

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

BOX 386, HASTINGS

" P O H O K U R A "

Bulletin No. 134

December 1976

PRESIDENT: Mr. P. Bayens,
St. Georges Road North, Hastings
Phone 84498

SECRETARY: Mr. G. Thorp,
110 Riverbend Road, Napier
Phone 434238

TREASURER: Miss J. Smith,
1009E Heretaunga Street, Hastings
Phone 68249

CLUB CAPTAIN: Mr. R. Perry,
702 Fitzroy Avenue, Hastings
Phone 88828

A N N U A L R E P O R T S

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

This 41st Annual General Meeting brings to close another successful year in the life of the Club.

Club meetings have been held fortnightly and have been well attended. Some very interesting talks and slides have been presented at these meetings. Your Committee has met four times during the year and sub-committees have worked hard to arrange trips and other Club activities.

The Club membership stands at about 160. Many active members left the District during the year to attend university or further their careers in other places and we look forward to some of these members returning. There have not been as many new members joining the Club as in past years, particularly younger ones. The annual loss of active members and their replacement by new and younger members must be accepted. In my view the Club shouldn't need to canvass for members, but I think we all have a responsibility to encourage younger members to enjoy the Club's activities and to make any visitors and potential members very welcome.

There appears to be a slight fall off in new members coming from Napier and this is probably due to the attraction of the Y.M.C.A. Club. The population of the Heretaunga plains

is approaching 100,000 and it is only reasonable that more than one tramping Club is necessary. Most of us will welcome the growth of this new Club.

The Club was busy during the first half of the year completing renovations to Kiwi Saddle Hut and Kaweka Hut and the improvements are a real credit to the members who took part. The Club is now turning its energy towards raising funds for the replacement of the Club's truck. Working bees have been well attended and all the work carried out enthusiastically. The voluntary levy has also been responded to well.

It is with regret that I have to record that during the year three of our members passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, both honorary members, and Miss Helen Hill, who was at one time a very active member, will all be missed by all of us.

In closing, I would like to sincerely thank our Club Captain, Secretary and treasurer and all those committee members who have made the trips and social evenings so enjoyable.

A.K. Thomson

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT:

Once again in the past year the Club has visited many areas from Stewart Island in the South to Tongariro National Park in the north. Other areas also visited are the Ruahine and Kaweka Forest Parks, Wakarara range and the Urewera National Park. Places like the Remarkables, Routeburn, Matukituki and the Raukumara Range feature in private trips. The Kaimanawa Forest Park and Ahimanawa range have been the venue for three longer private trips.

Attendances on tramps this year are down with 293 persons on 18 day tramps - 209 persons on weekend or longer trips. This shows a small drop in weekend numbers probably contributed to by the weather as also with one day tramps with 3 out of 15 leaving Hols in atrocious conditions. Two trips were cancelled, one a day trip when it was decided to continue work on repairing fruit bins. Once again our planned Sawtooth crossing was put off because of conditions in the Tuki Tuki River. Rain which has fallen in varying amounts on nearly every trip in 1976 was also the cause of a late homecoming through swollen rivers from a Mangatainoka river trip.

Meeting attendances have been excellent helped by the efforts of the Social Committee.

I would like to thank all trip leaders, and on behalf of all active trampers to thank the N.Z.F.S. for the use of huts and help given, and also land owners for their help and permission in crossing properties.

P.M.

HUT, TRACK and FIXTURE:

The fixtures this year have been a bit upset from time to time. Poison drops, the weather and working parties have been responsible for many changes. Apart from these, a good years tramping has been enjoyed by the Club.

The Club huts have all seen work done this year. Waikamaka is sound but the track up from the river is being continually threatened by washouts.

Eleven working parties to Kaweka Hut have been held this year, quite a few being very wet. The hut walls have been recovered with corrugated iron and a concrete fireplace and new chimney erected. This hut is now wind and waterproof, making it a lot warmer and more comfortable. All that is needed now is a painting party.

Six working parties to Kiwi Saddle Hut resulted in a concrete fireplace and new chimney being erected. The fire is capable of warming the hut. Once again the weather put a stop to the painting of the iron work so another painting party is needed when fine weather has been arranged.

Our thanks go to the Motere Trust for funds for these ventures and to the N.Z.F.S. for choppertime to fly in the bulk of cement and corrugated iron.

P.M.

TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT:

"on trip" training is still continuing, field experience being a better teacher than the text book. The diversity of trips has provided valuable experience in bushcraft, snowcraft, and river travel. During the trip over Mount Ruapehu, extensive training in snowcraft techniques was given in very practical circumstances. A recent trip in the Northern Ahimana was provided adequate scope for map and compass navigation during darkness.

At meetings, short talks with feedback from the assembly were given on clothing, maps, packs, sleeping bags and the practical aspects of food for extended trips. A lecture arranged by the Social Committee on resuscitation was well received.

A very successful Search and Rescue techniques seminar and subsequent weekend practical exercise was well attended by members of the Club, and our gratitude is extended to the organisers: H.B. Mountain Safety Committee.

Recently permission has been obtained to use the Tomoana Showgrounds on a permanent basis for compass exercises. This should also provide an ideal venue for a night exercise.

T.S.D.

LIBRARY:

The library has had little use this year but next year we hope to have a bigger cupboard installed which will give more room to show what we have. We had left to us 27 books of Edna Ansell's which will broaden our collection, but we have so far so space to make them available. A folder now holds current numbers of other Clubs' magazines, for these can be useful both in planning our own trips and for general information. A book, The Canterbury Mountaineer Jubilee edition has been bought and the library receipts were 30c.

E.R.P.

PUBLICITY:

Apart from occasional misprints, reports have been coming out in both local papers reasonably well, providing that reports are handed in in time for the newspapers to print them as weekend news.

E.R.P.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

First, the Social Committee thanks all who have helped with talks, suggestions and supper duty. Secondly, we apologize for not having kept the social side of the meetings as planned, partly because the National Film Unit unexpectedly put such a high price on its services, and twice as with no notice speakers were unable to come.

Club slides, which are always popular, would have been more numerous if last minute juggling had not been necessary. The photo competition which originally was twice yearly, January and July, now seems to have become April and November, which should allow plenty of time for Christmas slides to be processed. The last winner was Peter Manning with his slide "Nearly Home".

As well as our own members talking on sewage and water supply on the plains, and slides of Great Barrier Island, and the Southern Alps, Asian countries and Pacific Ports, we have had National Film Unit movies on gannets, and McQuarrie Island, The St. John Ambulance on resuscitation, a speaker from the Sutcliffe School of Radiant Living on its ideas, Mr. Ash Cunningham with further developments in hydrology in the Ruahines, and an evening of African animals.

A Christmas picnic, with cricket and lilo rides at Kuripapanga water gauge had the obligatory visit from Santa in sandshoes, while our sporting prowess was displayed in a cricket match against Tomoana at Havelock North.

After the "Windmill" coffeeshop shut, we lacked a gathering place for talk after meetings, but Jo and Russ have opened a much better spot recently, and the Social Committee wishes to thank them for the hospitality offered, as well as all helpers this year.

E.R.P.

TRUCK:

Last year, when I was writing this article, the truck looked like a camouflaged army vehicle (rust patches, undercoat, and old paint). Now a year later it looks A.I. It is amazing what a spray gun can do in the right hands. The truck seems to be settling down after the last valve grind. Apart from using a little oil, it performs much better than a few of the more recent models we have tried. All the same we keep looking for a replacement. This brings me to the point of our fund raising campaign for the truck. In a few words: a terrific success so far. Don't let anybody ever tell me that today's youth are a bunch of no hopers. The way they got behind the campaign is nothing more than marvellous. They have my backing any time and the Club's future looks pretty rosy with them around. The truck is frequently used for transporting school tramping parties which in the long run must benefit the Club through the interest created in tramping.

