

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

BOX 447, HASTINGS

'P O H O K U R A'

Bulletin No. 148

August, 1981

ACTING  
PRESIDENT:

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141 Thompson Road, Napier.  
Phone 54303.

SECRETARY:

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804 Ferguson Street, Hastings.  
Phone 88731

TREASURER:

Miss J. Smith,  
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CLUB CAPTAIN:

Mr R. Goldfinch,  
15 Arthur Hobson Ave, Pirimai, Napier.  
Phone 439 163.

PHILIPPUS LAURENS BAYENS

Phil Bayens was a man of the great outdoors - in his element in the snow, the bush and the rivers of our hills and mountains.

And now we have lost him, in the very shadow of Everest, the greatest mountain of them all.

Improbable though it may sound, Phil's tramping career with the Club started on a bike, on a trip with six others to Maori Rock, behind Havelock North. This was in July 1952 and in the 29 years that followed, he stamped his ideals and his personality indelibly into the history of our Club.

His contribution to the Club was surely without parallel - 26 years of continuous service as a member of the Committee, Club Captain from 1956 - 1959 and President for two terms, eleven years in all. During this period the Club has grown and prospered, yet retained the friendly and relaxed character that has brought companionship and rewarding tramping to so many members, both young and old.

Yet Phil was forthright in his views and would not tolerate incompetence or laxness, whether in the conduct of a trip or the management of the Club's affairs. By encouragement and by the example of his own high standards, he maintained an active and dynamic Club, where the spirit of adventure was never allowed to fade. I believe that nothing gave Phil greater pleasure than to lead a party in the foulest weather into the roughest piece of unknown back-country he could find. For on such trips we find the adversity, yet

the peace and companionship that are the real meanings of tramping.

Phil's interest in the mountains has always been a family affair. In 1954 he was joined in his tramping by Els and in the years that followed they shared a wonderful journey through the hills and valleys of life together. The first few years were not easy but they thrived on hard work. They have raised a family that reflect great credit upon their parents, a family that I know will follow with pride in the footsteps of their father.

We have all been greatly saddened by Phil's sudden and untimely death. But may we be thankful for the privilege of sharing the life of a fine man and a great leader.

A.V.B.

#### CLUB TRIPS

1214

CENTRAL RUAHINES

21st-22nd March

Due to bad weather all week, and concern at river levels, only seven hardy souls set off for the ranges. We left town in thick fog but, by the time we had reached the old mill by Makaroro Base Camp, the weather was perfect.

We headed off past the base camp on the 4-wheel drive track, calling in for a look at Makaroro Hut before dropping down into the Makaroro River. We followed this for some time until reaching the start of the Colenso Track where a memorial cairn has been erected in memory of William Colenso's first traverse of the Ruahines in 1845. This track is a fair climb and has become very overgrown in parts until coming out onto the open tussock covered tops just to the right of Te Atua Mahuru (5028 feet). We all climbed the little bit extra to the trig from where we had some great views. We dropped off the tops down a series of shingle scree to a rugged stream which brought us to Remutupo Hut. The bank that the hut is located on has been badly eroded to within 1½ metres of the hut itself. We later cut a new approach up to it.

Next morning we were up and away by 8am and followed a marked track which I had descended three years before and knew it was an easy climb. This brought us back onto the tops well south of Te Atua Mahura. We had to traverse back around, finding four large tarns on the way to quench our thirst. Then we dropped back down Colenso Track until we reached the track down to Centre Makaroro Hut where we had a late lunch. From here it was an easy but long tramp out along the Makaroro River with storm clouds rolling in behind us.

G.P.R.

No. in party: 7

Leader: Geoff Robinson.

Randall Goldfinch, Bill Bristow, Andy Trebensen, Gary Millar  
Luke Holmes, Edward Holmes.

1215

ORIENTEERING COURSE.

5th April

The aim of this trip was to give the more experienced members a chance to test their skills and also to train the less experienced members how to apply map and compass skills in the field environment. Unfortunately some members took short-cuts and others tried to make a marathon out of the exercise so they obviously didn't get a chance to get the full benefit of the course.

A seven o'clock start was decided on and the course began at the edge of the Kaweka Range at the Whittle Road entrance. This area gives experience in all types of countryside in a short distance.

The members were divided into five groups of five or six people and the leaders of each group instructed their members on the skills required for the course. Each group then set off on the course which led down the road towards Lotkow Hut, down to Gorge Stream on the original track to Makahu, then a bush-bash down Gorge Stream back to the road. The road was followed to Lotkow Hut and then up onto the Black Birch range. At appropriate points along the way questions had to be answered. The part of the exercise on the Black Birch was made somewhat more difficult by the fact that the cloud was down on the main range.

The main observation that can be made at this stage is about the length of the course. No one completed the whole course and it took the members who did the course properly about five hours to do two thirds of it. Next time the course is run it would pay to leave home at the normal 6.00 am start and expect to finish around 4.30 pm.

We finished at 4.00pm and, after a short delay gathering up stragglers, were on the road by 5.00 pm.

No. in party: 30 + Kim                      Leader: Graham Thorp.

