

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

"POHOKURA"

Bulletin No.125

December, 1973

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PRIVATE TRIPS

KAIMANAWAS - LABOUR WEEKEND 1973

(Oamaru Hut - Ngaruroro - Hinemaiaia)

The more I look back on this trip, the more I realise that, navigationally, we were pretty tinny.

Four of us - Sandy, Wendy, Steve and Brian - met at the Clement's Camp Road off the Napier - Taupo Road. We'd taken a Friday off so had a four day trip ahead of us. The general plan was Oamaru Hut, Ngaruroro, Dunkirk Hut and back again - a fair trip covering three watersheds.

Clement's Camp Road was blocked about 2 miles from Pirua Hut by a culvert under repair so we had to walk further than planned. However, we met the Park Ranger, Mr. Osman, who gave us a few tips and we were able to make a worthwhile shortcut. The track to Te Iringa Hut, our projected lunch spot, starts at Pirua Hut, but we left the road just past the Te Arero Stream and bushbashed up a ridge to meet the track about halfway to Te Iringa Hut. Total time from the car about 2 hours.

After lunch we followed the well marked track down into the TikiTiki Stream ( $1\frac{3}{4}$  hours). This was quite a drop - certainly better than going uphill. At the TikiTiki junction with the Kaipo, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour down from the point where we met the TikiTiki, we turned down the Kaipo and after another  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hours reached Oamaru Hut at the junction of the Kaipo and Oamaru Streams. These streams form the very headwaters of the Mohaka River.

The Oamaru Hut is a twelve bunk, three room commodious affair. And it was empty; but not for long. About five minutes after we arrived five men flew in from Taupo, complete with a mountain of gear including spotlight gear for night hunting. In spite of their gear they didn't appear to have got anything when we left next morning.

Saturday was fine and sunny. We left the hut at 7.30am and proceeded up the Oamaru Stream. This was a five hour tramp ending at the Waitawhero Saddle. The contrast between the beech filled valley of the Oamaru and the tussock valley of the Ngaruroro was magnificent. It was like stepping from one world into another. Twenty minutes brought us to the Ngaruroro where we had lunch.

Lodge (NZDA), surprisingly nobody was in. Next we climbed Boyd's After lunch we visited Boyd's/lock for the magnificent view of the Ngaruroro valley, the back of the Kawekas and the Kaimanawas. This all took a couple of hours and by the time we retrieved our packs it was around 4pm. We tramped upstream for an hour to the junction of the Mangamingi and the Te Waiotupuritia Streams which form the Ngaruroro. Here we found a suitable spot and made camp. Dusk came quickly as we sat around the fire and after a sumptuous meal we were soon in the sack.

Next morning rain threatened although it didn't come to much. We moved up the Te Waiotuputitia as far as Blue Duck Stream - about an hour. This stream was completely dried up, although it appeared to have been a sizeable stream quite recently. The water apparently disappears underground close to the bush edge. After a preliminary inspection we entered the bush and climbed a spur to the ridge north-west of the Te Waiotuputitia Valley. At the top of the ridge we picked up some old blazes which we assumed would lead us to Dunkirk Hut. Some minor problems were sorted out and we were off in fine style, - or so we thought. After a short while the blazes ran out. We spent some time trying to locate them, but to no avail. Lunch seemed to be a good idea then. After lunch we decided to forget the blazes and navigate just as we thought best. This proved to be a good plan and after a mistake or two we picked up a long narrow ridge and eventually a disced track which took us right to the hut. The disced track which I'd thought went right over into the Ngaruroro, only went to the ridge top above Dunkirk Hut. We were quite pleased to arrive and celebrated by having a wash in the Tauranga-Taupo.

Monday was our lucky day. We left at 7am and followed the Tauranga-Taupo down for about 20 minutes to a small log cabin with a pumice block chimney. This private hut was built in the 1950s by a man named Stanfield. I assume his main route in to it was the way we came out.

At the first sidestream below the hut, we climbed a spur to gain a long ridge running roughly N.E. and we followed them for several hours, eventually dropping into the Hinemaiaia Stream. Spirits were high as we thought we had a good chance of getting Steve back to Taupo Airport by 5.40pm. However, finding the track to Hinemaiaia Hut proved difficult. We followed the stream down for some distance but didn't find the expected track to the Hut. Indecision reigned as we thought perhaps we'd dropped into the Stream too far down and would have been going upstream. The Stream was full of logs and was difficult going. It was

a hard decision to make to go on. Unfortunately our detailed map had run out and our position was not clearly marked on the Forest Park map. But luck was with us and after a brief lunch we located ourselves and in due course reached Hinemaiaia Hut.

Time was against us now. It was 3.15pm. We pounded along the road towards the car with a faint hope of getting back in time. After a couple of miles we reached a hut with a possum trapper in residence. He offered us a lift in his truck, and thinking we'd now got heaps of time we accepted a cup of tea also. But the ride out was stopped by a log across the road about a mile from our car. Off the truck and packs on again. Wishing we hadn't waited for the cup of tea, we pounded off again. Into the car and off like a rocket we went. Wind and heavy rain hampered progress but we roared into Taupo only 20 minutes late - and as luck would have it, the plane was 45 minutes late. - A successful end to a very successful trip.

C.B.S.

Sandy Smith, Wendy Smith, Steve Nichol, Brian Smith.

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#### RECONNAISSANCE OF WESTERN SIDE FOR RUAHINE CROSSING

Sunday 23rd September 1973

P. Lewis, P. Richards, R. Goldfinch, W. Clarke, K. Thomson.

We left by car from Taradale at 5.30am and travelled over the Napier - Taihape Road to Taihape, arriving there at about 9.30am. After breakfast we headed for Rangiwahia and then took the Parapara Road to the car parking area. Leaving the car at 11am we reached the Rangiwahia Ski Club's Hut at 12 noon. The track was good but firewood was scarce at the hut. This hut, which belongs to the Manawatu Tramping Club, could take 10 people comfortably. Leaving the hut at 1pm we set off for the tops by a reasonable track and reached a height of 5125 feet near Manga-huia peak at 3.30pm. Visibility was reasonable just prior to reaching the top but the weather closed in and it was snowing lightly. 2½ hours tramping took us back to the car and a long journey back to Hastings via Feilding. The time taken in travelling on the way back was approximately 3½ hours.

