

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)

"POHOKURA"

Bulletin No. 116

December 1970

PRESIDENT:

Mr. P. Bayens, St. George's Rd., Nth, R.D. 2, Hastings  
Phone 84498

HON. SECRETARY:

Mr. G. Griffiths, Box 854, Hastings Phone Clive 623

HON. TREASURER:

Miss J. Smith, 1009E, Heretaunga St., Hastings  
Phone 68249

CLUB CAPTAIN:

Mr. D. White, 307 Fenwick St., Hastings. Phone 86671

ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

This year must have been one of the most active in the Heretaunga Tramping Club's history.

Looking through last year's Pohokura I see that 30 and over for day trips are no exception any more, even some week-end trips run well over 20. No doubt the club captain will remark on this in his report.

The President's report is a difficult one. He cannot at length discuss trips, truck etc., otherwise he takes all the wind out of other committees' sails. I would like to mention the meetings. These have been in one word - terrific. Not because I preside over them but mainly through the numbers attending, the relaxed friendly atmosphere and above all the varied programmes turned on by the social committee. Frequently the late-comers have had trouble in finding seats, which is a pleasing sight. Not the late coming of course.

This year also saw the club back in the Blossom Parade. The impact was not what you could call terrific but the enthusiasm was there and a little more forethought earlier might see a better effort next year.

Furthermore I would like to thank the committee members in general for their enthusiastic support in all matters concerning the Club. It was this support that made last year such a successful one and I have no fear in saying that we have many more equally successful years ahead.

Membership continues to increase - from 150 in 1969 to 170 in 1970. P.B.

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT:

Unfortunately I haven't been able to get out on the Club trips as often as I have wanted but nevertheless I have attempted to keep in touch with most of the trips through the various party members. Most of the trips have been well patronised with the usual large numbers on day trips. Average parties for day trips were up this year with 29 going out. Weekend parties were also up with an average of 18.

There has been one disturbing feature in that trips have been getting shorter and shorter with less tendency for members to go on the longer and more difficult weekend trips. This feature was shown up on one summer trip at the beginning of the year, when only the leader and one other member were interested in the trip. The Sunday trip on the other hand had a large number of members in the party.

I feel there are two reasons for this change of attitude.

(a) The number of older more experienced members of the Club that are going on the trips is getting smaller. In many cases Peter seems to be the only one available.

(b) The general trend has been to put shorter trips on. It is obvious that more of the Club members are going to have to make an effort to get out on trips to balance out the numbers of experienced and inexperienced members.

The trend towards shorter trips was rectified at the last fixture meeting, where it was decided to gradually introduce longer weekend trips.

The problem that is now appearing is that some of the members, in spite of the training given at meetings and on trips, are not bringing adequate clothing for extended periods on the open tops.

In the past few years private trips have become more popular, and this year has proved to be no exception. There have been a large number of local trips made by members and once again one or two members have done more extensive trips further afield to the North and South Island mountains.

In closing I would once again like to thank the New Zealand Forest Service and the farmers who continually assist the Club in our trips around the country.

G.R.T.

#### HUT FIXTURE AND TRACK:

Again this year we have endeavoured to cater for all members by providing as wide a selection of trips as possible. With an ever increasing number of junior members, we have felt it necessary to include periodic instruction courses, and these have been dealt with, snowcraft, river crossing, fire lighting, route finding and compass work. One problem at the moment is the lack of sufficient members with enough experience to lead all the trips and also a lack of members with heavy duty licences to act as truck drivers.

Kiwi Saddle Hut: This had a major overhaul last year, and so no maintenance has been carried out this year.

Waikamaka Hut: Has likewise had no repairs although a track maintenance gang spent a weekend around the Waipawa Saddle realigning the track in places. At the hut itself the track is in grave danger of being completely eroded by the river, and we will shortly have to cut a new track - possibly approaching the hut from the creek at the side.

Kaweka Hut and the track at the moment remain in good shape and here again no working parties have been needed. Although seldom used by the club at weekends, trips to it are often made by young people's organisations and for this reason we should continue to keep it in good repair. An outside toilet has been added here and thanks are due to the N.Z. Forest Service.

Colenso track In May a party spent a weekend slashing and discing and despite very wet conditions it achieved all that it set out to do.

With more people than ever taking to the hills today a big demand is placed on huts. Most of these seem to be taken for granted but our thanks here go to the Forest Service.

B.T.

#### "POHOKURA"

Thanks to all contributors, typists, duplicators and staplers. Especial thanks to all who hand their accounts promptly. This halves the work.

J.L.

### GEAR CUSTODIANS' S REPORT:

As numbers on trips keep up, everyone must be buying their own gear these days - hiring has dropped sharply. Perhaps the frequent absence or short attendance at meetings of the gear custodian make it difficult for prospective hirers. Next year should show some improvement. Last year 79 items hired brought in \$24.75 and this year only 45 items went out for \$14.30. The sale of a pack for \$5 boosted takings to \$18.30.

Hire fees brought in:-

Ice-axes	(3 hirings)	.80
Packs	18 "	4.60
Parkas	3 "	1.10
Tents	3 "	1.10
Boots	14 "	4.90
Billies	4 "	.80
		<hr/>
		13.30
Sale of pack		5.00
		<hr/>
		\$18.30
		<hr/>

Two more new foam chip mattresses and removable covers were bought for the back of the truck. A pair of new size 6 boots completes the most sought-after smaller size range of boots.

I should be grateful for reports of any gear in need of repair. Thank you to those who returned gear in good order after use.

N.T.

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

Socially the Club has enjoyed another active year which began with Guy Fawkes celebrations on the beach near Napier. This was soon followed by our annual Xmas party held out at the Bible Class Hall (near the Tuki Tuki) with a good attendance of 64.

Over the last 10 months we have had several speakers entertaining us with talks on various subjects such as skin-diving, lifesaving, capturing dolphins and fighting forest fires.

Beside outside speakers, club members have supplied entertainment with talks and slides on a variety of trips, plus tramping, educational talks on leadership, equipment, exposure, map and compass reading and first aid.

The Club now being a member of the National Film Library we were able to show movie films on subjects such as ski patrols, conquest of Everest and use of rope and skis. Our thanks goes to the projectionists and Aerial Mapping for the loan of their projector.

This year we had two photo competitions. The first was held in January with Bruce Lusher taking first prize. The second, won by David White, was held in July. Many thanks go to all Club members for such a good attendance at meetings. This kind of attendance makes the speakers feel more at ease as well as being an encouragement to the social organisers. Also my thanks go to the committee members who have helped in the organisation of our activities throughout the year.

T.T.B.

#### LIBRARY REPORT:

It is good to see the library has not been passed without notice during the year, and members have scovered most aspects of our large collection. On Club nights the "Pohokura" collection, going back to the beginning of the Club, could be used for information that may help with forthcoming trips and to refresh our minds on those in the past.

D.L.W.

#### SCRAP ALBUM REPORT:

Reportx on Club trips have been taken from the local paper for the scrap book, the New Year rescue operation of a Club member having the greatest coverage.

D.L.W.

#### PUBLICITY:

In our press reports of Club trips we try to not only keep membersand others informed of our doings but to also mention useful tips on the country covered or on matters concerning mountain safety. It would however be a great help if party leaders would remember their obligations to phone the committee with a report as soon as possible after the trip.

A.V.B.

#### Search Committee Report:

There has been plenty of exercising this year but little real search action. Two trial searches were held within the twelve month period, the first in the Makahu saddle - Kaweka Flats area last November. This was the first occasion on which we have had helicopter support for an exercise and this certainly added to the interest and realism.

The more recent exercise, held last month, in the Waipawa Saddle area, proved to be an entirely different proposition. We had intended that the exercise should involve a high level snow rescue but prospects looked pretty dim because of the lack of snow on the tops. In the event we certainly had plenty of snow, all of it in the wrong places. Blizzard conditions forced the abandonment of the exercise on the Saturday night but those taking part nevertheless learned valuable lessons from their rather arduous day battling with the elements.

### Auditor's Report:

I have examined the books, accounts and vouchers of the Heretaunga Tramping Club and have obtained all the information and explanations that I have required. I have accepted the certificate of the Secretary as to the value of badges, maps and books on hand.