Randall Goldfinch, Sue O'Malley, Lynette O'Connor, John Maxwell, Keith Thomson, Mark Tomleleson, Geoff Robinson, Michael Henley, Darren Currie, A.Clegg, Robert Leicester, John Wakenshaw, Ross McDonald, Wendy Glew, Clive Thurston, Karen Glass, Jim Glass, Susan Taylor, Gerald Blackburn, Ross Berry, Edward Holmes, Rob Clark, Janet Brown, Lou Harrison.

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1216

TRAVERSE OF THE RUAHINES.

Easter Weekend - 17-20th April

Friday:

An early start at 5 a.m. was needed to give us enough time to drive round to the Northern end of the Ruahines. Starting from Kawhatau Base, Dave Harrington took a group up the Kawhatau River to Crow Hut, and the rest of us

climbed out of the river, from the cableway, up the ridge towards Hikurangi. We set off about 11 a.m. and were making fairly good going considering there was a good 3000' in front of us. A lunch stop half way up the track was improved by the appearance of two hunters carrying a large bottle of drink. Only Geoff (who brought him along!! Ed) had the nerve to ask them for some but we all received the benefits!

On climbing out into the open the weather began to deteriorate. Despite efforts by Janet to persuade everyone to camp on the tops, there were no takers and so we dropped down to Hikurangi Hut for a comfortable night.

Saturday: The wind howled and the hut shook that night, and the following morning looked little better. Eight stalwarts reluctantly left the warmth of the hut to face the onslaught of the wind and rain. The prospects for a day on the tops looked grim. We struggled out into the open of the ridge and after wending our windblown way for about 15 minutes we decided to abandon our plans 'Pro Temps' and headed 'post haste' back down to the hut. We'd only just got through the door and bagged the bunks when Dave Harrington and crew, wet and dripping, emerged out of the mist. Very close behind them were three hunters and it looked like a crowded hut for the night. Oh well, the more the merrier! All in all we had a cheerfull time, 15 of us squashed into a six bunk hut for a whole day. We wiled our time away with cards and silly guessing games, not to mention various bad jokes from certain un named members of the party!

Sunday: It dawned fine and clear, if a wee bit nippy. We hurriedly had breakfast, and after a few changes to our party numbers (Heather and Ian joined our group), we set off in staggered starts up the grunt out of the hut. Clinging Hikurangi was no joke with umpteen spaniards everywhere. Many cries of pain, not to mention a few choice oaths, were emitted as we blundered our way up through them and the clumps of tussock. From Hikurangi we had a good view all round and could see our next goal, Mangaweka (highest point in the Ruahines) clearly. Good going was made to Mangaweka and then Iron peg. From there we moved on to the Hawkes Bay range which began with little difficulty but rapidly became more tricky. Not only did it go up and down but it became decidedly narrow in a few places. A few knees were seen to be knocking as we crossed a few of them. At one point some of us had to drop off the main ridge to sidle a very razor backed section. We were still some distance from Ohuinga (beginning of Sawtooth) at lunch time but the skies were clear and we all felt almost literally on the top of the world. Ohuinga was reached by 3 p.m. and since Sawtooth Ridge only takes about 2 hours in summer we had a good chance to make Howletts before dark. Most people went well here but a certain member began to grind to a halt and made a few serious bids for camping on the ridge.

Again no one was very keen on the idea and so little legs had to keep on going up and down, up and down. Finally Tiraha was reached with a real sense of achievement, having traversed three ridges in one day. The light was fast going now but another hour saw us entering Howletts Hut. Randall had brought a small group up the Tukituki River and they had stories to tell us of Gerald's misadventure with the truck. Fortunately Gerald was uninjured and the truck still in one piece.

It had been rescued from its horizontal position and was waiting for us at Moorcock's base.

Monday: The next morning did not look so promising weather wise. The visibility was poor and a strong wind had whipped up in the night. Nevertheless a few were keen to carry on to complete the original trip. Five of us, including Katie Law from Randall's party, set off towards Taumatatau and seriously wondered about our chances of battling across the big saddle in front of us. At one stage when we were all linked together, the wind blew us over like a pack of cards. The best way to move was to keep Really low and sometimes even crawl along the worst parts. By this time we had been joined by Dave, John and Chris and we all teamed up to get ourselves to Pohangina Saddle. From there we quickly dropped down to the welcome of Pohangina Saddle Hut for lunch.

We got down the ridge without any mishaps and were back at the truck by about 3 p.m. An excellent trip in good company. I think everyone thoroughly enjoyed one of the more challenging tramps we have had for a while. Many thanks to Gerald for driving us such a long distance despite many setbacks.

Trip Leader: Rob Clark

Party: Janet Brown, Chris White, Dave Wilkins, Geoff Holmes John Jones, Clive Thurston, Hamish McDuncan, Dave Harrington Jenny Christmas, Heather McBride, Ian Gray.

Randall's Group: Randall Goldfinch, Gerald Blackburn, Katie Law, Kay Pullen.

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1217

ARANGA HUT

3rd May.

Sixteen members assembled at Holts on a fine morning, cooling their heels (and the rest of their bodies) waiting for Rob and Janet to materialise in the Mini. At 6.25, just as I gave the order to proceed in private cars, the elusive Mini roared into sight. A slight shuffle of cars and 18 bods in 4 cars departed for Golden Crown.