At a guess we should cover transport costs. Unfortunately we had to raise our fares to cover increased costs, although compared with other Clubs the fares are still cheap.

Before I finish, I would like to thank all the drivers and members who assisted in keeping the truck going.

P.B.

GEAR:

Gear has had 62 individual hirers this year and has brought in \$67.60. Some borrowers have found it very useful to be able to collect and return gear to the Hastings Public Library, although I wonder what some of the customers think of pack-clad, ice axe bearing beings plodding through. Two new pairs of boots (5's) were bought, 1 pair leather, 1 pair rubber lace-ups, 1 pair of 6's were donated and 1 pair of 5's (old ones) were discarded as worn out. Some lost property, a parka, a woolly shirt etc have been added to gear available and have been used, though as usual, boots in small sizes, and packs, are the most regularly hired equipment.

Hired out were:-

9	sleeping bag hirings	
46	boot	"
24	ice axe	"
20	pack	"
7	rope	"
9	tent	"
9	clothes	"
3	billies	"
2	frying pan	"

altogether 129 separate hirings.

E.R.P.

FUNDRAISING:

In May the Executive Committee appointed a fundraising Committee to organise ways of raising money for a new truck. The target ^{was} set at \$3,000 and to date \$1,771 has been raised:- over halfway in 5 months. This figure is made up as follows:-

Donations from members following	
Special General Meeting	327
Napier Sports Grant	500
Working parties	930
Auctions	<u>14</u>
	<u>\$1771</u>

As can be seen, over half the money raised so far has been earned by working parties. Our thanks to all the willing Club members and others who have turned up to these jobs - especially those who hammered so furiously and earned \$600 worth of blisters in one weekend repairing fruitbins.

We hope this support will continue and we are still looking for more jobs. If you haven't sent your donation to the Treasurer it will still be welcome.

J.M.P.

P.S. As at 17/11/76 the total amount raised was \$2,888, the extra funds being:-

Hastings Sports Grant	500
Havelock North Sports Grant	420
further donations from members	<u>197</u>

	<u>1117</u>
previous total	<u>1771</u>
	<u>\$2888</u>

As almost \$2,000 of this has been donated, the committee has decided to aim to raise \$3,000 by working ourselves so keep those jobs rolling in !

J.P.

EDITOR'S REPORT:

Our thanks to members who have helped with stapling and typing this year and special thanks to Els Bayens and Ingram Thompson & Berry for the duplicating of the "Pohokura".

We would strongly remind trip leaders that their trip reports are to be handed to us at the meeting after the trip. This ensures more accurate reports and easier work for us. The same applies to private trips.

On behalf of the Club we would like to thank Pam Turner

for the time and effort she gave as editor of "Pohokura".

SCRAPBOOK:

The Club scrapbook is still being maintained with newspaper clippings of the Club's activities and other items of interest. The older scrapbooks have not yet been located, unfortunately.

J.R.G.

PHOTO ALBUM:

Only a few photos have been received for the club photo album this year. It would be appreciated if more could be given and winners of the photo competitions are reminded that they should give a copy of their winning slide or photo to the album.

G.S.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 20th October, 1976, the following officers were elected:-

<u>PATRON:</u>	Mr. R.W. Chaplin
<u>PRESIDENT:</u>	Mr. P. Bayens
<u>VICE-PRESIDENTS:</u>	Messrs. A.K. Thomson, M. Taylor, T. Plowman
<u>CLUB CAPTAIN:</u>	Mr. R. Perry
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	Mr. G.R. Thorp
<u>TREASURER:</u>	Miss J. Smith
<u>AUDITOR:</u>	Mr. A.V. Berry
<u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:</u>	

Messrs. G. Bailey, R. Goldfinch, B. Perry, M. Ball, L. Hanger
P. Manning, Miss E. Pindar.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

Miss J. Reading, Messrs. M. Ball, P. Boomen, D. Bloomer,
D. Northe, P. Berry, G. Orr.

FIXTURE, HUT AND TRACK:

R. Perry, B. Perry, R. Goldfinch, G. Bailey, P. Manning

TRAINING:

R. Perry, T. Plowman, G. Bailey

TRUCK:

P. Bayens, K. Thomson, M. Taylor, L. Hanger

SEARCH REPRESENTATIVES:

M. Taylor, A. Berry, G. Thorp

GEAR CUSTODIAN:

E. Pindar, Assistant B. Perry

PUBLICITY: E. Pindar

FUNDRAISING:

J. Perry, T. Plowman, D. Northe

MOUNTAIN SAFETY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: L. Hanger.

EDITOR: J. Perry

PHOTO ALBUM: G. Soppitt

SCRAP BOOK: Jim Glass

LIBRARY: E. Pindar

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MEETINGS FOR 1977

The first meeting for 1977 will be held at the Radiant Living Hall, Warren Street North, Hastings on January 12th at 8 p.m. Fortnightly meetings will be held on:

January 26th,
February 23rd
March 23rd
April 20th
May 18th

February 9th
March 9th
April 6th
May 4th
June 1st

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL WITH HAPPY

TRAMPING IN THE NEW YEAR AHEAD

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTFOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 19761975 INCOME: The Club's Income comprised -

255	Subscriptions	242
30	Equipment Hire	73
98	Meeting Contributions	88
81	Donations - General	57
-	-- Rotaract for stretcher	185
8	-- for use of Hut	-
250	-- Motere Trust for Huts	250
114	Interest Received	108
-	Profit on Maps & Badges	14
32	Profit on Transport	14
2	Library Fees	-
60	Subsidy from Ministry of Sport	-

930

1031

EXPENDITURE: The Expenses incurred in running the Club were -

101	Rent of Meeting Room	113
29	Supper & Social Expenses	18
247	Equipment & Hut Maintenance	383
-	Purchase of Stretcher	149
16	Subscriptions: Royal Society, Alpine Club etc.	10
99	F.M.C. Capitation	90
7	Insurance	12
120	Bulletin Expenses	158
21	Donation - Bill Bridge Memorial	-
46	Stationery, stamps etc.	43
2	Loss on maps and badges	-
17	General Expenses	22
6	Outdated Maps written off	-
	Transport Costs	1135
	Truck Depreciation	150

	Fares Received	1285
		1299
	Profit on Transport (See Income)	14

(711)

998

219 There was therefore a Profit for the year of\$ 33

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)BALANCE SHEETAS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1976

<u>1975</u>	At Balance date the Club owned the following Assets:		
1856	Bank of New South Wales		1796
-	Eastern & Central Savings Bank		840
71	Post Office Savings Bank		73
97	Equipment		97
13	Cash on Hand		6
159	Stocks On Hand		233
	Bedford truck and canopy, at cost	1290	
	<u>Less</u> Depreciation to date	1150	
290			140
1000	Investment - Hastings City Council, due 1978 @ 5 1/2%		1000
	Huts valued in the books as follows:		
	Kaweka	10	
	Kiwi	50	
	Waikamaka	55	
115			115
69	Projector at cost		69
3670	The total value of the Assets being:		4369
	However, of this amount there has been set aside for -		
7	Accounts owing		31
69	Reunion Fund		69
19	Search Fund		-
36	Maintenance of Rescue Kits		-
19	Subscriptions in Advance		14
-	Truck Replacement Fund		647
150			761
3520			\$ 3608

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

Balance 1st. October, 1975	3520
<u>Plus</u> Search Fund & Rescue Kit Fund transferred	55
	3575
<u>Plus</u> Profit for year	33
	\$ 3608

AUDITORS REPORT

I report that I have examined the books and records of the Club and have obtained all the information and explanations I have required. In my opinion the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account show respectively a true and fair view of the Club's position at 30th September 1976 and of the results for the year ended on that date.

