

(1) WAITOMO CAVES (HOTEL WAITOMO)

There has been an increase in revenue of £7,062 over the preceding year at this popular resort. It is attributable, in part, to tariff variations but mainly is due to larger numbers of guests being accommodated, more casual meals served to touring motorists, and a greater volume of visitors. Visitors to Waitomo Caves made more than 56,000 inspections.

Eighty-two conducted parties were accommodated during the year, and there were several distinguished visitors.

The usual maintenance work in the caves and to tracks was carried out. At the hotel, fire-protection measures were extended and several bedrooms were redecorated.

(2) LAKE WAIKAREMOANA (LAKE HOUSE)

A substantial increase in revenue has been shown compared with the previous year. This is in large measure due to adverse circumstances in 1948-49 when the road from Rotorua was impassable for some five months.

Extensive improvements have been made during the year and the major portion of approved works has been carried out. Buildings have been repaired, a scheme of refurnishing and redecorating has been practically completed, and excellent progress made in augmenting facilities at the camping-ground.

(3) WAIRAKEI (HOTEL WAIRAKEI)

This hotel has now been re-established for tourist business. All side-trips (which are the principal objectives of visitors) are now in daily operation as a result of the development work referred to in the previous report.

A considerable proportion of this development programme related to the hotel itself and its immediate environs. At the time of opening (13th April, 1949) a considerable portion of the approved works still remained to be done but steady progress has been made during the past year and that part involved with the hotel has been disposed of substantially. There still remains to be done certain additions and rearrangements in the main building and some essential exterior works. All these matters are, however, in hand.

The installation of central heating in the hotel is operating satisfactorily.

No comparable revenue figures are available but in view of the fact that daily average of house-guests was 75 per cent. of the potential, the results obtained must be regarded as satisfactory. The patronage of the side-trips by guests and other visitors was also substantial. Apart from its sightseeing attractions, Wairakei is regaining popularity with anglers and some excellent catches were reported.

(4) TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK (THE CHATEAU TONGARIRO)

The average daily number of guests in residence at this hotel over the year was 109 and, consequently, all services have been well patronized by visitors to the resort.

In addition to regular maintenance some minor extensions and fire-protection facilities are being undertaken in connection with the main building. Arrangements have also been made for necessary repairs and maintenance in the case of Mangatepopo, Waihohonu, and Blyth mountain huts.

The 1949 winter sports season proved very successful. Two ski-tows, one on "the Staircase" for experienced skiers and another smaller one on Scoria Flat for beginners, were installed. These have proved so popular that it is desirable to arrange for another tow to be installed before the next winter. The projected tow will operate from the end of Bruce Road via Tennants Valley to the Hut Ridge. The skilled services of the noted Swiss ski instructor, Walter Haensli, were obtained during the 1949 season, and