We drove over the Porter farm to Masters Shelter and in one coherent body headed for the track up Golden Crown. The mist seemed to be breaking and we eventually climbed above it to be greeted with a fine day on the tops. An impromptu stop was made in a lovely little hollow where a

water fight ensued between - you can guess who from the names in the party. Some of the more energetic members decided to stay and sunbathe but were eventually convinced it was not much further to the hut.

Only occasional glimpses of views were got as the low beach trees provided a very effective screen. The hut was not where I had left it (as Hut Ruin) 24 years ago and had been moved into a hollow designed to catch the sun and deflect the wind. An enjoyable lunch in the sun was followed by the temptation to doze afterwards. A general move to explore then started slowly and in small groups we ventured further along the track until we came to an open snowgrass area giving us an uninhibited view of Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and a hazy Egmont. Ruahine Corner Hut was just hidden by the beach trees surrounding the snowgrass flat where it lives. It was very scenic, the peace shattered only by the clatter of camera shutters as each member tried to capture the scene.

Back at Aranga it was decided to split into two groups for the return, one to head south at the track junction and come down in the Sentry Box area, and the other to go north and come down Bob's Spur.

The two parties divided at the track turn-off with the Bob's Spur party agreeing to drive around and pick up the others. In true Irish tradition I led from behind and let Peter McBride find his way as best he could onto Bob's Spur. We were led in and out of coverts and finally down into a stream. The waterfalls were a joy to behold to anyone who studies them, and, after starting with a three hours to sunset countdown, the time slipped by until a massive 150 foot plus fall made me decide it was not the time to be venturesome anymore.

We headed up onto the Golden Crown track, finding it in the fading daylight, and started down. By the time we came out into the clear on the last big drop we could see activity below us with car lights and as we descended by torchlight we were met by Rob in the paddocks.

After swapping experiences we headed for home, arriving in Hastings at 8.00p.m.

No in party: 17

Leader: R. Lowe

Rob Clark, Janet Brown, Karen Lancaster, Paul Wheeler, John Jones, Lou Harrison, Wendy Glew, Peter McBride, Heather McBride, Michael Henley, Katie Law, Clive Thurston, Karen Glass, Lee Barrett, Mitch Barrett, Peter Berry, Don Sullivan.

1218

ROCKS AHEAD HUT

16 -17th MAY

Stunned by the news of Phil's death, the weekend trip was re-routed to include a trip to Kaweka J. We spent a few moments there remembering our friend who had so often been with us on trips to the cairn.

After leaving the cairn the party went along Back Ridge until reaching Back Ridge Bivvy, then headed down the track to Rocks Ahead Hut. It took about 7 hours to reach the hut from the car park, less time than we had imagined.

The hut itself is a four bunk forestry hut and is rather picturesquely situated by the Ngaruroro River. A cable cage across the river provided a source of entertainment as we took turns at whizzing out into the middle in it. A two wire bridge over Rocks Ahead stream proved even more exciting next morning. There was plenty of slack in it which meant that you had to keep your weight forward or else end up in an inverted position, probably in the stream.

Sunday started with a long grind up to Venison Tops. The effort was well worthwhile as the weather had turned out fine and clear. From there we continued on around the tops past Whetu and North Kaweka then back down Makahu Spur to the cars. Quite a testing day, about 9 hours in all. But everyone managed the distance without too much pain and felt well satisfied at the end. An excellent tramp.

No. in party: 10

Leader: Allan Holden.

Rob Clark, Janet Brown, Dave Wilkins, Bill Bristow, Dave Clark, Chris White, Karen Lancaster, Katie Law, Geoff Holmes

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1219

WAIKAMAKA.

30 - 31 May.

It all started at 5 p.m. on Friday night, two hours before the due departure time for Ruapehu. I was informed then that the truck was still off the road and would be unavailable for the trip. After nearly wearing out the telephone it was decided that there wasn't enough private transport to go to the hut so we agreed to meet at Hopt's at 8.00 a.m. the next morning to discuss other options.

A two day trip to Waikamaka was decided on the next day and after attempting to demolish the exhaust system of my car we arrived at the road above the river. The river level was very low and two of us made it to the forks with dry feet. A cold southerly wind greeted us on top of the saddle so we raced down the Waikamaka side and arrived at the hut 20 minutes later. After replenishing the wood supply we were getting settled and organised by spreading our gear everywhere when a party of 12 trampers marched in the door. However we still managed a comfortable night.

The next day most of the party returned down the river, however, Allan, Janet and I went over the tops from Waipawa Saddle to Armstrong Saddle and had a late lunch in Buttercup hollow. There was very little snow on the tops but we had a brilliant view of Ruapehu and the Mangawekas. We finally reached the car, via Triplex, at 3 p.m.

The trip over the tops between the two saddles is well worth the effort, even without snow or other attractions. R.B.

No. in party: 9    Leader Ross Berry  
Janet Brown, Allan Holden, Katie Law, Christine Kitchen,  
Paul Wheeler, Karen Lancaster, John and Karen Berry.