In my opinion, according to the best of my information and the explanations given me and as shown by the books of the Club, the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account are properly drawn up so as to give respectively a true and fair view of the state of the Club's affairs at 30th September 1970 and of the results of its activities for the year ended on that date.

R. W. Chaplin,  
Hon. Auditor.

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OVERDUE TRAMPERS

IF a Club party at any time becomes overdue, would parents  
or members please first contact one of the following:-

Alan Berry	'phone Has.	77-223
Maury Taylor	HMN	829
Janet Lloyd	Has.	87-666

ALL active trampers - please show this to your parents.

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HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1970.

1969 INCOME: The Club's Income comprised -

216	Subscriptions	235.50
23	Equipment Hire	18.30
66	Meeting Contributions	82.22
5	Donations	1.40
78	Interest	81.11
20	Profit on Maps	33.37
1	Library Fees	.90
55	Surplus on Transport	-
40	Working Party Earnings	-

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504		452.80
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EXPENDITURE: The Expenses incurred in running the Club were:

69	Rent of Meeting Room	52.60
-	Advertising	1.36
6	Supper and Social Expenses	16.25
14	Equipment Maintenance	16.77
4	Subscriptions: Royal Society, Alpine Club etc.	9.50
16	F.M.C. Capitation	22.50
3	Insurance	2.02
9	Books Purchased for Library	-
-	Donation - Rotary Club	10.00
-	Memorial Plaque	4.25
-	Training Course Fees	4.00
12	Petty Cash and General Expenses	15.04
75	Bulletin Expenses	83.99
	Transport Costs	467.00
	Truck Depreciation	150.00
		<hr/>
		617.00
	Less Fares Received	506.02
-	Loss on Transport	<hr/>
		110.98

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208		349.26
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296 There was therefore a surplus of Income over  
Expenditure of \$ 103.54

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HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1970

1969 At Balance date the Club owned the following Assets:

610	Bank of New South Wales	976.23	
60	Post Office Savings Bank	61.65	
4	Account owing for Maps	-	
97	Equipment	96.60	
1	Cash on Hand	1.90	
157	Stocks	154.72	
100	Owing for Truck sold	-	
	Bedford Truck	1103.00	
	Less Depreciation	150.00	
		<hr/>	
1103		953.00	
1000	Investment - Hastings City Council	1000.00	
	Huts valued in the books as follows -		
	Kaweka	10.00	
	Kiwi	50.00	
	Waikamaka	54.79	
		<hr/>	
115		114.79	
50	Projector	50.00	
		<hr/>	
3297	The total value of the Assets being		3408.89

However, of this amount there has been set aside for -

	Amount owing for Truck Maintenance	20.75	
69	Reunion Fund	69.38	
21	Search Fund	18.75	
36	Maintenance of Rescue Kits	36.26	
129	Hut Maintenance	125.43	
14	Subscriptions received in Advance	7.00	
		<hr/>	
269			277.57
			<hr/>
3028	Leaving a surplus of Assets over Liabilities of		\$ 3131.32
			<hr/> <hr/>

This figure represents the Balance in Accumulated Funds,  
which is made up as follows:-

Balance 1st October, 1969	3027.78	
Surplus of Income over Expenditure for Year	103.54	
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		\$ 3131.32
		<hr/> <hr/>

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

DECEMBER 10, 1964

PROFESSOR JOHN H. COOPER, JR.

Department of Chemistry  
University of Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Dear Professor Cooper:

I am writing to you regarding the results of the experiments conducted by your group and myself during the past several months.

The data obtained from the experiments on the reaction of the various compounds with the reagent have been analyzed and the results are being prepared for publication.

I am sure that the results will be of great interest to you and will provide a basis for further studies in this field.

I am very grateful for the cooperation and assistance of your group during the course of these experiments.

I am sure that the results of these experiments will be of great value to the field of chemistry.

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

At the Annual General Meeting held on November, 11th, 1970 the following officers were elected:-

PATRON: Dr. D.A. Bathgate

PRESIDENT: Mr. P. Bayens

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Messrs. A. Berry, M. Taylor, B. Turner.

CLUB CAPTAIN: Mr. D. White

SECRETARY: Mr. G. Griffiths

TREASURER: Miss. J. Smith

AUDITOR: Mr. R.W. Chaplin

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Miss. Nancy Tanner, Mrs. Pam Turner, Messrs. Trevor Baldwin, Peter Lewis, Athol Mace, Trevor Plowman Graham Thorp.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Misses. Wendy Smith and Susan Greer, Messrs. Trevor Baldwin, Rob Lusher, Trevor Plowman, Geoff Richards.

SUB-COMMITTEES:

The Executive Committee has appointed the following sub-committees and officers:-

Fixture, Hut and Track: David White, Trevor Baldwin, Athol Mace, Trevor Plowman.

Search: Alan Berry, Maury Taylor, Graham Thorp, Phil Bayens, Graham Griffiths, David White.

Truck: Maury Taylor, Graham Thorp, Trevor Baldwin, Graham Griffiths.

Publicity: Alan Berry, Brian Turner.

Editor: Janet Lloyd.

Gear Custodian: Nancy Tanner.

Librarian, Photo Album, Scrap Book: Pam Turner, Trevor Baldwin.

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CLUB TRIPS.

KAWEKA HUT.

No. 921

August 9th

The truck left for Kuripapango about 7.30. We Arrived at the pine tree at 9a.m. Before this we had tried to go down the forestry road to the Tutaekuri river but the gate was locked. We left the pine tree at 9.30.

The weather was perfect so it was quite enjoyable walking into Kaweka Hut. At the Tutaekuri the party split up. Alan Berry took some up the spur from the river and along the tops behind the hut. The rest of us went straight into the hut and had lunch. Since there was about three inches of snow lying about, Kit, Trevor and I decided we would try to get up around Cook's Horn. After about 2 hours plodding through snow we reached it and then went straight back to the hut.

The other party arrived at the hut before we did so we got going back to the truck which we reached before night fall arriving back at Hastings after dark.

Leader: Chris O'Kane  
Stewart Shaw, Brian Hall, David Perry, Paul Maddison, Jim Glass, Trevor Plowman, Simon Easton, Denise Sims, Sandra Williams, Clare Wetherill, Robin Heath, Elizabeth Pindar, Marian Moran, Roy Peacock, Kit Persen, Peter O'Kane.

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SNOWCRAFT COURSE. (Hinerua)

No. 922

August 22-23rd.

Our party of eighteen left Holt's at 6.15a.m. in moderate weather.

By 9.30 we had reached the roadhead (Alder RD) and were viewing the weather with apprehension. We arrived at Hinerua hut for an early lunch, but as the weather had deteriorated, the snow line appeared to be out of reach and the afternoon was spent in rope tuition.

The weather on Sunday had improved, therefore most of the party left for the snow line. On reaching heavy snow, two teams were formed. One group was introduced to basic snowcraft while the other returned to the hut.

After a late lunch the whole party and a Sunday group

left for the truck while the weather provided a watery sun.

No. in Party, 24

Leader: G. Soppitt

Peter Lewis, Paul Maddison, David White, David Perry, Stewart Shaw, John Furminger, Brian Hall, Chris Barnett, Geoff Richards, Rob Lusher, Chris Persen, Peter Dilks, Alan Thurston, Mark Smith, Robert Kindell, Elizabeth Pindar, Rona Budgett, Marion Moran, Marie Falconer, Sandy Smith, Karen Sparling, Annette Kindell, Wendy Smith.

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BLACK STAG HUT.

NO. 923(a)

Sept. 6th

The party left the truck on Sunday morning in fair weather and headed up the Moorcock Valley, Hidden Hut was located after an hour's tramping from the Moorcock Saddle. It is an old two-bunk hut built of Beech and flat iron.

By lunch time we had come to Black Stag Hut. This is below the forks in the stream, but the new one is located at the forks itself and is very good.

After lunch we met up with two other parties and took the ridge on the east side of the stream and followed it home. This was a pleasant trip.

No. in Party, 29

Leader: G. Soppitt

Helen Hill, John Furminger, Marie Falconer, Marion Moran, Dave Bacon, Trevor Plowman, Kevin Nuttall, Roy Frost, Alan Bristow, Alan Thurston, Annette Kindell, Ken Thompson, Roy Peacock, Peter Dilks, Rob Lusher, Kit Persen, Denise Sims, Lyn Furminger, Fay Hodder, Jenny Hodder, David Schutz, Athol Mace, Sandy Smith, Janice Cheer, Clare Wetherill, Robbin Heath, Brian Soppitt, Paul Maddison.

