11,000 was committed to the development of the Ropes Course Project and \$3,000 committed to the Camp Leadership programme. However, the financial fortunes of the Trust were upset later in the year due to the cancellation of bookings made by two schools which deprived the Trust of a month's income.

Additional expenditure had been incurred by forward booking material for the Ropes Course, which was not actually scheduled until the following year. This was done in order to save extra transport and excavation costs. In order to minimise the deficit, a request was made for advance financial assistance of \$5,000 each from the High Schools of Kaiapoi and Rangiora.

#### **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT STAFF.**

Keen interest was shown in the Trust's request for applications for additional support staff for the Boyle. Forty four requested information and thirty three submitted an application at the beginning of 1996 Steve Morris, an ex pupil of Kaiapoi High School was selected for the position, from a short listing of four applicants.

Promoting the use of the Boyle River Centre to a wider group of users received increased attention, particularly as a result of the cutback in government funding and the down-sizing of the Templeton Special School for the Disadvantaged. The Trust was encouraged to look at running camps for At Risk Students and to look at running school courses for Transition Groups, utilising special funding through the Star Skill Development Adventure Based Learning Programme.

#### **INFORMATION MATERIAL.**

Information material was prepared to promote the Boyle as a "Provider of Outdoor Education" and advertise what the Centre had to offer to interested groups, particularly courses aimed at providing an Adventure Based Learning, (ABL), experience over a four to five day period. Special emphasis was planned for aspects on Management Development, Risk Management; Adventure based Counselling and Environmental Awareness.

A Rotary Summer Camp "Journey '95" was held at the Boyle during December 1995 at which twenty six students enrolled. The staff of Kerry, Sue and Graham Slow organised and held a Camp Leadership Course with employment funding provided by a grant from the Lottery Board.

### **LEADERSHIP CAMPS.**

A favourable report was received on another camp which was held for twenty six young persons held at the Boyle from Sunday 31 March to Thursday 4 April. The Holiday Camp Trust provided \$115 per student and the Alpine Trust donated the accommodation charges. A Camp Leadership Grant from the Lotteries Board covered the expenses involved for instructors and minders during the camp.

The Sutherland family were well to the fore with their involvement in the camp as Arthur and his wife Robyn provided free service as Camp Administrator and Support staff. Their son Guy Sutherland was the camp cook.

The camp involved a comprehensive range of outdoor and adventure activities, as well as indoor games and educational instruction relating to the outdoor environment.

Whilst the camp was very successful it was observed that the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre had the capacity and facilities to cater for a flexible range of student types, including disadvantaged students. However, difficulties arose if groups included disturbed students who tended to have an adverse impact on a group.



River Crossing

### **STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS.**

Concern was expressed by the resident Teacher, Kerry Palmer, in 1996, regarding the impact of government statutory requirements, to which the Boyle was obliged to comply, as prescribed under various Acts of Legislation. Some of these included the Children and Young Persons and Family Act; the Crimes Act; Health and Safety in the Employment Act; the Accident Rehabilitation and Compensation Insurance Act; the Industry Training Act.

There was a cost involved in ensuring that the Trust's operation met the compliance standards of these regulations. Failure to do so could have an adverse affect on income. The Resident Teacher also had the added responsibility to make sure that visiting school staff were aware of, or received instruction regarding the obligation to comply with safety standards.

There was an increasing need for user groups to comply with operating standards.

Consideration was given to looking at alternative methods of staffing the Boyle River Centre by employing a caretaker only, and to use the services



of an appropriate contract instructor, when required by school groups. This would transfer the cost of instruction directly to the school concerned.

Kerry Palmer resigned as Resident Teacher in August 1996. During the three years that he was at the Boyle Centre he had been responsible for a considerable number of new developments and activities, including Rock Climbing, Canyoning and the new adventure Ropes Course.

For the last term of 1996 it was decided to use contract staff for instructors, with Steve Morris holding the position as Manager, Administrator and Caretaker and to also undertake occasional instruction duties.

Graham Slow carried out the contract work as a qualified instructor at the Centre during that period of time.

The Trust decided that during the 1997 year that a Centre Manager would be appointed and that schools would arrange for their own instructors, drawn from those who were qualified and approved by the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre.

#### **TRUST OFFICE TRANSFERRED.**

The office for the Trust was transferred to the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre in September 1996.

#### **ST JAMES WALKWAY SHUTTLE SERVICE.**

The service of providing transport to the start/end of the St James Walkway was becoming a burden in the busy season and was in need of having a backup of alternative arrangements. The Trust was advised that Third Party Insurance cover should be taken out for vehicles which were not otherwise insured, but which could be involved in an accident whilst being ferried by Boyle staff.

#### **STAFF TRAINING COURSES.**

A Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre staff training week held at the end of September 1996 proved to be a huge success with participants from the Institute of Management and instructors from some of the user High Schools. The course was a three day Safety Skills and Standards workshop and a two day Rock pre-assessment course. It was an excellent public relations exercise for the Boyle and resulted in having a pool available of eight up-skilled operators.

A new self bailing raft was purchased with Lottery Funding and a code of rafting practice established to comply with Maritime Safety standards. Qualified staff was employed on contract to supervise the rafting operations and the Boyle staff provided a support role for these activities.

Additional Macpacs were donated and four night storage heaters ensured that the Centre was a much warmer and cosier place at night.

**ON USING THE PAMPER POLE.** One of the North Canterbury Newspapers in 1997 published an article about the high courage and nerves required to attempt, let alone master, the Pamper Pole.

The idea of the pamper Pole is for people to set a goal and achieve it.

The writer of the article introduced the concept of the Boyle Outdoor Education Centre as-



*"A hut in the mountains, which initially was the original suggestion put forward for a small rusty tin shed in the midst of nowhere to be used as an outdoor experience for the North Canterbury High Schools. Twenty four years down the beaten St James Track the Boyle attracts thirty five different organisations annually, offering a wide range of outdoor activities.*

*Possibly the most challenging or horrifying experience is the pamper pole. Towering twelve metres above the native greenery the pamper pole lays down a serious challenge to one's inner nerve. The idea is to clamber up the rungs to the top, stand and eye the circus trapeze hanging in front of you. It seems tantalising close, yet several previous lunges at it have snatched nothing*

*but air. Although you have strictly told yourself not to look down, you nevertheless do. The spectators are suddenly 100,000metres below and not just 12. For the zillionth time you check that your harness is secure. The countdown begins...and the adrenalin starts to rush 3-2-1 jump.*

*"Oh my God. I'm not going to make it." Arms lunge skywards desperately hoping they'll wrap around the handle. An eternity later they do and you're left to dangle. Relief. Triumph. Sit back and finally enjoy the view."*

### **REVIEW OF CHARGES FOR 1997.**

The Accommodation charge was set at \$10 per person with a minimum charge of \$300 per night.

Gear hire charge for clothing and equipment was \$6 per person per week or \$4 per half week.

All activities were charged at \$12 per person per week or \$7 per half week. Transport costs were to be arranged by the user group. Instructors charge was \$200 per day per instructor or \$25 per hour.

### **RESIGNATIONS.**

The Trust meeting of March 1997 marked the last meeting for Colin East, who was a founding member of the original committee of investigation to build the facility in 1972. He served as a chairman of the Trust during its construction period and as a Trustee since the opening of the Lodge in 1978. Appropriate recognition of his service to the Lodge was made during the weekend celebrations held in October, marking the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lodge.

Steve Morris resigned as Centre Manager in 1997 and was replaced by Graham Frith who brought with him considerable experience in Outdoor Education as an instructor in England, Europe, America and also extensively in New Zealand. From 1990-96 he was director of the Hanmer Springs Outdoor Pursuits Centre.

### **DIVERSITY OF EXPERIENCE.**

During 1997 bookings increased, especially for those catering for senior pupils. There was a demand from schools for the Boyle Centre to deliver programmes to qualify for assessment against unit standards on the National Qualifications Framework. This initiated the planning of new courses including Outdoor Pursuits Workshops, Team Building Weekends for Sports Teams and Safety Skills.

The Centre was aware of the need to expand and diversify the range of activities it could offer. Future development depended upon the introduction of activities which went beyond the traditional programmes used by the school groups.

It was commented in the 1997-98 Annual Report that over the years of the operation of the Lodge that many thousands of young people had been through the Centre, enjoying the activities and experiences which the Centre had to offer.

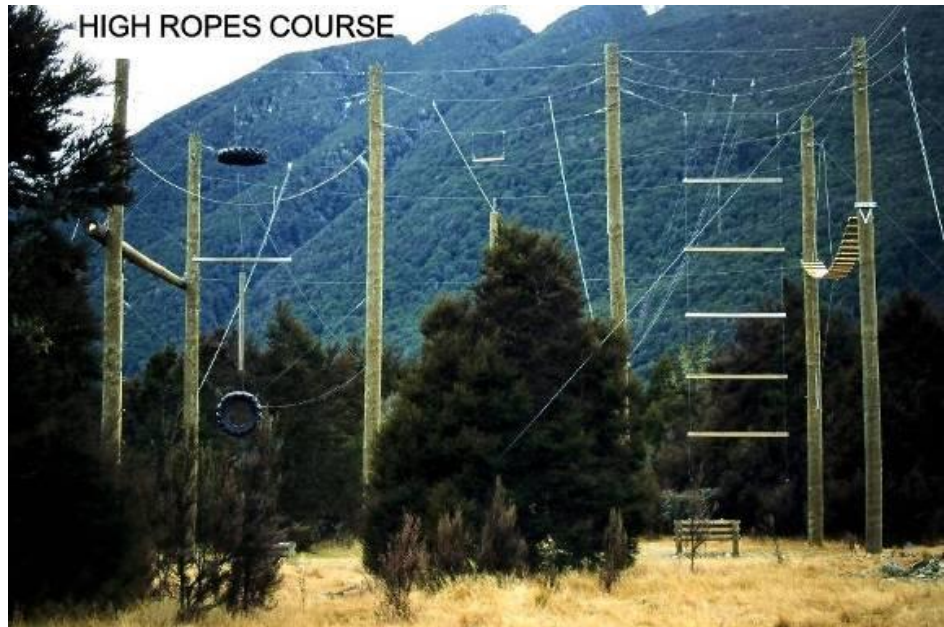
Most young people would otherwise not, benefit from such challenging experiences, which they would also never ever forget.



The Boyle River Centre was providing an opportunity for young people to have their first contact with the "outdoors". It provided a learning experience to find out about themselves and to become aware of the impact and the influence which the 'great outdoors' had upon them.

These demands necessitated a review of the existing stock of equipment and to upgrade those items which were showing the wear and tear of prolonged use over a considerable period of time.

During 1997 a group from the Wai-ora Conservation Corporation carried out work on tracks leading to the large abseil and rock climbing sites. They also carried out tidy up work on the ground area below the High Ropes Course. This facility continued to be a major attraction of the Boyle River Centre. Many groups from far a-field came especially to experience the challenge of the High Ropes Course, which was recognised as the best in the South Island.



Applications were made for several grants to assist with equipment, leadership courses, building projects, and the cost of tutors for special camps.

The original boy's bunkroom was modified to form two areas with the addition of a platform for extra bunks.

A concrete terrace was constructed along the full length of the four bunk room on the north side.

Weekend bookings were increasingly being made by sports groups and interest was also shown by some Christchurch business firms and corporates.

A Rotary sponsored Potential Leaders Course had been extended to include one being held in July as well as December.

The Leadership Courses held at the Centre developed a "Community Service" element, whereby small groups were deployed to carry out some tidying and environmental work around the campsite.



## **RECRUITING NEW USERS.**

Attracting new users was a result of the extra work which the Centre Manager, Graham Frith, had put into a programme of marketing the Boyle Centre.

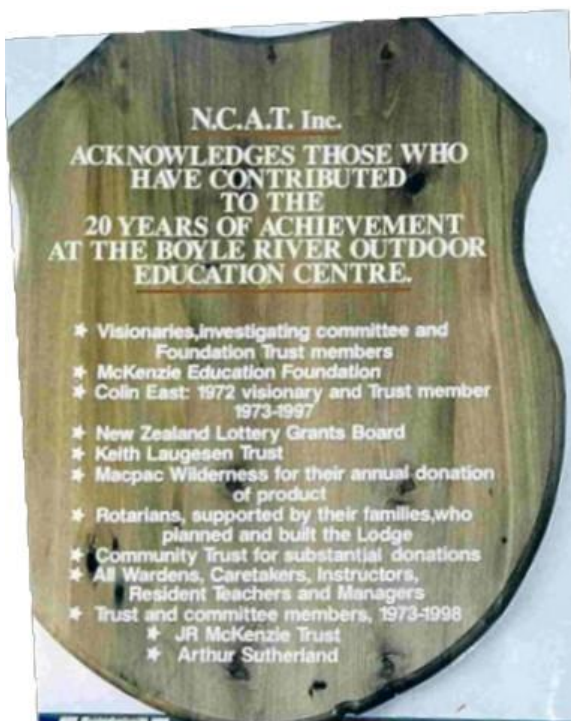
About three hundred sports clubs had been sent promotional material on the range of activities and facilities offered by the Boyle Centre.

