

## DIARY: 1961

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### JANUARY

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31 Tues

Uneventful trip in the railcar. When I arrived back, the swimming pool was actually full and so I had a swim. Many new boys in the place, many old ones gone.

### FEBRUARY

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1 Wed

Didn't had a lecture today. Found I was to be supervised by Dr Harvey for my thesis when he returns [from sabbatical leave in the US].

2 Thurs

No proper lecture today either. In the evening, Barry J (?) and I saw "The league of gentlemen" - very good.

3 Fri

Still no lecture. It rained today. The MCC – NZ [cricket] test did not take place today due to the weather. Stayed home in the evening. Had my first workout with the weights today.

4 Sat

Went and saw films on motor racing at the Tivoli cinema in the evening. Watched the cricket test at times during the afternoon [from the BI balcony].

5 Sun

Mr Bamford [former minister at the Gisborne church] spoke at church in the evening.

6 Mon

Still never got my thesis topic even though Dr Harvey had just arrived back. Watched the second test in the afternoon – was very fine weather. Went and had a look at the new varsity gym today.

7 Tues

Had a talk with Dr Harvey about the thesis. Saw the end of NZ's victory in the second unofficial test at the Basin Reserve. Saw "Passport to shame" with Clive P-T and Graham

Ade in the evening.

8 Wed

Started on my thesis work today – synthesising a derivative of carene [a constituent of turpentine]. Watched the international athletics at the Basin Reserve. Saw [Peter] Snell win the 880 [yards] in 1:52.5 and [Murray] Halberg win the mile in 4:4.2).

[Title of final thesis: “7,7-dimethylnorcarone as a synthetic intermediate for chamic acid”]

9 Thurs

Got started on my thesis practical work properly today.

10 Fri

Another fine day. Alf got his 'new' car today. Stayed home in the evening and tried to swot.

11 Sat

Did a bit of swot today, but not much. Never went out in the evening. Had a swim in the afternoon.

12 Sun

Fine day. Saw a film on medical missionary [work] in the Congo after church in the evening. After that, John Bell, Haroldine (?) and I had coffee. Bible class started today.

13 Mon

Didn't do any practical work today – got references, etc. for the thesis topic instead. Went for another swim in the evening. Swotted till after 10.30 pm this evening too.

14 Tues

Went for another ¼ mile swim. Nothing 'extra' happened today.

15 Wed

It rained in the afternoon and I got wet coming home. Aussies beat the West Indies by two wickets. The lights were fused in the evening by a fuse in the Central Park substation; I saw a red glow then a belch of black smoke.

16 Thurs

Very warm day today. Intended to go to John Bells' for the evening but didn't. Swam another ¼ mile.

17 Fri

Nothing happened today. Did my second workout with the weights since being back. Des arrived back today. John Irwin left for Australia but I couldn't see him off. Stayed home and swotted in the evening.

18 Sat

Swotted quite a bit today. It was a hot day up till about 6.30 pm but within about 15 minutes it was completely overcast and about to rain. Had a swim with the Tawa Baptist BC in the evening followed by supper with [the new] matron.

19 Sun

Went to Graham Ade's place for dinner. Went to Vivian St for a discussion of church union in the afternoon. Only three of us turned up for BI chapel service after tea this evening.

20 Mon

Saw Lindsay Johnstone in the afternoon just before he left by air for Adelaide. Terry Tuttle was appointed the other house master today.

21 Tues

Started my hydrogenation going and left it going all night. Helped matron put pins in the 'receipts' for the BI street-day appeal on Thursday.



22 Wed

Went and saw "Solomon and Sheba" with Clive P-T tonight. After that we saw the "Oriana" leave Wellington.



23 Thurs

Overcast most of the day but cleared up later. Hardly did anything at varsity today because the hydrogenator was not working properly. BI had a street-day appeal today.

24 Fri

Enrolled today – took only about 10 minutes. Worked in the lab until about 6.30 pm today. In the evening, old boys of the BI had a reunion and some of us helped them eat up their supper in the Band room next door. A very thick fog lay over Wellington in the afternoon and evening – most unusual.

25 Sat

Festival procession today on a fine, very hot day – though I didn't see it. Went to the Petone church picnic at Day's Bay. Had a good time in the water, etc. Had tea at the Cook's. Had to hitch hike out as I missed the train. Saw Clive P-T off on the boat [overnight ferry to Lyttelton] at 8 pm. Felt very tired.

26 Sun

Looked like rain in the morning but turned out very hot and fine. Had dinner and tea at the P-T's place. In the afternoon, we went for a ride around the bays and saw Go-carts racing in Happy Valley.

27 Mon

Saw the three Canadian frigates arrive today during our lecture. Very muggy today. First day at varsity for most students.

28 Tues

Finally got the hydrogenator working again. Drizzled lightly in the afternoon and evening.

## **MARCH**

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1 Wed

Went to town intending to buy a second-hand radio but didn't. Got an invitation to the official [re]opening of the BI swimming pool.

2 Thurs

Eddie gave me back the £80 I loaned him for the car. Saw “The big fisherman” in the evening. It was very good. Watched the festival dancing in the streets then had coffee at the Tete-a-tete.

3 Fri

Was very tired in the evening; couldn't swot properly.

4 Sat

Swotted most of the day. Swam my first mile ever with Barry in the afternoon. Went to Brian Corcoran's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party in the evening. A wet, miserable day.

5 Sun

Drizzling all day today too. Ross Heyward from Christchurch preached at church today. Didn't go to the university church service in the afternoon.

6 Mon

Rained quite hard in the morning but cleared up in the afternoon.

7 Tues

Usual sort of day. Swam  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile again in the baths. Received my February copy of Scientific American.

8 Wed

Turned out to be a fine day today. Had my first haircut. Ordered "Sleeping Beauty" [record] from WRC.