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POHANGINA SADDLE - BLACK STAG HUT.

No. 923(b)

Sept. 5-6th

Our two cars left Holt's at 6.30a.m. on a clear and sunny Saturday. As we twisted our way up Kashmir Road the sunless gullies were still white with frost, but above us the tops were almost without snow. We left the cars at the end of the road and shouldered packs which, in the prevailing conditions, seemed unnecessarily heavy with spare clothes and food and storm gear. However, we steamed along the

bulldozed track to the saddle.

Halfway up the steep hot trudge to the hut we met a couple of unsuccessful shooters on their way home. Although they had apparently spent the night out, they only carried one minute pack between them so they couldn't have enjoyed much comfort.

We reached the hut at noon after a little over three hours. As usual 'possum had been in and made a thorough mess, and also the chimney had blown down. As it was still warm and sunny we set to and spent a couple of hours cleaning the place out, re-erecting the chimney, de-coking the stove and eating lunch. Then with light packs we set off for Otumore, up through tussock with just the occasional patch of snow near the top. As we progressed, clouds began to gather on both sides - the coast was in sunshine but the bright strip was topped by the hard line of dark cloud. We reached the summit in about an hour but soon turned back after a good look at the view to identify the features of the surrounding country. On the return we spent half an hour on the one steep patch of snow which was just long enough to make toboggaining worth the discomfort.

Our meal that night was sumptuous and quite justified the loads we had carried. This was followed by sound sleep on foam mattresses for a change. The wind blew in strong, intermittent gusts which threatened the chimney but didn't succeed in dislodging it again.

On Sunday we left the hut before 9a.m. while it was still fine, though rain threatened. We returned to the saddle and then turned South along the ridge to Awatere. It was soon blowing quite strongly with occasional squalls of rain or hail and we were grateful for the stretches of track cut through leatherwood which sheltered us. On Awatere we decided to strike down immediately towards the river and Black Stag Hut where the Sunday party would be heading for lunch. We had thought of continuing further along the ridge to look for a reputed cut track down another spur but the wind was quite strong and this spur looked reasonable. There was little leatherwood here and after the first section of low alpine scrub we were into steep bush and bracken. Many of the trees and branches were moss-covered and rotten so that swinging down like monkeys had its hazards. Many slips and bruises and four hours after leaving the hut we emerged from a small creek onto the shingle bed of the North branch of the Makeretu. Simultaneously some of the day party were walking upstream having visited the old Black Stag Hut which is now replaced by a smart new hut further upstream on the true right bank. So we joined them for lunch and the return to the road after a most enjoyable weekend.

No. in Party, 5

Wendy Smith, Randall Goldfinch, Brian Hall, David Perry, Rona Budgett.

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No. 923(c)

David White and Trevor Baldwin joined the party after a trip over Sawtooth to Howletts and over Otumore.

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CENTRE TUKI HUT.

No. 924

20th Sept.

The proposed weekend trip to Howletts Hut, Otumore and Pohangina Saddle was cancelled and instead a day trip was arranged for Sunday to Otumore alone.

After a quick 5 o'clock start, this proposed trip was in turn cancelled due to a considerable lack of good weather and the fact that this same area had been well stamped in by several club parties in the previous fortnight. Therefore, Sunday morning saw 21 trampers of various shapes, sizes and colours squelching across the farmland past Mill Road farmstead and duly sliding into the Moorcock Valley to vainly attempt dry river crossings.

From the Moorcock River our congested mob climbed up to the ridge between the Moorcock and Tuki Tuki Rivers and subsequently spent 3½ hours track finding moving Southwards looking for the appropriate route down to the Tuki River. Having reached this much sought after point, some members returned while the majority fell, (literally in some cases), down into the Tuki River. From here after countless icy, swift and rather wet river crossings, our damp band finally dribbled and dripped into Daphne (or Centre Tuki) Hut.

After a pleasant lunch in the now sunny conditions we regretfully had to repeat this same procedure and return by a quicker route to the welcome truck by 6 o'clock after an enjoyable but needlessly lengthened trip.

No. in Party, 21

Leader: Rob Lusher

Russell Trotter, Graene Milne, Athol Mace, Peter Lewis, Paul Maddison, Trevor Plowman, Maek Smith, Simon Easton, Debbie Easton, Marion Moran, Bradley Miles Gary Williams, Bruce Perry, Wendy Smith, Roy Frost, Stewart Shaw, Chris Barnett, Alan Bristow, David Perry,

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TRIAL SEARCHNo. 925Sept. 26th

Information that some hunters were overdue and evidence that a party had visited the Waipawa stream Bivouac formed the base for this exercise. The general idea was to practise a high level rescue in contrast with recent low level searches.

A scarcity of snow during the week was disappointing, but Friday saw a change in the weather and on our arrival at 0755 at Cullen's farm it was clear that far from there not being enough snow, too much was to be our problem.

All teams were briefed in the field. The area was bounded by Shuteye Shack and Armstrong Saddle to the north, Middle Creek Hut and "59" to the south east and Three Johns and Waikamaka Hut to the South and West. Radio reports soon came in of falling snow and low visibility. A civil aviation weather report received at midday gave cloud base 1000ft. Visibility on tops Nil. So, for teams searching rivers and creeks with rain and snow falling, and everyone well wrapped up, the possibility of hearing blank shots (damp into the bargain) fired as signals was doubtful. By 13.40, 2 teams reported 3 rifle shots heard in an area below Three Johns, just before the track leaves the river. Teams as they reported in were told to proceed to the general area of the shots, untill team 5 reported that one of its members was very slow and was showing signs of distress. Also an additional 4 inches of snow had fallen at Shuteye in less than 3 hours. In view of the weather conditions our chief objective now became the evacuation of team 5 before dark if possible. As teams reported to base they were advised of the position and redirected towards Base to assist team 5 if required. By 17.15 a tired a weary team 5 were at base and all members were out by 18.08.

The totoal numbers involved in the exercise was 60, 19 of whom were club members. Conditions on the day were rough and even worse for the "lost Stalkers" who went into the area on Friday evening with the Waipawa more than chest high at the forks, making it impossible to cross to the bivouac.

Thanks to all those who braved the conditions.

Our 19 Club members were: Tom Whittle, John Furminger, Randall Goldfinch, Russell Millington, Brian Hall, Paul Maddison, Trevor Baldwin, Bert M'Connell, Rob Lusher, David Perry, Russell Trotter, David White, Peter Lewis, Trevor Plowman, Athol Mace, Elizabeth Pindar, Wendy Smith, Sue Greer and Maury Taylor.

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Leaving Holt's at the respectable hour of 6.10a.m., the party motored to the top of the Gentle Annie in private transport arriving shortly after 8a.m. Soon after, we were making our way up the face of the North West slope. A steady climb for half an hour brought us out onto the undulating, tussock tops under a dull sky. However, this did not spoil the view. Another hour of easy going westward, found us at Te Iringa Trig, 4346ft where the party paused for a snack and to enjoy the view. Three minutes and 200yds later, another over 4000ft peak was conquered in the form of Mount Cameron. Here we took bearings and identified surrounding landmarks, notably identifying a high point "7b" to the North West which would be the key to our dropping into Boyd's Bush in the right place.

Being exposed to a strong Westerly, the party quickly dropped off the top on to the western ridge. About here a full plastic lunch box may be found with the contents untouched, apparently having dropped out of a later hungry, members pack. We passed a clearing called Cameron Camp and in sunshine, continued along the ridge toward the "Hogget". A bearing of 180° True on "7b" indicated the point to turn south into Boyd's Bush. At this stage the party began looking for an unfortunately long extinct track and for the next two hours searched fruitlessly just to prove it didn't exist. This is not to be recommended as the bush here consists of many fallen beech trees and much bush lawyer which dealt out punishment to legs and arms all round. Finally we reached the edge of a manuka clearing and here had lunch. After a leisurely repast and fouled water (for whom it may concern,) compass bearings were achieved fixing our position relative to the "Hogget" and Timahanga Station. This was in fact close to our original proposed route. An hour later, by following the ridge between Hoodoo Creek and the eastern headwaters of the Mangataramaea Stream down to a stream, crossing, then up a small ridge to the East, we came to a blazed trail running south. This widened on to an old logging track and eventually led to the old Boyd's Homestead at 3.45p.m. with a much pleased and relieved leader. A rest here was interrupted by spits of rain and the party set off at a good pace out to Timahanga Station. With a good tail wind we then proceeded along the Taihape Road prepared for the 6 mile slog back up the Gentle Annie to the transport. A passing motorist picked up the drivers and they were soon back with the vehicles amid great sighs of relief. By 6p.m. the whole party was mobile and making their way back to the cities.