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1228 TE WAKA. 14th June

Miserable weather all week and a grim forecast caused our group of an original 30 to be whittled down to 17. Of that number I had mentally checked off also the first timers who would have enough sense to realize even trampers don't go out in that sort of weather. Therefore I wasn't too surprised and in fact quite pleased to have 11 people eventually turn up on an overcast Sunday morning.

• We plodded up the four-wheel drive track to the hut in warm but misty weather. After a bite to eat we went out to have a go at the confidence course which was quite fun. When we had finished the course we met the others who had walked right past it and had gone on to the trig. While they did the course we put on a brew then walked back through the now steady rain to the truck, arriving home in plenty of time for tea.

P.B.

No. in party: 11                      Leader: Peter Berry

Karen Lancaster, John Jones, Geoff Robinson, Chris White,  
Heather McBride, Perry Hicks, Katie Law, Edward Holmes,  
Geoff Holmes.

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1221 SHUTES. 27-28th June

With extensive organizing, four-wheel drive transport had been arranged to ferry us all into No Mans Hut. We set up with Dave in his Suzuki at Big Hill Station but, unfortunately, the other vehicles didn't turn up. Dave therefore had to make three trips with most of us walking for the first two hours. We were all at No Mans by 10 am and billy tea and munchies dissappeared like lightning.

Shortly after 11 a.m. the Shutes Party moved off, dropping packs at the Aranga Hut Junction to inspect the aircraft wreckage. From there we continued along Ikawetea track for



about 15 minutes and then forked northwards on the main ridge. From there it was plain sailing. Open tussock made the going easy and at about 2.15 we stopped for lunch in a hollow once called Lester's Lounge. Another hour along the tops then we dropped down from a trig point, followed cairns down through clay basins and then joined up with the old track down the ridge behind the hut. By some navigational fluke we dropped right down behind the hut.

After a leisurely breakfast on Sunday morning, the party headed up the old bridle track on the other side of the creek. It is overgrown but not too hard to follow. Two hours later, after an exciting drop down an onga-onga clad slope, we all dined on the banks of the Koau Stream. Crossing the river and heading straight up a shingle slope brought us onto the track at the top. At first this was fairly overgrown and is marked by yellow tin strips. Travelling through this for an hour brought us into clay basins again. A short dip to a creek, a sharp climb out again, and then 20 minutes along the flat to Ruahine Hut where Dave and his four-wheel drive transport were waiting. A good trip and good company.

G.H.

No. in party: 10

Leader: Geoff Holmes

Geoff Robinson, Clive Thurston, Randall Goldfinch,  
Peter Berry, Bill Bristow, Greg Bristow, Karen Lancaster,  
Albert Hammond, Dave Harrington, Jenny Christmas,  
Susie Suzuki.

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No. 1222

KAWEKA HUT

11 - 12th July

(a) Weekend Work Party

Off on a grey morning with a load of timber to keep the blood circulating. A careful boulder hop across the Tutaekuri then up towards the hut. Some of the shorter members noticed the bridge handrail across the stream was a little difficult to reach - not much fun when a fall could mean a 6 metre drop into a cold and rocky creek. By the time the last of us had arrived at Kaweka hut the weather had turned rather miserable and cold. Visibility and drizzle didn't improve much during the day, cleared a little overnight to a bit of blue sky on Sunday morning and then snow showers at the bushline in the afternoon.

The object of the trip was to build a new bench along the wall under the window. By the end of the day not only was there a new bench but a new four person stool had also made its appearance.

Sunday morning's breakfast was just over when the day trippers arrived for the first round of many hot drinks. Us weekenders left for the tops to have a look-see, then on down to the bridge with the high handrail. After much effort a new bridge has been built with 2 handrails the right height.

Please note, there is NO AXE in Kaweka Hut if you are going that way. Take your own and bring it back out with you. Too many trees are disappearing up the chimney.

No. in party: 9

P.Mc.

Les Hangar, Greg Bristow, Karen Lancaster, Gary Millar, Paul Macpherson, Lee Barrett, Geoff Holmes, Heather McBride Peter McBride.

(b) Day Trip;

12th July.

As we left Hastings the weather looked very dull. It was overcast and constantly drizzling. This I think turned a lot of people off from coming out but as it turned out we had a very enjoyable trip.

A group of twelve of us set off from the Castle Rocks car park, just off the Napier-Taihape road, and strolled into Kaweka Hut at a leisurely pace. Upon reaching the hut at approx. 9.30 a.m. we were welcomed by Peter McBride's weekend party who had the billy boiling ready for a hot cuppa.

Making the best of the good weather we went heading for the tops. The snow level was down to the bush line and as we proceeded up it got a little icy and the cloud began to move in so we decided to head on back to Kaweka Hut for lunch. After lunch we decided to do a little work around the hut. The rubbish pit had been filled in previously and rubbish began to mount up in piles on top of the covered rubbish pit. People must think that the rubbish truck is going to come and take it away. We dug a new pit and got rid of the cans, bottles, plastic bags, paper etc etc.

We were shocked to see that so many small trees around the hut had been cut down for firewood as you only have to walk 5 minutes up the track to find a plentiful supply of dead wood for the fire.

Thanks, Peter Manning for driving the truck.

C.T.