Favourable reports were being received of the skills which the Centre Manager used to progress the efficiency of the Centre, which had extended to servicing an expanded catchment area covering from Timaru to Picton.

The Centre Manager's attendance at a National Outdoor Conference was not only an opportunity for him to promote the Boyle Centre, but also to provide him with a learning opportunity and the benefit of networking with his peers throughout the country.

Forty five groups used the Lodge during 1998. Numerous Secondary Schools from Timaru to Takaka sent students to the Potential Leaders Camp. Schools continued to be the main users of the Centre with over 2,000 students each year averaging three nights. Twenty nine groups had made advanced bookings at the Boyle Centre for the following year.

The Guardian Scheme continued to provide weekend supervision and was receiving popular support. Those taking part undertook assigned tasks during their stay.



The financial position of the Trust as at June 1998 indicated that the fixed assets were valued at \$464,901. There was a liability to Trust Bank of \$62,096, resulting in a net asset value of \$408,300.

## **20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

The North Canterbury Alpine Trust celebrated twenty years of operation with a special function on 11 October 1998. Rotary had representation from the three Clubs of Rangiora, Kaiapoi and Belfast as well as the District Governor of Rotary, Bruce Knowles. Many special guests made up the total of over seventy in attendance.

A luncheon was provided, followed by speeches recognising the importance of the celebration. A tour



of inspection was conducted and some took the opportunity to try their skills on selected outdoor activities.

Arthur Sutherland had organised a plaque which gave recognition to the many that, over the previous decades had made a significant contribution, as “Visionaries”, towards the success of the North Canterbury Alpine Trust and the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre.

A special supplement acknowledging the anniversary was included in “The Press”, prior to the anniversary celebrations.

### **FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WATER SUPPLY.**

The efficiency of the water supply to the Lodge had been a problem for some considerable time. The storage capacity could not meet the needs of the Lodge during prolonged dry spells.

An upgrade of the water supply system was approved and two 25,000 litre polythene tanks were installed and also a multi stage submersible pump and fittings at a cost of \$6,700. The ability to draw water from the Boyle River was also improved.

An upgraded orienteering map was developed to provide a better service to orienteering groups.

The development of the range of leadership and Adventure Based Learning camps resulted in an increase in bookings for the Centre and lifted its reputation as a place of excellence for Outdoor Adventure Based Learning experiences.

Or, as one High School Principal stated in a report-

*“Your professionalism, the thoroughness of the programme and the way everything was done made it a real pleasure for our staff to be associated with you.”*

Anybody using the Boyle Centre always commented on the high quality of the facilities and the excellence of the standard of the efficient service.
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The Chairman’s 1998 Annual report noted that not only had the Centre fulfilled a Key function of providing Outdoor Education and Adventure Based Learning opportunities, but had also provided services to the public.

These included the supply of critical assistance in cases of road accidents. Given the isolated location of the Centre, such a role can be a very important one.

The Centre also continued to contribute towards an excellent public relations exercise by running a parking and shuttle service for people using the St. James Walkway and the Hope-Kiwi Track.

During 1998 Graham Slow continued with the upgrading of the boys’ bunkrooms by converting the one large bunkroom into two modern bunkrooms

### **SPECIAL PROGRAMMES.**

A special programme was planned in October 1998 solely for women participants. This proved to be an exceptional success and without any organised advertising, the next course for the following March became fully booked with forty entrants.

Rafting activities expanded during 1998-99 with groups on the Boyle, Hope and Maruia rivers. This was later extended to include the Upper Grey and the Clarence Rivers.



### **MORE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE KITCHEN.**

The Graham Frith enthusiasm led to more changes to the Lodge. The Community Trust allocated \$10,000 towards the cost of upgrading the kitchen facilities which were carried out by Graham Slow. The work included making a new entrance to the main building from the south, re-arranging the pantry layout and the cooking stoves. A steriliser was installed, a new servery was fitted with stainless steel bench tops and linoleum laid on the floor.

These improvements produced positive responses from user groups.

The preparation of meals for up to sixty persons at a time and the subsequent cleaning up, both became a much easier operation.

The project cost \$28,000 which was funded by \$10,000 from the Community Trust; \$7,500 from the Laugesen Trust, plus additional Bank loan assistance. Funding for this project also received help from student users of the Centre, who ran a "mufti Day" with each student contributing \$1 to the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre. With the support of a further grant of \$8,000 from the Community Trust the Boyle River Centre was able to undertake the upgrading of the disabilities' toilets.

Considerable effort and expertise was spent on up-skilling staff in a number of areas including rafting. The Marine Division authorised The Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre as a rafting operator, which gave significant recognition to the high quality of achievement by the Course Instructors and Leaders at the Boyle River Centre.

### **GAINING UNIT STANDARD CREDITS.**

Skill Course Funding was made available to gain Unit Standards in rafting, camping, river crossing and navigation.

A Day Skipper course was introduced, in conjunction with Coast Guard, with participants receiving recognition by gaining Unit Standards.

Potential Leaders and Adventure Based Learning Courses assisted students to gain Unit Standard credits.

Several groups also made use of the new Mountain Bike Tracks, an activity gaining in popularity with additional tracks being constructed.

The Glen Hope Station provided the locality for a new adventure trip involving mountain biking, an overnight camp and day rafting on the Upper Waiau River.

A new Orienteering Course was established which involved students navigating several loops around the Lodge.

Modifications to the Low Ropes Course involved adding activities near a swampy area which meant that if students did not "get-it-right" the result would be wet, muddy bedraggled participants.



Repairs and maintenance work continued to be a forever ongoing necessity. This was to be expected considering the high usage by an age group well known for their natural propensity to be boisterous, enjoying the rough and tumble when gathered together in a group environment.

Consequently, handymen, such as Tim Harding, were kept busy two or three days a fortnight fixing things like leaking taps, squeaky doors, patching up paint work, gardening, work on the ropes course plus a heap of other incidental jobs.

The weekend Guardian Scheme worked so well that it became difficult for folks to secure their preferred weekend booking.

Trust representatives in 2000 reviewed the terms of the Trust Deed as established in 1975 and legal advice recommended that changes be made to meet the requirements for funding applications to the Lotteries Grants Board.

These changes were approved by the Trust and included provision for the dispersal of funds, should the Trust cease to exist, and also provided recognition of the payment of an honorarium to the honorary secretary of the Trust.



### **REVIEW OF SCHEDULE OF CHARGES.**

The Schedule of Charges was reviewed for implementation in 2001. Accommodation charges were set at \$18/\$12 per person per night and \$12 per night for all youth groups. A minimum charge of \$300 per night applied to all groups. The charge for clothing and personal gear hire, if required, remained at \$6 per client. A blanket charge of \$15 per client per day for resident users and \$45 for non resident users, this was a blanket charge to cover all activities.

Instruction charges rose from \$200 per day to \$210 per day.

The Financial Report as at 30 June 2000 reported a Fixed Asset Value of the Trust at \$500,400 and the total Net Assets at \$432,930

### **THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION.**

Staff accommodation was becoming an increasing issue of concern with as many as six staff at any time, plus occasional site work employment needs. The Trust considered alternatives to meet this need by investigating such options as extending the Sinclair Cottage, erecting another facility next to the Resident Teacher's house, or erect a flat on the Boyle River Centre site.

### **ESTABLISHING A WISH LIST.**

To meet the future development needs of the Boyle River Centre the Trust recognised the need to formulate a ten year plan and make application to the Community Trust to assist with the finance needed for the estimated \$70,000 required to carry out the planned development projects.

These projects included the upgrading of the Water Supply; a Raft Project; replacing the gas oven; supplying additional staff accommodation; work required on the High Ropes Course, plus other work required to be done in the kitchen, lounge and bathrooms.



During the year 2000 the Boyle River Centre secured a contract with the Queen Mary Centre, Hanmer Springs which involved working with their Youth Programme.

### **STAFF ACCOMMODATION.**

At the Management Committee Meeting 15 November 2000 the Kaiapoi Rotary Club expressed their interest to progress the staff accommodation project which had an estimated cost of about \$70,000.

The Trust was successful in securing funding for some of the projects which they were keen to initiate. \$3,000 was received from the Laugesen Trust for clothing and equipment. The Community Trust allocated \$8,000 for the water Supply and the Ropes Course projects. A Lottery Youth Grant was received for the Potential Leaders Course and \$6,000 was received from the Blenheim Pub Charity and \$4,000 allocated by the Kaiapoi Rotary Club towards the accommodation project.

Enquiries were made at the Ministry of Works Boyle River Camp settlement regarding suitable accommodation available for leasing and similar enquires were made to property owners at the Boyle River holiday settlement.

Concern was expressed about the increasing workload being undertaken by the Centre Manager and the Trustees agreed that existing instructors be utilised to assist with this workload, until such time as an increase in management could be funded and put into operation.

The valuable work which was undertaken by Graham Slow, Ali Frew and Juliet Fitzpatrick, all provided much appreciated management assistance. But the time had arrived when a more structured position was required to be established in the management system to provide for ongoing assistance.

#### **NEW ASSISTANT MANAGER.**

Consequently, the Trust appointed Wendy Davis to the newly created position of Assistant Manager. The aim was to provide assistance with promotional and programme development work, as well as helping as an instructor.

The Trust was successful in securing funding for the position of Assistant Manager which came from part of the \$90,000 allocated by the Community Trust. This demonstrated the confidence placed in the Boyle River Centre as an organisation capable of providing quality service to its customers.

A new activity was added to the Camp Leaders Course, sponsored by Rotary Clubs, with the addition of an all night Solo Activity, equipped with a tent fly, sleeping bag and carry mat. In spite of the severe night temperatures, many listed the experience as the highlight of the camp.

#### **EXTRA STAFFING ASSISTANCE**

In 2001 the Trust entered into an agreement with the Sports, Fitness and Recreation Industry Training Organisation (SFRITO). This addressed the staffing situation by providing a position for four hours per week for one year, commencing 1 February 2001.

The project aimed to achieve up-skilled and qualified outdoor instructors, also a Centre Manager and Caretaker positions for the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre. It was planned to utilise the training and assessment



schemes provided by SFRITO to facilitate the necessary training and assessment work. This project sought to improve Quality Management Systems under which the North Canterbury Alpine Trust, the Centre Manager and the Instructors operated.

The terms of reference for the Management Systems review included such topics as Safety Operation Plans, Occupational Health and Safety Policy; Board policies relating to governance and management and also policy relating to volunteers.

### **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES UPDATE.**

Subsequently, considerable work was done to up-grade the Policies and Procedures of the North Canterbury Alpine Trust. Arthur and Guy Sutherland spent many hours compiling the documentation, particularly relating to the Ropes Course Code of Practice.

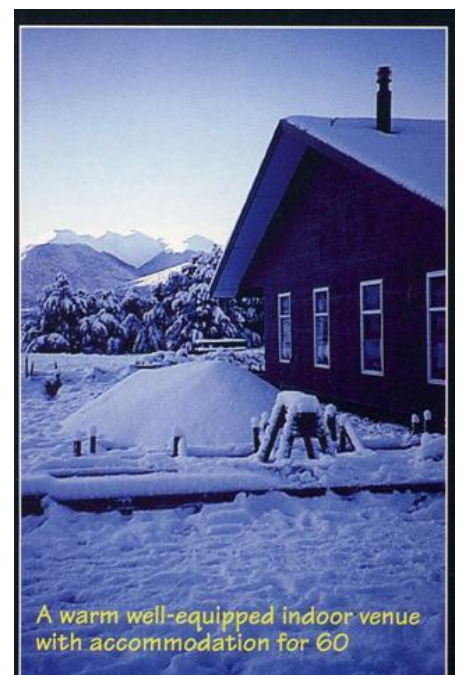
### **THE BIG FREEZE OF 2001**

The Big Freeze during the winter of 2001 was a testing time for the newly replaced water system, as the feeder line from the river and the connecting pipes between the new tanks all froze with 8cm of ice on the side of the tank.

The Department of Conservation came to the rescue to fill the lower tanks by pumping water cross-country from the Boyle River.

The Big Freeze played havoc with the Centre Manager's house plumbing, where pipes froze and burst, resulting in the house having no water for four weeks.

Consequently, plenty of insulation was applied to all exposed plumbing system pipes and the Manager's residence had a night store heater installed.



Following the removal of the holding tanks from the ceiling of the Lodge, the extra space obtained provided storage facilities for tent drying and also allowed the fire proofing of the Lodge to be completed to the required fire safety standards. Additional storage for the wet gear and rafts was provided with the acquisition of an on-site storage container.

A successful **GO FOR IT** weekend was held in April and provided a time for lots of fun and outdoor activities. This programme was established in 1990 by Arthur and Robyn

Sutherland as a joint venture between the Kaiapoi High School Adult and Community Education Programme and the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre as an Adventure Activities Course for adults involving bush walking, abseiling, rafting, canoeing, ropes courses and soaking in natural hot pools.