On the tarseal, several hundred frogs were occupying

the road and typically the girl(s) wanted some for bloodthirsty hacking up in biology. A quick stop and two were captured and promptly secured. However, a short time later, both were loose again. One was recaptured and the other was posted missing much to the dismay of the vehicle owner.

We arrived back in town a trifle tired but happy. It was a creditable day for some of the slower members.

No. in Party, 15

Leader: Trevor Plowman

David Perry, Sue Tucker, Robert Leicester, David White, Deborah Easton, Peter Lewis, Brian Hall, Sue Feigler, Roy Frost, Graham Soppitt, Alan Bristow, Bruce Perry, Chris Barnett, Elizabeth.

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GOLDEN CROWN, NO MANS, DEAD DOG.

No. 927

Oct. 17th-18th.

Once in a blue moon a proposed 5 o'clock start does in fact start at 5 O'clock but due to sleepy alarm-clocks and unwound trampers our team didn't reach Masters Hut until around 8.30a.m. However after the official pack "weigh-in" we made the initial stagger up through the farmland and then climbed onto Golden Crown ridge for a prolonged trudge up to the main divide.

By this time the weather had deteriorated considerably and as we moved North along the main divide towards Ohawai we emerged from the bush and found ourselves on a long exposed ridge leading up to this point. The weather was becoming progressively worse and the wind had whipped up into gale force carrying lumps of snow and ice sideways into our bare faces and legs.

After painfully pulling on woollen clothing we trudged on in the now deep snow and with the wind slashing snow onto us from the west we were experiencing some ideal exposure conditions. Our painstaking pace through the wet snow-grass across the barren tops lasted for several hours but we didn't dare stop to let the cold catch up with us. At long last, (and perhaps none to soon) we turned right off the divide and trudged down to the welcome sight of 6 bunk No Mans Hut.

Then came the equally miserable task of getting 13 wet trampers, (some suffering from exposure) organized for tea in our small hut. However, somehow we managed and some even had enough energy left for dancing.

The next morning offered a complete and beautiful contrast

to Saturdays weather. Arising at 6.00a.m. we met brilliant sunshine, a cloudless sky and several feet of fresh snow.

After a short 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hour breakfast and numerous snow fights we began the long trip down to Dead Dog Hut. We were soon into the bush and passed the picturesque Margaret's Tarn before turning right and going straight down for what seemed to be an interminable time to Dead Dog Hut in the Big Hill Stream.

After a brief lunch we sloshed down the stream to a right bank shingle slide and having climbed it made the long bush sidle around to Herricks Hut on the farmland. From there the party split up, several of us walking back to the vehicles while the majority waited at Gull Road to be reunited with us at about 7 o'clock.

And so came to an end an advertised average weekend trip which was somewhat above average and which left several people rather tired.

No. in Party, 13

Leader: Rob Lusher  
David White, Trevor Plowman, Brian Hall, Paul Maddison,  
Peter Lewis, Alan Thurston, Mark Smith, Simon Easton, Sandy  
Smith, Sue Feigler, Clare Wetherill, Annette Kindell.

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#### LABOUR WEEKEND - RUAPEHU.

No. 928

32 Club members travelled by various means and at various times to the Chateau Motor Camp during Labour Weekend. There were so many comings and goings that it was difficult to say at any one time who exactly was there.

The motives behind those who came were almost as varied as the modes & times of arrival. Some came to tramp, some to climb, some to ski and some to generally laze around. Well, we tried to cater for most tastes. The weather helped considerably with sunshine and clear skies from Saturday to Monday.

The truck arrived round 12.30 a.m. on Saturday and after putting up tents and getting a few hours' sleep we were off up the mountain. Russell Millington and Kit Persen went off to climb on the Pinnacle Ridge and Rob Lusher, Russell Trotter, and Doug Taylor went skiing. Most of the rest headed up towards Te Heu Heu, 9040ft. We practised some snow techniques - stepcutting, self-arrest - and had lunch just off the Te Heu Heu ridge at about 7500ft. A

very cold wind (southerly) made this move to the sheltered north side essential. After lunch most of the party decided to return but seven plodded on through wind blown snow and ice to the summit. Fortunately no technical difficulties were encountered, otherwise we would have had to abandon the climb.

One by one we literally crawled on to the summit belayed by the others to avoid being blown off. David, and Bruce Perry, Russell Trotter, Mark Smith, Randall Goldfinch and Bert M'Connell reached the top.

The Sunday was a beautiful day. The wind had dropped and there was clear blue sky. We headed up this time towards the Dome and Partetaitonga 9025ft. The two chair lifts proved a quick way up to 7000ft for most and we had lunch in fine weather just above the spot where the old Dome Shelter had been. It was destroyed in the eruption of 1968.

After lunch eleven of us plugged up past some Tararua Tramping Club snow caves to the summit. The Descent-glissading, sliding, falling - was quite something and on the way down we visited the almost invisible (buried in snow) new shelter at the head of the Whakapapa glacier. Those chair lifts were welcome again on the way down. Trevor Baldwin, Russell Trotter, Peter Lewis, Kit Persen, David White, Tom Whittle, John Furminger, Rob Lusher, Brian Hall, Trevor Plowman and Bert M'Connell climbed the Dome and Pare. Athol Mace, Graham Soppitt, Paul Maddison and Marie Falconer contented themselves with the Dome and a laze in the sun.

That night we all visited Phil and Els Bayens in the Hawke's Bay Ski Lodge. Terrible how these poor skiers have to rough it// Should we raise our membership fee?

On Monday we got away early - 7a.m., believe it or not, and motored over to the Mangatepopo valley. Most of us were intent on climbing Ngauruhoe. Thirteen of us made it in 1hr 20mins which is pretty good going. Unfortunately there was no view but the crater was quite an impressive sight.

The descent was a lot more down those marvellous scoria slides. The "Assault" team was Russell Trotter, Peter Lewis, Randall Goldfinch, Trevor Baldwin, David White, Trevor Plowman, David Perry, Brian Hall, Rob Lusher, Simon Easton, Tom Whittle, Chris O'Kane, Bert M'Connell.

A swim at De Bretts ended a most memorable and enjoyable weekend.

No. in Party, 32

Leader: Bert M'Connell

Russell Trotter, Peter Lewis, David Perry, Bruce Perry, Randall Goldfinch, Rob Lusher, Simon Easton, Brian Hall, Trevor Baldwin, Russell Millington, Kit Persen, Doug Taylor, Mark Smith, Athol Mace, Tom Whittle, Trevor Plowman, David Plowman, David White, Paul Maddison, Owen Brown, Alan Thurston, Alan Burton, Graham Soppitt, Bryce Wallace, Chris O'Kane, Peter O'Kane, Sue Greer, Marie Falconer, Annette Kindell, Denise Sims, Patricia Patterson.

P.S. On Saturday, Owen Brown led a tramping party of 9 down the Whakapapaiti Valley. This is a very beautiful area with a brand new hut - well worth a visit.

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CATTLE HILL.

No. 929

Cancelled on account of Search the previous week.

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Part of CAIRN TRIP.

No. 930

14th-15th Nov. 1970

The Cairn Trip has traditionally been a good one to introduce prospective new members to the pleasures of tramping, and the road to Makahu Saddle now means that Ballards Hut is not too far for fit ones carrying a weekend pack for the first time. Those on this trip did well, not minding the cold wind on the tops. They had not only brought plenty of good food but showed interest in cooking also. Some previous visitor to the hut had failed to shut a window so evidence of 'possums was everywhere. (It is also a pity that some people seem to be so energetic at cutting down shelter trees, but so tired when it comes to disposing of their rubbish a reasonable distance from the hut doorway).