K.T.

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#### NOTES ON THE INTERPRETATION OF WEATHER FORECASTS

16th September 1973.

FORECAST 6.30am: "Occasional showers, mainly light".

INTERPRETATION: Heavy rain all day in the Kawekas.

FORECAST 12.30pm: "Cloudy with occasional showers".

INTERPRETATION: Heavy rain all day in the Kawekas.

An obvious lack of interpretation ability saw eight bedraggled bods knocking on the door of Lotkow one wet Sunday morning. The four Forestry

residents smiled knowingly but were really very hospitable towards these visitors who were obviously (a) nuts, or (b) keen, or (c) nuts, or (d) nuts. We found kindred spirits in the two bedraggled dogs that lived under the hut though.

It rained without ceasing until we splashed up to the cars again and departed for home.

Jennifer Thomson, Robin Burke, Jim Glass, Colin Elven, Kath, Alan, Jan and Ross Berry.

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#### HINERUA RIDGE

6th July 1973.

We left the truck at 9am and started up the first ridge in bright sunshine after a thick frost the night before. Arriving at the hut by about lunchtime, we ate and then all went outside to make the most of the small scattered patches of snow. We had a vicious snow fight, those of us with poorer aim using basically guerilla warfare and later ice cold water. Some of us then climbed to the top above the bushline, where we saw the bad weather that we had been promised; but the day for us remained fine. We left the hut again at 3.30-ish making our way back to the truck in our own times.

A.B.

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#### KAWEKA FOREST PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Minister of Forests, Mr. Moyle, has approved the composition of the Kaweka Forest Park Advisory Committee.

The members and the organisations which nominated them are:-  
Mr. K.D. Moore (Deerstalkers' Association), Miss N.D. Tanner (Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society), Mrs. M.M. Davidson (Federated Mountain Clubs), Mr. G. Thorp (Heretaunga Tramping Club), Mr. L.H. Smith (Federated Farmers), Mr. T. Hamilton-Jenkins (Youth Groups), Mr. D.S. Main (Hawkes Bay Acclimatisation Society), Mr. J.W. Campin (Public Reserves), Mr. R.P. Magill (Conservator of Forests).

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The HTC held a working bee  
Painting their faithful truck;  
The badge so gay goes a long long way  
To bring them tons of luck.  
But some of them say they'd be rather away  
Than changing tyres in the muck. E.P.

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The god of the weather named Hughie  
Controls le soleil et la pluie.  
He grinned, "How I'll nark her,  
She's not got her parka,"  
So he sent heavy rain, not just dewey. E.P.

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ANNUAL REPORTPRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Soft lights, soft music and animated talking. The occasion? Celebration of the Club's 1000th official trip. Members past and present from all corners of the country gathered together. A festive weekend wound up with the original trip being followed by 79 on the Sunday.

Club trips during the year have been well patronised with snowcraft trips having to be located further afield through lack of snow in the local ranges.

During the year sad to report was the death of Les. Holt and Doctor Bathgate, both having been foundation members of the Club, and while both did sterling work for the Club, Doc. became better known to present members as an author and a member of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, while Les was a tower of strength on the many working parties required for hut building and track cutting in the early days.

The Club's appreciation must be recorded in respect of access through private and farming property and only continued respect of the privilege we have, will ensure its lasting.

Finally my thanks to all committee members, to Janet Lloyd our Editor who produces "Pohokura" despite late trip reports and typist shortages. Special thanks to our ex-secretary Graham Griffiths who has given much time and help to members over the last six years.

M.T.

TRUCK REPORT

The truck, apart from a mysterious electrical short and an elusive leak in the canopy, is going well.

Latest additions to canopy are canvas to keep the dust out, windows to let the light in, and the re-positioning and renewal of the air vents. The test will be the Puketitiri run on a hot dry summer's day.

Two working parties took place for painting and cleaning the truck and re-covering the mattresses.

Many thanks to the willing workers and the various drivers.

P.B.

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

During the past year educational commitments have made my availability somewhat limited. However, club trips have continued strongly through the year with a pleasing increase in numbers on trips and a tendency for a rise in the average age. This year's day trip average saw twenty-eight trampers in the field and fourteen on weekend trips; day trips still proving more popular.

Tramps have again been wide ranging with successful trips to the South Island, Kaimanawa, Urewera and Tararua Ranges, and the ever popular Tongariro National Park. A notable tramp was a traverse of the length of the Kawekas on a one day trip. Many thanks to leaders and drivers.

As usual, private tramps have flourished, with considerable activity in the South Island.

A central crossing of the Ruahines has been investigated and this trip is planned to take place early in December. Later that month members will be moving south again to the Nelson Lakes, Abel Tasman, Arthur's Pass National Parks.

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Attempts to incorporate training with trips have proved more fruitful than conducting training trips. Unfortunately a recent snowcraft trip to Ruapehu was washed out by inclement weather. Several short lectures have been given at Club meetings including a successful forum with feedback from the floor.

Finally on behalf of the Club, I wish to express gratitude to the landholders, the New Zealand Forest Service and the National Parks Authorities for access and the use of their facilities.

T.S.P.

FIXTURE, HUT, AND TRACK

The story of fixture lists, this year has been mainly one of substitution. Firstly, the Fixture, Hut, and Track sub-committee. After their first meeting, job opportunities and educational requirements took everybody away, so later lists depended mostly on consultations between other club members. Then with the trips themselves, many substitutions had to be made, so that out of one list of approximately 14 trips, only two actually went both to the planned locality and with the intended leader; which is not very satisfactory for members who aren't able to attend meetings regularly.