A.V. Berry A.C.A.

AUDITOR.

CLUB TRIPS.

No. 1094.

Kahuranaki.

20th June 1976

This trip was an excellent one for the beginners and the not too fit trampers. The truck was not available so we travelled by five cars, a bit more comfort for a short trip.

We left Holts at 9 am, weather overcast but fine. The cars were left at the woolshed on Kahuranaki Station and a leisurely stroll was taken up the access road to the translator station at the top. A small side party, led by Michael Bayens, went straight up the hill and was able to beat the rest of the party to the top.

Although arrangements were made to use the facilities, the place was locked up, so lunch was eaten in a sheltered corner out of the wind. After lunch we went exploring to find the limestone cave, which was duly found. Armed with torches we explored the cave which dropped in three stages of about 15 feet each and reached about 500 yards into the hill. All members but one experienced potholing, with Peter Manning doing most of the work of belaying. Joanne Jepson was the only girl to go to the bottom.

An overland trip back down to the cars and back to Hastings by 4.30 pm.

No. in party 23.

Leader Frank Hooper.

Party: Les Hanger, Chris Hooper, Chris Melody, Simon O'Kane, Ross Barradell, Peter Manning, Joan, Judith & David Manning, Andrew Keehan, John Grover, Peter Berry, Joanne Jepson, Joy Blair, Phil & Michael Bayens, J. Starnes and family.

No. 1095.

Golden Crown.

1st August. 76

The weekend trip to Glenfalls that had been planned was cancelled due to a working party on Saturday for the truck. It was decided instead to do some track cutting on the Golden Crown ridge track on Sunday and the party set out in reasonable weather.

Somehow the club slashers remained in the truck but some track clearing was still done on the lower parts of the track. A few members were intending to go to the top and along down to Sentry Box Hut but as the weather started to close in they went round via the farmland.

We returned to Hastings about six after a pleasant day although not as much track clearing was done as could have been.

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No. 1096.

The Lizard.

15th August 76

Twenty three members left Hastings about twenty past seven Sunday morning. We travelled along the Napier-Taihape Road to just past the old Roadmens Whare. After packs were rearranged and Russell and Chris M. had given a very good performance on how to climb and how to skin feet on the way down, we set off. Six of the group left the main bunch and

proceeded to the Miriroa (3250ft.) The main bunch wandered leisurely along the track to a place called the Lizard's paw. After a little bit of deciding where to go we had a small climb to get on top of a ridge called the Lizard. Here we could see where the fault line runs leaving bare clay patches all the way along the ridge and further. After more stops we moved across over a small saddle on to the Glenross Ridge. We were in an area of limestone where there were many rocks and small caves to explore. We stopped and had a rather large lunch, then moved further on down, exploring more. After crossing back over the saddle we followed the ridge back to the truck. After about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour the other group tramped in. A very enjoyable and interesting trip. Arrived home in Hastings about 7.15pm.

Number in party 23.

Leader: Chris Jones

Russell Perry, Bruce Perry, Elizabeth Hughes, John Grover, Frank Hooper, Elizabeth Pindar, Sarah Taylor, Simon Taylor, David Wilkins, Glenn Armstrong, Chris Melody, Leigh Elliot, Simon Rowe, Andre Grossman, Joanne Jepson, Peter Lewis, Trevor Plowman, Jill Robinson, Jim McIvor, David Calloman, Ross Barradell.

No. 1097.

Kaweka Hut.

28 - 29th August.

After a slightly late start and words from an apologetic leader, the truck rumbled through slumbering streets heading for the Kawekas.

Peter McBride and Marcia had intentions of further improvements to Kiwi Saddle Hut while the main party left for Kaweka Hut and Studholmes. After a leisurely stroll, a variety of river crossing methods attempting to keep boots dry, and a number of pauses to admire each others fitness we arrived at Kaweka Hut by lunchtime. Apart from a low firewood supply the hut was in good order and a welcome haven from the cool temperatures and rain.

Although the weather was further deteriorating, and Kaweka was getting cosier, we reluctantly set off for Studholmes Saddle using the bush route above the hut to reach the tops. Once above the bushline, the cold weather became much more noticeable and the further we ventured the less we felt like continuing. The ridge top was reached in cold, wind-driven snow where, if you weren't too uncomfortable, the beauty of the ice-clad vegetation was something to be admired.

The finer points of fitness combined with the cold made for a discussion leading to a return to Kaweka hut, where a great stew was consumed and followed up by a classic session of puns.

Next morning, the weather showed no signs of improvement so various activities were undertaken from instruction on prussik knots and climbing knots to pull-ups from the rafters. Heavy rain decided some people against excursions outside.

After lunch the hut was cleaned and everyone dressed in parkas for a wet tramp out to the truck and returned to Hastings by 6.30pm. Thanks to Les Hanger for driving and to everyone for a Happy weekend.

No. in Party. 14.

Leader: Dave Perry.

Driver: Les Hanger.

Russell & Bruce Perry, Peter McBride, Jill Robinson, Marcia Browne, Dave Wilkins, David Northe, Sarah Taylor, Peter Manning, Danny Bloomer, Elizabeth Hughes, Chris Melody.

No. 1098 (a)

Te Hoe River.

25 - 26th September

The Te Hoe Story of the Te Hoe Trip.

Intending to reach the Te Hoe or bust, our group broke away and entered the bush (N104 079 208). Not recognising the beginning of a track as leading to the Te Hoe we bush-bashed up a ridge to intersect the new track. The weather, though not cold, was thoughtlessly raining - as usual - and after a hurried lunch our group left the rest (who had caught up) and headed for the Upper Te Hoe hut. The route followed ridge tops south then east, passing a small hut and a helipad. Through gaps in the low cloud, glimpses of territory extending down the Whiranaki to the Bay of Plenty could be appreciated. To the south the Kawekas took on an unusual aspect. The track passed the turnoff to the Hut and rose to sidle under Trig VII. From that point the map-marked track continued east but the well marked track we were following (marked with rotting possums and venetian blinds on every tree) deviated and veered north following the major ridge dividing the head waters of the Whirinaki from the Te Hoe. Carefully relating the new track to the map was a mistake and almost led to a night out (although we were prepared, our objective was the hut). We had reached a position on the ridge which by dropping off due east should have taken us on to the hut roof. However, the track which was marked 'Te Hoe' continued on with gay abandon. The question was : did Te Hoe mean 'hut' or 'river', quite a difference when it comes to sleeping. Luckily someone in the darkness vaguely remembered being told that the hut was marked on the map in the wrong position. One hour and a few torch batteries later we confirmed this by continuing to follow the well marked track to the hut. On the map the hut is marked one mile downstream of the correct position which is (N104 157193).

At the hut an amiable meathunter, Grant, had the fire blazing and after a chat and dinner we dropped to sleep dreaming of a shorter route for the next day.

Sunday dawned fine displaying the Te Hoe's talents. Reluctantly leaving at 10am. we made steady progress through worsening weather back by the same route, lunching at the 'little hut' on the 'east' ridge and arriving at the truck after a commendable 5 hours tramping.

T.S.P.

Trev Plowman, Dave Perry, Pete Boomen, Chris Jones.

No. 1098 (b)

The Pukahunui Story of the Te Hoe Trip.

Till lunchtime or thereabouts there was much confusion as to who belonged where. The two parties kept blending together at intervals along the track which had at first proved to be elusive. We finally found it after a bit of bush bashing and using some common sense.