9 Thurs

Nice fine day. Had the official opening of the baths in the afternoon. Nordmeyer (MP), Fox, Tremant(?) were there. Had supper afterwards in the band room. Had a swim at nearly 11 pm!

10 Fri

Rained slightly in the evening. Did my washing then. Never got any work done in the evening. Went for a swim till nearly 10.30 pm.

11 Sat

Nice fine day. In the evening, our CYF went for a barbecue at Breaker Bay. It was jolly good fun too. Graham Ade and I had coffee at the 'Colorado' afterwards.

12 Sun

Had dinner and tea at Halliwell's place. In the afternoon, we went to Petone to watch water skiing at the foreshore.

13 Mon

Very cold day. Rained as well. I felt pretty crook all day. In the afternoon, we had a lecture on NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance) by Dr Anderson to whom I later spoke. Never did any training as was feeling terrible.

14 Tues

Felt better today. Bought myself a Thermos flask from Woolworths (5/6) for supper times. Intended to go and hear Dr Anderson but didn't feel quite up to it. Listened to the World heavyweight boxing contest which was won by [Floyd] Patterson.

15 Wed

Fine weather again most of the day. Received the grub [food] and present for Noeline's 21<sup>st</sup>

16 Thurs

Had a fight in the evening with tennis balls in which I came off worst with a sore head and toes.

17 Fri

Again, stayed home in the evening.

18 Sat

Played cricket in the afternoon then went for a swim. Went to Noeline Anderson's 21<sup>st</sup> party in the evening. Just caught the [last] unit [suburban train] too.

19 Sun

Spent the day at Cooks and went to church at Petone. Went to a Girls' Life Brigade camp at Waikanae in the afternoon where Ron and I had an acorn fight with all the girls.

20 Mon

Resumed normal wt training again. Otherwise, nothing eventful happened.

21 Tues

Went for my first swim for a long time today.

22 Wed

Worked till 6 pm in the lab today and so missed out on my weight training. Saw the remainder of an accident at the corner of the Terrace and Ghuznee St.

23 Thurs

Bought three recordings at HMV's record sale. Saw NZ swimming champion Peter Hatch giving a demonstration swim in the BI pool.

24 Fri

Didn't do any work in the afternoon. In the evening, Rhys and I went and saw "Olympiad 1960" at the State [i.e. Rome Olympic Games]. It was really good. Rained quite hard at times today.

25 Sat

Went for a ride with Rich in his Velox up Mt Victoria in the morning. Did wt training today instead of yesterday. Had a party at Ken Nelson's place to celebrate Graham Ade's and my 21<sup>st</sup> birthdays.



26 Sun

Slept in the afternoon. Nigel, Rhys and I saw a film at church in the evening. My 21<sup>st</sup> birthday - no celebration!

27 Mon

Couldn't do wt training as chem thesis kept me at varsity. Terry gave me a ride home on his motor bike to a surprise birthday party where 13 of us spent the night ice skating out at Kilburnie.

28 Tues

Posted my birthday cake home (?) Had a varsity basketball AGM in the evening; borrowed Terry's motor bike to get me there and back.

29 Wed

Got a ride back from varsity on Terry's motor bike.

30 Thurs

Last day at varsity before Easter. Not much doing at varsity in the afternoon. Felt very tired in the evening.

31 Fri {Good Friday]

Slept in in the morning and got breakfast in bed at 11 am. Did some swot in the evening.

## **APRIL**

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1 Sat

Swotted all day. Went to a chem party at Yvonne Howard's flat in the evening; six lecturers were there too. Ferocious gales were blowing throughout the day too.

2 Sun

Morning service combined at Vivian St. Had dinner and tea at Halliwell's place. A gang of us had coffee at the 'Rendezvous' after church in the evening.

3 Mon [Easter Monday]

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Went out to the Hutt with Marg., Mary, etc. Went to the 5 pm session of the movie "Ocean's 11" at the Majestic; not very good. Had coffee at the 'Casa Fontana' afterwards. Eventually got home at about 10.15 pm.

4 Tues

Swotted most of the day. Supervised the swimming in the baths for a couple of hours in the afternoon.

5 Wed

Usual sort of day. Quite hot too. Got the parcel that Mrs Joyce sent down for me.

6 Thurs

Hot day again. Spent the whole evening doing Physical Chem problems.

7 Fri

Had a meeting with fellow chemistry classmates to decide about a float for Proceh. Bought some new basketball boots today.

8 Sat

Had my first basketball practice in the afternoon at the Technical College gym, not the university gym. All the theatres [cinemas] were booked and sold out in the evening so Rhys and I had to go to the Paramount where we saw a terrible picture called "Neapolitan Fantasy".

9 Sun

Had dinner at Graham Ade's (he just got engaged) and went to Trentham and back in the afternoon.

10 Mon

Missed wt training but worked until 8 pm on my thesis. Dr Harvey gave a talk at 8 pm on the "Biosynthesis of cholesterol". Had my dinner at 10 pm when I returned to the hostel.

11 Tues

Got myself a 'Caesar' haircut today. Looked a bit queer. Last day of seven fine days. Rained a bit in the evening. Had a talk with Terry about our differing views on baptism.

12 Wed

Fine again today. Got my washing in.



13 Thurs

Heard Dr Toyotome (?) talk on 'Science and the Bible' in the afternoon. Got my book "The amateur scientist" today from the USA. Russians out a man into space – news released today. [April 12<sup>th</sup> in Russia.]



14 Fri

Did our wt training after tea today. Rained a bit in the evening.

15 Sat

Had basketball practice at Newtown Stadium most of the morning. Bruce came and saw me in the afternoon and also had a swim. Swotted all evening.

16 Sun

Drizzled all day. Rhys and I had a look over HMNZS Otago and USS Staten Island in the afternoon.