### **THE BOYLE RIVER ROAD BRIDGE SAFETY ISSUE.**

The Trustees were involved in ongoing discussions regarding the hazards presented to pedestrians crossing the State Highway Boyle River Bridge. Design reports had been received from the University of Canterbury and correspondence entered into with Transit New Zealand regarding improvements to make pedestrian traffic safe, whilst using the bridge by groups from the Boyle River Centre.

The Trust was keen to promote the suggestion of having an added “clip-on” attached to the existing bridge for foot users. There was a reluctance to do anything to interfere with the free flow of traffic on a State Highway and the final solution to give some immediate benefit was the provision of a stile, placed beside the highway bridge to eliminate walking on the highway.

There were hopeful signs, at the time, that the Government might recognise the Trust’s request to assist with road safety as part of Government policy to promote cycling and walking opportunities in New Zealand.

A subsequent report from Transit New Zealand revealed that a cycle way on the Boyle River Bridge on State Highway 7 was planned for construction in Transit’s ten year State Highway plan.

Additional information in 2003 indicated that Transit New Zealand had allocated money for a pedestrian clip-on bridge. This was finally actioned in 2006 and thus student safety over the Boyle River State Highway Bridge was greatly enhanced..

The development programme for the Boyle River Centre for 2002 targeted securing funding of \$3,000 for the purchase of a toilet unit for the Heaphy Campsite and for the Trees Ropes Course. \$5,000 was required towards the cost of improving the safety of the floor in the west end ablution block. Money was also required to purchase an additional ten packs as part of the equipment replacement policy.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS.**

A “Get-To-Know-the-Boyle” day was held for Hanmer Springs businesses when thirty people enjoyed some of the outdoor activities on a brilliant sunny day.

The Centre welcomed its first training cadet (Jaron Frost), to train as an Outdoor Instructor to gain qualification through SFRITO and NZOIA courses.

### **FUNDING RESPONSES.**

The Community Trust advanced a payment of \$30,000 in June 2002 to the Trust and the EB Milton Charitable Trust funded \$5,000 towards the cost of the Ropes Course. Funding support for the purchase of new tents was also obtained from two of the Hanmer Springs Pubs Charity Funds.

The Trust continued to extend its tentacles in every possible direction to attract funding to allow the Centre to continue with its ability to provide outdoor adventure programmes, to meet the increasing demand for the New Zealand public to experience the Great Outdoors.

Several businesses in the Hanmer and surrounding areas were approached to assist with the purchase of items for the Outdoor Centre.

These included a TV and video; a new oven and extractor fan system; outdoor equipment including parkas and tent fly's; funding to assist with the Assistant Centre Manager's salary; extension to the fire hose system; finance for funding an upgrade of the lighting to an energy efficient system and for the costs associated with the Summer Family Holiday Adventure programme.

The Pub Charity Inc. and the Alpine Village Inn, Hanmer Springs allocated \$42,200 towards the cost of some of the kitchen facilities.

Applications were made to the following organisations for financial assistance with various projects and needs: Community Grants Foundation; Milton Ford Trust; Pub Charity; Lion Foundation; Contact Energy; Scottwood Group; The Southern Trust; Surf Canterbury; Lottery Grants Board; Community Post.

### **CONTACT ENERGY GENEROSITY.**

An allocation of over \$50,000 was made to the North Canterbury Alpine Trust in recognition of the North Canterbury Community's success in achieving significant electricity savings. Robyn Sutherland was responsible for making the connection with Contact Energy.

### **THE RELIANCE UPON CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.**

Over the years the Trustees and management staff had spent considerable time and energy in following through the detailed work involved in making applications to numerous Trusts and charitable institutions to enable the Boyle River Centre to financially survive.

The user-pay policy for user groups of the Centre was not sufficient to cover all overhead costs and the capital expenditure required to carry out all the plans and objectives of the Trust.

It was therefore frustrating for those who spent considerable energy applying for financial assistance, which was not always forthcoming, when

better use of their time could be spent by using their professional skills in the development of Outdoor Education courses and learning.

There was increasing evidence for a need for greater recognition of the importance of the role of Outdoor Education in the school curriculum and to address the recognition for a better system for accountable financing of student groups involved in Outdoor Education.

### **CENTRE MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENT.**

The Centre Manager Graham Frith applied for twelve months leave of absence as from the end of June 2002. Subsequently, Wendy Davies was appointed, from an application list of over twenty, for the position of Centre Manager. Wendy had been appointed in January 2002 to fill the then newly created position of Assistant Manager of the Boyle River Centre.

Ali Frew was appointed Assistant Manager and Chief Instructor.

Following the receipt of a letter of resignation in May 2004 of Graham Frith as Centre Manager, the Trustees agreed to confirm the appointment of Wendy Davies as Centre Manager of the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre as from 1 August 2003.

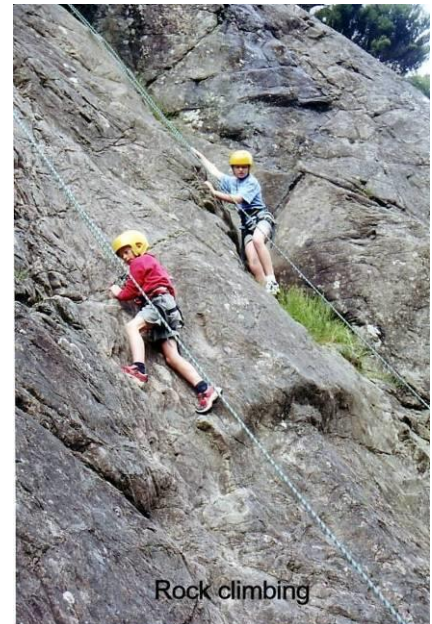
### **SPECIAL COURSES WELL SUPPORTED.**

Successful Potential Leader Courses continued to be held and also courses for Correspondence Students, which provided them with an ideal opportunity to socialise with like minded students. These Correspondence Students had no other opportunities of mixing and meeting with their fellow students.

There were additions made to the High Poles Course and some exciting new experiences became available, including the Rickety Bridge, the Slippery Beam, the Climbing Caterpillar and the Flying Kiwi.

### **THE CADET TRAINING SCHEME**

Graham Frith introduced the cadet scheme where the Boyle in partnership with Kaiapoi High School, provides opportunities for young trainees to new skills and knowledge through hands-on experiences and mentoring by the Boyle staff. In one particular year work experience weeks were provided for the cadets at the Amuri Ski Field, the Hanmer Adventure Centre and they also took part in the Amuri Players production of "The Queen of Hearts". Their adventures included joining the Spirit of Adventure, sea-kayaking in Tasman Bay and mountainbiking at Naseby as well as leading some activities at the Boyle.





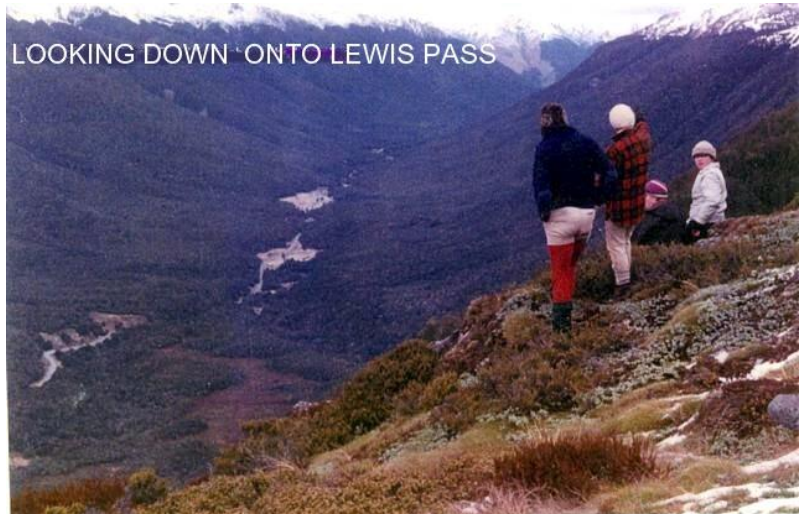
### **ACCOMMODATION.**

Discussions received considerable attention as to the best cost effective method of dealing with this acute problem. Extra accommodation was desperately needed for instructors' quarters, as well as Cadets, Conservation Corps users and independent small groups.

It was envisaged that the proposed accommodation could be extended to include hiring out to backpackers, touring cyclists and walkers when the accommodation was not required by staff.

### **ADDITIONAL STAFF ACCOMMODATION.**

Discussions continued regarding options for providing additional staff accommodation. It was recommended that DOC be approached to consider the possibility of leasing section #14 next to the Centre Manager's Residence house with the intention of erecting suitable accommodation on the section.



Later Trustee discussions confirmed that the preferable location for the additional accommodation was on land adjacent to the Lodge.

A brainstorming session by members of the Trust considered the possibilities of working with the Amuri Area School, who had previously acquired the Windy Point facility. The suggested plan was aimed to free the use of the Boyle River Centre from being used by small groups and for the Centre to manage courses for those small groups at the Windy Point site. In return, the Amuri Area School would receive a percentage income of the revenue from the courses, as well as receiving the benefit of the Boyle River Centre providing assistance with repairs and maintenance, plus the security benefit of having the facility occupied.

The Trust recognised the need to maintain good public relations with all adjoining property owners in the region. The Trust had benefited over the years from the co-operation received from the high country Station owners. A considerable number of courses of the Boyle River Centre depended upon gaining access to, and use of high country farm land.

To ensure the continuity of these activities of the Boyle River Centre it was essential that there was also a continuity of goodwill between all groups who were involved in the outdoors environment. Notice was received that a large part of the Poplars Station was to be purchased by the Nature



Heritage Fund in 2003 and that the Department of Conservation intended to take over much of the land which the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre utilised for many of its activities.

### **QUALITY OF STAFF.**

One of the strengths of the Boyle River Centre has been the quality of its staff and the high degree of expertise which continued to be offered by its instructors. This service was further enhanced during 2003 by the increase in the number of qualified instructors who were available to work at the Boyle. Added to this Bill Nossiter provided valuable assistance by helping the part time caretaker, Tim Harding, with repairs and maintenance and also with work involved as a Guardian.

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.**

The efficiency of the office administration was greatly improved as a result of a fund raising project to provide a new computer, printer, photo copier and fax machine. The only modern office facility which was lacking at that time was the availability of a quality internet line connection.

Communication to the wider world was later advanced with the development of a web site by Myles and Guy Sutherland. This provided a means of providing online comprehensive information for user groups. Eventually an improved telephone line service allowed the Centre to have e-mail capability and a better access to the web site at [www.boyle.org.nz](http://www.boyle.org.nz)

### **25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.**

During the weekend of 8-9 November 2003. The North Canterbury Alpine Trust marked the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Boyle River Lodge, which took place on 23 September 1978.

The celebration included an invitation to stay overnight on the Saturday and for those attending to take part in a range of outdoor activities, or just to relax, chat and reminisce over the past years, which had seen the growth and expansion of the original facility into one of the best providers of Outdoor Education in New Zealand. On the Sunday of the celebratory weekend the Trust provided a luncheon followed by some speeches appropriate for the important occasion.

The opportunity was taken to recognise past visionaries who had made a significant contribution to the success of the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre and who had made it possible to achieve the aims of the Mission Statement of the Boyle Centre:

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

***“TO PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN AN EXCELLENT CENTRE FOR THE  
OUTDOOR EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF  
SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY GROUPS”***

## **RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE**

During 2004 the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre was recognised at the Outdoors New Zealand Excellence Awards as the “Best Outdoor Facility in New Zealand. This well deserved recognition was the culminating reward of over twenty five years of expanding the Lodge from a bare empty building on a barren site into a facility which developed into providing the challenging experiences of Outdoor Education to thousands of students and a host of community groups.

In achieving this success, recognition was given to Arthur Sutherland’s commitment to the Boyle, which had become an integral part of his life and that of his supportive family. Through his leadership the Centre has been professionally guided and developed into a facility in which the original promoters of the Lodge would justifiably be proud.

Arthur's peers in the Outdoor Education fraternity recognised his expertise, his skills and his dedication to his chosen career by awarding him the Supreme Award For Contribution To Outdoor Recreation.

The Citation to this Award reads-

*"The winner this year is considered an unsung hero of outdoors education in New Zealand. His involvement goes back 33 years. He has always been there in the background involved in most major initiatives concerning the outdoors at local, regional and national level. He initiated much of what we currently know about risk management in NZ long before others developed it further. He has inspired countless numbers of students and teachers, and has developed one of the best outdoor school programmes in the country. His programmes are managed professionally and safely. Students appreciate the leadership skills he shows; they respect and respond to him. He is an exceptionally talented teacher who uses the outdoors as a medium to encourage growth in others" (end of citation)*



It is also of importance to note that through the efforts of Arthur Sutherland, that the Kaiapoi High School received the Best Programme Award at the Outdoors NZ Excellence Awards Ceremony.

There is no other single person who has made such a significant contribution to Outdoor Education in New Zealand and the citation of the above Award bears testimony to that outstanding achievement.