No. in party: 12

Clive Thurston, Karen Glass, Peter Berry, Luke Holmes, Selwyn June, Bill Bainbridge, Liz Pindar, Craig Ball, Lew Harrison, George Prebble, M. Morrel, Paul Wheeler.

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1223

RUAPEHU WEEKEND

25 -26th July

The Royal Forest and Bird Society lodge at Ruapehu had been booked some 9 months prior to this trip. It's difficult to predict the weather from that far off and unfortunately the weekend turned out rather wet and misty. This prevented any tramps up the mountain although a couple of attempts got to the top of Knoll Ridge before retreating. The weather didn't stop people skiing however and all weekend long strangely clad people were seen (or not seen when it was too misty) hurtling out of control amongst the more fashionably attired skiing fraternity.

Others chose to go on bush walks (e.g. to Tama Lakes) or to use sledges and plastic sheets as their means of transport.

The cooperation of everyone when it came to cooking, cleaning, getting ready in the morning etc., was remarkable and much appreciated.

Despite the weather everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves and it would appear that similar weekends should become a yearly occurrence.

R.C.

No. in party: 31

Leader: Rob Clark.

Janet Brown, Dave Wilkins, Chris White, Geoff Holmes, Lynette O'Connor, Geoff Robinson, Lew Harrison, Clive Thurston, Margaret Cornwall, Karen Glass, Peter McBride, Heather McBride, Greg Jenks and Diane, Gerald Blackburn, Miles Robinson, John Wakenshaw, Karen Lancaster, Bill Bainbridge, Kay Pullen, Dave Harrington, Jenny Christmas, Rob Vork, Gary Millar, Vicki Thomson, Yvette Reisma.

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#### Social News

- \* Congratulations to Allan and Wendy Holden on the birth of their daughter Joanne.
- \* Joan Wilson is somewhere in Canada/Alaska enjoying lots of sightseeing and tramping.
- \* The Social committee organized an enjoyable dine and dance evening at the D.B. Heretaunga on August 15th.
- \* The film "All the way up there" will be shown at the club meeting on November 25th. This is the story of how a physically disabled boy achieved his dream of reaching the summit of Mt. Ruapehu - it should be worth seeing.

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#### NEW MEMBERS.

We would like to welcome the following members to the club:

Lee Barrett  
Greg Bristow

Mitch Barrett  
Bill Bristow

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#### RESIGNATIONS.

The club regretfully accepts the resignation of Nils Borgesius.

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#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The 46th Annual General Meeting will be held in the Radiant Living Hall, Warren Street, North, Hastings following the usual fortnightly meeting on Wednesday, 11th November, 1981.

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PRIVATE TRIPS

ARTHUR'S PASS, LAKE KANIERE

May Holidays.

Arthur's Pass.

After stocking up with supplies in Christchurch our party headed off to Arthur's Pass. We had previously arranged, through Jill Garlick, accommodation at the Greymouth Alpine Club Lodge which is just a stone throw away from the Arthur's Pass Headquarters. Our first night was spent in very comfortable surrounds. Jill and her sister Helen along with Peter Berry had made their own arrangements to meet us at the lodge to join in our three day tramp.

The snow level was fairly low in the morning as we started but for the Edwards river. Peter showed us how not to cross the Bealey River. Group river crossings proved to be more successful. The first section of the Edwards river was very cold and icy. The sun had not reached the valley floor that morning and we were forever chasing the sun to get a warm spot for lunch. This did not come about and we ended up having a very skimpy lunch and carried on towards Edwards Hut.

That night was very comfortable in the modern Lookwood style hut.

Our second day was to be our longest and proved the most interesting. From Edwards Hut we made our way over Taruahuna Pass. This was of easy gradient. The pass itself is a huge pile of mountain debris, the result of a landslide from Falling Mountain in the 1929 earthquake. A most unusual sight. From Taruahuna Pass we headed for Tarn Col, a steep climb on to a grassy flat covered in snow. We skirted a very lovely tarn which unfortunately was solid ice and unbreakable. Dropping down into yet another cold icy valley we headed for Walker Pass which was a very gradual climb. We had now reached the headwaters of the Hawdon River by which time we were all feeling tired, some more than others, and headed for Hawdon Hut. The last few hundred yards to Hawdon Hut were by the light of torches. In residence at the hut was a chap and his family who many years ago tramped with our club and remembered several older members. I have unfortunately forgotten his name but it goes to show the love of the outdoors never dies.

Our third day was very easy with a four hour walk down to Hawdon Shelter. The trip was very pleasant with good huts, a variety of terrain, and relatively easy route - finding. It is probably at its best in the winter as we struck it.

Lake Kanieri:

Situated on the West Coast of the South Island just inland from Hokitika is a beautiful, peaceful lake called Kanieri. The entire lake is surrounded by a native reserve. A handful of baths on the shore line are the only evidence of man.

Jill Garlick's parents kindly loaned their bach to us for a few days for which we were very grateful. We managed to get in a day trip up the Styx River during our relaxing days. This area is the final stage of the Three Passes trip from Arthur's Pass. The river itself began to get very gorgy towards the headwaters. The bush areas around here are noticeably very damp compared to what we are used to in the North.