However, the hut is comfortable and pleasantly situated; jobs like water-carrying, wood-cutting and billy washing were done with a will, and the bod who talked most of the night made up for it by organising a prompt start on Sunday morning, so although the weather seemed unable to make up its mind what to do, all day, we had plenty of time to enjoy the view from the tops as we strolled along to meet the day trippers.

No. in Party, 8

Peter Lewis, Rob Lusher, Roy Frost, David Perry, Sue Elliott Joanne Smith, Bruce Perry, Geoff Richards.

CAIRN TRIP - Day Party

15th November

This Cairn trip was done under perfect conditions. While we were climbing the ridge the weather was overcast with a cool breeze. On the tops the clouds opened up and we spent approximately two hours there lazing around and having a long lunch.

To begin at the beginning: We left Hastings ten minutes late. It is pretty hard (almost cruel) to wake up three kids at 4.30am, get dressed and have breakfast, all within thirty minutes. We did not make it, hence the 10 mins delay. After a very sedate and slow trip we arrived at the roadhead at approximately 8.30. The sedateness and slowness did not help. There is always somebody who is sick. I must admit it is a terrible road for truck or car sickness. The roadhead now is, believe it or not, Makahu Hut.

After a short service and prolonged lunch we ambled down the ridge, admiring the view and the activities of the Forestry and the Ministry of Works. The various methods Forestry is employing in the effort to arrest erosion; it must be a hard and literally an uphill battle all the way. A big, slow job, and it is hard to imagine that one day those bare screes will be covered with some form of vegetation.

Number at Cairn: 32

Leader: Phil Bayens

Maury and Barbara Taylor plus 3, Phil and Els Bayens plus 3, Graham Fairless, Phil Shoemack, John Griffiths, Ken Zambra, Trevor Heighway, Shelagh Sayers, Helen Hill, Elizabeth Pindar, Neroli Wilton, Jill Knightsbridge, Debora Easton, Ursula Milner-White.

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BLOSSOM PARADE

Approximately 20 keen H.T.C. bods assembled at the meeting place for the Blossom Parade with packs full of questionable tramping gear and carrying ice axes, ropes, crampons, and a large banner. Leaving at about 12.30 we marched with the parade. When we reached the park we set up quarters with our banner and a few packs in front and went off to enjoy ourselves at the activities provided. - A jolly good day was had by all.

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S.J.G.

RAFT RACE

21st November

Possibly a raft race is rather beyond the range of the normal activities of a tramping club, because at first little notice was taken of all the radio and newspaper publicity about a big race which was being organised on the Ngaruroro river from Fernhill to Chesterhope Bridge. But once Rob suggested an entry, and we thought of all the fun we'd had on lilo trips, interest quickly built up. A sawmiller gave us most of the timber needed to build a stout platform 6ft x 10ft, and the underside was made of old roofing iron, so that the 4 inches of buoyancy material in between was well protected against snags and shingle. Construction would

hardly have been possible without the use of the Pindar's yard, tools and materials. In town, people would certainly have objected to so much hammering late at nights.

Besides Liz Pindar and her father, those who lent a hand with the construction were Rob Lusher, Peter Lewis, Russell Trotter, Alan Bristow, and members of the crew. Valuable assistance with last minute preparations on race day was given by David White and Trevor Baldwin. The crew were Wendy Smith, Kit Persen, Russell Millington, Geoff Richards and John Furringer.

Anxiously launched, our craft proved to be ponderous and heavy, but also extremely stable, of shallow draft, and virtually indestructible. In the confusion following a Le Mans start of around 100 craft, our 15-foot. manuka poles aroused considerable resentment amongst other competitors who had been naive enough to rely on unprotected tubes for flotation. At one stage a vengeful boarding party threw all our crew off, but they were soon under way again. A "black-bearded weirdo with an old felt hat" to quote one of the few repeatable descriptions heard, also ran along the bank with a sharpened pole and caused a great deal of disruption to the opposition, earning many bruises from oars, boots and paddles, as well as volleys of rotten apples, stones and oaths. The H.T.C. raft came in about eleventh, undamaged. (Anyone want to hire it for a trip?).

Meanwhile, Rob Lusher and Russell Trotter had convincingly won the canoe section of the race; firstly by good strategy and knowing the river, and secondly by being fit, going as fast as they possibly could all the way, and then, near the finish, putting on a sprint. A fine effort.

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P.L.

#### WAYNE JOSEPH SEARCH

Alert and Preparation. Advice was received from Senior Sergeant Stewart at 5.45pm on Monday 26th, that Wayne Joseph had become separated from his party in the Kawekas and had not reached their destination, Makahu Saddle Hut. The available information indicated that the missing boy was inexperienced, did not know the area and was of doubtful fitness. Subject to a final report from Police personnel already despatched to Makahu, a full scale search was requested for Tuesday morning.

Sufficient men for six teams were alerted, plus communications and ancillary personnel. Upon receipt of the negative report from the Police personnel at Makahu, assembly at the Napier station 5.30am Tuesday was confirmed.

Briefing and Despatch of Personnel. Apart from several Puketitiri locals, all personnel were briefed at the Napier station and allotted pre-determined tasks under leaders who had demonstrated their ability on previous exercises. In view of the numbers available, seven tasks were allocated.

It was understood that the tops were in mist when the boy went astray. The most probable places for the boy to have missed the route were at the Makahu Spur turnoff on the tops, or on the way down the spur itself. The possibilities that he may have headed off in some other direction entirely, or that he may have suffered a fall on the more rugged sections of the

Makahu Spur could not however be discounted.

Three teams were therefore sent into the area of greatest probability, bounded by the Main Divide, Makahu Spur and Dick's Spur. If the boy had left the divide at any point between Kaweka J trig and about two or three miles north of North Kaweka, he would have ended up in the catchment of the Makahu Stream, Rocks Ahead Stream or the Donald River. The first was already covered by three teams so one team was instructed to work up each of the other two from fairly well down, to ensure that the boy did not move out of the area by these routes. One team was instructed to thoroughly search Makahu Spur itself and the last instructed to thoroughly cover the main divide north from the Makahu turnoff. The bulk of the searchers were thus working the most likely areas but with teams on the perimeter to prevent the boy slipping through the net unnoticed.

Conduct of Search. There were the usual minor problems but the search proceeded very smoothly until later on the Monday afternoon, by which time the allotted tasks had been completed by many teams. Several were re-deployed to the west of the divide. The last team to move up to the tops from the Makahu basin came upon footprints soon after reaching the divide at Dicks Spur. The direction of the prints was confused as they headed both north and south. It was now late in the afternoon with 15 yards visibility and very bleak conditions on the tops so it was not possible to fully check these prints out immediately.

The pattern of the search on the second day depended upon an assessment of the significance of these prints. The team concerned regained the tops early on Wednesday after camping on the west of the divide and concluded that the final set of prints headed north. It was then only a matter of following the prints to Ballard Hut, where the boy was found fit and well. By this time however, seven more teams had been put into the field, two on the first evening and five on the second morning.

#### Observations.

1. A team covered the divide between the Makahu turnoff and North Kaweka for the express purpose of picking up any sign of the boy having passed or having headed down any of the side spurs. This area is well trodden with a fair cover of tussock and the fact that no sign was found highlights the danger of concluding that a competent coverage of an area is 100% evidence of it being clear. The teams approaching the tops in the northern sector did however provide the necessary "fail-safe" cover.
2. Thorough interrogation and then re-examination of those with first hand knowledge can pay dividends. A chance observation by the boy who had last seen Wayne Joseph, to the effect that Joseph must have covered the distance from near Kaweka trig to the Makahu turnoff very quickly, while the speaker's attention was diverted elsewhere, opened up a line of questioning that gave increased significance to the main divide as an area of high probability.
3. A quick cover of the perimeter of the search area by light aircraft could well be instrumental in locating a missing person who is



already outside the area of main activity but who is able to attract attention. The weather was pretty marginal on the first day but I have no doubt that if a flight had been possible the boy would have been located and a day saved.