17 Mon

Rained in the morning but cleared up later. Had our first basketball game for the year against Technical College B. Lost 29-15.

18 Tues

Very cold today. Was very tired in the evening so didn't swot quite as long.

19 Wed

Nothing unusual happened today.

20 Thurs

Bought three records at James Smith's record sale today.

21 Fri

Fine day. Watched the military tattoo in the evening which was being held in the Basin Reserve; it was very good.

22 Sat

Basketball practice again in the morning. Swotted rest of the day. Again, watched a little of the military tattoo in the evening.

23 Sun

Rhys and I went and had a look over the museum in the afternoon. Continued our discussion on baptism during BI chapel service. A very warm and fine day today.

24 Mon

Lost our second game of basketball against YMCA 43-14. We were duty team and we didn't finish there until 11.30 pm.

25 Tues [ANZAC day]

Worked until 1 pm in the lab. Mr Halliwell picked me up and brought me home afterwards. Spent the rest of the day writing up chem problems. Quite a fine day today.

26 Wed

Nothing unusual happened today.

27 Thurs

Got appointed the job of a Martian on our float in Process.

28 Fri

Figured out what we were going to do about the float. Got an invitation to the graduands dinner next Thursday evening.

29 Sat

Quite a cold day today. Didn't feel like swot at all in the afternoon and evening and so didn't get much done.

30 Sun

Spent the day at Cook's place. A beautifully fine day. Went for a walk in the afternoon.

## **MAY**

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1 Mon

Didn't do any practical work today; just mucked around. Lost our game of basketball 30-19 against Seatoun; got 8 points.

2 Tues

Spent most of the day building our 'flying saucer' for the float. Didn't feel like study in the evening so went to bed a bit earlier.

3 Wed

Did some work today. Went out with Wal to the Houghton Bay dump to collect tins, etc. for our float.

4 Thurs

At lunchtime, we had a buffet lunch provided by the NZ Association of Scientists in which Dr Falla spoke. Had the graduands supper in the evening in the new Student Union building. Ended at midnight. In the afternoon, we floated a balloon from the City Council chamber building but soon afterwards someone let it go. [??what was the balloon for]

5 Fri

Procesh went off well in the morning. Had a rest in the afternoon. Capping/Graduation ceremony in the evening. The Cooks, Christainsens and I had coffee in the Casa Fontana in the evening. Very fine day today.

6 Sat

Very wet today. Had out basketball practice in the new varsity gym today. Borrowed Alfs (?) car to get there. Had mid-day dinner at Fremont (?) Guest House. Went sightseeing in the afternoon; called at Uncle Arthur's place. Had tea at Anderson's place. Went to Doug and Alison's gift evening in the evening.

[Term break in Gisborne]

15 Mon

Arrived back from Gisborne at 5.55 pm. Taxi cost 4/6 as there were two others sharing the taxi. Played basketball at 10 pm and won beating Kilburnie 16-12. "The Messiah" WFC record was waiting for me too.

16 Tues

Worked in the lab till about 2 pm then came back to the hostel and rested. Felt quite tired.

17 Wed

Started wt training again today.

18 Thurs

Nothing unusual happened today.

19 Fri

On the way to varsity, ordered a couple of capping/graduation photographs. Also called in at James Smith and the Post Office. Swotted all evening.

20 Sat

Had basketball practice from 10 – 12.30 today. Listened to the Rugby in the afternoon. Saw “No kidding” with Clive at the Station. Also had an excellent support film on David Livingstone. Afterwards, we talked in the '25' (?) coffee bar.

21 Sun

Read at church in the morning. Had an ecumenical meeting at St Thomas' in the early afternoon. Then Clive and I spent the rest of the afternoon at the Catacombs club. Had tea at his place.

22 Mon

Lost our game of basketball 32-12 against Eastern. Supposed to have started at 10 pm; got going late at about 10.50 pm.

23 Tues

Did V.P.C. [vapour-phase chromatography] runs on my synthesis samples; didn't turn out too well. Did wt training today. Had a meeting with Matron, Terry and Mr Meiklejohn [BI director] in the evening.

24 Wed

Didn't do much at varsity as the hydrogenator was leaking. Had a 'Div U' meeting in C3 at 1 pm. Had a basketball practice from 5 – 7 [pm] in the gym. Learnt how to jive (?) at CYM in the evening.

25 Thurs

Finally got the hydrogenator fixed and set it going. However, at about 7.30 pm it blew up! Got Grandma's birthday present today.

26 Fri

Ordinary day. Worked in the evening. Listened to Beethoven's 'Eroica' symphony in the evening too.

27 Sat

Had practice in the morning. During the afternoon, Bob Patty called in on the way to Christchurch. We had a swim in the baths and he had tea here. Took his bicycle to the ferry in the evening. Saw him and Thiers off. Halliwells have me a ride home.

28 Sun

Had coffee after church with Barry. Nothing unusual otherwise.

29 Mon

Intended doing some wt training in the new university gym but it wasn't ready so did some basketball practice instead. Just lost our game 24-20 to C.O.B. in the evening.

30 Tues

Did wt training at varsity today for the first time.

31 Wed

Got a lift to varsity with Rod. Collected my capping photos from town in the afternoon. Had another basketball practice. Couldn't swot in the evening. At 10 pm. finished off the supper which the board, etc. had had.

## **JUNE**

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1 Thurs

Nothing unusual today.

2 Fri

Wt training again today.

3 Sat

Became overcast and very dark in the afternoon. Went to Paul Buckley's 21<sup>st</sup> party at Shirley's place in the evening. Got home at about 2.30 am.

4 Sun

Very cold and wet today. Slept in in the afternoon. Found out I was going to speak at church on Youth Sunday.

5 Mon

Very cold again today. Watched the English Football Association beat NZ 8-0 in the soccer test, from our roof (above my room). Saw "The green helmet" with six others in the evening.