So at lunch time the two parties became three, with some heading to Te Hoe and others to Whirinaki. That left six of us and we headed off along the track following those aiming for Te Hoe Hut. We planned a more leisurely weekend going as far as Pukahunui Stream. The track skirted the headwaters of the Whirinaki River leading us up and down, up and down forever or so it seemed. A couple of hours and a hailstorm (oh and a few skinned opossums) later, we came to a helipad and stopped for a while - long enough for someone to fall asleep in the sun. The weather had temporarily improved so we moved on. A short way down the track was a hut which we investigated but decided wasn't worthy of an overnight visit. Soon the very welcome fork in the track appeared and the sign 'Pukahunui Hut 1 hour'. The 'Ups and downs' became more 'downs' and then the Hut, and the stream loomed ahead. The Pukahunui Stream was cold and thigh deep (on me that is - knee deep on everyone else!) and the hut was on the other side!!

Night wasn't far away, nor was the rain so it was wood gathering, firelighting and cooking for the next couple of hours. It was a nice cosy feeling sitting in the hut eating our lumpy instant pud, listening to the rain and knowing that the only mattress in the hut was mine!!!

Sunday we decided to look for the old mill that was marked on the map, leaving packs etc. behind. It was an easy amble down the road which followed the Pukahunui Stream where there are some inviting swimming holes which would be well worth a visit during the summer. The mill was just over an hour down the road and we had a pleasant time exploring the old tram cars and the mill itself.

All too soon it was time to return to the hut. The weather turned on us again and the rain came before we made it back to the hut, although it didn't last for long. A quick lunch and we headed off up the road back to the truck which we reached around three. Once again the rain beat us there and it was a hurried change into dry clothes and off home after a detour to Taupo.

J.R.

Chris Melody, Graham Bailey, Peter McBride, Peter Manning, Peter Lewis, Jill Robinson.

No. 1098 (c) The Whirinaki Story of the Te Hoe Trip.

An hour and a half after leaving the main party, five of us reached Upper Whirinaki Hut, via the 'Horse Track' as it is known. The track is steep and rough in places and not a pleasant trip in the upward direction.

This fact and the lure of Central Whirinaki Hut led to an early start next morning and an hour later we reached the caves at the junction of Plateau Creek and the Whirinaki. A forestry sign at Upper Whirinaki said 3 hours to Central Whirinaki and we arrived there after only 2 hours. Even this is slow according to opossum hunters in residence there.

We had a quick brew and wandered off upstream to the caves again. Plateau creek was low and no difficulties were encountered. We spent half an hour at Plateau Hut, before heading out to the truck to wait for the other parties. Huts comment:- Upper Whirinaki Hut could be smelled five minutes away because of skinned opossums, and two deer.

Central Whirinaki Hut - opossum hunters had 500 skins on the bunks and 500 skins all over the floor. Not the most attractive of huts, but the Milo we were offered was much appreciated.

B. P.

Bruce Perry, Murray Ball, Robin Marshall, Glen Armstrong, Sue O'Donaghue.

No. 1099.

Tamaki River.

19th October.

Departure time of 6 a.m. became 6.15 which was quite good considering the large numbers. We were blessed (well, they're better than scouts!) with fourteen Napier Girls High fourth formers.

Clouds were hanging round the tops when we arrived at the end of the road so, hoping that the rain would hold off, we started up the river about 9 a.m. in two parties. The fast ones originally headed for Kakapari but within about half an hour the two parties merged and stayed that way until after lunch.

The going was pleasant, shingle beds most of the way to Stanfield Hut which we reached around 11 a.m. After a leisurely lunch most of the party headed for the tops. Six of us returned downstream to the truck after investigating a deer enclosure.

After leaving Stanfield Hut the main party headed up a ridge in the general direction of Takapari (4150') Newcomers to tramping needed much prodding and persuading on their first climb but we all made it up on to a cold windy ridge top. From here we could see Takapari, as well as a power of leather wood. This together with rain changed our plans and we looked for a suitable shingle slide into the Tamaki River valley. This was duly found and we took turns to pick our way down. Several rocks were dislodged but no casualties were reported and we reached Stanfield Hut soon after and followed the others down river to the truck.

Leader Jill Robinson.

Party. Dave Wilkins, Chris Melody, Peter Lewis, Peter Manning, Les Hanger, Peter Berry, Geoff Robinson, Dave Perry, Bruce Perry, Danny Bloomer, Peter Boomen, Andre Gosman, Joanne Jepson, Liz Hughes, Denise Robinson & 14 N.G.H.S. 3rd & 4th formers.

No. 1100.

Labour Weekend Trip. 1976.

Back Ridge Hut Party.

Just after 6 a.m. saw us on our way up the Puketitiri Road and apart from one stop to put more oil in the motor the trip to the parking area at Makahu Saddle was uneventful.

From here on, the trip became more physical as we started the drag up to the crest of the Kaweka Range. A short stop was made at Dominie where we met Allan Berry and party with hot water laid on, then parks on as the warm cloudy day was becoming a cool cloudy day plus wind. Further up by the rain gauge a stop was made to consolidate the party and don more clothg as snow, sleet and rain were now with us, visibility about 30 metres. Over the top and onto Back Ridge with more wind and very cold rain.

A lunch stop was made once we were in the bush. There is a lot of regrowth here with the track hard to follow in parts. Just before the top of Maminga it was decided to split the party

with four dropping into Back Ridge Hut.

The hut was occupied by a Boys Brigade party so it saved us lighting a fire with green wood which someone had supplied. The stove worked well and warmed the hut. No amount of bullying or threats would get us a bunk so we had to use the floor.

Next morning they were away by 8 am, with a bit of prompting. Our stew was reheated and called **hfe** kfast. Dave and myself decided that a walk down the stream would be interesting. The stream is in an open tussock valley by the hut but after 100 metres it narrowed until it became a series of cascades, waterfalls, gorges and large boulders. Many photos were taken. A small stream had carried down a quantity of shingle but this was the only sign of erosion we saw. The curiosity to see round the next bend was finally curbed and we returned to the hut where the stew was reheated and called lunch. Weather was still low cloud and rain.

At 5 pm. the weather lifted and rain stopped so we all climbed the ridge behind the hut to a rock outcropping. The view across the Kaimanawa Range was most impressive. The base only of Ngaruhoe could be seen because of the cloud cover. A cool wind was still active but the scenery kept us there for over an hour.

That night a new stew was brewed and a peaceful nights sleep was enjoyed with only four of us in the hut.

Away next morning by 8.30 am we again climbed the ridge behind the hut and proceeded along this to the main divide arriving there after a leisurely 2½ hours. The sun was shining and a few clouds shot by. The wind was still with us (or against us).

While waiting to be joined by the other parties we meandered between Kaweka J and Kaweka North finally meeting the main party at the tarns below Kaweka North. Quite a bit of snow was still lying round in patches, some up to 500 mm deep when you dropped through.

Lunch was eaten and we departed for Makahu spur and the truck with the 3rd party joining us just before the truck. A good trip successfully completed with varying weather from hot sun in sheltered areas to a blizzard with accompanying blue knees, whisker icicles and low visibility.

Parties: Back Ridge Hut: Dave Perry, Peter Manning, Jill Robinson, Chris Melody.

Rocks Ahead Stream: Murray Ball, Chris Jones, Rob Marshall.
Makahu - Back Ridge - Rocks Ahead- Venison Tops - Whetu -
Kaweka J.:- Russell Perry, Glen Armstrong, Bruce Perry,
Denise Robinson, Les Hanger

Venison Tops Round Trip

Saturday: After coming as a party from Makahu to the beech above Back Hut, we left one group to drop down into Back Hut and the rest of the party headed on towards Maminga and Rocks Ahead.