Planning of fixture lists can be quite difficult. The

more successfully they cover all available camping opportunities, the harder it will be next time to find places where most members have not already been. There are ten or a dozen access roads which can be used without incurring extra transport costs, but because some of these are of limited interest, only half that number are frequently used. Some care is therefore needed, or there may be complaints if six trips in succession use the same road! Seasonal conditions may rule out some trips. Hours of crossing and re-crossing up to your waist in a river fed by winter snow might not appeal, while the same trip in midsummer might be delightful. A good trip which someone suggests for autumn might have to be postponed because it doesn't involve crossing farm land, so you save it for that time from July to October when it isn't fair to go bothering farmers by asking permission to cross land where lambing may be due. Before you plan to go on to the high tops in winter, you have to consider if there is a safe escape route for beginners if a blizzard comes on. What do you do about leaders; let every trip be led by one of the two or three "veterans", or select some of the up-and-coming younger ones as leaders and hope that they won't "chicken out" and let you down because "I haven't been there", or because "I couldn't possibly lead a trip".

After all this planning, there are still the unpredictables like weather, blocked roads, lack of snow, too much snow, pest-destruction poisoning, or lack of a driver for the truck, to cause changes; a reminder of this is now included in fixture lists. But it is rather disheartening for those who make up the lists when, if one trip has to be abandoned, someone on the spur of the moment decides to take another fixture from later in the list and upsets the sequence of trips, rather than thinking up a substitute of their own.

Trips this year seem to have mostly been able to attract a good attendance, but suggestions for improvements in future trip lists would be welcomed.

Huts: No urgent maintenance has been needed. Kiwi Saddle now needs only a couple more sheets of galvanised iron to complete the covering of the outside walls.

Tracks: The new track from Waikamaka Hut down to the riverbed has not yet been finished, owing to a patch of large boulders hindering the pick and shovel work. The new sub-committee would do well to consider more work on tracks.

P.L.

PUBLICITY

The opportunity was taken at the time of the Karamu High Trades Fair to work in with the Mountain Safety Committee on publicising the existence of the Club. Our thanks to Peter Lewis for organising this effort for us. Contact names and phone numbers are in the hands of the Napier and Hastings City Councils and the Public Relations Offices and persons interested in tramping and wishing to contact the Club should have no difficulty in tracking us down.

During the year we have continued to put reports in the local press of the more interesting trips but we are dependent upon the leaders letting us have prompt reports of their trips.

A.V.B.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Despite the fact that a great many more people are using the ranges for recreational purposes these days, the calls upon the Search and Rescue Organisation have shown little increase during recent years. As usual, there were a number of alerts during the past year but the only one that progressed very far arose when an elderly lady detached herself from a party of amateur geologists and spent two nights in the open when she was unable to find her way back to the roadhead at Mill Farm. As it turned out, the search did not really get off the ground as the lady concerned turned up at the Moorcock Base a few minutes before one of the search teams arrived to start looking for her.

The local Search and Rescue Organisation functions very smoothly and we are indebted to the Police for the active interest they take in S.A.R. work. We also enjoy very good relations with the Deerstalkers, the St. John Ambulance, the Venturers, the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps and all of the other organisations who participate in this very vital public service.

A.V.B.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee just managed to keep its head above water this year, despite transport problems and exams which made its meetings rather haphazard. The outgoing committee left a well organised job with the social activities for a few meetings already organised. That was much appreciated.



The photographic competition is becoming each time more difficult for the judges and the two this year, won by Peter Lewis and David White had perhaps fewer entries than previously, but were of a higher standard.

Subjects for the social side of the meetings ranged widely, from taxidermy to ecological balance, New York living to Search and Rescue, Rotoact to Hot Rods, with members participating in quizzes, showing their own slides, and with movies from the National Film Library also.

The Christmas party went off successfully, and the Social Committee wish to thank everyone who was concerned with arranging that, also to all who have helped them in the activities this year and finally to all the members for participating in the meetings.

E.P.

### POHOKURA

Since the Club duplicator died on us, Ingram Thompson & Berry have very kindly allowed us to use their new electric model. The vast difference between the two machines causes a certain amount of heart failure but Alan's staff are always most helpful. The net result is a much neater edition of "Pohokura".

The stapling parties still rally round enthusiastically and our typistes do valiant work. Our thanks to all.

J.L.

### GEAR CUSTODIAN'S REPORT

The number of hirings made this year totals 32 which is three less than last year. However, we made a small increase of \$1.15 on the income side giving a total income of \$21.45

Articles hired were as follows:-

1. Boots	14	hirings	bringing in	\$7. 40
2. Ice Axes	5	"	"	5. 40
3. Packs	7	"	"	4. 60
4. Tents	3	"	"	2. 55
5. Ropes	3	"	"	1. 50

Once again boots and ice axes were the items which were in demand and I feel that even more use would have been made of these items if it had been a good year for snow.

During the year a new nylon 8' x 6' x 5' tent was purchased

and one of the ice axes had it's handle shortened.

A list of our gear is given here to make everyone aware of the equipment the Club has to hire and what the Hire out rates are:-

Packs	20c a day	
Ice axes	30c a day	\$1.20 a week
Boots	20c a day	
tents	30c weekend	70c a week
billies	25c "	
Sleeping bag and inner	\$1 per weekend. Inner must be washed before returning.	
ropes	25c a day	50c minimum
lilo	50c weekend	

G. T.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, October 24th 1973, the following officers were elected:-

<u>Patron:</u>	Mr. R.W. Chaplin
<u>President:</u>	Mr. M.G. Taylor
<u>Vice-Presidents:</u>	Messrs P. Bayens, T. Plowman, K. Thomson
<u>Club Captain:</u>	Mr. T. Plowman
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mr. G. Thorp
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Miss J. Smith
<u>Auditor:</u>	Mr. A. Berry
<u>Executive Committee:</u>	Miss E. Pindar, Miss J. Thomson, Messrs P. Lewis, P. Manning, G. Griffiths, P. Richards, G. Soppit.
<u>Social Committee:</u>	Miss E. Pindar, Miss Joanna Campbell, Miss Anna Bloomer, Messrs P. Richards, M. Ball, T. Easton.