6 Tues

Nothing happened today except I played quite a bit of Kerry James piano music.

7 Wed

Went to Whitcombe's sale and bought one book. Had a basketball tournament in the evening in the BI gym.

8 Thurs

Rained today. Played table tennis with Paul in the afternoon. In the evening, played basketball for B.I.; we won (I got 16 points).

9 Fri

Cold again today. Never did anything unusual today.

10 Sat

In the afternoon, NZ lost the soccer test 6-1. Intended to go to bed early but read my book from Whitcombe's sale for an hour.

11 Sun

Didn't go to B.C. today as R.J. Seddon was taken home then. (?) Had another ecumenical talk on the coming camp. Had a meeting after church and voted Mr Hoffman as minister for three years.

12 Mon

Looked in at Whitcombe's but didn't buy anything. Had the first game of basketball of the evening and lost to Tech O.S. 18-13. Very cold morning. The Chilean Navy's barque 'Esmaralda' arrived this morning. Practised water ballet for the hostel evening sports.



13 Tues

Our chem class had a couple of games of basketball in the new gym.

14 Wed

Overcast today – not so cold. Had basketball practice in the evening after which I felt very tired and so didn't do much swot.

15 Thurs

Had a haircut today. Bought a packet of 'Chockolates'. Very warm today after early morning fog.

16 Fri

Intended going to the Div U [Division University - teaching bursary students who are still studying at university] dance but never got round to it. Stayed home and worked instead.

17 Sat

Had nearly a 3-hour practice today at basketball. In the evening, went to YFC meeting at Tech College hall.

18 Sun

Nothing unusual happened today.

19 Mon

Matron arrived back today. Brought some bananas back with her [for me, I think]. Got my April World Record [Club record] at last. Got a new 'Messiah' record as well. Lost our basketball 27-19 to YMCA. Had another practice for Friday's swimming sports.

20 Tues

Saw the Chilean barquentine-schooner leave Wellington at 4 pm.

21 Wed

Had another basketball practice. Didn't get much work done when I got home either.

22 Thurs

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23 Fri

Rained quite hard today. Had our inter-hostel swimming competition in the evening. The B.I. came second to Weir House [the university hostel]. I came fourth in the final of the breaststroke.

24 Sat

Very cold and wet. Listened to the North Island beat the South Island 25-3 at Rugby. Swotted in the evening and went for a swim.

25 Sun

Saw Lindsay Olding at church in the morning. Had another talk about the 'camp' in the afternoon. Mr Tucker visited us in the morning.

26 Mon

Started off overcast but finished up a good day. Nearly beat Seatoun in basketball; lost 29-28.

27 Tues

Refereed a game of basketball today (?at BI). Did my wt training alone today; everyone else must have been at the Rugby (final NZ trials).

28 Wed

Nothing unusual happened today.

29 Thurs

Fine day today. Got my June World Record [Club record] today.

30 Fri

Got the parcel of fruit today. Nothing unusual happened today.

## **JULY**

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1 Sat

Had a tournament instead of practice at basketball today. Went along to church and had a practice for tomorrow's youth Sunday service.

2 Sun

Preached at church in the morning; not bad either! Nice fine day too.

3 Mon

Overcast and very cold. The French Rugby team arrived at Wellington today. Just lost our game of basketball to Marist 26-23 after being 14-4 up at half time.

4 Tues

Had a good day at varsity doing gas chromatography. Cold day again.



5 Wed

Coldest night this year. Went along to CYM in the evening.

6 Thurs

Rained a bit and very windy today.

7 Fri

Rained hard in the morning but cleared up later on. Started a UV [spectroscope run] today.

8 Sat

No basketball practice today due to NZ champs. Listened to France beat Nelson, etc. by 29-11 in their opening game. Had a youth meeting at Naenae church in the evening. Came home and listened to part of the third test; Australia v England won by England.

9 Sun

Our group of youth went to Queen's Drive, Lower Hutt, where I spoke. Had dinner and tea at Nelson's place. Played around with Rod Ade's tape recorder in the afternoon. Saw a film "That kid beech" (?) at church in the evening. Rained most the day.

10 Mon

Was crook all day and had to play basketball at 6 pm as we had only four players. It was very cold today.

11 Ties

Got my I.R. spectrographs back today; results agreed with what we thought they would be.

12 Wed

Bought a long sought after issue of "Science News". Got my driver's license [?motor bike ?car] renewed for another year.

13 Thurs

Nothing unusual today.

14 Fri

Our BI dance in the evening was a complete flop; only three couples turned up! We took the food to Athletic Park intending to sell it to the crowds lining up for Test tickets for the next day's Rugby test.

15 Sat

Heard [i.e. Listened] Waikato beat the French 22-3 in the afternoon.

16 Sun

Spoke at Naenae in the morning. Had dinner and spent the afternoon at Finter's place.

17 Mon

Rained all day today. Lost our basketball again today.

18 Tues

French beaten by North Auckland 8-6.

19 Wed

Muggy day today. Cleaned up in the afternoon. Nothing unusual today.

20 Thurs

Had a haircut again today. Got the "For it is Xmas" record for Berridges. Didn't do any work today.

21 Fri

Rained all day. Rhys and I saw "Ben Hur" in the evening. It was excellent. It rained 'cats and digs' on our way home and we got saturated.

22 Sat

Did a bit of work on the VPC before basketball practice in the morning. Heard NZ beat France to the tune of 13-6 in the first test at Eden Park.

23 Sun

Cold and wet again today. Slept a bit in the afternoon.

24 Mon

Found out I had been selected today to play for Victoria [University] at the winter [inter-university] tournament at Palmerston North.

25 Tues

Cleaned up a bit today. Had an intramural game of basketball which we won after extra time.

