

Date.	Party.	Guides.	Climb.	Particulars of Route.
18/2/24	Mr. H. E. L. Porter ..	F. M. Milne, W. C. Williams	Mount Burns, 9,000 ft. (First traverse)	Ascent from Mueller Hut up glacier, taking off to rock ridge leading west of Bernard Pass; ridge to summit. Descent by McKerrow Glacier and smooth slabs to Landsborough, up Spence Glacier to Fyfe's Pass, thence to hut.
28/1/24	Mr. H. E. L. Porter ..	F. M. Milne ..	Unicorn Peak, 8,300 ft. (First as- cent)	Ascent from Hooker Hut by rock ridge to snow face under Edith Peak, fol- lowing snow face to Mount Beatrice; over both peaks of Dilemma, descend- ing by slabs to col between Dilemma and Unicorn, following eastern ridge to summit. Descent by same route.

In addition to the above, it is desired to record the successful ascent of Mount Tutoko, in the Milford Sound district, by Mr. S. Turner, F.R.G.S., and Mr. P. Graham, of Waiho, Westland. Both these gentlemen, who have a long and honourable connection with climbing in New Zealand, are congratulated on their great achievement.

TE ANAU – MILFORD TRACK.

There was a very considerable increase in the number of visitors to this resort this season, and a lot of work was done by the local staff. There were many heavy floods to contend with, but the staff managed to get four large bridges erected, all culverts replaced, the telephone-wire placed in good order, and the track generally well looked after. Up to the 31st March 420 people arrived at Glade House; most of them went over the track, and did the return journey in five days and a quarter, including the stay at Milford. This speaks well for the state of the track. The launches in Milford Sound were thoroughly overhauled and painted, and the engines are in first-rate running-order.

As an indication of the manner in which the staff worked under sometimes most adverse conditions, it is significant that during the season many callers and writers expressed their appreciation of what was done for them, and of their enjoyment of the trip. On the other hand, only one party had any complaint to make, and they certainly struck most unfortunate weather on their journey. Various improvements to the huts have been authorized as a result of your visit to the district, and these should make for more comfortable conditions in the future.

The road from the Key of the Lakes has, as in past years, been the subject of much adverse comment, but a large amount of work has been carried out by the Public Works Department during the year, and when the present contract is completed there will be a first-class metalled road from Invercargill to Flaxey Creek, and authority has been given for additional expenditure, which should enable the road to be placed in good order through to Te Anau.

QUEENSTOWN AND STEWART ISLAND.

Business has been very satisfactory this season in Southland, and the Invercargill Agent has been very busy. His sales of tickets have been £3,962, as against £2,246 for the previous year. Most of the tours were booked by local people, and the increase in business may be taken as an indication that the advantages of booking through the Department are becoming better known. The “Moeraki,” which calls direct to Bluff from Melbourne every six weeks, brought a good number of tourists for Bluff on its November and January trips.

As in past years, a number of tourists who booked at our northern offices called at the local bureau for information on their way to the Southern Lakes and Stewart Island. The increased number of maps and up-to-date pamphlets issued by the Department has been appreciated. A number of local people called for a supply of these to send to their friends overseas.

Queenstown and Stewart Island were very popular, as usual, and it was difficult to secure accommodation, especially at the latter resort, during the holidays. Neither of these trips is expensive, consequently they are well patronized by local people at excursion times.

A new tri-weekly motor service was started at the beginning of the season from Invercargill to Te Anau and Manapouri, and this induced more local people to do the Milford trip. A good service was maintained throughout the season.

At Queenstown it was decided, as a result of your visit, to convert part of the present bowling-pavilion into a tea-kiosk, and this kiosk is now being dealt with. The Department has received many complimentary letters on the excellent state of the gardens at Queenstown.

OVERSEAS AGENCIES.

The agencies in Australia—Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, and Adelaide—were fully occupied during the year, and a great amount of work was performed by these officers for various other Departments as well as our own. The expenditure at Sydney and Melbourne was as follows:—

	Sydney.	Melbourne.
	£	£
Rent	663	350
Salaries and wages	729	798
Miscellaneous	321	244
	<u>£1,713</u>	<u>£1,392</u>

South Africa.—Mr. Middlebrook, a well-known South African business man, has been appointed Honorary Agent to the Department at Durban. His office has been well supplied with literature, photographs, &c. Already fruits of this appointment are apparent by people arriving in New Zealand through his instrumentality.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (600 copies), £11.