We rounded off our South Island tour by taking a scenic flight from Greymouth down the Southern Alps, around Mount Cook and back to Greymouth. The plane was a six seater and cost us \$250 to hire for 1½ hours. That was an experience of a life time to actually fly a few hundred feet below the summit of Cook and get a fantastic view on a brilliantly clear day.

Our thanks to Jill Garlick and her parents and Alan Thurston for Transport.

C.T.

Clive Thurston, Karen Glass, Gerald Blackburn, Edward Holmes, Sue Taylor, Alan Thurston, Bill Bainbridge, Randall Goldfinch, Peter Berry, and the locals from Greymouth Alpine Club, Jill and Helen Garlick.

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#### HUEY WINS AGAIN 1st - 15th June.

Sitting inside Waimak Falls Hut for 2½ days as the wind and rain battered the shelter wasn't the greatest beginning to our Arthur's Pass holiday. For one thing, the rain washed most of the snow away, and with all our gear wet we wouldn't have been able to do any climbing anyway. Admitting defeat two sodden bodies trudged back down the Waimakariri Valley, hopped in the car and headed back to Christchurch.

Laundromats are a great invention we thought, watching an assorted collection of tramping clothes tumble round in one of their driers. A couple of days in Christchurch had revived our enthusiasm and the VW was off again along the West Coast road. No tramping into distant huts with heavy packs this time. Home was the C.M.C. Lodge in Arthur's Pass village - much more civilized.

At last a good day, and we were off up the Otira valley to attempt Rolleston via the Otira slide. Unfortunately, after washing away lots of snow, Huey had replaced it with lbs more nice new stuff. Plug, Plug, Plug, Plug, . . . . !

Two thousand feet of step plugging later we staggered up onto the Goldney Ridge, about four hundred feet below the low peak. Oh no! Waist deep in powder snow. After floundering around for half an hour or so and making little upward progress we finally abandoned the climb and raced back down the slide to finish off the day with hot apple pies (delicious) and milkshakes at the local store.

Next day saw the intrepid duo engaging in more step plugging up the central gully onto Mt. Temple. It was a

perfect day with no wind, no cloud and nothing but mountains as far as the eye could see. Mt. Franklin looked most impressive, as did the Phipps - Temple traverse. We took a long look at the traverse but decided that the razor-backed bit might be a wee bit tricky in soft snow.

On our last day at Arthurs Pass we went up Avalanche Peak to take a look at the Crow face of Rolleston and then headed back to Christchurch.

The holiday almost ended in disaster when I peeled off 18 feet up whilst rock climbing just outside Christchurch. Most fortuitously the only injury was a bruised heel.

Not the most successful trip south in terms of what we had hoped to achieve, but we certainly learnt plenty about the weather and snow conditions at that time of year.

R.C.

Rob Clark, Dave Wilkins.

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#### MANGETEPOPO HUT

June.

Arrived in at the Hut at 10pm Friday night beneath clear skys, which alas were only the interval between two howling westerlies. The hut was empty and also pretty cold but sleep was the only thing on our minds.

Quietness prevailed through the night, too quiet, snow weather and my predications were right, the hut and ground were covered in a blanket of snow. The weather was a white-out, the other westerly had made its mark, but still we don the gears.

Up to the saddle in a weird world of sculptured snow and ice. Over the saddle Huey gives a full blast of what he's made of. Firm snow, icy in parts, but to stop and don crampons could have meant exposure. Down we went - beaten.

Back in the Hut with a bunch of Wanganui Trampers, one of whom had exposure, so easy to get in such conditions. He was treated but only recovered back to normal after a good full nights rest and a day of no exertion.

Sunday was much the same, we played around on the Mangeteppopo rocks adding another grade on to the climbs as they were wet and slippery - there was only time for one - Huey got to us again.

A good weekend, we learnt some more factors on exposure. It is quite a different story when someone has got it. So trampers take care - prevention is the best cure.

Dave Wilkins, Vicki Carlyon.

DOMINIE BIVVY: A DAY IN THE SNOW. 26th July

We left Hastings at about 8.00 for Makahu Car Park and set off up Trials Spur following in the footsteps of the Mountain Safety bods. The weather was O.K. until half way up the knob before Dominie Bivvy where we encountered a somewhat strong and chilly wind. On arriving at Dominie we dug the entrance clear of snow and piled on inside. After scoffing a bowl of fruit salad we clambered into our storm gear and went outside for a play in the snow. Construction started on the 'Giant Snowman of the Year' but we only got ankle high and gave up. Luke was shoved down a snow cave that had formed under a bank, he eventually surfaced three meters away.

After a lunch spent with an elderly couple we headed back, a howling tail wind sped progress up. Half way down we met a group of 'townies' wearing jeans and sneakers, they must have thought we were a bit strange, wearing parkas, over-trou, balaclavas and mittens!

The carpark was full up with people who wanted to get away from it all' and have a quiet drink. On the way home we stopped off at the Puketitiri Museum and Mr Lemmon gave us a guided tour of the place.

Edward & Luke Holmes, Susan and Keven Taylor.

\* \*

ROB'S LONG LUNCH.

Once upon a time there were four hardy H.T.C. trampers who decided to go to Howletts Hut one wintery weekend. The snow was deep and the wind howled when they reached the hut, and in the morning (surprise, surprise) the snow was still deep and the wind still howling.