4. The use of several citizens band sets assisted considerably in the control of a number of teams working reasonably close to roadhead. Not only did this ease congestion on 5680 kc but also allowed the detailed control of these teams to be delegated to an assistant controller.
5. All involved in this search carried out their tasks, some of which were very rugged indeed, in a very creditable manner. I am grateful to all of the personnel involved, and to their respective organisations, for the ready cooperation which was shown at all times.

A.V.B.

H.T.C. members taking part: Pam Turner, Liz Pindar, Graham Thorp, Russell Millington, Athol Mace, Jim Glass, Tom Whittle, Peter Lewis, Bert McConnell, Phil Bayens, Warren Greer, Ross Hislop, Brian Turner, David Hall, David White, Trevor Baldwin. - Maury Taylor, Alan Berry, (Field Search Controller).

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#### PRIVATE TRIPS

##### LOG CABIN - KIWI MOUTH - KIWI SADDLE

September 1-4th

Four of us arrived at Timahanga Station a little after 9am on 1st September (Tues.) for a little jaunt in the area. Permission was given by Mr. Roberts to cross his land so off we set for the Hogget trig. The original idea was to spy out the land for the coming New Year trip, to get an idea of times, distances etc. The weather was cool and blustery but we found a sheltered spot for lunch on the trig overlooking Boyd's Bush and H oodoo Creek. This brought back memories of a lengthy day trip some time ago, when I learned the meaning of the Hoodoo. I look forward to reading the report of the coming club trip in the area.

Having lunched we moved off to the Log Cabin site. This took about 4 hours total from the road and is quite a pleasant tramp. We could view the whole of the Ngamatea Plateau and so settle the uncertainties about the New Year trip. At Log Cabin we decided to stop - a short day - but it was an ideal camping spot and going on to Golden Hills would take longer than the daylight would allow. A reasonable night was spent on manuka, under canvas and plastic, but the next day was rather damp and misty. Here we made a change of plan and decided to head for Kiwi Mouth, via Rocky point. Norman Elder's "Route Guide" described the route so mist or no mist we thought we could make it. We set off through the cold wet tussock and soon picked up the described pack track. We lost the track after crossing a small stream about 15-20 mins N.E. of Log Cabin but later regained it. The track in actual fact crosses the stream and runs up a spur (moving northwards) to gain a ridge which runs N.E.. It continues along the tops, past a tussocked cone on the left, into a patch of bush and down to cross a small

stream. Up the other side, it dodges in and out a bit, crossing other streams, climbs up a scrubby ridge to an old holding paddock. The track is all quite easily followed but difficult to find when you get off it.

We had a bite of lunch then moved up to Rocky Point. At least that's what we thought it was. Twenty minutes later we came to another Rocky Point. This time the real one. Had we been able to see a bit more than 50 yards we would have been a little happier. Here we made a mistake. We didn't spend enough time looking for the abandoned pack track which led down across the Mangakotukutuku Stream, but simply headed off in more or less the right direction. Crashing down through the scrub, a compass and a course correction brought us down to the stream by a rather novel route involving some high waterfalls in a side creek. This was quite time consuming unfortunately. After some indecision we climbed over a low spur and saw the Ngaruroro below. Time was getting on and we decided to camp in the scrub near the river rather than go crashing around in the dark. The river was much too high to cross.

After a rather uncomfortable night in a makeshift camp we located the bridge below Kiwi Mouth and reached Kiwi Mouth Hut by about 9.30am. There was a certain feeling of relief in the party at this stage having just spent the last 24 hours in a state of "geographical-imprecision". A cup of tea, a second breakfast, and a ray of sunshine did much to buck up spirits. There was now a choice of three alternatives:- Up Kiwi Creek to Kiwi Saddle; up Back Ridge to Back Hut; or up a newly formed track to Kiwi Saddle. We chose the latter and were soon to find the reason for the various log book comments of "dropped in (literally)". This new track rises so steeply that one could almost jump from 1000' and land on the hut roof. It then levels a bit, rises another 1000', drops 1000' to cross a tributary of Kiwi Creek just above a waterfall, then regains that 1000' in the last climb to Kiwi Hut. We arrived in time for a (very) late lunch.

The weather was still miserable, but we soon got a fire going and things warmed up a bit. Another pressure-cooked stew followed by instant pudd. (PH) and we hit the hay on the maori bunk. Our sleep was disturbed around lam by one of those four-legged furry scrap-tins checking on our leftovers. On went the torch, and the possum dropped off the table to land simultaneously (in both time and space) with one right boot. Being somewhat surprised it made a rather inelegant move for cover behind a pack. It paused and was then escorted off the premises by the remaining left boot. Off went the torch, back to sleep, this time undisturbed.

A rather late rise, a leisurely breakfast, and an effort to clean up the hut (involving soap even!) meant we didn't get away till 11.30am next day. Visibility was still poor; particularly on 4594', but we did catch glimpses of Cook's Horn and eastwards to Napier. We dropped down to the road at Kuripapango where a bit of quick thinking by John secured us a lift by truck back to Timahanga.

All in all, an interesting trip, with quite a lot learnt by all about navigation in scrub and mist (combined).

B.S.

Kit Persen, John Furminger, Brian Truman, Brian Smith.

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## PUKETITIRI HOT SPRINGS

7th June

Yet another wet day with streams in flood. The Springs were most pleasant but an annoying person shaking trees to deposit cold rainwater on bodies relaxing in hot pool drew strong protests. On the way out we watched people trying out a new four-wheel drive vehicle, chewing up the road so much that other vehicles might not be able to get in until after winter is over. This was a good illustration of the principle that, while it may often be possible to drive another half mile, it may often be much better not to try.

P.L.

Irene Watt, Sandra Watt Glenys Richdale, Raewyn Richdale, Paul Richards, Russell Millington, Peter Lewis.

## MAKAHU SADDLE

10th May

Plans were to leave Kit and Geoff at Makahu Saddle to begin filling in three spare days with wanderings over the Kawekas to Ballard's hut or even beyond, and for the rest of us to do a day trip to the Parihaka, or "Pariax". But we arrived at the Saddle to find the onslaught of a cold front building up to a maximum of miserableness. As a party of High School girls was known to be in residence, the boys rushed over to the hut with dramatic stories of slips coming down on the road, etc., and after the girls' departure had thereby been hastened, the rest of us spread ourselves in front of the fire and brewed a billy of tea before leaving the intrepid climbers to their sleeping bags and dashing the 100 yds back to the Kombi, the windward side of which was by now thickly plastered with snow.

On the way out to the top of the Black Birch, predominantly uphill, the snow **rapidly** thickened, and though nowhere near bad enough to make chains necessary, it did serve as a warning of the potential danger of this road. It is not too hard to drive in, but if a vehicle became trapped by deep snow, breakdown, or inability to cope with slippery roads, someone without proper storm clothing, parka, gloves, leggings and so on, trying to walk out in similar conditions, could easily be affected by Exposure before reaching the shelter of the eastern side of the Birch. Down from 3,500 ft to 2,000 ft, conditions were not nearly as severe, so to prove our toughness we explored Balls Clearing bush, dark and sombre, with sleet pattering down amongst the trees, before visiting Lewis's fireside.

P.L.

Peter Lewis, Sue Tucker, Chris Barnett, Paul Maddison, Glenys Richdale, Irene Watt, Geoff Richards, Kit Persen.

## KAWEKA "J", MACKINTOSH, MAKAHU

Our party of Hastings Boys High School trampers was able to make Makahu Hut in fine weather under Treka power, and so we were soon plodding up Makahu Spur in the sun. After several hours climbing we reached the elusive trig, and at last began some downhill travelling along the divide to Studholme's Saddle. Following new snow-poles and signposted tracks we decided to go on to Mackintosh Hut, which we reached some time

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later after a series of falls and minor casualties. At this stage one H.T.C. member provided a spectacular display by covering his head with white paint, having axed a pressurised aerosol paint can.

By mid-Sunday morning we had finished the nice fall into the Donald Gorge and, having stripped off, were climbing with our eyelashes and fingernails up the other side - in the sun. After this weight-reducing effort we simply made the long tramp along Matauria Ridge and so back to Makahu Hut and then end of a successful and interesting weekend trip.

R.L.

H.T.C. members in party: Rob Lusher, Paul Maddison, Russell Trotter, John McHardy, Bert McConnell (Leader).