#### Sub-Committees

At a subsequent meeting of the Executive, the following were appointed:-

<u>Fixture, Hut &amp; Track:</u>	Paul Richards, Peter Manning, Trevor Plowman, Jenny Thomson, Peter Lewis.
<u>Truck:</u>	Phil Bayens, Graham Griffiths, Keith Thomson.
<u>Training:</u>	Trevor Plowman, Graham Soppit, Peter Manning.
<u>Search Representatives:</u>	Alan Berry, Maury Taylor, Graham Thorp.
<u>Publicity:</u>	Alan Berry, Keith Thomson.
<u>Editor:</u>	Janet Lloyd, Asst. M. Taylor.
<u>Gear Custodian:</u>	Graham Thorp.
<u>Scrap Book:</u>	Jim Glass.
<u>Library:</u>	E. Pindar.
<u>Album:</u>	Randall Godlfinch, P. Richards.

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTFOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1973

<u>1972</u>	<u>INCOME:</u> The Club's Income comprised -		
232	Subscriptions	264	
18	Equipment Hire	23	
88	Meeting Contributions	102	
11	Donations	3	
84	Interest	88	
6	Profit on Maps & Badges	4	
-	Profit on Transport	29	
5	Payment for lost book	-	
<u>444</u>		<u>-</u>	513
	<u>EXPENDITURE:</u> The Expenses incurred in running the Club were:		
72	Rent of Meeting Room	97	
25	Supper & Social Expenses	28	
21	Equipment & Hut Maintenance	46	
9	Subscriptions: Royal Society, Alpine Club etc.	9	
45	F.M.C. Capitation	45	
12	Insurance	7	
98	Bulletin Expenses	110	
-	Donation - St. John Ambulance	5	
17	Stationery	30	
-	Loss on sale of projector	38	
8	Petty Cash and General Expenses	2	
-	Maps & Route Guides written off	25	
3	Library Expenses	-	
	Transport Costs	615	
	Truck Depreciation	150	
		765	
	Less Fares Received	794	
139(Loss)	Profit on Transport(see Income)	\$ 29	-
<u>449</u>		<u>-</u>	442
5(Loss)	There was therefore a Profit for the year of	\$	<u>71</u>

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC)BALANCE SHEETAS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER, 19731972 At Balance Date the Club owned the following Assets:

888	Bank of New South Wales	1017	
65	Post Office Savings Bank	67	
97	Equipment	97	
40	Cash on Hand	21	
100	Stocks on Hand	223	
	Bedford truck and canopy, at cost	1203	
	Plus improvements to canopy 1973	<u>87</u>	
		1290	
	Less Depreciation to date	<u>700</u>	
653			590
1000	Investment - Hastings City Council, due 1978 @ 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ %		1000
	Huts valued in the books as follows:		
	Kaweka	10	
	Kiwi	50	
	Waikamaka	<u>55</u>	
115			115
119	Projector at cost		<u>69</u>
3077	The total value of the Assets being:		3199
	However, of this amount there has been set aside for -		
58	Accounts owing	116	
69	Reunion Fund	69	
19	Search Fund	19	
36	Maintenance of Rescue Kits	36	
1	Hut Maintenance	-	
10	Subscriptions in advance	<u>4</u>	
193			<u>244</u>
2884	Leaving a surplus of Assets over Liabilities of		<u>\$ 2955</u>

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

Balance 1st October, 1972	2884	
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	<u>71</u>	
		<u>\$ 2955</u>

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 & 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 1973, and of the results of its activities for the year ended on that date.

R.W. CHAPLIN, Hon. Auditor.

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DR. BATHGATE

Those of us who are among the original membership of the Club, have a special tribute to pay to Dr. D.A. Bathgate for his early enthusiasm and help in getting the Club off the ground.

The idea of forming a tramping club arose out of the coming together of a group of interested people during the search for Hamish Armstrong's plane crash and the "Doc" was appropriately convenor of the "birth" meeting. Subsequently he was elected the first President and served in this office for some years.

His personal friendships with many back-country settlers and owners was invaluable in those early days in opening the way for the new Club to have welcome access to so many areas and routes.

And so, for us oldies, it will always be that the mention or thought of Heretaunga Tramping Club calls up a memory of the Doc as a stalwart part of the foundation on which the Club rests. May the young members pause now and then and think of this man who loved the mountains and the bush and helped so many others to share these joys.

P.L.

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LES HOLT

It was Les Holt who carried into Kaweka Hut the huge circular saw to put in the back of the fireplace. He had boundless energy in those days. When the pace of the main party was slower than he could stand he and Cap Cook used to tear round us in circles while we plodded on. Soon after he came back from the war, symptoms of Parkinson's Disease showed up. He was always most generous with donations of building material for all our hut building operations.

J.L.

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FRANK SEVERINSEN

In the very early days of the club Frank Severinsen was made an honorary member in appreciation of his hospitality. Cups of tea and the shelter of his woolshed we remember with gratitude. He, too, was generous with donations to the club.

J.L.

CLUB TRIPSNo.1011STONEY CREEKJuly 22nd '73

A party of 23 set out in rather doubtful conditions for Stoney Creek. The truck threatened once or twice to let us down on the Taupo Road, but didn't delay us too much. Once off the road, we soon reached bush that was unusually dense and untouched. The area where we went would be almost inaccessible in summer when the native stinging nettles flourish; but in winter they did not disturb us.

The track rambled from side to side of the Ohane Stream and we were soon soggy underfoot as well as being doused by intermittent showers. But the weather cleared for us to boil up at the first hot spring we found and it was pleasant waiting for our one tiny billy to boil on its enormous fire. Small groups continued further upstream and found some less accessible hot flows. We called in at the Tarawera Hot Springs on our way back to Hastings.