Where the tussock and the beech meet on Maminga the group again split into two parties, my party continuing down Back Ridge to finally reach Rocks Ahead Hut around 5.30 p.m. The

drop off the end of this ridge to the Ngaruroro River is long and steep, so it was a tired group who laboured over the inevitable curry and smoky fire. Thoughts turned to the party now in Rocks Ahead Stream as we comfortably listened to the pouring rain outside ...

Sunday: Delaying our departure until 11 a.m. in case the Back party joined us, we said farewell to a very wet threesome who had emerged some time earlier, and crossed the stream for the lift up onto Venison Tops. This must be one of the most beautiful areas of the Kawekas; the changing scenery, the many varieties of birds, beetles and bugs and good company made this a very pleasant day. This distance between Rocks Ahead and Tira Chalet, our stopping place for the night, is small but what a wealth of pleasure it contains. The evening was spent watching the sunset, quietly strolling through the beech and gently coaxing a flagging fire to do something to our stew.

Monday: Having set our watches to daylight saving the day before, we were up by six and tramping by seven.. It wasn't until we were on the trail that we were informed, "daylight saving starts next weekend . Fooled the lot of you." Curses!! This eventually turned out to be a bonus though. We crossed the saddle and up past Ballards, skirted Whetu and reached North Kaweka by 2 p.m. It didn't feel as easy as it sounds but we were pleased with the trip. We met the first party at the tarn, joined in a snow fight that we believe Peter Manning deliberately instigated with his purple underwear, ate lunch and moved on. Some of us ran up to Kaweka J for some varied styles of glissading off a snow hump. Others decided that because we ran so fast, we obviously weren't tired enough, and because the mountain is too high anyway, they deposited some huge 'boulders' in our packs as part of an earth moving programme. "We shall remember", they cried.

We then descended down Makahu spur with the first party.
R.P.

Rocks Ahead Stream

After accidentally leaving the main party at Maminga we headed down a ridge confident of finding a hut at the bottom. But no hut. After four hours river travel we stopped and made camp. It rained steadily all night, resulting in soaked sleeping bags by next morning. After more hours of river travel over waterfalls and around gorges we arrived at Rocks Ahead Hut where the other members were preparing to leave - all they did was laugh at our soggy plight. We stayed at the hut and dried our gear and got a good nights sleep.

On Monday we had a long but fairly leisurely haul up Back Ridge and down to Makahu by about 3 o'clock where we met the other parties.

C.J.

No. 1101

CAIRN TRIP

7 November

A 5 a.m. start - a little early but the service started at 11 a.m. so we made sure we had enough time to get everybody to the top, which for some of us is becoming quite an achievement.

The weather, of course, never cooperates - cold wind and drizzle as we left Hastings did not improve as we got to Makahu Hut. We put all our winter woollies on and were off up the ridge in a biting cold but dry wind. At Domini we found the Turner family and David Lewis in residence. By now it frequently snowed, hailed and sleeted. Pam decided to leave the kids and Brian behind in Domini (wise move). We made good and steady progress along the ridge and arrived at the top with half an hour to spare, which was occupied with sky larking in the snow - glissading down a slope on backs, bottoms, packs, parkas - you name it, we did it.

The service was held at 11.15 a.m. There are always some late arrivals for whom we waited. It always amazes me, the number of people coming on the Cairn Trip - young and old alike. Is it just for the trip or is there some inner motive to acknowledge what took place 33 years ago? If this is true then there might be hope yet for 'world peace'.

On the way down we were greeted at Domini with a hot cup of tea. By then the weather was very unpleasant, with hail coming at us vertically. Pam and Brian's kids did not appreciate it one bit but we got everyone down safely.

No. at the cairn: 33

Leader: Phil Bayens

From Napier: 7 on the list, 2 turned up - Trevor Plowman, Graham Thorp and dog.

From Hamilton: Lindsay Going and mate

From Hastings: Joanne Jepson, Andre Goosman, Jim McIvor, Geoff Robinson, Ursula Milner-White, Liz Pindar, Russell and Joanne Perry, Rob Marshall + 1, Keith Thompson, Les Hanger, Simon Rowe, Ross Barradell + 4, Peter Boomen, Chris Jones, Glen Armstrong, school teacher from Napier and 3 pupils.

No. 1102

CATTLE HILL ROPEWORK

21 November

Owing to lack of interest in the planned Ngaruroro River bushcraft trip a day trip to Cattle Hill was substituted. Because of a sleepy leader we left Hastings somewhat later than intended, picked up the Napier bods and travelled by car up to the Cattle Hill track, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile past Lowry Lodge. After a brief game of soccer with the new 'club ball' we set off up the track to the rocks from which we intended to practise roping skills. There is quite a broad track through here but Liz still managed to get lost - exploring she called it.

After reaching the rocks we practised abseiling and climbing techniques and provided instruction for the inexperienced. After a couple of hours there we moved further up the ridge then down to a small creek for lunch. 'Refreshed' we moved on to the bluffs seeking further abseiling sites but there were no anchor points suitable. The afternoon was spent exploring above and below the bluffs and practising belay work. About 5 p.m. we returned to the car and Hastings.

SOCIAL NEWS

Bereavement: The Club extends its sympathy to Pam Turner, Peter and David Lewis on the loss of their father. Mr Lewis was an honoary member of the club.

1st	Follow the Leader	Graham Bailey
2nd	Reflections	Graham Bailey
3rd equal	(Progressive Pondering	David Northe
	(Concentration	Peter Manning
Highly commended	In the Beginning	David Northe

So that reports of club trips can be put in the newspapers on Monday following the trip, would trip leaders please contact Liz Pindar (phone 67889) as soon as you get back from the trip or early on Monday morning.

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions are now due:

Senior :-	\$5
Junior :-	\$3
Married couple :-	\$6
Associate :-	\$3
Absentee :-	\$3

TYPISTS FOR THIS ISSUE: Barbara Taylor, Joan Manning,
Joanne Perry.

DUTIES OF THE TRIP LEADER

All members should understand what leading a trip involves and the following points are set out for your guidance:

1. If you are not sure of the route or have other doubts about the country to be crossed, ask someone who knows the area for advice.
 2. Obtain permission of landowners if necessary. The Secretary will tell you who to contact.
 3. Outline the trip to members at the previous club meeting and explain if any special equipment or clothing is required.
 4. Collect the fares and hand to the Treasurer.
 5. Decide what party equipment is required and arrange with the gear custodian for its collection.
 6. Consider whether the party would be better split into fast and slow groups, having regard to the fitness of members and the country to be covered. If it is decided to split the party, arrange for a leader for the other group.
 7. Make sure the trip list is completed and left in Hastings before the truck leaves.
 8. See that tents, billies, etc are fairly distributed among the party, bearing in mind the relative fitness of members. Keep an eye on packs of new trampers to see that they are not setting out with a packful of unnecessary gear.
 9. When on the move it is the responsibility of the leader to choose the route and to set the pace. See that the party does not become strung out and make sure that an experienced member brings up the rear to collect any stragglers.
 10. The responsibility for the conduct of the trip is entirely yours. If in doubt though, do not hesitate to ask the opinion of other experienced members - the final decision must be made by you, but their advice may help you to make a decision.
 11. You are responsible for the activities of any small groups that may want to break off from the main party to try a different route or to do a bit of exploring. Make sure that they are themselves capable and in the hands of a competent sub-leader before agreeing to their going.
 12. See that everyone shares in camp duties and make sure that huts are left in order, with firewood replaced and that all fires are out before leaving.
 13. If it is obvious that the party will not reach Hastings by 10 p.m. phone and advise as soon as possible.
 14. On return from the trip, ring the publicity officer with details for the newspaper report on Monday.
 15. Make sure that all gear is returned to the gear custodian, billies clean and tents dry.
 16. Write the report for the 'Pohokura' and hand it to the editor promptly.
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P R I V A T E T R I P S

KAWEKA - STUDHOLME - MACINTOSH 14/15 August

We had originally decided to camp out on the J but it was a bit too draughty so off to Studholme Saddle Hut for the night. We arrived at 2.00 and made ourselves at home. We did a few repairs - patched the roof and tried to modify the chimney - roof successful but chimney a poor failure so a sheet of tin was fixed across the hole to stop the worst of the smoke coming into the hut. At 3.00 three deerstalkers arrived and the six of us sat around after a mighty stew and played cards.