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### NORTH CLIMIE (2823')

5th September

Unexpectedly this Wellington Bot. Soc. outing, vaguely listed as "Te Marua", extended into what might without a great stretch of imagination be put on record as a miniature tramp. We trustingly followed the other cars off the bitumen along a metalled track and across a water-splash to the edge of a Water Board reserve, a fine patch of bush of big rimu-rata-hinau trees turning towards tawa forest, and not badly knocked about by stock or opossums. Fixing our position later we must have lunched just about where the old Rimutaka railway line crosses the line of the present tunnel, forming a sort of fire-break towards Kaitoke.

So far no more than a botanists' picnic, but in the afternoon it appeared that a road led further up the hill so we piled into half-a-dozen cars and took off. The road led higher and higher with steep and shingly pinches that were too much for most of the cars; at one hold-up Ian and Enid Powell sensibly gave it best and backed down. Some got a bit further then walked up through kamahi-red beech to real silver beech moss forest and out to a tussock clearing at a cluster of radio relay stations with the Wairarapa Plains on one hand, Kapiti Island on the other and away south down the Hutt Valley the harbour and the smudge of Wellington.

N.L.E.

### BUTTERFLY CREEK

25th October

In the days when men were men and the women sang bass Labour weekend marked the end of winter tramping, but while the tough types were breasting flooded rivers or bullocking through leatherwood the small fry of Wellington could take the ferry to Eastbourne and cut their teeth by crossing the outer ridge into the Butterfly Valley . . . a sort of tramping kindergarten. Here family parties, scout troops and such were free to light fires, bivouac and frolic through the open beech forest.

This year, with a petrol famine threatening and a houseful of rumbustious grandchildren a Sunday jaunt to the Butterfly, hardly worthy of a mention in Pohokura, met our needs for a Labour Day outing. It is a queer place. The track in has been smoothed and hollowed by the pattering of generations of little feet; even as late as mid-afternoon parties

were still coming in, bearded fathers and sun-glassed mothers with brats scampering ahead or carried papoose-fashion in patent packs. The valley itself, seemingly struck by a blast from the Wahine gale, had been turned into a vast jungle gym with picnic parties and gangs of kids swarming over the trodden clay and jumbles of fallen logs. The sandflies saw to it that there were no sluggards.

N.L.E.

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### MT. NGAURUHOE

#### Labour Weekend

Our eyes had been set on Ngauruhoe's steaming summit for some time. With the promise of fine weather, Labour weekend seemed the appropriate time to fulfil our ambition.

11 am Saturday saw us devouring lunch at the Mangatepopo Hut nestled under the lava flows at the foot of Ngauruhoe. In cool conditions with fog blowing about a few hundred feet above us, we set off up the track towards the saddle between Ngauruhoe and Tongariro. The poled track is a picturesque one leading up beside a cascading stream, past the soda springs and finally rising steeply upward, over and around rocks to reach the saddle. By then the visibility was down to about 50 yards and the fog quite wetting with a strong wind blowing. We spent a few minutes trying to look around between fog drifts but soon decided the comfort of the hut was more desirable. Coming down we met several other parties struggling upwards, some with only jerseys for protection, no extra clothing and no food.

Sunday morning dawned bright and clear with a few clouds drifting across the crater some 4,000 ft above us and plumes of smoke belching skywards. We left Mangatepopo at 7.15 am and made our way back up to the saddle. The Mountain was crawling with bodies in all direction, about twenty of whom reached the summit that day. Few had entered their intentions in the log book and most were inadequately prepared. Footwear ranged from gumboots to shoes and one party of five had two jerseys as extra clothing between them and one very small kit as the only pack.

On the way up falling rocks were quite a hazard. They were continually being dislodged from above, and crashing down the tongues of hard snow stretching up the gullies. We had a few near misses and eventually reached the summit in near perfect weather conditions. The Kawekas and Ruahines were easily discernable to the east, with Mt. Egmont poking through the clouds on the other side of the Island. The Blue and Emerald Lakes on Tongariro were incredibly blue and the Tama Lakes lying at our feet beside Ruapehu's giant snowclad bulk looked most tempting. The whole of the Desert Road showed up as a long grey line and the river systems, first only thin lines of water and later as rivers in big valleys, stretched away into the distance like a giant map spread out below us. The crater itself was most intriguing. All around the rim puffs of steam appeared between rocks poking out of the snow. On the southern side recent sputterings of lava were still in a semi-solid form which clung heavily to boot soles. In all we spent 2½ hours there watching the ever changing pattern of steam drifting up from the main crater, and collecting lava souvenirs. We walked round both the main and active crater rims and found some frozen snow suit-

able for step-cutting practice. Our descent was rapid, coming down a long shingle slide which rapidly (almost too rapidly at times) brought us out into the smooth sand "South Crater" (presumably of Tongariro). Another look round here before a quick dash over the saddle and down to the hut by 5pm. A glorious sunset, glowing like fire on distant Mt. Egmont's cone, completed a perfect day for us.

Brian, Adrian and Pam Turner.

---oOo---

### KOHINGA HUT

September 13th

Not long before lunchtime on the day after Blossom Festival, idly looking at Ngamatea map and happening to notice for the first time a "Kohinga Hut" just east of Kuripapango, curiosity was aroused. We were unable to recall any club members having mentioned being on Kohinga in recent years. Why not? How about 'phoning to see who would like to come and have a look?

Away from town by 2.30pm, off up the Taihape road, past Blowhard and Cattle Hill, to a likely-looking turnoff of clay road on left. (Since signposted "Burns Track" by Forestry). Big mudhole. Charge in! Stuck. Much digging. On around foot of Kohinga, exploring this road, found no turning-place. Jacked out. On towards saddle between Burns Range and Kohinga, found turning place, but then, coming back, couldn't get up one clay slope. Surface of the consistency of soap, almost too slippery to stand on, but too hard for chains to bite into. Second rush at it made even less progress. Worried thoughts. Idea! Tied long rope from front of Kombi to springy kanuka, backed off, then used catapult effect of bent tree to help us gain over a yard. Repeated process. Success, hurrah!

Shadows very long as we left vehicle and climbed one of Kohinga's N.E. ridges. Only 20 minutes to the top, but quite a surprise; much larger than expected, a basin so shallow it is more a plateau, draining towards the N.E. only about half of it scrub-covered, the rest being bogs, tussock, eroded clay, patches of beech and kanuka forest, and some quite extensive areas of green grass, mainly cocksfoot, with limestone rises leading off from the trig forming a sheltering semicircle to the south. Should be good deer country, except that we saw only one set of deer tracks and perhaps twenty of man-tracks!

Finding the hut was something of a map interpretation exercise and took some time. The hut is quite large, about 15 or 16ft by 12 or 14, but is rapidly going the way of all malthoid-covered huts when their skin grows old; large holes in the roof have let the weather in, and while the manuka poles are still strong, the beech ones which were also used have almost completely rotted away. In the late evening light the broken and jumbled weather-carved rocks of the highest points looked almost unreal. We climbed up to look over towards the gorge of the Ngaruroro behind Burns Range, and through gathering fog, lit up by the last of the sunset glow, across the unfriendly looking gorges of the streams south of Gentle Annie. For a moment Ruapehu was silhouetted against the light, and then we were making our way down in the dark. Going up, we had of course, picked the nearer to Cattle Hill of

the two ridges; but there is, we found later, a track of a sort up the other one. Coming down, trying to avoid the thickest scrub, we veered into a steep gully full of cutty grass, slippery flax, boggy patches, and bush-lawyer.

Back to the mudhole beside the main road, a misjudgement plus a side-slip landed the vehicle in such a mess that there was obviously time to light a fire and put the billy on while sounds of digging and squelching and a few words arose. Success came over an hour later, with the idea of putting the lightest (Sue) in to do the driving, while the heaviest got out to help lift and push. We were home before midnight.

P.L.

Trevor Plowman, Sue Tucker, Peter Lewis, John Furminger, Kit Persen.

#### BURNS RANGE

24th May

The Burns Range not having been visited by many H.T.C. parties recently, we made a prompt mid-day start and roared off up to Omahaki station. We felt pleased that the chap there seemed to hold the club in quite high regard, and welcomed us, on two conditions:- If we attempted to take our vehicle across against his advice and got stuck in the river he was not going to interrupt his evening meal to bring the tractor to haul us out; and if we got lost he would wait long enough for us to become properly hungry, so as to make it an effective lesson, before coming to look for us.