No. in Party: 23

Leader: Christine Smith

Peter Lewis, Hani and Sophie Schupbach, Jill and Denise Robinson, Peter and Joan Manning, Joan Bennett, Tim Ford, Ray Dixon, Warren Clark, Colin Elven, Robin Marshall, Roger, Brent and Helen Conroy, Phil, Philip, Debbie and Michael Bayens, Malcolm and James Starnes.

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No.1012TE IRINGAAugust 5th

A full truckload of 25 and a guitar picked me up at Hill Road and we travelled like singing sardines towards Kuripapango, accompanied by glowing skies as the sun rose amid purple, crimson, scarlet and gold clouds. At the track to the water gauge Peter Manning and family caught us up, and with the availability of another driver we altered the direction of the trip. It was windy weather/ <sup>even there,</sup> indicating that the tops would be unpleasant, so when some voice in the crowd mentioned the river and we saw how low it was running, we decided to come out via Cameron Hut, if it seemed feasible from the trig on Te Iringa.

Leaving the truck at the summit of Gentle Annie a crocodile of H.T.Cers panted up the ridge, stopping for breath and views of Otupae lightly snow-clad, and the tussock of Ngamatea plateau. The wind hit us at the top, by the beech clump, and shortly after we came to patches of snow among the tussock although the wind was too strong and cold to encourage snowflights. Before the trig was reached the snow had become a nearly continuous cover, quite deep between the tussocks. A pause of 3 minutes at the summit was more than long enough, and we started out down the spur which appeared to lead to Cameron Hut, leaving Peter Manning and family to hurry out before the coming storm arrived, and move the truck for us.

The map showed spurs like an inverted Y, the left branch above, the right below, the hut, but I did not know which one was better. One member who had been there before said that the right one was possible - NOTE: Take the left one if you go! There are grades of possibilities. An hour or two later, after 25 people had bushbashed through much nastiness we arrived at

the river's edge. It seemed unbelievable, "to beat the unbeatable scrub, to reach the unreachable stream!"

Then, after lunch, began our midwinter river trip. We didn't need to break any ice, but it wasn't exactly warm, and it even started to rain. Sixteen (or was it fifteen?) crossings and three hours later we arrived at the road, in good order and remarkably cheerful. We used more tracks alongside the river than I had known existed, the last one being particularly good as it eliminates the deep crossing by the water gauge, coming out opposite the stream by the parking place, and is less of a climb at the end, a big advantage. After a boilup and dry clothing, we sang all the way home!

No. on Trip: 25 plus 3

Leader: Elizabeth Pindar

Graham Thorp, Randall Goldfinch, Keith Forest, Ian Andrews, Keith Thomson, Wayne King, Fergus Mackie, Bill Frizzell, Trevor Plowman, Robyn Marshall, Sam Bristow, Ray Dixon, Paul Chapman, Graeme Allely, Dennis Galyer, Paul Richards, Diane Tresider, Sue Cornforth, Margaret Bristow, Joan Bennett, Jackie Smith, Anna Bloomer, Judith Little, Erika Knight. Also Peter and Joan Manning and son.

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No.1013

TARAPONUI

19th August

Nineteen people left Napier at 6.30, uninspired by the cold, dreary day. A beach excursion seemed desirable to some, but we courageously carried on to Taraponui, and the snow and fog and the drizzle. After a visit to the farmhouse, we proceeded along a farm track for about an hour till we came to the snowline, just above which we had lunch. Then we carried on up somewhere, following a vague track to somewhere else, where the view was a great grey blur, and we decided to go home. Great snowfights, a boilup at our lunch spot, the road home, and more drizzle; so ended our tramp, at about 5 o'clock back in Napier.

No. in party: 19

Leader: Anna Bloomer

Vicki Blake, Jill and Denise Robinson, Randall Goldfinch, Tim Ford, Paul Richards, David North, Margaret, Greg, Heather and Sam Bristow, Roger Conroy, Peter Manning, Hani Schupbach, David Wilkins, Jo and Graham Campbell, Julie Patterson.

---oOo---

No.1014

BURNS RANGE

September 2nd

After picking up the leader's boots we headed over to Napier to pick up the mob. All aboard and up the Taihape Road, with the truck doing 9 miles to the gallon.

We sorted out our gear at the woolshed, started out across the farmland and up the animal track that converges with the cut track on the main ridge itself. We proceeded along the ridge until we came out on to the open top overlooking Comet Hut. By this time it was 11am. Out with the map and we decided to have a go at finding this long-lost bivy. The hours rolled by and after losing the track several times there was still no sign of the bivy, so lunch was the order of the day.

At about 2.30pm we retraced our footsteps to the old stone fireplace. Some were getting a bit tired by now so it was rather a struggle to keep the party together. We thought it would be better to go down the bush gully back to the farm land instead of heading back the same way we had come. Despite the little gorge at the bottom of the gully we made it out to the farmland and the truck without any mishap. We were back in Hastings around 7 o'clock.

No. in party: 21

Leader: Murray Bale

Ray Dixon, Peter Manning, Graham Campbell, David Wilkins, Randall Goldfinch, Jackie Smith, Liz Pindar, Jill Robinson, Robyn Burke, Joan Bennett, Anna Bloomer, Vicki Blake, Peter Boomen, 4 Scouts.

---oOo---

No.1015

SNOWCRAFT COURSE - RUAPEHU

Sept. 15-16th

"Have we arrived?" someone asks from the back of the back of the truck. "Don't bother getting out folks. I think the hut's locked and I haven't got a key."

The long drive to the Massey Hut on the Ohakune side of Ruapehu had already taken its toll in weariness, and the prospect of spending the remaining few hours of Friday night cramped in the truck didn't appeal to anyone. The alternative was the draughty, concrete-floored Park Board shelter.

The night passed and at a "respectable" hour (7am.) the ranger was roused and a key procured. Soon after arrival at the hut, many went to bed but a few stayed awake long enough for breakfast. Eventually the Palmerston North camera club arrived, with a key for the hut! After some moments of concern over who had the rightful claim to the bunks, an harmonious relationship of mutual coexistence was evolved. After all, it was too wet to go outside.