Groups which have benefited from the experiences provided by the Boyle Centre include not only the countless school groups, but also tramping clubs, church organisations, outdoor nature societies, company staff training groups, private family gatherings and many others which have all appreciated what the environment of the Boyle River area and the Outdoor Education Centre can offer.

Recognition was given to the team work of the dedicated staff, the Trust members and the specialist trainers and instructors. Above all, it was the result of the dedicated efforts during those years by the leader of the team at the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre- Arthur Sutherland.

#### **THE ROTARY FOUNDATION RECOGNITION TO ARTHUR SUTHERLAND.**

Further recognition was given to Arthur Sutherland in 2004 by the three Rotary Clubs involved in the North Canterbury Alpine Trust.

Arthur was named as a Paul Harris Fellow of The Rotary Foundation. This prestigious recognition of Service above Self is named after the founder of Rotary, Paul Harris.

The Rotary Foundation was responsible for funding a Scholarship for Arthur to do twelve months study in USA during 1985-86. He specialised in studying many facets of Outdoor Education and brought back to New Zealand much information which was important in improving Outdoor Education, particularly in establishing Risk Management programmes. Arthur shared his time in America with his family.

#### **THE WATER AND SEWERAGE SYSTEMS.**

The boys' toilet and shower block at the western end of the Lodge was upgraded and an extractor fan installed in the kitchen area. The water supply system continued to be improved to the stage that it was no longer necessary to pump water from the Boyle River, due to tapping into a mountain stream 1800 metres uphill, at the back of the Lodge. An agreement was later entered into with DOC regarding the approval of a water easement from this stream.

Concern was expressed about the ability of the sewerage system to continue to cope with the increasing usage of the Centre. This concern became more of an important issue when the Trust was in the process of planning the extra accommodation facility on the site. Consultants advised the Trustees that a projected cost of approximately sixty

Five Thousand dollars would be required to upgrade the sewerage system, to meet the statutory requirements.

Roof Painting 2004



This news was not well received as it meant that the Trust would be required to spend a considerable amount on the sewerage upgrade, thereby using money which had been allocated towards providing for the additional accommodation facilities.

### **ROOF PAINTING.**

Painting was carried out on the Sinclair Cottage roof and also the roof of the main Lodge building. Students from the Kaiapoi High School carried out the work of cleaning the roof and removing the rust. This was a challenging job as the roof had never been previously painted since being erected in 1977.

Members of the Belfast Rotary club provided the labour and the paint, which was applied on some very hot days. This was a project which the Rotary Club of Belfast carried out as part of the Centennial Project to mark the completion of the first century of Rotary, founded in Chicago USA on 23rd February 1905.

### **FINANCIAL GRANTS.**

The vast amount of development work carried out at the Lodge over the years has only been possible because of the generous funding assistance received from the many charitable Trusts and institutions. These have generously recognised the important role which the North Canterbury Alpine Trust and the Boyle River Centre contributes to the community life of North Canterbury.



Further assistance was received from the Community Grants Foundation, including \$10,668 to purchase replacement compasses, harnesses, ropes and parkas. The Southern Trust donated \$7,950 to purchase a washing machine, replace the kitchen oven and help with the roof paint. The Milton Charitable Trust provided \$4,000 which assisted with the annual ropes course audit and its maintenance.

### **TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION.**

Planning continued on the project to provide additional staff accommodation which was becoming a more urgent need..With the assistance of Trustee Ron Samson, (Kaiapoi Rotary), a re-locatable self contained unit for accommodation was sited west of the Sinclair Cottage. This action was a short term solution. Another option considered by the Trust was to build a cottage for the Centre Manager on the land next to the Resident Teacher's House in the Boyle River Village area.

### **TRAINING INSTRUCTORS.**

Staff training courses were always an integral part of ensuring that all instructors maintained a high level of competence in their ability to conduct successful courses for user groups.

Seventeen Instructors attended the 2004 annual Staff Training programme which included specialist training for Management Development; Risk Management; at risk students; Adventure Based Counselling; Environmental Awareness and Students with Disabilities.

### **USER GROUP SUPPORT.**

The Lodge enjoyed a slight increase in the 2004 year with 6,420 bed nights being booked for the year as compared with 6,379 for the 2003 year.

There were approximately 220 user groups who booked into the Boyle Lodge during the year. Assistant Management support was provided for part of 2004 by Ali Frew and Clinton Free. The Potential Leadership Course continued to attract popular support, as did the ABL (Adventure Based Learning). The STAR Skill Development course, catered for those who



Clarence River Rafting

which continued to be administered by the Kaiapoi High School, as the Boyle River Centre was part of their accreditation package.

The popular rafting trips and the "Go-For-It" courses had no



trouble in attracting participants which indicated a positive acceptance of these events.

The Labour weekend Clarence Rafting Trip had become so popular that extra dates had to be scheduled to cater for the growing interest in taking part in this exciting five day wilderness experience.

The Guardians scheme continued to provide a valuable security aspect for the Lodge, providing the regular staff to have 'time off' and provide an opportunity for community volunteers to enjoy the pleasures of the outdoor environment at the Boyle River.

**ADDITIONAL COURSES.** These were made available by the Boyle River instructors as demand and interest suggested a need. The Tramping and Snow Skills five day course aimed at developing initiative, teamwork, communication skills, self confidence and reliance through a variety of bush and snow activities. The course was introduced to give students the opportunity to meet the challenges involved in developing similar skills as those in many of the other character building and team work courses, provided by the Boyle Outdoor Education Centre.

Over 100 trees were donated by Trees for Canterbury Trust and planted at the Boyle River site.

### **SEWERAGE UPGRADE.**

The sewerage system had a temporary reprieve and was spared the possibility of a costly upgrade by the remedial service work carried by Hansens, drainage contractors from Rangiora

However, it was later conceded that upon further inspection and evaluation of the system that there was a need to extensively upgrade the system as a priority before any additional accommodation facilities could be undertaken. The Canterbury Community Trust granted \$24,000 for the earthworks and installation of the new system.

The Trust continued with its efforts to complete the planning stage for the additional staff accommodation. Some difficulty was encountered in planning the new accommodations additions as the position of the septic tank restricted available space.

The option of locating staff accommodation on section #14 in the Boyle Village area still remained a future possibility, especially since DOC stated a willingness to enter into a Thirty year leasehold agreement with the Trust for \$1,000 per annum.

### **SITE RE-SURVEY.**

A surveyor from Hanmer Springs was engaged to establish the correct boundaries of the Trust's site on Section 22. There was a clear need to have this work carried prior to planning any new buildings on the site.

The survey revealed that the Sinclair Cottage was over the south boundary. However, the survey was able to site the Sinclair cottage, the septic tank and the Lodge correctly on the site.

The Trust agreed that the best solution to meet the accommodation needs was to retain the upgraded Sinclair Cottage and to extend the west end of the Lodge.



### **MORE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT.**

A temporary shelter construction was completed in 2006 to provide a covered area for a meeting place, a drying area and a bad weather lunch area.

During the years of 2005-2006 several mattresses in the bunkrooms were replaced; a new trailer for moving rafts, kayaks, gas bottles and other requirements was acquired; a 4 Wheel Drive vehicle was obtained to service emergency situations, assist with rafting transport and other needs.

New tents were acquired, a new lounge carpet laid, an upright freezer purchased, a fully equipped white-water raft was a welcomed addition.

The repainting of all floors and walls in the lodge was carried out during the holiday period of 2005-2006. As well as the above additions, work was carried out to improve some of the tracks, repairing the roof and relocating the "Colin East" shed.

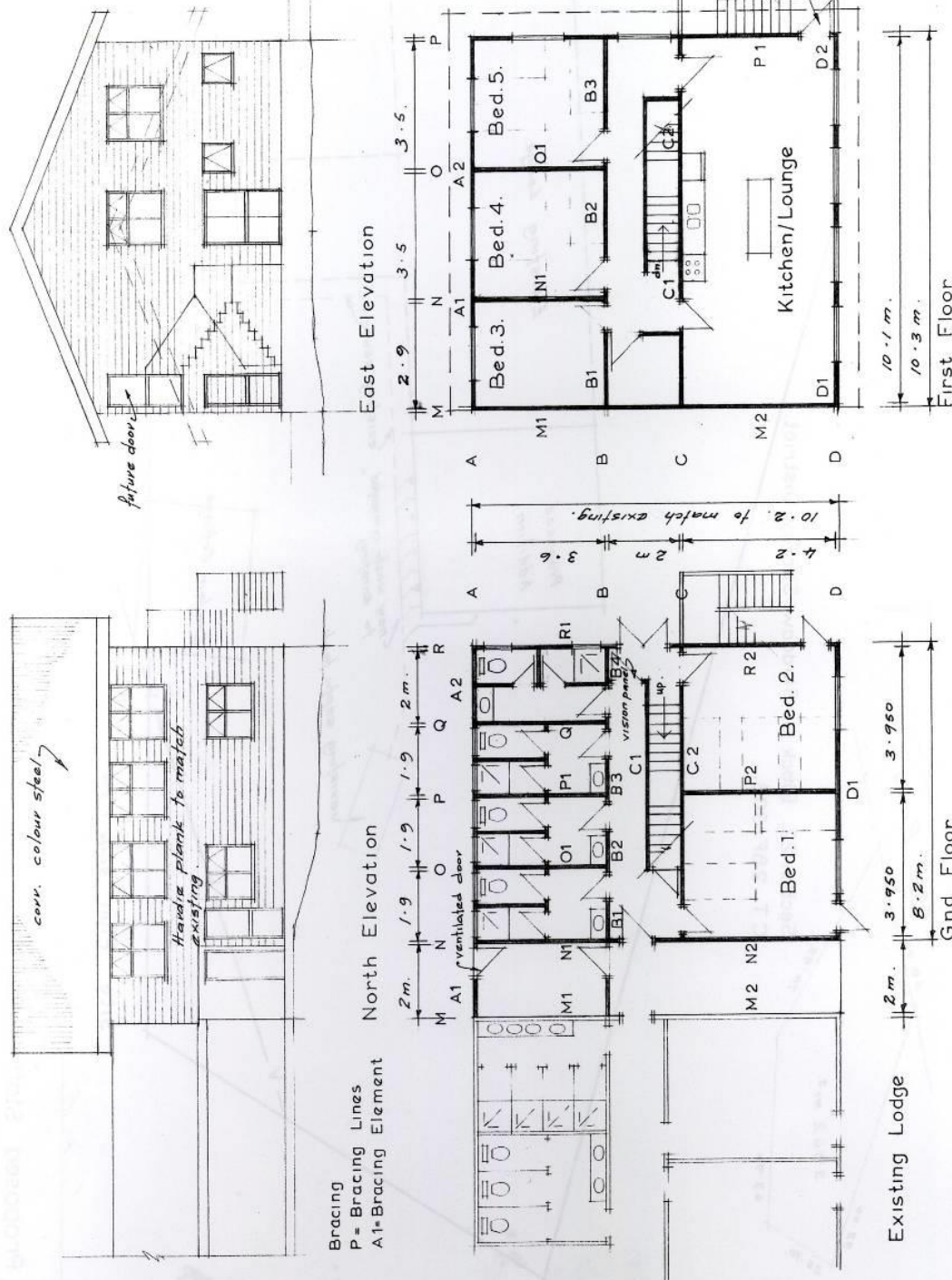
### **NEW PLANS PREPARED.**

In 2005 the Trust Chairman, Paul Biddington, requested Ron Boot, an architectural draftsman, formerly of the Rotary Club of Belfast, to prepare plans for consideration by the Management Committee and the Trust.

The proposed building was planned as a two storey structure with a dining room, three ablution facilities and two bedrooms on the ground floor. The upstairs level was designed to have a lounge, kitchen, dining area and two bunkrooms.

With the possibility of the land surrounding the Lodge being transferred to DOC ownership, the Trust considered the need to apply for a license to occupy the poles and rope course area.

Proposed Accommodation Extension Plan  
Prepared by Ron Boot



Proposed Staff Accommodation for Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre.

**THE RADIO REPEATER SYSTEM** was upgraded. Rotary Clubs, including Christchurch, Christchurch South, Riccarton, Greymouth, Hokitika, Westport, Lincoln, Bishopdale-Burnside and Rangiora, and schools such as Kaiapoi and Rangiora High and St Margarets College generously contributed towards the cost of radio receivers for this project. The repeater

station, following an issue on site location, was finally installed with the grateful assistance of Alpine Helicopters, who flew staff to the top of the hill to position the repeater. The new radios provided extra group safety, allowing two way communications between groups in the field and the Lodge.

The Graham Dingle office extensions carried out in 2005, provided much needed extra working space. The bunks used by the Cadets in the Graham Dingle room were also upgraded at that time.

### **ACTIVITY DEVELOPMENTS.**

Wood chips were transported and spread around the tree roots on the Ropes Course site. This provided a safer surface, as well as providing protection to the trees. Shingle work was carried out to improve the activities at the Swamp area and also the rock climbing area, the Flying Kiwi site and safety work was carried out on the Big Abseil facility.