The feared Sawtooth Ridge would have to wait for another day so back down the terrible spur they went, down, down, into the depths of the Tukituki River valley. A short time later at a place where the river forks, the foursome sat down for lunch.

During lunch they decided to go home by way of Midge's Sidle track as none had been on it before. Three of the companions then departed up a ridge towards this track whilst the fourth, foolish Rob, continued to eat his lunch by the river.

Now, this track they were on had a turn-off which led to the sidle track but the three in front steamed straight past it and carried on, not towards home at the old mill but towards Pohongina Saddle. Up the track came Rob, skipping along merrily some distance behind. When he came to the track junctions, being of sharp eye if somewhat slow of mind and foot, he spied the sidle track and headed off along it.

Sunset found Rob at the old mill anxiously awaiting his friends. But they didn't arrive - they were stuck on the farmland weren't they. Trapped by a patch of dark, impenetrable bush they lay down to wait out the night with

only the sound of the cows moo-ing and the sheep baa-ing to comfort them. The night was cold and frosty and the unfortunate trio awoke with frost on their noses.

The story ended happily however as the four trampers were finally reunited about 10 o'clock that day and set out for home to live happily ever after, until the next time.

AnyOne who has missed the moral behind this tale please contact one of the below for further details.

The dummies were: Rob Clark, Dave Wilkins,  
Janet Brown, Vicki Carlyon.

\* \*

### "RANGI" BY MISTAKE

August.

Up the Waipawa River to the saddle once again. Intentions to climb the east face of "66" had been thwarted by the strong wind and black clouds. Waikamaka Hut gave welcome relief from the cold. A fire was lit and frozen feet began to thaw. Plans to go to Waterfall Creek were scrapped finally when I climbed into a pit and went to sleep.

During the night the weather cleared and we set off for Rangi saddle under blue skies. Trying to keep boots dry in the stream proved a challenge. Whenever you left the stream to climb round a difficult bit the soft snow over the leather-wood and spaniards made you wonder if it was worth it.

Emerging from the scrub onto the open snow slopes we were pleasantly surprised to find the snow firm. Rangi saddle looked a long way off so it was decided to climb Rangi by way of its western slopes. Half-way up the snow became quite icy so crampons were fitted. One of our number didn't have them however, and as he was making slow progress we scrapped the idea of climbing Rangi and decided to traverse off to get onto the main range nearer Waipawa Saddle. However we ended up climbing onto a ridge which led up to Rangi and found ourselves tramping over the summit after all. Feeling pleased with our effort the rest of the trip back to the saddle and down the river passed quickly.

Please note that the track up to the saddle from the river has deteriorated quite badly, especially in the bush section. There is also a big hole in the track near where it crosses the river near the saddle - a bit tricky in soft snow.

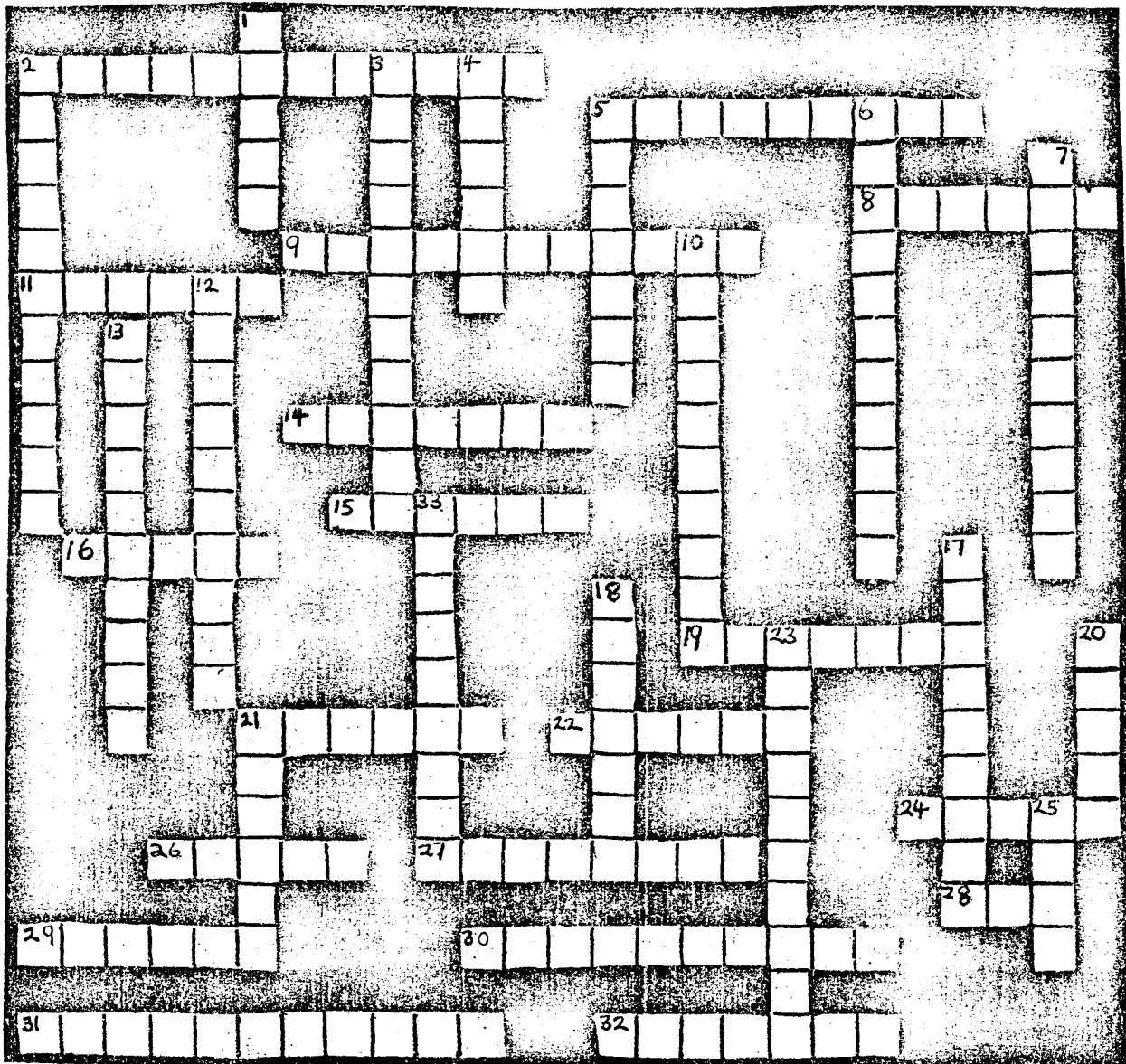
R.C.