26 Wed

Had a sore throat and so felt miserable all day. Went to basketball practice but didn't have much running around, thank goodness. Mr Miekeljohnd had a talk with me in the evening. Went to bed early ad wasn't feeling the best.

27 Thurs

Felt a lot better today. Warm, fine day today.

28 Fri

Worked on Chem problems till nearly midnight.

29 Sat

Did washing today. Very windy. Listened to the second half of the Maoris v France (Maoris won 5-3) at Napier. Really poured with rain in the evening.

30 Sun

Had a CYM service at Petone in the afternoon. Had a choir practice after church in the evening.

31 Mon

Last game of basketball for the night. We lost to Tech O.S. 30-26.

## **AUGUST**

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1 Tues

Didn't have a game of basketball at lunch time so did wt. training instead.

2 Wed

In the morning, met three Russian students who were visiting NZ. Didn't have a proper basketball practice in the evening.

3 Thurs

Went to town to get some tickets to see the 'Canberra' liner. Listened to Ron's thesis colloquium at lunch time today.

4 Fri

Rained today especially in the evening. Bought some sweets, etc. for the test tomorrow.

5 Sat

Woke up at 5.10 am and had breakfast. Then Roger and I went to wait in the test queue in a howling storm. We arrived at 6.30 am and only about 50 people were there. We managed to see NZ beat France 5-3 for free as a chap I knew took us into the new Millard stand [early long before the gates were actually opened]. Had a visit from Ron Crawshaw and Graham Hillman after tea. Didn't do any work but went to bed early. The super-liner 'Canberra' was due in today but couldn't [enter the harbour] because of the gale.

6 Sun

Cold and wet again. The 'Canberra' still didn't come in today. Had dinner and tea at Halliwell's; John and Jan (from Gisborne) were there. Visited the airport in the evening and everything was grounded except for the Electra (TEAL plane to Australia).

7 Mon

Had a talk at lunch time from a visiting American basketball coach. Visited the 'Canberra' in the evening and had coffee afterwards. Alf's car broke its steering box when we had crossed a railway line.

8 Tues

Got the final stage of my thesis synthesis finished - I hope. [Comments below show this was not the case!]

9 Wed

Cold and wet again. Listened to a lecture on wool research in the morning. No basketball practice in the evening – happened to work a bit later, anyway.

10 Thurs

Cleaned up a bit today. Went to town and reserved a seat on the railcar to Palmerston North on Sunday and also for the holidays in Gisborne.

11 Fri

Got a lot of practical work done today. Last day of lectures; Don House turned up late for his lecture. Held a meeting of the tournament team at 6 pm. Felt very tired in the evening.

12 Sat

Had an early basketball practice and then did some practical work. Listened to the French beat Otago by 15-6. Rhys and I saw "From Hell to Eternity" in the evening; OK too.

13 Sun – 16 Wed [University Tournament in Palmerston North]

17 Thurs

Arrived back from Palmerston North at 6 pm.

18 Fri

Didn't do particularly much work at varsity today.

19 Sat

Went up to varsity for a while in the morning. No basketball practice though. Listened to the third Rugby test France v NZ (32-3 to NZ). Couldn't work in the evening.

20 Sun

Very fine day today. Slept in the afternoon. Went to Finter's place for supper in the evening' P-T's were there. Dudley had his 21<sup>st</sup> last night.

21 Mon

Had my thesis seminar at lunch time today; wasn't too bad either. Had a lecture from Professor Brown of Liverpool in the afternoon. Lost one game of basketball 64-32 to Seatoun and defaulted the other against Marist.

[Term holiday in Gisborne]

29 Tues

Arrived back OK. Matron's last day so we had an extra special dinner even though I had had mine at 6.30 pm. Matron was given a suitcase. Went and saw the Wellington International Fair in the evening; quite good.

30 Wed

Quite cool today. Swotted all day. Went down to Courtenay Place to buy a tube of toothpaste at lunch time. Saw a few films (?) down in the gym in the evening.

31 Thurs

Same sort of day as yesterday. Went up to varsity to renew some library books [from the chemistry library]. Saw a few films in the evening again.

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## SEPTEMBER

1 Fri

Very cold today. Rained later on. Didn't go and see Clive off in the ferry as originally planned. Took some of Alf's dry cleaning to the depot in his car.

2 Sat

Very cold today. No basketball practice today. Wellington beat Otago [at Rugby] 29-3 today.

3 Sun

Nice day again. Slept in the afternoon for a bit. Listened to the National Youth Orchestra [on the radio?] too; good. Went to Wood's after church for a final party for Ngaire (?) and Rex [not me!].

4 Mon

Borrowed Alf's car to get to varsity in the morning. Had our gram needles examined too. Had our final game of basketball for the season tonight. We beat C.O.B. 56-21; I got 21 points.

5 Tues

Mucked around in the gym instead of doing proper training. Rhys and I went to pick up some plants for Mrs Wills in Alf's car, then went for a ride round the bays. A Canadian boy arrived tonight for three to four weeks.

6 Wed

Fine again today. Worked on and off during the day.

7 Thurs

Took Alf's car to the wharf and had a look over the HMAS Melbourne (aircraft carrier) and HMAS Anzac (destroyer). Took Tony (the Canadian) for a ride up Mt Victoria. Took the ferry ticket for Bruce round to Donoghou's place after tea.



8 Fri

Bruce came in in the morning and borrowed my travelling bag. Went for a run again before breakfast. Rained in the evening – first time this week. Helicopters from HMAS Melbourne landed at the Basin Reserve in the morning.

9 Sat

Rained all day. Listened to part of Wellington's bid for the Ranfurly Shield. Went to the final night of the fair with Rhys and Colin. Saw the planetarium too.

10 Sun

Went to the Berhampore Baptist Church in the morning. Had supper when we came back then saw films till about 10.30 pm.