Investigations were initiated for funding from various Trusts to assist with the financing for proposed projects, such as solar power; sewerage; accommodation for staff and small groups and a landscaping project, involving the extension of a car parking area at the western end of the site.

A grant of \$5,000 was received from the Lion Foundation for the purchase of a kitchen pack to be utilised in either the remodelling of the Resident Manager's residence, or in the proposed new accommodation for instructors at the Centre.

The Community Trust allocated \$50,000 towards the cost developing staff accommodation at the Boyle Centre.

### **ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS.**

The Boyle River staff initiated the running of off-site Adventure Holidays around New Zealand for the benefit of adults. These provided an opportunity for friends and work mates to enjoy the outdoor environment and to take part in exciting outdoor activities during the holiday periods.

### **WHITE-WATER KAYAK CAMP.**

The first camp was successfully held at Hanmer Springs in January 2006, using the local pool and rivers for instruction in the skills of kayaking.



White Water Kayaking



### **NEW USER GROUPS.**

It was pleasing to see that a cluster of junior schools, including Franz Josef Primary School, were becoming involved in activities at the Boyle River.



These schools helped fill a gap in the term which secondary schools were not ready to use so early in the school year. However, pressure upon available staff was experienced in the month of March when there was only one day in that term when the Boyle Outdoor Education Centre was not used for a school booking. Timaru Girls and

Roncalli College travel from Timaru to utilise the excellent services provided by The Boyle

### **A CHILLY WINTER EXPERIENCE**

The winter of 2006 proved a testing time for the Boyle River with heavy snow storms, leaving the Centre with no electric power for a week.

Getting back-up help in a crisis situation was a frustrating experience and the Centre found themselves at the end of the queue for receiving any help. Although gas provided a means for cooking, there was no means for lighting or heating the building. This highlighted the need for a portable generator to provide for an emergency situation.

### **ACCOMMODATION PROGRESS.**

Discussions were held with E-Can in 2006 regarding the requirement for updating the sewerage system, with estimated costs in excess of \$30,000.

The Trust was also obliged to apply for a Resource Management Consent to discharge waste water. It was important that the Trust ensured a high quality discharge of water. Costs involved in the sewerage and water discharge meant that any immediate plans for the extension of staff accommodation facilities would once again have to be temporarily put on hold.



### **STAFF CHANGES.**

Ian Olson was appointed Assistant Manager for the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre in 2006. The position provided relief when the Manager took time off and enabled the Assistant Manager to take responsibility for some of the Manager's roles, thereby relieving the increasing workload.

Staff of the Boyle River Centre took the opportunity to visit other Outdoor Centres to discuss operational features and observe different activities. These visits enabled the Boyle to comparatively evaluate its management procedures and maintain its ranking as an organisation achieving a high level of excellence.

The long serving maintenance staff member Tim Harding resigned in 2007. His dedicated commitment to looking after the never unending need for repairs and odd job work around the Lodge was greatly appreciated. Wendy arranged a function to recognise over 10 years of service.

His position was filled by the appointment of Lynton McCausland from Waiau, who very sadly and suddenly passed away in April, having made a considerable impact on the Lodge during his short time of employment.

It subsequently proved difficult to find a suitable replacement for a regular maintenance person and much of the work had to be undertaken by instructors, when time was convenient to carry out such work.

One of these jobs included the re-building of the pig pen. This much needed job was undertaken in the hope that the pigs would not be able to escape as often as their custom of free ranging had allowed.

### **OUTDOORSMARK**

The Boyle was awarded an "Outdoors Mark" by Outdoors New Zealand in August 2006. This recognition is the result of an extensive audit and review of all operating systems at the Centre, to evaluate whether they comply with the comprehensive standards set by those responsible for National Standards and Accreditation for Outdoor Education.

**WEBSITE.** Improved communication between the Boyle, user groups and those interested in what the Boyle has to offer was greatly enhanced by the increased information available from the Boyle website. Considerable effort to improve and up-date the web pages was carried out by Ian Olson who has the responsibility for its maintenance.

During 2007 two university degree students from Marburg University in Germany, carried out a two month internship at the Boyle Centre in order to gain work experience in Outdoor Education in New Zealand.

### **OPERATIONAL COSTS.**

The operating costs of the Boyle River Outdoor Centre for the financial year ending December 2007 was \$411,770 and income from fees and services provided by the Centre produced \$411,317 to which was added a further \$14,873 received from Grants, Donations and Interest. By comparison. in 1979, following the first year of operation, the income derived from fees was \$4,325.

The total equity of the Trust had increased to a total of \$541,862 by 2007 and the fixed assets were valued at \$577,265. These figures are compared to those of 1978, when the value of the Lodge at the time of opening was stated at \$110,000 for insurance purposes. The actual initial cost of constructing the Lodge was approximately \$45,000, of which about \$4,000 was an outstanding debt.

### **BED NIGHTS.**

During the 2006 year there were 725 more bed nights than the previous year of 2005. However, a review of the 2007 year indicated that accommodation numbers had further increased by another 401 bed nights in excess of the previous year. This upward trend produced an average of 21.20 persons per night.

### **FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION CHANGES.**

The Trust changed its Auditor in 2007, after many years of service given by Hilson, Fagerlund and Keyes (HFK) Limited Chartered Accountants a decision was made to review the auditing of accounts and the services of Zane Colville were accepted as the Auditor to the Trust.

The Canterbury Education Services and the Centre Manager took over more of the office accounts administration work, which provided relief to the ever increasing workload which was being undertaken by Arthur Sutherland, as Treasurer/Secretary to the Trust.

An Office Assistant was appointed in 2007 and Sarah Gardiner filled this position on a part time basis.

### **LANDSCAPE PLANS**

Tony Milne of Peter Rough Landscape Architects Ltd, presented the Trust with two options for consideration. A decision is pending.

## **THE FUTURE.**

After thirty years of operation the Trust can be justifiably proud of its accomplishments of introducing the wonders of the outdoor environment to thousands of students and members of a wide range of community groups. The gaining of a deeper appreciation of the mountain area and the high country area of Canterbury has provided a catalyst for many to further their studies on our flora, fauna, ecology and environmental mysteries.

With the increasingly wide interest in the preservation of the earth's environment, which has evolved during the current "green age", there will be an increasing demand upon facilities of the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre, administered by the North Canterbury Alpine Trust.

Consequently, the instruction on all aspects of Outdoor Education and its emphasis on the importance of our environment has become more and more a vital part of the curriculum for institutions of learning and education.

There is wealth of experience built up by the dedicated work of staff and volunteers associated with the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre and similar institutions throughout the country.

This will help to ensure that future generations will continue to be able to build on this knowledge and experience by further expanding the opportunities for an increased appreciation of the great outdoors environment, which is part of our wonderful country of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Congratulations need to be accorded to the Trustees of North Canterbury Alpine Trust and to the management and staff of the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre for their endeavours, over the past thirty years, to ensure that the facility under their control and administration has delivered a service to our communities, which has been recognised as providers of the Best Outdoor Education Facility in New Zealand.

They have carried out the purpose of the original concept of the Lodge which the founders of the North Canterbury Alpine Trust planned and followed through during the 1970s.

It is to be anticipated that the high standard of performance, for which the Boyle Centre is well known, will continue for the benefit of future generations. Achievement of this objective will require the ongoing dedicated commitment by all who enthusiastically support the ideals of Outdoor Education.

### **VOLUNTEERISM,**

It will also require, as indeed it has in the past, the need to depend upon the support of all those who generously give of their time to ensure that the Spirit of Volunteerism continues to be alive in all of our communities.

### **PHILANTHROPY**

The continued support will also be required of all those whose Spirit of Philanthropy has so generously supported the North Canterbury Alpine Lodge through regular contributions of charitable funding, without which the Boyle River Lodge would not have been able to financially survive.

Once again, a final recognition must be given to the charitable funding received from so many trusts and charitable organisations. Their generosity has been truly amazing and has ensured the continuance of the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre.

The comprehensive list of these benefactors include the J R McKenzie Trust; Trust Bank Community Trust; Canterbury Savings Bank; Macpac Wilderness Equipment Ltd; the EB Milton Charitable Trust; the Keith Laugesen Trust; the Lion Foundation Trust; the Pubs Charity Trust; the Riccarton Youth Foundation Trust; the New Zealand Lottery Board; the Todd Foundation Trust; the Sargood Trust; COGS; the Maurice Carter Trust; Sport and Recreation Grants; Contact Energy; the Scottwood Group; the Southern Trust; the Holiday Camp Trust; the Trees for Canterbury Trust; grants and donations-in-kind from numerous service providers; grants from Rotary Clubs, Parent Teacher Association groups; grants from several Local Authority groups and other financial contributions gratefully received but may have been omitted from being listed.

This is a remarkably impressive list of benefactors who have enabled the Boyle River Centre to operate over the past thirty years. The sum total of their generosity would be a staggering figure of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Without their contribution the story of the history of the North Canterbury Alpine Trust would have been a blank record.

Through the ***SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM***, the  
***SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY*** and the ***SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY*** the  
Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre has survived to achieve an  
outstanding record of success.

It is also to be hoped that the Trustees will be successful in the years ahead to secure a greater financial contribution from Educational Financial sources.

This would lessen the burden upon the existing User Pay policy and address the requirement for a greater student per capita allocation of funding, to ensure the ongoing importance of Outdoor Education.

## **APPENDIX.**

### **LIST OF TRUSTEES.**

In 1972 the Rotary Club of Belfast proposed the project to establish an Alpine Hut for High School students within their area.

The Rotary Clubs of Kaiapoi and Rangiora, as well as the two High Schools of Kaiapoi and Rangiora, were canvassed to support the proposed project.

In 1973 the parties involved agreed that an investigating committee be established to consider the suitability of a site.

The three Rotary Clubs and the two High Schools agreed upon the name of this committee as the “North Canterbury Rotary Alpine Lodge Committee”.

It was further agreed that a site name would be later added to identify the location of the proposed Lodge.

### **THE NORTH CANTERBURY ROTARY ALPINE LODGE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.**

Committee members appointed in 1972 were Ken Francis(Kaiapoi Rotary) as chairman; Ernie French, (Kaiapoi High School) as committee Secretary; Cliff Dean, Denis Costelloe and Colin East represented Belfast Rotary; Jack Sutherland (Kaiapoi Rotary), Ken Jack, (Rangiora Rotary); Tom Penny, (Rangiora High School).

Additional members the following year were Murray Ruddenklau, (Kaiapoi Rotary); George Scott, (Rangiora Rotary) and, Roy Young, (Rangiora High).

The North Canterbury Rotary Alpine Lodge Committee adopted the Trust Deed of the North Canterbury Alpine Trust in February 1975.

The Trust provided representation by two members appointed from each of the Rotary Clubs of Belfast, Rangiora and Kaiapoi and one member each from the High Schools of Rangiora and Kaiapoi. Provision was also made for the appointment by the Trust of two other additional co-opted members.

### **THE NORTH CANTERBURY ROTARY ALPINE TRUST**

The first chairman of the Trust was Colin East, (Belfast Rotary) and the Secretary of the Trust was Ernie French, Principal of Kaiapoi High School and also member of the Rotary Club of Kaiapoi.

The following table records those who have served as Trustees on the North Canterbury Alpine Trust.