Next morning it was still and clear overhead so we leapt out of bed and set off to MacIntosh spur where we spent a while marking the track and replacing the waratah standards that had fallen over. We still managed to arrive in MacIntosh Hut in time for an early lunch. At 11.30 we left for Makahu base via the Donald River gorge ... well, the first $\frac{1}{2}$ hour was fairly flat and the car looked good just across the gully ... but then we started going down and down and still more down with our hearts sinking all the way because what goes down usually goes up again! After a while we got to the river and looked for the track but didn't look in the right place so off up the first ridge we could see and $1\frac{1}{4}$ hours later we could look across and see MacIntosh Hut ... so near and yet so far. Still we found the track again at the top and by 3.00 were sitting in the car as the first rain for the weekend started falling.

A good trip although our original goal eluded us.

Graham Bailey, Marcia Browne, Peter McBride.

TAUPO ROAD

3/7 September

After some initial fussing around including hiring a mountain radio, we finally left Hastings at 10.30 on Friday morning and by 12.30 were leaving the car and starting the grind into Kiwi Saddle (what a grind!). With 45lb packs the going was slow and 12" of snow on the tops caused some diversions from the track. Despite everything we managed to leave Kiwi Saddle Hut at 4.45 for Kiwi Mouth Hut which was really a bit late - as we soon found out. Crossing Kiwi Creek by torchlight is very tricky and finding Kiwi Mouth Hut itself was only a bit of good luck as we came down the wrong side and bumped into the Back Ridge track which put us right. By then it was 7.15..

Next morning we started late (as we did every morning) and got off on the wrong foot from the start by going across the suspension bridge and then straight up through the fern to the top. Actually, the track goes around the bottom and then up a ridge opposite Kiwi Mouth but after $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour of bushbashing we came out on the cut track and made good progress across Manson tops. But once on the bush ridge through Otutu Bush we rapidly froze because of 18" of soft, wet snow and heavily matted undergrowth. After about two hours

of this we suddenly came upon a new cut track. From then on the going was good and we arrived very tired and cold, just on dark at Ngawapurua Hut - the most beautiful hut we have ever stopped at in the Kawekas and Ruahines.

Sunday morning was a repair morning with my torch to fix and a new part to make for Graham's pack. So off at 10 o'clock for Harkness Hut where we arrived without incident at 12.15 to find a dirty, messy hut left by a helicopter hunter - (half a tin of lambs tongues stinks!). After a quick lunch we left for Tussock Hut and arrived there just as the rain started. After a cosy night - apart from half an inch of hail - we left for Oamaru Hut via Mangapapa saddle. Easy going up to the saddle then off down the other side on a good track ... but we came to the end of the track and from then on we were in difficulty as the maps are incorrect and with fog all around one tends to rely on maps! So, after about three hours of climbing rotten logs and sliding down fern roots we finally got a view of the Oamaru River some $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours from Oamaru Hut. By that time we were feeling absolutely dead beat but we kept going and walked into the track along the top of the bluffs on the true right bank and then into Oamaru Hut by 6 p.m.

Tuesday morning, after discussion with others in the hut, we left for Te Iringa Hut at 8.30 and arrived at the hut at 12.30. We had lunch and then tramped out to the main road where we found my parents' car waiting for us.

A good trip with good weather and bad maps. Many thanks to Peter Chard without whose help our trip would not have been a success, also to the Mountain Radio Service who supplied the radio.

Peter McBride, Marcia Browne, Graham Bailey.

OHAKUNE MOUNTAINCRAFT COURSE 18/19 September

We arrived late on Friday night and within half an hour were asleep in a room at the Ohakune Marae. Next morning we were up at 6 a.m. with breakfast at 7. By 8.30 everyone was organised into groups and soon started leaving for the top of Ohakune Mountain Road. After arriving at the top of the road we reformed into our groups each with an instructor and two or three assistants. The instructor we were with started right from the beginning (and just as well too - didn't know I was so dumb) and taught us to walk and kick steps.

From there we progressed to self arrests and later to glissading ~~on~~ our backsides over a cornice - very spectacular. Lunchtime came all too soon and a welcome trot back to the cars was made to have a feed. After lunch, out with miles of rope, karabiners and all the other paraphernalia climbers are supposed to carry - obviously they are much fitter than ourselves. "Up over that little lump," said Bill.

Well, ten minutes later we were still going over that little lump though somewhat more slowly than before - now painfully aware that sitting in a car is not good for the 'strong legs'. After a while we came to a nice flat snow slope and then came the Tricky Part - 120 feet of climbing rope can be darned difficult to adorn oneself with and wrapped around the legs just wasn't good enough. However, after a

couple of hours getting snarled up with rope our instructor finally decided that to call it quits would be safer for all concerned. So at 3.30 off down the mountain. After an interesting evening we were off to sleep with an early start in mind. Ha ha'. But, surprise; by 8.30 a.m. off up onto the snow again and this time entirely on rope work with some quite startling success. Before long we were all climbing icy bits and jumping off just to test your No. 2's belay which was quite exciting with snow down your neck, back, trousers, and everywhere else. Unfortunately, all good things come to an end and at 11.30 we were packed up and made our way down the mountain and back home.

Many thanks to the Ohakune Marae and the Masterton Tramping Club and Bill Turnbull (our instructor) for an excellent weekends tuition. Those who attended the course were:

Peter McBride, Graham Bailey, Marcia Browne, Chris Jones, and Glen Armstrong.

OHAKUNE ADVANCED MOUNTAINCRAFT COURSE 8 October

On our previous trip we had learned basic rope and snow techniques and had made arrangements to attend this advanced course.

After arriving at M.V.A.C. lodge on Friday night (or was it Saturday morning?), we didn't find it too easy getting up on Saturday morning. No loss however, because a freezing cold wind, mixed with rain and cloud forced us to stay inside until 11 a.m. In better times we were taught the various climbing knots, how to abseil and use jumars up and down a stairway.

By 11 we decided that the weather wasn't going to improve and we might as well go and practise ropework, belays and cramponing. So off to a sheltered gully and a selected cornice about 8' high proved to be quite a challenge as were a couple of rock faces and a cave. Unfortunately the snow was absolutely sodden. By 3.30 we were all feeling cold and wet and our instructor, Bill, decided Massey was calling, so off back to the car and back down to Massey Lodge to thaw out.

After a quiet evening and a solid nights sleep, we awoke to the same grotty weather, so goodbye, Girdlestone and a compromise with Paretetaitonga, but at about 7,500' the wind was very strong with whiteout conditions rapidly worsening. It was considered best to get down off the mountain. So back down to Massey and after lunch, abseiling off the top floor to the ground outside Massey had its moments. Glen found hanging upside down with rocks below, quite painful. After a few photos we got him down and did the cleaning up lasting about an hour. We finally got away about 3.30 p.m. after two luxurious nights.