11 Mon

Swotted all day. Cold and wet again.

12 Tues

Cold but didn't rain much. Bruce arrived back in the afternoon so I took him to the station to get his ticket and then took him to Donnoghue's [in Alf's car?] and ran out of petrol on the way back.

13 Wed

Fine today. Went up to varsity at about 12.00 to get paid, etc. but couldn't. Went up to the Tech gym for a go on their trampoline. Had another swimming session in the evening.

14 Thurs

Overcast today. In the evening some of us went over to Tech and had a go on the trampoline. Worked quite late. Went for another sun in the morning (11' 45").

15 Fri

Fine again today. In the evening Colin, Kerry and myself did wt training according to John Hamilton's schedule.

16 Sat

First fine Saturday since August 19. Was utterly exhausted after the week's work so didn't do much work in the evening.

17 Sun

Went to the Berhampore Baptist with Alf and Colin T[hompson]. Saw a Fact and Faith film in the evening. Saw the same film after supper in the B.I.

18 Mon

Very cold today. Had a bit of a cold too. Timed for the swimming club in the evening then went for a swim.

19 Tues

Did some wt training in the morning with John Hamilton driving us on and was I stuffed. Finished Organic chem swot; first time through the revision.

20 Wed

Played 'cricket' with Rhys in the corridor. Wellington beaten 8-5 by North Auckland at rugby today.

21 Thurs

Finished first time through Inorganic notes today. Girl who went missing still not found after an intensive search.

22 Fri

Booked some seats for the movie 'Spartacus'; saw Uncle Arthur at the theatre too. Had an early tea then did wt training early. Poured for part of the evening. At 10.40 pm was called to attend to a chap stricken with suspected appendicitis. Got an ambulance to take him to hospital.

23 Sat

Didn't do much work during the day; didn't feel like it. Saw 'Spartacus' with Colin in the evening; pretty good. Had coffee afterwards with Rhys and Alf.

24 Sun

'Slept' in the afternoon. The four of us went to church in the evening and saw "Centreville (?) awakening". Quite good. Listened to excerpts from Beethoven's symphonies in the evening.

25 Mon

In the afternoon, played round in the swimming pool on a couple of great big tubes. They had a 'Fathers' swimming carnival' in the evening.

26 Tues

More wt training. Took the two great big rubber tubes back to the garage today. Had some fish and chips to eat in the evening.

27 Wed

Went up to varsity in Alf's car and got two pay cheques. Took back a couple of library books.



28 Thurs

Had to go up to varsity to take back Arch's problems. Went down town then and bought a gallon of turpentine. A chap from the Post Office talked to us in the evening about thrift clubs.

29 Fri

Went to town and got the tube for the 'trampoline'. Also got some British postal orders to send to Australia. More wt training. 'Did' [i.e. ransacked] Alf's room later in the evening.

30 Sat

We had *our* beds wrecked today by Alf; couldn't find my wire mattress until about 10 pm. Wellington were beaten by Canterbury 19-9 in the rugby.

## **OCTOBER**

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1 Sun

World communion Sunday today. Had a combined meeting at Trinity Methodist. The Rev. Warner Hutchison spoke at the evening meeting. Felt quite crook today. Listened to a repeat broadcast of NZ's league team beat Great Britain by 29-11.

2 Mon

Nothing unusual. Got a letter from Scientific American about a Mathematics puzzle book. Saw in tonight's paper the girl who was demonstrating cosmetics when I was at Gisborne in the May holidays.

3 Tues

Heard part of Beethoven's symphonies in the evening. Quite a fine day (overcast at times).

4 Wed

Nothing of note today.

5 Thurs

Overcast all day. Had a haircut in the afternoon (costs 4/- now).

6 Fri

Did wt training in the morning. Had a civic reception in honour of youth in the evening and Lord Cobham [governor general] was there. Alf turned into another car on our way home. We had coffee in town then took a chap home to Tawa.

7 Sat

Went up to the varsity 'tramp' [hike?] in the afternoon then to Athletic Park to see the second half of Wellington v Centurions match (29-28 to Wellington).

8 Sun

Went to Belmont with John Bell and Ken to get a TV set for John. Had tea at his place. Saw more films (travelogues this time) in the evening after supper.

9 Mon

Had a pork chop for lunch provided by Rhys' father. An ex-English water polo player 'coached' our teams. I couldn't go as I had the gripes [diarrhoea].

10 Tues

Had my first try at water polo in the pool in the afternoon.

11 Wed

Drizzled a little bit today, otherwise it was fine. Found a "Scientific American" in Alf's office today.

12 Thurs

Overcast in the morning. Nearly completed putting the roof on the new gym - built on the grassy area next to the existing building.

13 Fri

Nearly finished putting the roof on the new gym. Got through wt training fairly early tonight.

14 Sat

Drizzled in the afternoon. Got my book from Australia – the wrong one! Had a [water] polo practice after tea then went to the Technical College hall for Keith Smith's "Pied Piper" (show where children are tricked into making silly comments). Then came back and swotted till 1 am. Helped chap get some forms from the band in the morning.

15 Sun

Slept again in the afternoon. Drizzled a bit in the morning. Fine day.

16 Mon

Had a visit by the electricity inspector in the morning. Sent the book back to Australia today. Got the 'trots' [diarrhoea] again; second Monday in succession. Had a water polo practice for 1½ hours in the evening.

17 Tues

Very fine today. Nothing unusual happened.

18 Wed

John Hamilton took Colin and I up to varsity where I looked up some references in the chemistry library. Very, very warm and fine day today. Had an early dinner then played water polo against Varsity B at 7 pm in a practice game. We lost 3-2. Swotted until midnight.

19 Thurs

Beautiful day again. Had some more chops, etc. for lunch that Rhys obtained from his home.