Sunday was again misty with passing showers, but the enthusiasts got out and some snowcraft was done in soft snow. Wet but happy, everyone returned to the hut. Cleaning up took some time and the truck was late getting away. The trip home was as wet as the whole weekend had been.

Many thanks to all who made it such an enjoyable weekend; special thanks to Peter Manning for tolerating such adverse conditions while driving.

No. in party: 20

P.C.

Leader: Warren Greer

Peter Manning, Bruce Perry, Toby Easton, Graham Campbell, David Perry, Paul Maddison, Graham Soppit, David Wilkins, Murray Ball, Kit Persen, John Duncan, Mark Johnston, Russell Riddell, Paul Chapman, Jill and Denise Robinson, Anna Bloomer, Vicki Blake, Margaret Bristow.

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No.1016

NORTH-WESTERN KAIMANAWAS

29-30th Sept.

In the beginning there were many uncertainties about this trip: few people sure that they could go, others getting 'flu; weather forecast unsettled; and a rumour that access to the N.W. Kaimanawas had been closed.



From the Napier - Taupo road we drove in to Poronui Station, viewed the notices which try to express welcome to visitors but dire threats to trespassers at one and the same time; failed to see any sign of where the markers for the surveyed road took off across the farm land (later found these were some distance before the first house on the left) so set off down the Clement's road. No barriers or "Road closed" notices appeared; only one place where a stream crossing had partly fallen in and a notice emphasised that vehicles proceeded strictly at owners' risk! However, sets of concrete pipes on the roadside suggest that major road-works may be planned.

At Pirua Hut we met two boys who told us that at least 18 deerstalkers were out in the immediate area! So after leaving the Kombi about half a mile up the side road, we made sure not to go too quietly along the track towards Te Iringa Hut!

Notices warned of cyanide poison laid for opossums. In face, bits of poison, resembling toothpaste, could still be seen on tree roots or logs and the burden which these animals must place on a forest was impressed on us by the astonishing number of dead ones along the track. Quite hard on the nose too! The food-conversion ratio of blowfly larvae must be quite efficient, as each pound of dead 'possum seemed to have produced at least half a pound of maggots!

Higher up, the undergrowth thinned out and the beech forest, though more open, was reminiscent of that above Waikaremoana, with thick coatings of moss on gnarled, many-branched trees. We met a member of the South Auckland Deerstalkers' Club, a quiet little blonde who appeared more like a hunter than many carriers of rifles we have seen. She seemed to have a genuine appreciation of the bush.

Arriving at the nominally six-bunk hut we found that some previous visitor(s) had used some of the bunk-boards for firewood, leaving barely enough to space out over five. Also the advisability of taking one's own cooking gear was confirmed by hut billies etc containing rancid fat and decomposed food. The little woodshed was leaky and the wood in it wet because bullets had been sent ploughing through walls and roof.

A brilliant sunset sent beams of orange light through the fog amongst the trees, causing a rush for cameras. Liz and Mark especially had done such a good job attacking a beech log with a crosscut saw that we had more than enough wood to keep our fire glowing until nearly midnight, while some of the best discussions and arguments there have been on a tramping trip for years were going on. Consequently our departure next morning in glorious sunshine was a bit late. We wandered along to Te Iringa trig, looked over towards the Oamaru, the main Kaimanawa ranges, and the back of the Kawekas, or out towards Lake Taupo, or over the Poronui farmlands, or down the horribly steep-looking track towards the Tikitiki and Kaipo, and several possible long trips were longingly spoken of.

Heading back to the hut to pick up packs and enjoy a 2½ hour lunch stop, we wandered out to the vehicle by 4pm.

No. in party: 6

Leader: Peter Lewis

Liz Pindar, Judith Little, Mark Johnson, Peter Boomen, John Hoogenboom.

No.1017JUMPED-UP, POHATUHAHA, SENTRY BOXOctober 14th

35 people had decided by 7am Sunday morning that they would brave the rain clouds and come on a tramp. With four vehicles roaring around the countryside we all managed to reach Sentry Box by 8.30am. It was here that we decided to go up to Parks Peak Hut instead of Pohatuhaha because the track was clearer and drier.

We all jumped out of the vehicles and shot into Sentry Box Hut then up the ridge behind the Hut. It was cloudy but very hot and the slower ones got slower and the faster ones wanted to go faster, so we separated into 3 groups, slow, medium, and fast; and by some miracle all reached Parks Peak without mishap.

There we spent a leisurely lunch hour and eventually decided it was time to move down the Hut track and turn right at the intersection with the main track, and head for the truck. The distance down the ridge was covered in a short time and we all reached the truck by about 5pm and got home by 6.30pm.

My thanks to all for help and advice.

No. in party: 35

Leader: Dennis Galyer.

Keith Thomson, Phillip Thomson, Peter Boomen, Robin Marshall, Malcolm Ingpen, John Ball, Peter Manning, Robert Elder, Ray Dixon, Joan Bennett, Athena Galyer, Barbara McLean, Diane Tressider, Les Tressider, Cathy Baker, Dot Phair, Peter Lewis, David North, Johanna Campbell, Robyn Burke, Julie Paterson, Graham Campbell, John Ferren, Christine Smith, Roger Conroy, Jeremy Marshall, Mrs. Matheson, Randall Goldfinch, and 6 scouts.

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No.1018KAIMANAWAS, FROM DESERT ROADOctober 20-22nd

Saturday. Saturday morning we travelled in the Kombi up to the Kaimanawa Forest Park via Taupo, Turangi and then down the Desert Road to the Hydro access road No.10. Driving on this road as far as possible we parked the Kombi and began preparing our clobber for the trip.