# **NORTH CANTERBURY ALPINE TRUSTEES 1975-2008.**

C. East	Belfast Rotary	1975-1979 1980-1997	Chair 1975-1979 Co-opted trustee 1980-97
E. French	Kaiapoi High	1975-1980	Secretary 1975-1980
M Ruddenklau	Kaiapoi Rotary	1975-1977	
Jack Sutherland	Kaiapoi Rotary	1975	
C. Dean	Belfast Rotary	1975-1976	
J. Holloway	Rangiora Rotary	1975-1977	
D. Smith	Rangiora Rotary	1975-1976	
R. Young	Rangiora High	1975-1978	
T. Penny	Rangiora High Co-opted trustee Rangiora Rotary	1975-1978 1979. 1979-1984	Chair 1979-1982
G. Wells	Belfast Rotary	1976-1978	
D. McKay	Rangiora Rotary	1976-1978	
R. Atkinson	Kaiapoi Rotary	1977-1979	
B. Begg	Kaiapoi Rotary	1977	
J. Rogers	Rangiora Rotary	1977-1978	
W. Allison	Belfast Rotary	1978-1980	
C. Macintosh	Rangiora High	1978-1984	Sec./Treas. 1980-1984
Arthur Sutherland	Co-opted trustee Kaiapoi High	1979-1985 1986-2008	Chair 1988-1993 Sec./Treas. 1994-2008
J. Mehrrens	Kaiapoi High	1979-1980	
M. Combe	Belfast Rotary	1979-1985 1989-1996	Chair 1983-1984
W. Woods	Rangiora Rotary	1979-1980	
T. Mundy	Belfast Rotary	1980	
R. Harper	Co-opted Trustee	1980-1985	Assistant Treas./Sec.
T Wyatt	Kaiapoi Rotary	1981-1982	
W. Hart	Kaiapoi Rotary Co-opted Trustee	1981-1986 1990-1992	Chair 1985
P. Webber	Kaiapoi Rotary	1981-1984	
I. Ashby	Belfast Rotary	1981-1984	
M. Luisetti	Rangiora Rotary	1981-1986	
M. Gray	Kaiapoi High.	1981-1987	Secretary 1983-87
F. Allen	Hornby High	1982	Co-opted trustee
G. Holmes	Kaiapoi Rotary	1984-1985	
D. McNally	Kaiapoi Rotary	1985	
J. Chilton	Belfast Rotary	1985-1986	
R. Treleaven	Belfast Rotary	1985-1988	
L. Waring	Rangiora Rotary	1985-1990	
Jean Anderson	Co-opted Trustee	1985-1992	Treasurer 1985-1992 Secretary 1987-1992

### **North Canterbury Alpine Trustees 1975-2008 continued**

R. Mackie	Rangiora High Co-opted trustee	1985-1989 1990-1993	Chair 1986-1988
B. Gibson	Rangiora Rotary Kaiapoi Rotary	1986-1991 1992-2003	Chair 2000
R. Watchman	Kaiapoi Rotary	1986	
K. Wakeman	Kaiapoi Rotary	1986-1992	
G. Hawkes	Co-opted	1986-1992	
S. Thom	Belfast Rotary	1987-1992	
R. Farr	Kaiapoi Rotary	1987-1991	
R. Thomas	Rangiora High	1990-1992	
P. Allen	Rangiora High Co-opted trustee	1990-2003 2004-2008	Chair 1997-1999: 2008-
P. Biddington	Belfast Rotary	1991-2008	Chair 1993-94. 2005-2007
P. Eden	Rangiora Rotary	1991-1996	
D. Cartwright	Rangiora Rotary	1991-1997	
L. Chong	Co-opted trustee	1991-2008	Chair 2003-04
R. Samson	Kaiapoi Rotary	1991-2008	Chair 1995-96. 2001-2002
C. Mitchell	Kaiapoi Rotary	1991-1993	
M. Holdstock	Villa Maria College	1992-1993	Co-opted trustee
D. McAra	Kaiapoi Rotary	1994	
N. Adams	Co-opted trustee	1995-1997	Grants Applicat. Admin.
J. Searle	Rangiora High	1995	Co-opted trustee
J. Wilcox	Rangiora Rotary	1996-2008	
E. Clark	Belfast Rotary	1997-1999	
J. Hawker	Rangiora Rotary	1998	
W. Nossiter.	Rangiora Rotary	2000-2008	Co-opted trustee
J. Dawber	Belfast Rotary	2000-2008	
B. Hawke	Rangiora Rotary	2002-2008	
B. Spence	Kaiapoi Rotary	2004-2008	
J. Fahey	Rangiora Rotary	2004-2008	
G. Frith	Co-opted trustee	2005-2007	
F. McDonald	Kaiapoi High	2006-2007	
M. Stevens	Kaiapoi High	2007	



### **TRUST CHAIR PERSONS 1975-2008.**

1975-1979	C. East. Rotary Club of Belfast
1979-1982	T.Penny. Rotary Club of Rangiora
1983-1984	M. Combe. Rotary Club of Belfast
1985-1986	W. Hart. Rotary Club of Kaiapoi
1986-1988	R. Mackie Rotary Club of Rangiora
1989-1992	A.Sutherland. Kaiapoi High School
1993-1994	P. Biddington. Rotary Club of Belfast
1995-1996	R.Samson. Rotary Club of Kaiapoi
1997-2000	P. Allen. Rangiora High School
2001-2002	R.Samson. Rotary Club of Kaiapoi
2003-2004	L. Chong. Co-opted Trustee
2005-2007	P. Biddington. Rotary Club of Belfast
2008-	P. Allen. Rotary Club of Rangiora

### **SECRETARY/TREASURER NORTH CANTERBURY ALPINE TRUST.**

E. French. Kaiapoi High.	Secretary/ Treasurer	1975-1980
C. Macintosh. Rangiora High	Secretary/ Treasurer	1980-1984
R. Harper. Rangiora High	Secretary/ Treasurer	1982-1984
M. Gray. Kaiapoi High	Secretary	1983-1986
R. Harper. Rangiora High	Treasurer	1983-1984
J. Anderson. Co-opted Trustee	Treasurer	1985-1992
J. Anderson Co-opted Trustee	Secretary	1987-1992
A. Sutherland. Kaiapoi High.	Secretary	1993-2008
	Financial	2000-2008
	Officer/Treasurer	2004-2008
	Administrator	
Canterbury Education Services	Financial Accounting	1994-2008

### **WARDENS/ RESIDENT TEACHERS/ CENTRE MANAGERS. 1979 to 2008.**

Tony Sinclair.	Warden	1979-1983
Chris Heaphy	Warden	1983-1984
	Resident Teacher	1985-1986
Malcolm Anderson	Resident Teacher	1987-1990
Erin Boardman	Resident Teacher	1990
Alan Gordon	Resident Teacher	1990-1993
Niki Adams	Warden	1993-1994
	Support Staff	1994-1995
Steven Hall	Resident Teacher	1994.
Kerry Palmer	Resident Teacher	1994-1996
Sue Gemmell	Support Staff	1995.
Steve Morris	Support Staff	1996
	Centre Manager	1996-1997

Graham Frith	Centre Manager	1997-2002
Wendy Davis	Centre Manager	2002-2008

#### **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. ESTABLISHED IN 1979.**

R. Griffiths, chairman 1979-1980 followed by C. East 1980-1985.

Those serving on the committee during that period included:

A.Sutherland, B.Johnston, I. Stephenson, M. Ruddenklau, B. Byrom, T.Garlick, J. Adams, B. James, R.Farr, D. Brown, C.Smith, Jean Anderson, F.Allen, C. Heaphy, R Mackie, G Frith, G. Hawkes, J. Henry, W. Thompson.

In 1985 the Management Committee was replaced by three committees:

Finance, Works and Education.

The following list of names includes those who served on those various committees until 1992. (C)= chairman

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

Luisetti (C), 1985, J Anderson, R. Harper, C.East (C.91), M. Gray, B. Gibson, L. Waring, M. Combe, G. Hawkes, P. Biddington.

#### **WORKS COMMITTEE:**

G.Holmes (C). M. Combe, R. Treleaven, G. Yorston, W. Hart, L. Waring, J. Chilton, G Hawkes (C. 86-92), R. Farr, R. Atkinson, C. Pullen, J. Martin, G. Thompson.

#### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE:**

R. Mackie (C.85) A. Sutherland,(C.88) T. Penny, M. Gray, J Martin, C. Heaphy, L. Waring, W.Thomas, W. Hart,

#### **THE EXECUTIVE/ MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.**

This committee was formed in 1992 and continued to function through to 2008.

The following have been members of that committee.

Alan Gordon , Arthur Sutherland, Paul Eden were members of the initial committee and Arthur has continued to serve in this capacity.

Paul Biddington became a committee member in (1993).

Ron Samson in (1994-2008), Peter Allen (1994-2008), Steve Morris (1996);

Kerry Palmer (1995); Bryan Gibson (1999); Graham Frith (1998);

Wendy Davis (2002-2008); Linda Chong (2003-2008).

#### **STUDENTS SELECTED FOR THE CADET TRAINING SCHEME.**

Scheme commenced in 2001.

2001-Jaron Frost;

2002- Gemma Parkin, Anthony Earle.

2003-Katie Gray, Matthew Johnson; 2004-Grant McCallum, Isaac Thomson.

2005-Hana Abbot, Dave Felstead . 2006-Sam Palmer, Amy Devlin

2007-Sarah Hynds, Alesha Hobbs.2008-Ashleigh Kersten, Cameron

McKeown

### **CARETAKERS.**

At times during the period covered by the History of the Lodge, many of the Resident Teachers, Wardens, Centre Managers, Maintenance workers, Instructors, etc, have all assisted with caretaker duties.

The following were appointed as Caretakers at the Lodge.

Tony Sinclair (1980-83); Brendon Jolly,(1988-90); Mark Woodgate (1990); Rodney Main, (1991); Jim Young,(1992), Bill Nossiter (1993-), Nikki Adams(1994), Sue Gemmell (1995); Tim Harding (1998-[2006](#)); Lynton McAusland (2007); James Cleave (2007)

### **RECORD OF SUPPORT GIVEN THROUGH GUARDIAN-TYPE ROLE**

(This list is not totally inclusive and many names may have inadvertently been excluded.

Donald McKenzie, Jenny and Nikki Adams, Louise Good, Mark Woodgate, Chris Mitchell, Myles and Guy Sutherland, Paul French, Tony Milne, Brendan Jolly, John Thompson, Bill Nossiter, Lisa and Paul Frith, Peter Allen, Lisa and Paul Frith, Neil Brown, Tini Dam, Madeline Fee, Wendy Kamo Rob Lines, Ali Locke/Mike Moss, Pauline Sincock, Peter Graham, Chrissie Williams, Noelene Francis, Chris Heaphy, Neville Slaughter, Otto Rovers, Marilyn Frost, Chris & Jane Godfrey, Liz Hill-Taiaora, Annie Jones, Fiona McDonald, David & Rebecca Hancox, Bruce & Sue Banks , Jim & Chris Martin

**RECORD OF SUPPORT GIVEN BY INSTRUCTORS** Ian Olson; Clinton Fee; Anthony Earl; Michelle Clyne; Isaac Thompson; Jaron Frost; Guy Sutherland; Julia Trow; Falesha Stocker; Sakita-Ra Mennie; Dave Felstead; Hana Abbot; Graham Frith; Leanne Leadbetter; Lynda Smith; Al Moore; Ali Frew; Katie Gray; Matt Johnston; Gemma Parkin; Tony Wells; Chris Burtenshaw; Catherine Kircher; Richie Hunter; Fiona Lyall; Sam Palmer; Amy Devlin; Graham Slow; Juliet Fitzpatrick; Sara Baird; Sue Couch; Steve Morris; Nikki Adams; Davitt Joslen; Kirsten Crawford; Matt Smith; Peter McAllister; Dale Kington; Oliver Harris; Chris Green; Sue Gemmell; Erin Boardman; Arthur Sutherland; Donald McKenzie; Wendy Davis; Tony Sinclair; Chris Heaphy; Malcolm Anderson; Alan Gordon; Kerry Palmer; Louis Moulton, Dave Taylor; Aly Peacock

### **ADMINISTRATION ROLE**

Angela Summerton (secretarial 1993), Michelle Rutter (Administration Officer 1998-2002) Robyn Sutherland (Administration Assistant, Payroll Clerk 2002-2008) and Sarah Gardiner (current)





### **LIST OF USER GROUPS**

Many other groups have made use of the Lodge for private/family functions.

	Department Conservation	Lincoln University
ABL Course	Discovery 1 School	Lutheran Church
Amberley School	Ferrymead Harriers	Manning Intermediate
Amuri Area School	Fiji Social Services Trust	Marian College
Amuri Players	Freeville Intermed. School	Maruia Springs Resort
Amuri St Johns	Fulton Hogan	Middleton Grange
Amuri Young Trampers	Geraldine Tramping Club	Mt Pleasant School
Anne Plum Trampers	'Go For It'	Mt. Hutt College
Aranui High School	Greta Valley School	Mt. Pleasant School
Area Schools Camp	Greymouth High School	Newton Dodge Children's Camps
Arrow International	Greymouth Jnr High School	NZ Breweries
Auckland Catholic Tramping	Hagley Learning Centre	NZ Hunting and Fishing
Avonside Girls High School	Hanmer Business	NZ Institute of Management
Bohally Intermediate	Hanmer Fire Brigade	NZ Mountain Safety Council
Buller High School	Hanmer Springs School	NZIS
Burnside High School	Hawarden Scouts/Guides	Odyssey House
Camera Club	Hawarden Area School	Opawa Baptist Church
Canteen	Hidden Valleys	Our Lady of Fatima Coll.
Canterbury Christian College	Higher Ground Adventure	Our Youth Our Community
Canterbury Mountain Bike Club	Hillmorton High School	Ouruhia Primary
Cashmere High School	Horizons Unlimited	Over 40 Tramping Club
Cashmere Reform Church	Hornby High School	Oxford/Kaiapoi Youth Clubs
Central New Brighton Sch.	Hurunui College	Oxford Area School
Chch Adventist School	Intersch. Christian Fellowship	
Chch College of Education	John Paul 11 High	Pegasus Tramping Club
Chch Girls High School	Kaiapoi High School	Pioneer Tramping Club
Chch Holiday Camps	Kaiapoi Rotary Club	Queens Park Primary Sch.
Chch Revival Centre	Kaiapoi Walkers	Rangi Ruru Girls College