Many thanks, Massey for the well appointed lodge and to our instructor, Bill Turnbull, for his everlasting patience and perseverance. No thanks to the weather!

By the time we were forty miles away that mountain was perfectly clear.

Graham Bailey, Marcia Browne, Chris Jones, Peter McBride, Glen Armstrong and Bill Turnbull(M.T.C.).

STAGGER IN, TE PUIA CHALET

3 October

After a few enquiries, I found that there were some new and perhaps intending members keen to do a fairly but interesting day tramp. So after many changes of plans and people, we left Napier and the kombi at 7 o'clock on Sunday bound for the Puketitiri hot springs. After a few minor problems we got the kombi right into the hot springs - pushing uphill is harder work than tramping.

Anyway, by eleven we were all on the way to Stagger In. With plenty of stops and looks around we finally got to the hut at one o'clock. Then four people decided to go on to Te Puia Chalet and after a quick run arrived at 1.30, had lunch and met Robin, Chris and Dave on the way out after a similar day trip to ours. After Lunch it was back to the kombi by 3.45 and off home just as it started to rain. A good tramp with good company and good weather.

Peter McBride, Jenny MacIntosh, Sonia Browne, Kevin Ayre, Bruce Campbell, Karen Fair, Karen McBride, Peter Lewis, Liz Pindar.

MT. RUAPEHU

Labour Weekend

Dave Wilkins, Danny Bloomer and Peter Boomen left Hastings after the club A.G.M. and arrived at the Mahuia campsite at 3 a.m.

Bruce and Dave Perry met us at National Park Village, (via Taihape, Waiouru, oysters and onions), at 11.30 on Thursday mornin g.

Peter, Bruce and Dave P. hired skis and everyone set off up to the old Alpine Club hut. On arrival, the first and second doors were found to be open. To gain entry we had to crouch down and shuffle in as the porch was half full of snow. Dave Perry had a different way. Skiing down the slope to the hut he found he couldn't stop - a scraping noise and a thump heralded his arrival and entry.

Food and equipment had been spread around and we were all in our pits voting (with one abstention) that Peter cook tea, when seventeen snowcavers from Outdoor Pursuits arrived. We let nine in.

On Friday morning Dave P., Bruce and Peter went skiing and Dave W. and Danny set off uphill, destination unknown.

D.B.

1. Tahurangi

The snow was crisp and there was a clear sky when we started up the climbing route. We made good time up to Glacier Knob, crossed the Col and began to go up Pare traverse. There were cornices along the ridge and moving up Do-dad, named after the great Watchamacallit, we came to an ice bulge which we attacked and from which we promptly retreated. Re-armed with crampons, iceaxes and ice hammers, we made short work of it. This was followed by a 5 metre growth of couliflower ice which was duly dealt with and we front pointed to the top. We were on the highest point in the North Island and could see the tip of Egmont on the west

coast, and through the only break in the cloud below us, Hawke Bay and Cape Kidnappers in the east.

Front pointing from Tahurangi to the Crater Lake we got lazy and self arrested to the outlet. With the idea of getting round some ice cliffs to meet some people we had seen on Pyramid Peak, we put on all 'the gears', had a closer look at the cliffs and took it all off again.

We plodded back up to Pare traverse; Dave from the east, Danny from the west. After that we dropped down to the Col and returned to the hut down the climbing route.

In spite of the fact that we had used plenty of snow cream, we were burnt and sore when we got up at six on Saturday morning. So after thawing out frozen toes and putting on frozen boots we packed up and walked down to the Bruce. We started hitching just as it began to snow.

It rained almost all day and, after six rides and too much walking, two wet guys reached Napier at 6 p.m.

D.B.

2. More Climbing and a Snow Cave

On Saturday morning, the others having gone home, I joined a large party from the Tararua Tramping Club. They were heading for Paretetaitonga intending to snow cave for two nights. We built six caves, each holding 6-8 people. We started digging about 10 a.m. (in a blizzard and soaked to the skin), and didn't stop until 7 p.m., when we went straight to bed for a deserved rest. Next day I left at lunchtime to seek the warmth of the Alpine hut and on Monday I was away home, having learned plenty about snow daving and how cool it can be.

P.B.

RUAPEHU

A fine weekend saw us at the Top of the Bruce at 9 on Saturday morning. We started the long drag up to the Alpine Hut where we stopped for lunch. From there we headed up the main climbing ridge to Dome Shelter, a small emergency shelter 10 minutes from the Plateau. We arrived at 3 o'clock after a hard slog in the soft snow and once inside it was straight to sleep. I woke at six, thought about tea but as Alan and Robin were still asleep I went for an evening climb across the Plateau, over the centre of Cathedral Rocks and back to the Dome for tea.

Sunday was another fine day and we were up by seven. We climbed the Dome and had a look at the Pyramids on the other side of the crater. On reaching there we attempted to go round to Tahurangi - the going got steep with front pointing and then, as the snos softened, pigeon holing. The going got harder still and as we didn't have a rope and it was Alan and Robin's first time, we turned back to the shelter. From there to the car and home.

Peter Boomen, Alan Brian and Robin Marshall.

The following three weekends I spent at Ruapehu with the Auckland Section of the Alpine Club. I learned a lot

about basic snow and icecraft and made many new friends in the Alpine Club. The fourth weekend they had a ski instruction course so Bruce and I hired skis and joined in, improving our skiing techniques considerably.

Peter Boomen.

TRIAL SEARCH 1976

13/14 November

This years exercise was a combined affair with Gisborne Police District. The plot centred around two hunters who had entered the Mohaka River area south of Willow Flat several days before the exercise and neither had returned. As this area is in the Gisborne Police District it was to be left to the Gisborne Police to organise the search with the Napier Police District lending support with manpower.

The initial assembly area was at the Mohaka Forestry base (on the Napier-Wairoa road) on Saturday morning and from there teams were organised and sent into the field with their assignments.

The search area turned out to be rough, being bounded by sheer cliffs on one side, the Mohaka River and Willowflat Road on the other sides. It gave very little scope for the search controllers to move teams around because once in their assigned areas they would have had great difficulty in moving out into another area. This meant that radio communications and control were rather slack because the original assignments more or less remained the same all day.

The Gisborne SAR organisation operates its headquarters rather differently from ours and it was good to see the pros and cons of operating a search HQ right in the field. They had a vehicle all set up with radios and tables etc for a sort of forward control post and they sent this outfit into the field behind the search teams.

It was about 3 in the afternoon when Team One found the missing hunters on cliffs directly above the river. One of them had a broken leg and this was bandaged and splinted ready for flying out on Sunday morning.

Accordingly, Lyn Wilson arrived ^{to fly} the next morning with the helicopter support and proceeded ^{to fly} the patient and all the team members who were left in the field out to base.

One unfortunate part of the search was the number that didn't turn up. Out of the 85 put down to attend only 36 arrived to participate in the field. The H.T.C. was well represented, however and all our members did a good job.

G.R.T.

Those participating were: David, Russell and Bruce Perry, Peter Berry, Chris Melody, David Northe, Peter McBride, Les Hanger, Alan Berry and Graham Thorp.

NEIL CLARKSON SEARCH

30 November

At about 9.30 p.m. on 29th November 1976 Alan was alerted by the police that Neil Clarkson who was hunting in the Purungetungetu Stream in behind Boyds airstrip had not returned to his base camp.

His companion spent a good bit of time on the Monday morning (29.11.76) going round to Te Pukeokikarua Hutwhere

the Forestry had a radio which they used to alert Kuripaponga Base.