20 Fri

Warm again. At lunch time we set fire to part of the BI kitchen when we left the toaster running. Not much damage and boy, did Matron go berserk! Did wt training by myself in the evening.

21 Sat

Nice and fine again. Listened to the Caulfield Cup, won by a NZ horse. Second test between England and NZ in Rugby League early tomorrow morning.

22 Sun

Fine again. Alf, Colin and I went out to the B.I. camp in the afternoon then home over the Akataroa road. Went to John Bell's place after church [?in the evening] to watch TV [would have been among the first times I had ever watched TV].

23 Mon

Another beauty day. Labour day.

24 Tues

Overcast but didn't rain. At 12.30 am, Alf, Colin and I went looking for (suspected) burglars in and behind the pool and gym.

25 Wed

Played a 'friendly' game of water polo against Lyall Bay and won 6-2 officially but about 9-2 really. I got one goal this time. Rained a little today – first for a long time.

26 Thurs

Got three 'Showcases' through the post today. Fine but overcast today.

27 Fri

Started my last 'spurt' for the first exam. Took some chaps up to varsity in Alf's car for their exam. Put my training wt up 36-37 lbs tonight.

28 Sat

Had a water polo practice for about an hour after tea. Swotted late in the evening.

29 Sun

Usual day. Had a surgeon at church in the evening. Had a choir practice after church. (My pyjama pants ripped right across the back that night.)

30 Mon

Last day before the exam. Got telegram from parents at lunch-time. Played Marist at water polo in the evening and won by about 14-4.

31 Tues

Very fine day. First exam. Don't think I did as well as I could have. Got the parcel from home today.

## **NOVEMBER**

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1 Wed

Comparatively, very cold today. Drizzled once or twice. Played Titahi Bay at water polo and won 4-3; I got one goal.

2 Thurs

Felt very depressed over my swot today for tomorrow's exam.

3 Fri

What a terrible exam. I think its the worst Chem paper I have ever sat. Did wt training then had some water polo in the evening. Didn't feel much like work.

4 Sat

Windy but fine. Guy Fawkes day was celebrated in the evening. Swotted until 12.30 am.

5 Sun

Slept in in the morning. Slept in in the afternoon too. Saw a film of a few travelogues after 'supper'.

6 Mon

Bought a loaf of bread and a tomato (9' ? each) and made lunch. At 10.30 pm we let a 'wheel' cracker off outside Alf's window.

7 Tues

Most of the chaps finished their exams today. Listened to the 1961 Melbourne Cup won by Lord Fury.

8 Wed

Physical Chem exam today – not too bad. Very windy and drizzly at times. Lost 6-2 to Maranui (?) at water polo in the evening.

9 Thurs

Very windy today. Last day of serious swot in my life possible and boy am I glad. Just couldn't work properly in the evening. Rained a bit too.

*[Comment: How wrong I was about being my last day ever at swot. I had to do a lot for the Dip Ed courses in the next three years and then for the MS and Ph.D. later.]*

10 Fri

Last exam paper 'D' – reasonable. In the evening, Rhys, Brian and I went down town. I bought a pair of togs and shorts from Farmers. Had some fish and chips then came home.

11 Sat

Took Gordon Heaphy to his flat in the morning then had a swim. Reserved movie seats then played golf in the afternoon. Saw "Desert mice" in the evening then watched a 'revue' at the '25' coffee house. Had steak and chips at the Café Casablanca after this.

12 Sun

Went out to Cook's place in the morning. In the afternoon we went to the Otaki Health Camp. Very fine and warm today compared with yesterday. Took Rhys down to Newman's buses in Alf's car at 8 am. Had another choir practice tonight.

13 Mon

Back to varsity today. Hardly did any work though. Had some games of table tennis in the gym. Won the 66<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> breaststroke [two lengths of pool] at swimming club. Had water polo after this.

14 Tues

Got the W.R.C. Christmas extras order today. Had a haircut. Had a party at Dick Jones' place in the evening.

15 Wed

Sunbathed at varsity during lunch time again. In the evening, Ron, Eddie and myself saw "My fair lady" with three nurses (I partnered Kartini de Bres). Had supper at the Casa Fontana afterwards.

16 Thurs

Rained in the morning but cleared up late in the afternoon. Had a 'fight' in Alf's office in the evening.

17 Fri

Worked till 5.30 pm in the lab today again. Gave Chris and Ron games of table tennis today – also played a student from Thailand. Did wt training – Alf locked me in! Heard Prof Bawn (?) (who visited Vic once) talking on plastics.

18 Sat

James Smiths' Xmas parade in the morning – got a free ice block! Sunbathed at Oriental Bay in the afternoon. Rained about this time and during the night. Eddie and I saw "Doctor on the job". It was very good.

19 Sun

Very, very cold today. Tried to ring up Kartini in the afternoon but she was on duty. 'Slept' in the afternoon.

20 Mon

Quite cold today. Had a swimming carnival in the evening and we played the Wellington Junior representative water polo team and lost 6-3 (or 6-4).

21 Tues

Wrote quite a bit towards my thesis. Swam ½ mile in the evening to get a certificate for the fun of it.

22 Wed

Finally managed to get Kartini on the phone today. Nothing went right at varsity today; I broke the vacustat. Lost our game of water polo 4-3 against Titahi Bay.

23 Thurs

Cleared up really fine in the afternoon. Went up and saw Mrs Perfect about getting my thesis typed. Alf, Colin and I saw two horror films at the Roxy - "The curse of Frankenstein" and "Quartermass Xperiment". Had chocolate [drink] at 'The Green Door'. The lady there gave us a free cup.



24 Fri

Spent more time in the gym than in the lab. Cleared up again in the afternoon. I was the only one at the hostel in the evening. Kent Terrace Presbyterian church caught on fire during tea time; we went across and watched it burn.