The crossing wasn't too bad - a shallow channel, a shingle bar, and then a deeper channel - so we risked it and drove on until we came to some very slippery sheepyards. From what we saw of Omahaki through heavy showers it certainly is plenty big enough to give scope for a stranger caught in fog, without a compass, to do some wandering around. As we ate our belated lunch at the edge of the bush on the Burns Range at 3pm, all hopes of a clearance in the weather were dispelled when chunks of ice, collections of frozen-together hailstones, started coming down through the scrub. Leaving our fire, made of good dry manuka sticks, wasn't fun. We set a deadline for turning back and bashed on upwards through wet scrub which became denser as we climbed higher. When, ten minutes before our deadline, we saw the top still a good 20 min. away, with white streamers of snow mixed with heavy rain blowing across, the good old saying "He who fights and runs away will live to fight another day" was quoted.

Daylight was nearly all gone by the time we had plodded back across the sodden paddocks and driven down to the crossing - to find the water one wide turbulent mass, all dirty and up by perhaps a foot. We waited a while to get our eyes used to the darkness so that our attempt to cross could be made with lights off, leaving full battery power available to try to wind us out with the starter if the engine was swamped, because in shingle streams a flood soon digs a hole under a stalled vehicle. Then in we charged. A great mass of mud and shingly water blacked over the windscreen. The old Bug lurched, bumped, half floated, swung about. A quick glance out the driver's window seemed to show the water level not far below the bottom of the window, and then the wheels gripped and we roared up the other side.

Halfway back to town we stopped and switched off the lights and looked back at the hills covered in absolutely black, filthy looking clouds, and wondered how well-prepared we might find ourselves if on some such night we should have to make an emergency camp!

P.L.

C. Brian Smith, Irene Watt, Peter Lewis, Chris Barnett.

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### JET BOAT UP THE NGARURORO

November 5th

The club trip to Cattle Hill was cancelled, but after a bit of fast talking and a few fast telephone calls I arranged another "tramping-with-a-difference" trip. We collected the Napier bods and met up with the others at Fernhill. By 9.00 we'd launched the boat on the Ngaruroro at Whana Whana and the first six people were on their way upriver to a small tributary - the Omaha Stream. While waiting in the pouring rain for Dad's return we had a brew. The second load of people didn't get up to the Omaha until about 12 due to a new jet-boating friend with a new jet boat who kept getting stuck in the shallows. By 1pm we were all at the small 'A' frame private hut. It had stopped raining and the sun poured down instead.

Five of us had lilos, so straight after lunch they floated off on their home run while the rest of us wandered up the Omaha Stream. At 4pm the "walkers" were boated back, passing the lilo enthusiasts on the way. We put the boat on the trailer, had a drink, piled into the Toyota and made for home.

S.S.

Party: Mr and Mrs Smith, Sandy and Wendy, Bert and Madge McConnell, Rob Lusher, Geoff Richards, Kit Persen, Sue Greer, John Furminger, Kevin and Royce Mitchell.

### SHUTE'S HUT

Well we arose before dawn and wandered down to the shop and got the boat ready, picked up Maurice and Cheryl and went out to Whana Whana. The river was in quite good condition and we managed to get to the Forks by lunch. We all filled our bellies with Mum's neat hamburgers then dragged ourselves up the 2,000 foot mountain (?) in front of us. It took us a couple of hours, then we sat at the top and ate chocolate and oranges. It was another three or four hours before we came in sight of Shute's - a little stream trickling by. We all ran down to the hut but got knocked out by the smell of opossums inside. We set to and cleaned it up. Then it was a case of collect firewood and manuka brush for beds, have tea, and hit the sack.

We were out of bed and lazing in the sun at 7.30. Had breakfast, then collected firewood and cleaned up the hut again. We left about 10.00 to discover a large mountain, which we had so gaily skipped down the previous day, but now had to crawl up. When we reached the top we again ate chocolate and oranges (This sounds familiar.) It was quite exciting on the way back when we stumbled across two deer.



Boy, I was getting really excited. I was going to run all the way down the mountain to the river, then lie down and have a cold drink -- But!!! -- we took the wrong ridge and ended up (after bashing through stinging nettle and suchlikes) about four miles up the river from the boats!! So it took us a couple of hours to get back to them and by this time we were all just about dead. We had lunch then jumped into the boat and skimmed off down the river.

Boy! did I have trouble getting up on Monday morning! But it was worth it!

W.S.

Party: Mr and Mrs Smith, Sandy and Wendy, Mr and Mrs Keeling.

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#### PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The contest is open to all financial members including absentee and junior.

All entries must be handed to the social committee by 6th January. Special consideration may be given to a few late entries - at the judge's discretion.

Review and assessment of entries and presentation of prizes will take place at the club meeting on 20th January.

#### Rules:

1. Entries limited to SIX per entrant, with a maximum of FOUR in any one section:-
  - Section A - Slides
  - Section B - Coloured or monochrome prints.
2. Entries will be judged on photographic skill and appeal.
3. Subject must pertain to some aspect of tramping.
4. Entries must bear competitor's name, have been taken by the entrant, and must not have been placed in previous club competitions. A good title could be an advantage.
5. Spotting. A red spot to be placed on bottom left corner of slide. i.e. when slide is held right way up and viewed from correct side.

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#### Correction

We regret that there is an error in the list of awards for the photo competition in the last issue of "Pohokura". In coloured slides, Rona Budgett was third equal with "Outlook".

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SOCIAL NEWS

Birth: To Annette and Russell Berry - a daughter.

Weddings: Graham Thorp to Marilyn Challice.  
John Titchener to Ruth Alcock.

Bereavement: Our sympathy to Nancy Tanner in the loss of her mother.

Departures: Glenys Richdale and Rona Budgett to Wellington.  
Irene Watt to Hamilton.

Appearances: Norm Elder and Sue Adcock turned up at a recent meeting.

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NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following to the club:-

Peter Dilks, David Perry, Roy Frost, Mark Smith (Jr.), Vivienne Hope (Jr.), Bruce Perry (Jr.), Mervyn Hope (Jr.), Lyn Furminger (Jr.), Alan Bristow, Russell Trotter (Jr.), Simon Easton (Jr.).

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SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due. If paid by December 31st, 1970, they are reducible to \$2. for single members and \$3. for married couples.

THE FIRST MEETING NEXT YEAR will be held on Wednesday 6th January, 1971, in the Radiant Living Hall, Warren Street North, Hastings.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND GOOD TRAMPING IN 1971.

Typists for this issue were:- Barbara Taylor, Margaret Griffiths, Nancy Tanner.

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FIXTURE LIST

<u>Date</u>	<u>Trip</u>	<u>Fare</u>	<u>Leader</u>
<u>1971</u>			
<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>1-4 NEW YEAR TRIP</u>	\$1.	Brian Smith
9-10	<u>UPPER MOHAKA - MANGATAINOKA STREAM</u>	\$1.	Rob Lusher Has 88.042
24	<u>TUTIRA</u> An easy day of Sailing, Picnic, & <u>Marathon.</u>	\$1.	Alan Berry Has 77.223
<u>FEBRUARY</u>			
6-7	<u>ROCKS AHEAD, VENISON TOP, BALLARD.</u>	\$1.	Trevor Baldwin Has.77.711
21	<u>LILLO TRIP - MOHAKA BRIDGE TO GLENFALLS</u>	\$1.	Peter Lewis
<u>MARCH</u>			
6-7	<u>AHIMANAWAS - TOROPAPA STREAM</u> from Taupo Rd.	\$1.	Athol Mace
21	<u>CATTLE HILL, ROCK CLIMBING.</u>	.80c	Wendy Smith
<u>APRIL</u>			
3-4	<u>KAWHATAU STREAM</u> A pleasant camping out trip.		Geoff Richards Nap.38.894
9-12	Easter - <u>WAIKAREMOANA, Round the Lake.</u>	\$?	Trev. Plowman
18	<u>WAIKAMAKA, Working Party, Repair Track</u>	\$1.	Phil Bayens Has.84.498

Fares are reducible (except Easter) by 20c. for seniors,  
half fares for juniors by 10c., if paid at the  
meeting before or on the trip.

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