Cheviot Area School	Kaikoura High School	Rangiora High School
Christchurch Academy	Karoro Adult Learning Centre	Rangiora New Life
Christchurch Poly Tech	Kingslea Resource Centre	Rangiora Tramping Club
Christs College	Kirkwood School	Reform Church
Clarkville Primary	Kogodus Ministry NZ	Rock and Ice
Correspondence School	KPMG	Roncalli College
Dairy Board	Lambada Tramping Club	Rotary Camp
	Lincoln High School	Roydvale Primary School

#### **LIST OF USER GROUPS**

Rudolf Steiner School	St Pauls Lutheran Church	Waimea Tramping Club
Salisbury St. Foundation	St. Thomas College	West Melton Primary Sch.
Salvation Army	STOP.	Westland Scouts
Seventh Day Adventist	Summit	Woodend School
Shirley Boys High School	Sumner School	YMCA
Southbrook Primary School	Sumner Youth Club	Young Farmers
Southern English Schools	Swannanoa School	Youth/ Cultural Development
Spreydon Baptist Church	Tai Poutini Polytech	
St Bedes College	Templeton Centre	
St Margarets College	Third Age Adventures	
St Martins Primary School	Van Asch College	

#### **THE TRUST DEED APPROVED BY TRUSTEES 1975.**

THIS TRUST DEED made the 17th day of February 1975 between John Thorpe Holloway of Rangiora, Civil Servant, JOHN STANLEY SUTHERLAND of Kaiapoi, Sawmiller, CLIFFORD WILLIAM DEAN of Kaiapoi, Manufacturer, DONALD CHARLES SMITH of Rangiora, Company Director, ROY FORRESTER YOUNG of Loburn, Counsellor, THOMAS McGIBBON PENNY of Rangiora, School Principal, THOMAS EARNEST FRENCH of Kaiapoi, School Principal, COLIN CLAPTON EAST of Christchurch, Market Gardener, and MURRAY GEORGE RUDDENKLAU of Kaiapoi, Electrical Engineer ("hereinafter called "The Trustees")

WHEREAS The Trustees are desirous of creating a fund for the purpose of creating and maintaining Alpine Lodge Educational and Recreational Facilities (hereinafter called "the Lodge") to be held on trust for the purpose of providing opportunities for schools and community groups to participate in outdoor educational and recreational activities

AND WHEREAS The Trustees are desirous of declaring the trusts hereinafter appearing

NOW THIS DEED WITNESSETH as follows:

1. THE Trustees and the survivors and survivor of them and other the Trustees or Trustee for the time being of this deed being duly appointed as hereinafter provided shall be collectively called "The North Canterbury Alpine Trust".

2. THE Trustees shall forthwith apply to incorporate themselves as a Board under "The Charitable Trusts Act 1957" under the name of "The North Canterbury Alpine Trust".
3. THE Registered Office of such Board shall be the offices of the Secretary for the time being appointed by the Trustees.
4. THE Trustees shall stand possesses of all moneys and other property of whatsoever kind which may at any time be given or devised or bequeathed for the purpose deed and all investments and property at any time representing the same or part thereof and all income arising therefrom upon trust to pay and apply the same as decided by the Trustees from time to time in accordance with the provisions and directions hereinafter contained.
5. THE objects for which this trust is established are as follows:
  - (a) To establish and maintain a lodge for outdoor education and recreation and to raise the necessary finance for the construction of the buildings.
  - (b) For the purposes aforesaid to purchase, take lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise, acquire any real or personal property and any rights or privilege which the Trustees may think necessary or convenient for the promotion of their objects
  - (c) To sell, let, charge, hire dispose of, or turn to account all or any of the property or assets of the Trustees as may be thought expedient with a view to the promotion of their objects.
  - (d) To print, publish or advertise in any manner information relating to the Trustees or conducive in their objects.
  - (e) To accept fees, donations, subscriptions, legacies bequests leases conveyances and transfers either absolutely or conditionally, or in trust, and to apply the same for the general objects of this Deed.
  - (f) To invest or deal with the moneys of the Trust not immediately required for its purposes in or upon such investments and securities as are authorised by law as proper for the investment of trust funds or in such manner as may be thought fit by the Trustees and to change such investments for others.
  - (g) To subscribe or apply for and take or acquire by purchase or otherwise and hold shares or debentures or securities or other interests in any Building Society.
  - (h) To borrow or raise money or secure the payment of money owing for the purposes of the Board on such security as may be thought fit by the Trustees and in particular by the issue of debentures, debenture stock or by mortgage or charge or lien upon the whole or any part of the property or assets of the Board and to purchase redeem or pay off any such securities.
  - (i) To effect insurance against risk or loss to the Trust property whether capital or income, at the Trustees discretion.
  - (j) To appoint from time to time upon such terms as the Trustees may think proper and at any time dismiss any secretary, accountant, treasurer, or any other person who they think necessary or desirable or the purpose of carrying out the trusts any powers of this deed and the Trustees may at any time any duly qualifies expert or professional person to advise them on any point arising in connection with the said trustees and powers and all salaries and fees requiring to be paid to any person or persons appointed or employed under this clause shall be paid by the Trustees out of income or capital of the trust.
  - (k) Within the limits proscribed by this deed the Trustees shall have full power from time to time to make regulations for the conduct of their business and such regulations shall be binding on all persons affected thereby.

- (l) To pay the costs of preparation and execution of this deed and all other costs and expenses incidental to the creation or administration of the trusts hereby declare.
  - (m) To pay all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or of them.
  - (n) To employ a resident teacher or such other officers and servants as may be considered necessary upon such terms as they may determine for the purpose of maintaining and carrying out the objects of the trusts or for any other purpose connected with, the trusts of this Deed and may at any time remove such persons.
  - (o) To get such charges for the use of the facilities as the Trustees may consider reasonable and to amend such charges at their discretion.
6. IT shall be lawful for the Trustees in the name of the Trustees in the name of the Trust to keep on deposit or drawing account at any Bank or to invest in any securities authorised by law for trustee investments any of the moneys coming into their hands under the trust hereby created and not immediately required for the purposes of the trust. All income from such deposits or investments thereof shall be applied generally for the purpose of this Trust.
  7. THE income and property of the Board whencesoever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Board as set forth in the Deed and no portion thereof shall be paid directly or indirectly by way of remuneration or otherwise to any Trustee.
  8. THE accounts shall be kept of the sums of money received and expended by the Trustees and the matters in respect of which such receipts and expenditure take place, and of the property, credits and liabilities of the Trustees not less than once a year and shall be presented to the Trustees together with such other information as the Trustees require from time to time. Once at least in every year the accounts of the Trustees shall be examined and the correctness of the income and expenditure account and balance sheet certified by a properly qualified auditor.
  9.
    - (a) The Trustees shall at their first meeting in every year elect one of their number to be Chairman for the current year. The chairman shall always be eligible for re-election.
    - (b) A minute book shall be kept by the Trustees and all proceedings of the Trustees shall be entered therein.
    - (c) The Trustees for the dispatch of business, adjourn, and otherwise regulate their meetings as they may think fit and five Trustees shall be a quorum.
    - (d) The Chairman or any five Trustees may at any time summons a meeting of Trustees.
    - (e) Notice of every meeting shall be sent by post to each Trustee at least seven days before such meeting unless urgent circumstances

require shorter notice but the proceedings of any meeting shall not be invalidated by any irregularities in respect of such notices.

- (f) Every matter shall be determined by the majority of the Trustees present and voting on the question the Chairman may have a casting vote whether or not he shall have previously voted on the same question but no Trustee shall in any other circumstances have more than one vote.
  - (g) The Trustees may pass any resolution without a meeting or any previous notice being required by means of entry in the minute book signed by a majority of the Trustees and within seven days after any resolution a copy shall be sent to any Trustee by whom the entry has not been signed.
10. THE Seal of the Board shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of a resolution of the Trustees and in the presence of two Trustees, one of who shall be the Chairman and they shall sign every instrument to which the said seal of the Trustees is affixed in their presence.
11. THE number of Trustees shall not be less than eight and no more than ten who shall at all times comprise two nominees from each of the Belfast, Kaiapoi and Rangiora Rotary Clubs the principals of the Rangiora and Kaiapoi High Schools or their nominees. The Trustees for the time being may from time to time and at any time appoint any other suitable person or institutions therein mentioned provided that the prescribed maximum number of Trustees be not thereby exceeded and may exercise the statutory power of appointing now Trustees subject to the representation requirements as herein provided.
12. NO person, unless he be a party to this Deed shall be entitled to act as a Trustee under this Deed whether upon first or any subsequent appointment until he shall have signed a declaration in the Minute Book of the Trustees to the effect that he accepts the office of trustee is willing to act in the trusts of this deed.
13. The office of a Trustee shall be vacated if any Trustee:
- (a) is adjudged bankrupt or makes any composition or arrangement with his creditors.
  - (b) becomes of unsound mind.
  - (c) by notice in writing to the Trustee resigns his office.
  - (d) is excluded by a resolution duly approved by a majority of the Trustees (other than the Trustee and subject to the motion) present and voting at a meeting of the Trustees specially called to consider the passing of such a motion of which motion such Trustees shall been given reasonable notice and at which he shall have had a proper opportunity of being heard in his defence. The Trustees shall not be obliged to give any reason for the exclusion of any Trustee as aforesaid and any Trustee so excluded shall have no right of action against the other Trustees on any grounds whatsoever.



14. AT a special meeting of the Trustees summoned to consider the winding up and winding up and dissolution of the Board and Trust created hereunder, the Trustees by a majority vote of three-fourths of the Trustees present and voting may resolve, with sufficient reason, to wind up and dissolve the Trust and Board hereunder.
15. IN these present words importing to be the masculine gender only shall include the feminine gender if not inconsistent with the object or context.
16. A notice may be served upon any Trustee either personally or sending it through the post in a prepaid letter, addressed to such Trustee at his or her last known place of business of residence.

### **TRUST DEED REVISED 2000**

**THIS TRUST DEED made the twelfth day of March, 2000 (an upgrade)**

BETWEEN                    PAUL BIDDINGTON of Belfast, Christchurch  
                                 EDWARD CLARK of West Melton, R D 1, Christchurch  
                                 RON SAMSON of Kaiapoi  
                                 BRYAN GIBSON of Rangiora  
                                 JACK WILCOX of Rangiora  
                                 JOHN HAWKER of Kaiapoi  
                                 LINDA CHONG of Burwood, Christchurch  
                                 PETER ALLEN of Rangiora  
                                 ARTHUR SUTHERLAND of Ilam, Christchurch  
                                 BILL NOSSITER of Redwood, Christchurch

(hereinafter called "the Trustees")

WHEREAS the Trustees are the continuing Trustees of the North Canterbury Alpine Trust under and by virtue of a Trust Deed made the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 1975

AND WHEREAS of the original Trustees thereunder the said JOHN THORPE HOLLOWAY of Rangiora, Civil Servant, and CLIFFORD WILLIAM DEAN of Kaiapoi, Manufacturer, have died

AND WHEREAS the said JOHN STANLEY SUTHERLAND of Kaiapoi, Sawmiller, DONALD CHARLES SMITH of Rangiora, Company Director, ROY FORRESTER YOUNG of Loburn, Counsellor, THOMAS McGIBBON PENNY of Rangiora, School Principal, THOMAS ERNEST FRENCH of Kaiapoi, School Principal, COLIN CLAPTON EAST of Christchurch, Market Gardener, and MURRAY GEORGE RUDDENKLAU of Kaiapoi, Electrical have retired

AND WHEREAS the deceased and retired Trustees have been replaced by PAUL BIDDINGTON of Belfast, Christchurch; EDWARD CLARK of West Melton, R D 1, Christchurch; RON SAMSON of Kaiapoi; BRYAN GIBSON of Rangiora; JACK WILCOX of Rangiora; JOHN HAWKER of Kaiapoi; LINDA CHONG of Burwood, Christchurch; PETER ALLEN of Rangiora; ARTHUR SUTHERLAND of Ilam, Christchurch; BILL NOSSITER of Redwood, Christchurch as continuing Trustees

AND WHEREAS the Trustees are desirous of declaring the trusts hereinafter appearing

AND WHEREAS it is agreed and declared by the Trustees that the terms of this deed replace and take priority to the terms of the said deed dated 17<sup>th</sup> February 1975

NOW THIS DEED WITNESSETH as follows:

1. The Trustees and the survivors and survivor of them and other Trustees or Trustee for the time being of this Deed being duly appointed as hereinafter provided shall be collectively called "The North Canterbury Alpine Trust".
2. The Trustees are incorporated as a Board under "The Charitable Trusts Act 1957" under the name of "**The North Canterbury Alpine Trust**".
3. The Registered Office of such Board shall be the offices of the Secretary for the time being appointed by the Trustees.
4. The Trustees shall stand possessed of all moneys and other property of whatsoever kind which may at any time be given or devised or bequeathed for the purpose of this Deed and all investments and property at any time representing the same or part thereof and all income arising therefrom upon trust to pay and apply the same as decided by the Trustees from time to time in accordance with the provisions and directions hereinafter contained.
5. The objects for which this Trust is established are as follows:
  - (a) To establish and maintain an education centre for outdoor education and recreation.
  - (b) For the purpose aforesaid to purchase, take lease or in exchange hire or otherwise, acquire any real or personal property and any rights or privileges which the Trustees may think necessary or convenient for the promotion of their objects.
  - (c) To sell, let, charge, hire, dispose of, or turn to account all or any of the property or assets of the Trustees as may be thought expedient with a view to the promotion of their objects.
  - (d) To print, publish or advertise in any manner information relating to the Trust.
  - (e) To accept fees, donations, subscriptions, legacies bequests leases conveyances and transfers either absolutely or conditionally, or in trust, and to apply the same for the general objects of this Deed.
  - (f) To invest or deal with the moneys of the Trust not immediately required for the purposes in or upon such investments and securities as are authorised by law as proper for the investment of trust funds or in such manner as may be thought fit by the Trustees and to change such investments for others.
  - (g) To subscribe or apply for and take or acquire by purchase or otherwise and hold shares or debentures or securities or other interests in any Building Society.
  - (h) To borrow or raise money or secure the payment of money owing or the purposes of the Board on such security as may be thought fit by the Trustees and in particular by the issue of debentures, debenture stock or by mortgage or charge or lien upon the whole or any part of the property or assets of the Board and to purchase redeem or pay off any such securities.
  - (i) To effect insurance against risk or loss to the Trust property whether capital or income at the Trustees discretion.
  - (j) To appoint from time to time upon such terms as the Trustees may think proper and at any time dismiss any secretary, accountant, treasurer, or any other person who they think necessary or desirable or the purpose of carrying out any powers of this Deed and the Trustees may at any time

- appoint any duly qualified expert or professional person to advise them on any point arising in connection with the said Trustees and powers and all salaries and fees requiring to be paid to any person or persons appointed or employed under this clause shall be paid by the Trustees out of income or capital of the Trust.
- (k) Within the limits prescribed by this Deed the Trustees shall have full power from time to time to make regulations for the conduct of their business and those regulations shall be binding on all persons affected thereby.
  - (l) To pay the costs of preparation and execution of this Deed and all other costs and expenses incidental to the administration of the Trust.
  - (m) To pay all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.
  - (n) To employ a Manager or such other officials and servants as may be considered necessary upon such terms as they may determine for the purpose of maintaining and carrying out the objects of the Trusts or for any other purpose connected with the Trust of this Deed and may at any time remove such persons.
  - (o) To set such charges for the use of the facilities as the Trustees may consider reasonable and to amend such charges at their discretion.
6. It shall be lawful for the Trustees in the name of the Trust to keep on deposit or drawing account to any Bank or to invest in any securities authorised by law for Trustee investments any of the moneys coming into their hands under the Trust hereby created and not immediately required for the purposes of the Trust. All income from such deposits or investments thereof shall be applied generally for the purpose of this Trust.
  7. The income and property of the Board whensoever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Board as set forth in the Deed and no portion thereof shall be paid directly or indirectly by way of remuneration or otherwise to any Trustee save for an honorarium paid to the Honorary Secretary from time to time as agreed by the Trustees.
  8. The accounts shall be kept of the sums of money received and expended by the Trustees and the matters in respect of which such receipts and expenditure take place, and of the property, credits and liabilities of the Trustees not less than once a year and shall be presented to the Trustees together with such other information as the Trustees require from time to time. Once at least in every year the accounts of the Trustees shall be examined and the correctness of the income and expenditure account and balance sheet certified by a properly qualified auditor.
  9.
    - (a) The Trustees shall at their first meeting in every year elect one of their number to be Chairman for the current year. The Chairman shall always be eligible for re-election.
    - (b) A Minute book shall be kept by the Trustees and all proceedings of the Trustees shall be entered therein.
    - (c) The Trustees for the dispatch of business adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they may think fit and five Trustees shall be a quorum.
    - (d) The Chairman or any five Trustees may at any time summons a meeting of Trustees.
    - (e) Notice of every meeting shall be sent by post to each Trustee at least seven days before such meeting unless urgent circumstances require shorter notice but the proceedings of any meeting shall not be invalidated by any irregularities in respect of such notices.

- (f) Every matter shall be determined by the majority of the Trustees present and voting on the question the Chairman may have a casting vote whether or not s/he shall have previously voted on the same question but no Trustee shall in any other circumstances have more than one vote.
10. The Seal of the Board shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of a resolution of the Trustees and in the presence of two Trustees, one of who shall be the Chairman and they shall sign every instrument to which the said Seal of the Trustees is affixed in their presence.
11. The number of Trustees shall not be less than eight and no more than ten who shall at all times comprise two nominees from each of the Belfast, Kaiapoi and Rangiora Rotary Clubs, the principals of the Rangiora and Kaiapoi High Schools or their nominees. The Trustees for the time being may from time to time and at any time appoint any other suitable person or institutions therein mentioned provided that the prescribed maximum number of Trustees be not thereby exceeded and may exercise the statutory power of appointing new Trustees subject to the representation requirements as herein provided.
12. No person, unless he be a party to this Deed shall be entitled to act as a Trustee under this Deed whether upon first or any subsequent appointment until he shall have signed a declaration in the Minute Book of the Trustees to the effect that s/he accepts the office of Trustee and willing to act in the Trusts of this Deed.
13. The office of a Trustee shall be vacated if any Trustee:
- (a) is adjudged bankrupt or makes any composition or arrangement with his creditors
  - (b) becomes of unsound mind
  - (c) by notice in writing to the Trustee resigns his office.
  - (d) is excluded by a resolution duly approved by a majority of the Trustees (other than the Trustees and subject to the motion) present and voting at a meeting of the Trustees specially called to consider the passing of such a motion of which motion such Trustees shall been given reasonable notice and at which s/he shall have had a proper opportunity of being heard in her/his defence. The Trustees shall not be obliged to give any reason for the exclusion of any Trustee as aforesaid and any Trustee so excluded shall have no right of action against the other Trustees on any grounds whatsoever.
14. At a special meeting of the Trustees summoned to consider the winding up and dissolution of the Board and Trust created hereunder, the Trustees by a majority vote of three-fourths of the Trustees present and voting may resolve, with sufficient reasons, to wind up and dissolve the Trust and the Board hereunder.
15. On dissolution of the Board and Trust the surplus assets shall be disposed of in such a manner for such charitable purposes or objects within New Zealand and may be decided by resolution of the Trustees.
16. In this Deed words importing to be the masculine gender only shall include the feminine gender if not inconsistent with the object or context.
17. A notice may be served upon any Trustee either personally or sending it through the post in a prepaid letter, addressed to such Trustee at his or her last know place of business or residence.

Signed by Signatories to the Deed

INDEX OF NAMES	PAGE	INDEX OF NAMES	PAGE
Abbot, Hana	131,132	Francis, Ken	8, 9, 12,18,127
Adams, J	131	French, Ernie	7-9,13,29,39,43,72,127 -138
Adams, Nikki	91,129,132,133	Frew, Ali	107,111,117,132
Allen, Frank	54, 128, 142	Frith, Graham	54,100,102,111,129-132
Allen, Peter	129,130,131,138	Frith, Paul	132
Allison, Bill	32,129	Frost, Jaron	109,131,132
Anderson, Jean	68, 83, 128,130,131	Gardiner, Sarah	124,132
Anderson, Malcolm	67, 73, 74, 77, 80,130	Garlick, Ted	38,131
Ashby, Ivan	128	Gemmell, Sue	93,130,132
Atkinson, Rangi	14,18,26,29,69,118,128,131	Gerard, RJ Hon	59
Baldwin, Phil	17	Gibson. Bryon	129,131,138
Banks, Tom	27	Gordon, Alan	78 ,84, 85,86,88,92,130,131
Barrett, Mr.	8 ,9, 51	Gray, Katie	131,132
Begg, Basil	27,128	Gray, Malcolm	68, 128 130 131
Bell, Bill	22	Griffiths, Rhys	38, 132
Biddington, Paul	86, 89, 119,130,132,138,	Hall, Steven	88, 130
Boardman, Erin	80,130	Harding, Tim	105 ,113, 123, 132
Boot, Ron	119	Harper, Roger	43, 83, 128,130,131
Boyce, John	56 ,65	Harrison, Neil	13
Brown, David	54,131	Hart, Warwick	128,130,131
Burtenshaw, Chris	132	Hawker, Jan	129,138
Byrom, Buzz	38,131	Hawkes, Gavin	54 ,68, 83, 129,131
Carpenter, Jean	54	Hawkins, Bob	7,26, 27
Cartwright, D	129	Heaphy, Chris	52-62, 66, 70,109,131,131
Chilton, John	128, 131	Henderson, Jan	131
Chong, Lynda	129,130,131,138	Henry, J	131
Clark, Edward	129,138	Hislop Mr.	17,20
Clyne, Mitchel	132	Hobbs, Alesha	131
Colville,Zane	124	Holdstock, M	129
Combe, Maury	14, 59,128, 130 ,131	Holloway, John	13,18, 26, 128, 134, 138
Cossar, Brian	27	Holmes, Graham	128, 131
Costelloe, Denis	8, 127	Hunter, Richard	132
Davis, Wendy	107,130,131	Hynds, Sarah	131
Dawber, Jack	129	Jack, Ken	8, 127
Dean, Cliff	7, 8, 12,18,19,127,128-138	Jackson, Peter	61, 65
Devlin, Amy	131,132	James, Brian	69, 131
Don, Graham	32	Johns, Ben	37
Earle, Anthony	131	Johnston, Bruce	38, 131, 132
East, Colin	7,8,12,13,38,100,128-138	Johson, Matthew	131
Eden, Paul	85, 88, 129,131	Jolly, Brendon	75, 132
Fahey, J	129	Kircher, Catherine	132
Farr, Roger	68,129,131	Knowles, Bruce	102
Fee, Clinton	132	Laing, Sam	31
Felstead, Dave	131,132	Leadbetter, Lean	132
Fitzpatrick, Juliet	107,132	Levy, Mr.	45
Lucas, Mr.	33	Smith, Clive	54,132
Lucking, George	16, 17, 23	Smith, Don	13, 18,19, 27,128,134,138
Luisetti, M	128, 131	Smith, Lynda	132



INDEX OF NAMES	PAGE	INDEX OF NAMES	PAGE
Lyall, Fiona	132	Smith, Ross	14
Macintosh, Colin	32, 129, 130	Smith, Russell	23, 26
Mackay, Donald	17, 18, 23, 26	Spence, Brian	129
Mackie, Ron	54,67,69,71,85,128,130,131	Stevens, Peter	56, 59
Main, Rodney	77, 132	Stephenson, Ian	30, 38, 131
Martin, J	131	Stevens, S	129
McAlister, Peter	95	Stocker, Falesha	132
McAra, D	129	Summerton, Angela	132
McCallum, Grant	131	Sutherland, Arthur	32-38, 52, 61-69,79-86, 96-97,103,114-124,128-138
Lindores, Alison	73	Sutherland, Guy	97,108,113
McCausland, Lynton	123	Sutherland, Jack	8, 13, 127, 128, 134,138
McDonald, F	129	Sutherland, Myles	133
McNally, Denis	128	Sutherland, Robyn	132
Mehrtens,J	128	Taylor, Ken	88
Mennie, Sakita-Ra	132	Thom, Andy	14
Mitchell, C	129	Thom, Stephen	129
Moore, Al	132	Thomas, R	129
Moore, Des	32	Thompson, G	131
Morris, Steve	96, 98, 100, 130, 131	Thompson, W	131
Mundy, T	128	Thomson, Isaac	132
Nossiter, Bill	88, 113, 129, 132, 138	Tourell, Jack	12, 23
Olson, Ian	123, 132	Travers, Jim	34
Oxam, Noel	9	Treleaven, Robert	73, 128, 131
Palmer, Kerry	91,92,93, 97 98,130, 131	Trow, Julia	132
Palmer, Sam	132	Tuffnell, Brian	81
Parker, Noel	27	Wakeman, Keith	129
Parkin, Gemma	131, 132	Waring, Lawrie	64, 68, 128, 131
Parsons, Mike	65	Watchman, Rex	129
Penny, Tom	8, 13, 32, 33, 37, 127-138	Webber, Paul	128
Phillips, Robyn	61	Wells, Geoff	18, 24, 29, 32, 128
Pullen, Colin	64, 69, 131	Wells, Tony	132
Quigley, Derek Hon.	34, 52	Wilcox, Jack	129,138
Rogers, John	32, 128	Williams, Andy	27
Ruddenklau, Murray	13,15-18,21,23,47,127-138	Woodgate, Mark	75,132
Rutter, Michelle	132	Woods, W	128
Ryder S P & R	59	Wyatt, Trevor	27, 128
Samson, Ron	117, 129, 130, 131, 138	Yorston, Graham	69, 131
Scott, George	8, 12, 127	Young, Jim	77, 85,88, 132
Searle, J	129	Young, Laurie	14
Sinclair, Tony	45-52, 68-73, 106, 116-119, 130-132	Young, Roy	8, 12, 13, 18, 27-30, 40, 127-138
Slow, Graham	95, 96, 98,103,104,107,132		