25 Sat

Didn't do much all day. In the evening, there was the inter-club swimming carnival. I swam in one race and came last (I think!).

26 Sun

Mr Herburd spoke at our church in the evening. They had a business meeting afterwards but I didn't stay. Nigel collected his model aeroplane today. Replied to my 'home' for next year (where I was to board in Christchurch).

27 Mon

Overcast today. Kartini rang at tea time inviting me to dinner tomorrow evening. Later I started my house to house visitation; wasn't so bad after all. 'Rescued' a kid who was running onto the road. Finished the day off with water polo practice in the evening.

28 Tues

Wt training in the morning. Didn't do any practical work – continued to write up my thesis instead. Went to De Bres' place for tea in the evening; they were in the middle of moving to Auckland. Took Kartini to the movie "All in a night's work" afterwards.

29 Wed

Cold and wet today. Didn't do any practical work as my separation from Dominion Labs wasn't done. Kartini rang me up at about 5 pm. 'Slept' after tea then played water polo and won 5-2 (officially though I think it was 4-3).

30 Thurs

Cleared up in the afternoon. Played badminton in the gym in the afternoon. Rang up Kartini when I got home. Did more visiting in the evening then had choir practice.

## **DECEMBER**

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1 Fri

Low cloud all day. Got my sample separations back today and intended doing UV's on all of them but didn't have time. Put my weights up to 40 lb for my evening training.

2 Sat

Finished my 'visiting' in the afternoon. Had a Christmas social at Queen's Drive in the evening.

3 Sun

Mr Russ spoke at church today. Sunbathed earlier in the afternoon then Eddie and I went for a walk to Oriental Bay.

4 Mon

Got my locker checked off today. Didn't write much towards my thesis at varsity but wrote more at home in the evening. Had water polo practice and I got the gripes.

5 Tues

Very hot today. Sunbathed at varsity for nearly an hour. Had a practice at 6 pm for Sunday School anniversary next Sunday. Had choir practice afterwards.

6 Wed

Very hot today by Wellington standards. Left varsity early. Got two letters from Kartini today. Drew our game of water polo 2-2 against University in the evening.

7 Thurs

Very hot today. Bought my tickets to Rotorua today. In the evening, we [?some bots from the BI] had a dinner at the Royal Oak hotel. After that, we had coffee at the Casa Fontana; on the way was stopped by a couple of cops when I jumped off the fountain in the civic square.



8 Fri

Hottest day so far this summer (76°F). More or less finished writing up my thesis today. Did wt training before tea then went for a swim. Worked on my thesis in the evening. The first cricket test between NZ and SA started this evening.

9 Sat

Rained today. Ken and I went out to work [?painting some old folk's houses] in the morning but the rain put us off. Had a practice in the afternoon for singing at the hospital. Eddie and I saw "Deep in my heart" in the evening then had supper with his sister and a friend at the Casa Fontana afterwards.

10 Sun

Hot day again today. Had the Bible School anniversary in the evening and prize-giving afterwards but I didn't stay.

11 Mon

A bit overcast today. Gave my thesis draft to Dr Harvey to check over. Went to Ken's place in the evening to practice singing for tomorrow night. Got a couple of telegrams from Kartini today.

12 Tues

Overcast in the afternoon then rained in the evening. Ken, Rod, Murray and I went singing in a women's ward and a men's ward at the hospital in the evening; good fun.

13 Wed

Went to varsity but my thesis hadn't been checked. Went to town in Alf's car in the morning; called at the railway station, NZR office and Govt. Tourist Bureau. Lost 3-1 to Lyall Bay in the evening at water polo (I got the one goal – a long shot).

14 Thurs

Went to town with Alf in the morning then up to see Ted [Harvey] but he wasn't there. Sunbathed behind the BI swimming pool then set up the film projector. Got  $\frac{3}{4}$  of my thesis back [from Ted] in the afternoon. Showed films for the BI board and their wives in the evening and had a good supper.

15 Fri

Very hot again today. Took Alf's car to be greased in the morning then did Xmas shopping. Collected the car at 11.15 then collected the rest of my thesis from Ted. Took the manuscript up to Mrs Perfect in the afternoon. Wt training in the evening. Rained later on in the night.

16 Sat

Mucked round in the morning; it was overcast but didn't rain. Worked on my thesis for a while and slept a bit. Went to Linden station to get Alf's car after tea. The CYF barbecue was cancelled so I drove all round Wellington till about 9.30 pm. Saw an accident when coming back from Linden.

17 Sun

Very fine again. Started packing in the afternoon. Called on Uncle Arthur but they weren't home so then went for a drive round the bays. Had our Christmas service in the evening. Had a farewell 'party' for Barry Nelson and me at John Bell's place after church.

18 Mon

Very warm today. Checked in my luggage on the train to Gisborne. Then took the bus to Rotorua and the Waikare turn-off. A long trip! Got to Te Whaiti at about 7 pm and was very tired but felt better after a bath.

19 Tues

Overcast at times but very hot. Went for a swim at the swimming hole in the afternoon. Played table tennis a lot today too. Rained in the evening. Went to bed about 9.30 pm again.

20 Wed

Overcast today but fine. Went and got the mail from the Te Whaiti P.O. Went for another swim in the afternoon with all the neighbour's kids. Rained quite hard most of the night. Did a little work on my thesis.

21 Thurs

Had a picnic down at the river with friends from Murupara. Played two or three more games of table tennis in the evening. A Dutch chap from Murupara arrived for the night and talked till about 11 pm. Had a bath at 10.45 pm.

22 Fri

Fine day. Left for Rotorua at about 9 am. Rest of the family went for a swim in the Blue baths. Then we had lunch before Kartini left at 12.30 for Wellington. I left for Gisborne arriving at 9.45 pm. Picked up my checked luggage from the railway station.