At 11am with sunny weather smiling down our small party of 5 followed along a bulldozed track and then up a steep rough track through beautiful bush with mighty forest giants. Our first target was Umukarikari Range. As we headed up we located our relative position from Mt. Ngauruhoe and Sharp Cone. Lunch time found us about half way up still in the bush, after which we plodded on upwards. At about 4.30pm we emerged above the bushline below Umukarikari, 5222', and clambered on up. From the top the view was terrific: Tongariro National Park, Lake Rotoaira, Lake Taupo, Waipakihi River, etc.

From Umukarikari the party proceeded in a N.E. direction along the range. The light conditions on the surrounding country was quite unreal. On down a spur ridge to Waipakihi Hut by 8pm. The weather became cooler and darkness caught us during the last hour. The hut was crowded with hunters and Waikato T.C. members, but we managed a stew and drinks before turning in.

Sunday. After a late breakfast (9.am) we tramped south up a spur ridge on to Middle Range. This involved bushbashing, until we crashed on to a rough track that took us up on to the open tops. The weather was overcast and cool as we plodded on and on up to 5460' for lunch where we had a mighty view over into the Rangitikei River and the Kaweka Ranges in the far distance.

Continuing on, the distance that we had to cover seemed immense. Traversing over Thunderbolt, 5435', we turned in a westerly direction still on the Middle Range. Nearing the end of the Range, it was great to look around the horizon and see the distance we had come in barely  $1\frac{1}{2}$  days. Coming down off the Range into the Waipakihi River we had trouble finding a track and hence darkness caught us bushbashing down. Finally reaching a creek with most of us stuffed we decided on a forced camp. Peter turned on the energy, building a platform for us to sleep on, covered with the tent, as the ground fell steeply into the creek. After a brew, sleep at 1.30am.

Monday. Waking up about 7am we packed up after a brew and continued about 20 minutes down to the Waipakihi River. How easy it is in daylight. Wandering further downstream we had a late breakfast-cum-early lunch.

It started raining as we began climbing the slippery track up to Urchin, 4566', (on Umukarikari Range). Out on the tops following the markers it was misty with cold rain sand-blasting us and we were pleased to get back into the bush out of the wind. The bush track led us back down to the forestry access roads where we followed around back to the Kombi, which we reached at 3pm.

No. in party: 5.

Randall Goldfinch, John Joll, Peter Boomen, Robin Marshall, Peter Lewis.

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No.1019

SMITHS CREEK VIA HINERUA RIDGE

October 28th

With a cloudy sky but no wind 19 trampers set off at 9.20 from the truck on "Oakley" Station, up the track to Hinerua Ridge. Visibility was exceptionally good allowing the party to see from the Tukituki river valley across the Takapau Plains and out towards the Hawkes Bay coastline. Unfortunately in the opposite direction the tops of the Ruahines were covered in cloud.

On reaching the top of the ridge 3 energetic members of the party made it quite obvious which direction to take so that one would not take the other track. This seemed to be a hunters' track which faded out. With the summer upon us the track was well thawed out making it very heavy under foot. 11am saw us all at Hinerua Hut where we had a boil up and lunch. At 12.15 we set off down the track which led to a tributary of Smiths Creek. The party then split up into small groups and carried on down at their own pace. Various members also noted the fresh signs of deer in the area.

Arriving at Smiths Creek at 1.15 some of the members then decided to find out exactly where Smiths Creek Hut is as it is wrongly marked on

the Ongaonga Map. Heading upstream the hut was located approx 20 minutes from where the tributary runs into Smiths Creek. One should note that the sign at the top of the track near Hinerua Hut indicated that it takes  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour to reach Smiths Creek Hut. All right for a fast party perhaps but I consider it takes nearer  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hours.

After filling in the log book we returned to the tributary and there we decided that the Creek was too deep and cold to continue downstream. We then retraced our steps up the tributary back to Hinerua Hut in small parties. Gathering together again, 3.40 saw us heading back along Hinerua Track to the truck, where some of the first to arrive had lit a fire providing water for tea etc. which was most welcome. Leaving at 6pm we eventually arrived back at Hastings at 8pm after a good day of tramping.

No. in party: 19

Leader: Roy Frost

Owen Brown, Peter Boomen, Robin Marshall, Peter Lewis, David Wilkins, Murray Ball, Paul Richards, Dick Ferren, Johnathan Ferren, Peter Manning, Judith Little, Jenny Thomson, Liz Pindar, Robyn Burke, Diane Tressider, Kathy Barker, Helen and Roger Conroy.

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No.1020

CAIRN TRIP 1973

November 10-11th

A 7.30 Saturday start, overcast sky and 17 aboard, we left Hastings for Makahu with a stop to assist (?) George Prebble with petrol troubles, and 2 stops for mobs of sheep at Puketitiri. We arrived at the car park, and by 10.30 ten weekenders were away to Back Hut. Occasional showers and the cloud lifting and lowering between 3300' and 4500' for the rest of the day till late evening when it gradually cleared to reveal a full moon. Sunday morning dawned beautifully clear. Murray Ball was away at 6.30 and our contingent with George Prebble at 7am. A very welcome stop at the Bayens Mountain Retreat (Dominie) at 8.15 for a ready-brewed cup of tea. 9am, on again, wondering about the owners of the many cars now in the park and the identity of the numerous antlike figures climbing upwards.

At 11am we numbered 44 with another 8 still on the ridge. We decided to eat first to allow the 8 to catch up. Another hold up as a large party from Napier Intermediate School gathered around the Cairn and Trig. The Service was held shortly after 12 with the weather now quite cold and windy and the wreath being laid by the two youngest present, Sian Morgan aged 2 and Derek Reid aged 5. We finished lunch and were away to a warmer climate by 1pm. A very large turnout by club members and friends for this occasion was most heartening. Weather wise I think our luck must be running out as regards fine conditions for the Service. However, one never knows.