From there it was over to us and after the usual midnight preparations we waited for an early report from Lakeland Aviation as to whether Clarkson had returned or not. Unfortunately bad weather prevented an early report and by 10 a.m. it became evident that the teams would have to enter the field regardless.

Three teams went to Kuripaponga where they were helicoptered into the Boyd and Tussock Hut areas.

Another two teams along with base personell went down to Poronui Hut on Poronui Station.

The weather in the area wasn't very good up until about 4 p.m. but it then cleared and was rather pleasant.

It wasn't long after our arrival that the helicopter found a note in the Mangatainoka Hut logbook saying that Clarkson had been to the hut after getting bushed and intended to make his way back to Tussock Hut. From the message it appeared that he had had at least two tries to return to Tussock Hut without success.

With this information to go by we then deployed the teams to prevent him from getting out of the search area into another watershed but this soon proved to be unnecessary because the team which was sent into the Mangatainoka Hut found Neil Clarkson who had returned to the hut when he had heard the helicopter come on the first trip.

All that then remained was to clear up the loose ends and return home. Two of the teams at Tussock Hut were flown back to Kuripaponga that night and one team was forced to wait until next morning. In fact they remained there until 2.30 p.m. because bad weather prevented them coming out by helicopter first thing in the morning.

G.R.T.

Members taking part: Russell and Bruce Perry, Randall Goldfinch, Trevor Plowman, Chris Melody, Malcolm Ingpen, Les Hanger, Peter McBride, David Northe, Graham Bailey, Alan Berry and Graham Thorp.

P.S. When the Kuripaponga teams arrived at the fireplace above the Ngaruroro River, the helicopter pick-up point, we were joined by two nondescript persons. Shortly afterwards the man sent his woman friend to fetch water from somewhere. Twenty minutes later I peered over the edge of the cliff and directly below me lay the woman, almost submerged in the river. There was only one way she could have arrived there and that was straight down 80' - fast!

Her mate and I raced down through the trees but were bluffed twenty feet from the water. I moved to find an alternate route but he decided the direct way was best, dived and now has broken ribs and internal injuries.

The rescue teams had moved downstream and were now wading up to the woman. Her mouth and nose were just above water, fortunately, but she was unconscious. The stretcher was lowered over the cliff, we loaded her aboard and carried her downstream to where Lyn Wilson had miraculously landed. The helicopter then flew out to meet the ambulance at Sherenden leaving three search teams to begin the official rescue, wet already!

R.P.

SUCCESS - A NEW TRUCK

After looking for another truck for so long the club has finally bought one that is exactly what we need. It is a 1971 TK Bedford KEL C3 model with a 300 cubic inch motor and 20 inch wheels. The deck is 17 feet long (the old one is 12'6") and a canopy was included in the price of \$5,500. It has had one owner and has done 93,000 miles.

Since the fund raising report on page 6 members have hammered valiantly on three weekends and mended another 1011 fruit bins. This will mean at least another \$1,011 added to our funds and possible \$1,516.50 if the rate is \$1.50 a bin.

So the fund raising campaign is closed for now and the final total now stands at:

Donations from members	\$ 539	
Napier Sports Grant	\$ 500	
Hastings Sports Grant	\$ 500	
Havelock North Sports Grant	\$ 420	
Earned by members	\$2,055	(maybe \$2,460)
	<hr/>	
	\$4,014	(maybe \$4,419)
	<hr/>	

Some work has to be done on the gearbox of the new truck and the canopy has to be strengthened and have windows etc. installed. If this costs about \$900 the total cost of the truck will be \$6,400. So we will only need \$2,000 of the \$3,000 the club already had in the bank.

Our thanks to all members and friends who supported the working parties so well and to those members who supported us with their donations. The result is a new fume free truck and many comfortable miles of travel ahead of us. Thanks again.

J.M.P.

OVERDUE TRAMPERS

Although returning parties usually plan to be out of the bush well before dark, consideration of safety must always come first. Even after arriving back at the transport, they could be two or more hours on the return journey, plus any unexpected delays. So beginners should make sure that parents or any others who may worry about them know this. Although not normally nearly as late as this, unless the return to town is likely to be later than about 10 p.m. it would not be regarded as cause for parents to worry, but in case some unusual delay might occur, all newcomers should see that the list which the leader leaves in town includes their phone number. For enquiries about OVERDUE PARTIES please contact one of the following:

BERRY 777-223 TURNER 68-995 TAYLOR HMN 829

FIXTURE LIST

On many trips parties may divide so that fitter members can undertake a more strenuous trip in the same area. Changes due to unforeseen circumstances could be made on the trip list from time to time. If you are unable to attend the meeting prior to a trip, enquire from one of the following:

Peter Lewis, phone 56789 Liz Pindar, phone 67889
Peter Manning, phone 82963.

The fixture committee welcomes suggestions for future trips. Please submit these in writing.

TRANSPORT CONTRIBUTIONS: Unless otherwise stated, \$2.00 per person, trips outside the Bay, \$6.00 per person.

These contributions are payable at the meeting before the trip. If paid on the day of the trip or after, 50c is added. If you are unable to make the trip and notify the leader your fee will be refunded. If the leader is not notified of cancellation, your fee will be accepted with thanks.

DECEMBER

18-19 Waikamaka River

An exploration trip down the Waikamaka toward the confluence with the Maropea River.

Leader: To be arranged.

New Year Kaimamawas

Dates to be arranged. 8-9 days via Rangatikei River into headwaters of Ngaruroro and then down to Kuripaponga base.

JANUARY

15-16 Ranunculus Creek

Camp out. Good wet weekend in the headwaters.

Map N 140

Leader: Graaham Bailey

30

Lilo Trip - Mohaka River Leader: Glen Armstrong

FEBRUARY

- 12-13 Umukarikari Range
 Into the Waipakahi Hut in the northwest Kaimanawas.
 A good long weekend trip.
 Map: Kaimanawa Forest Park Leader: Bruce Perry
- 27 Beach Trip -Aropaoanui
 To Tongoi. A pleasant day trip.
 Leader: David Northe

MARCH

- 12-13 Armstrong Saddle - Maropea Forks
 Into the Ruahines over the divide and towards
 Maropea Forks Hut. May sleep on the tops.
 Maps N133, N140 Leader: Danny Bloomer
- 27 Makaretu - Leon Kinvig
 A challenging day trip for the fit over to L.K.
 Plenty of scope for a slow trip too.
 Map N 145 Leader: Randall Goldfinch

EASTER

- April 8-11 Whakatane River
 In From Ruatahuna down the Whakatane River and
 return up the Waikare River.
 Maps N.Z.M.S. 1 Sheet 87 and 96, Urewera Nat. Pk. map
 Leader: Peter McBride

APRIL

- 23-25 HInerua - Waterfall Creek - Hikurangi Range
 Into Waterfall Creek Hut via Waikamaka. Onto
 Hikurangi Range peaks (5,678'). Out via Rangī and
 Three Johns track.
 Map N 140 Leader: Russell Perry

MAY

- 8 Timahanga
 Dropped off at top of Gentle Annie, up over Te
 Iringa, regrowth rimu foresxt, out through Boyds
 Bush.
 Map N 123 Leader: Keith Thompson
- 21-22 Remutupo Hut - Makaroro River
 Hard weekend trip over divide to Remutupo, and back
 over and down to Makaroro (centre or upper via
 Tupari, depending on fitness) and out.
 Map N140, N 133 Leader: Peter Berry

JUNE

- 4-6 Ngaruhoe
 Snow traverses: Ketetahi, Mangetepopo, Oturere to
 Ketetahi.
 Map: Tongariro Nat Pk. Leader: David Wilkins

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