No. in party: 52

Leader: Maury Taylor

Weekenders were: David Wilkins, Murray Ball, Peter Boomen, John Jull, Philip Holland, Tony Streeter, Randall Goldfinch, Tim Arlidge, Nigel Harvey, Philip Bayens Jnr., Malcolm Starnes, Maurice, Barbara, Robyn, Susan and Kevin Taylor, Rosemary Heaps. Overnighters: George Prebble, Philip, Els, Debbie and Michael Bayens. Sunday-ites: Jim, Karen and Martin Glass, Owen and Kerry Brown, Peter and David Lewis, Peter Manning, Ursula Milner-White, Helen Hill, Michael and Graham Hill, Maurice Mead, Philip, Sharon, David, Jennifer and Jillian Mardon, Colin, Karen and David Reid, Lyn Sutton, Lindsay Broad, Liz Pindar, Ray Dixon, Kit Persen, Joan Bennett, Joy Gareth, Sian Morgan, Cathy Barker.

SOCIAL NEWS

Births: To Marilyn and Graham Thorp - a daughter.  
To Pam and Brian Turner - a daughter.  
To Gerald and Ann Edmunds - a daughter.

Engagement: Graham Soppit to Valerie Brenchley.

Deaths: It is with regret that we record the passing of Dr. Bathgate, Les Holt, and Frank Severinsen. (Obituaries on page 13)

NEW MEMBER.

We welcome to the club - Diane Tresidder.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year's celebration will be held at the river behind Mr. Yule's property at the END of OAK AVE., commencing at 4pm. Barbecues, etc., will be welcomed and a marquee will be erected. All welcome and remember to bring your own mug, knife, fork, etc.

PHOTO COMPETITION

The next photo competition will be judged on Wednesday February 13th. Please have your entries handed in at the previous meeting. This date should give all competitors time to select slides from Christmas trips. Two classes:- colour slides and black and white or colour photos. No entry fee; just a copy of the prize-winners' entries to be donated to the club.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due. If paid by December 31st 1973, single are reducible to \$2. and married couples' to \$3.

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Typists for this issue are:- Nancy Tanner and Barbara Taylor.

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THE FIRST MEETING of 1974 will be held on Wednesday January 16th.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS to ALL and Good Tramping in 1974.

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FIXTURE LIST

On many trips, if necessary, parties may divide so that fitter members can undertake a challenging trip while others enjoy a less strenuous outing. Suggestions for next trip list welcomed. Note that changes could be made to suit weather conditions, forestry permits, or opportunities for other trips, so if you cannot attend the meeting on the Wednesday evening before the trip, please check with someone who has, or inquire from the Club Captain or one of the following: Peter Lewis - phone 56.789; Paul Richards - phone 38.894; Murray Ball - phone 84.251.

1974JAN.

19-20 Upper Mohaka River - Mangatainoka Valley.  
Leader: Paul Richards.

FEB.

3 Lilo Trip - Manawatu Gorge.  
Leader: Trevor Plowman Transport: Sen. \$2. Jun. \$1.  
Driver: David Smith

16-17 Umukarikari Range, Kaimanawas, from Desert Road.  
 Fit ones may reach Waipakihi Hut; others could camp out above bush-line. Beginners could have an easy trip camping out in bush.  
Leader: Randall Goldfinch. Transport: Sen. \$3. Jun. \$2.

MARCH

3 Boundary Stream north of Tutira.  
 270' waterfall. Possibly stop at some rocks for climbing practice.  
Leader: Alan Berry.

16-17 Maropea Forks Hut.  
 Over Armstrong Saddle and down river. Out along main range for fit ones. Others can stay at Upper Maropea Hut.  
Leader: Peter Lewis  
Driver: Peter Manning

31 Kiwi Saddle Hut.  
 Up Tutaekuri, out over tops.  
Leader: Jenny Thompson  
Driver: Peter Manning.

APRIL

12-15 EASTER: Round Lake Waikaremoana.  
 Leader and drivers to be arranged. Transport: Sen. \$3.50 Jun. \$2.50

28 Three Johns.  
 Those wanting a more energetic trip can go across Middle Creek and up ridge on to Rangī. Out down the Waipawa River.  
Leader: Graham Thorp.

MAY

11-12 Northern Ruahines. Upper Makaroro via Akarana Hut and out via Parks Peak Hut. Less energetic ones could stay at either Parks Peak or Akarana.  
Leader: Liz Pindar.  
Driver: Peter Manning.

Fixture List (cont.)1974MAY (cont.)

- 26 Golden Crown, North East Ruahines.  
Fit ones may go round and down Bobs Spur.  
Leader: Ray Dixon  
Driver: Maury Taylor

Proposed Trips - subject to confirmation in next issue.

JUNE

- 1 - 3 Queens Birthday - Tongariro National Park.

- 8-9 Waipoa Hut, Waikaremoana.  
From Putere Bush track hut by lake.  
Leader: Kit Persen  
Driver: Peter Manning.

- 23 Don Juan - Lotkow Hut area.  
Leader: Joanna Campbell  
Driver: David Smith

JULY

- 6-7 Eastern Tararuas.  
Leader: Judith Little  
Driver: Murray Ball

- 21 East Face 66. (if any snow)  
Leader: Owen Brown  
Driver:

AUG.

- 3-4 Snowcraft. Wherever snow may be found.  
Leader: Malcolm Ingpen.

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Transport Contributions: Unless otherwise stated: 60c junior; \$1. senior.  
 (Juniors being those still at school). Plus 20c if not paid before  
 the end of the trip.

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OVERDUE TRAMPERS

Although returning parties usually plan to be out of the bush well before dark, considerations of safety must always come first. Even after arriving back at the transport, they could take two or more hours for the return journey, plus any unexpected delays, so beginners should make sure that parents or any others who may worry about them know this. Though normally not nearly as late as this, unless the return to town was likely to be later than about 10pm it would not be regarded as cause for parents to worry, but in case of such unusual delay all newcomers should see that the list which the leader leaves in town includes their phone number.

FOR INQUIRIES about overdue parties, please first contact one of the following:

ALAN BERRY - phone 77.223  
 MAURY TAYLOR - phone HMN829  
 JANET LLOYD - phone 87.666

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