Rob Clark, Janet Brown, Dave Wilkins, John Howes.

\* \*



"KAWEKA PIT STOPS"



Crossword No. 1

ACROSS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2 From Oamaru Hut, 2nd Major watershed - true right bank. | 21 The cricket pitch  |
| 5 Western spur off Kaweka 'J'.                            | 22 The 'bath', running hot H <sub>2</sub> O                   |
| 8 4 wheel drive to front door.                            | 24 Forest & Bird Hut  |
| 9 Bivouac on Ihaka track.                                 | 26 Maori sleeping place                                       |
| 11 First hut on Omarukokere headwaters.                   | 27 A stream with 3 huts on it; middle hut named after stream. |
| 14 American Ranch   | 28 10 times better than a tent                                |
| 15 1800' above Mohaka River.                              | 29 Old Pa site  |
| 16 Airstrip.  | 30 2 hours from Haybarn                                       |
| 19 Alpine grass.  | 31 N.Z.F.S.bivouac on Ngaruroro                               |
|   | 32 On the way to the "J"                                      |

## DOWN

- |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1  | Seldom visited. North of Manson             | 17 | 2800' above sea level, Named after the spur it is on. |
| 2  | 1½ hrs from the refrigerator.               | 18 | 9 crossings from the Watergauge.                      |
| 3  | 1st Ngaruroro Hut going down from airstrip. | 20 | Dog box   |
| 4  | Club Hut                                    | 21 | Forestry base.  |
| 5  | Ruapehu from the bog.                       | 23 | Recently burnt down                                   |
| 6  | Taruarau Hut                                | 25 | A huts most frequent visitor.                         |
| 7  | Unsafe Cable cage.                          |    |   |
| 10 | Venison Tops                                |    |   |
| 12 | Club hut with Mechano chimney.              |    |   |
| 13 | Hut and bivvy within 10 mins of each other. |    |   |

\* \*

INTRODUCING THE WEST TAUPŌ FORESTS.

The forested Hauhungaroa and Rangitoto Range extend from the western shores of Lake Taupo northwards. Most of these forests, covering some 80,000 hectares, lie within the Pureora Forest Park. The area has a varied geology and changes from gently rolling plateau to steep broken country. Altitudes range from 500 to 1165m above sea level. Access to the park is open; no permits are needed. It is here that some of the most impressive podocarp forests in the North Island can be seen.

The best podocarp stands are easily accessible from State Highway 30 between Mangakino and Bennydale. A signposted road to Pureora village (14km from Mangakino) leads you past a magnificent stand of Kahikatea, matai and totara forest which now forms the Pikiariki ecological reserve. Nearby is the larger Waipapa ecological reserve. Both reserves support good populations of kokako whose powerful organ-like calls may be heard in the early mornings and evenings. Flocks of kaka, parakeets and other native bird species are seen and heard here too.

The southern section of the Forest Park has the most to offer the trampers with extensive tracts of low altitude native forests with prolific native wildlife and panoramic views from the scrub-covered peaks of the Hauhungaroa Range. Few huts and tracks have been established but further recreational facilities will be provided in the future. One large area, however, is to be left completely undeveloped as a "remote experience" zone. The most popular track leads up the Waihaha River westwards from State Highway 32 to a hut in the catchment headwaters. This track passes through dense podocarp forest.

Topographical Maps N64, N93 and N102 cover the areas of interest.

Selwyn June. 1981

### NATIONAL PARKS - THE HUMAN IMPACT.

All natural ecosystems may undergo alterations directly or indirectly as a result of the activities and presence of man - the "human impact". The growth of industrial activity (and this includes the role of tourism) and the changing pattern of human existence are making man the foe rather than part of his surroundings.

As man gains progressively greater access to the more remote areas, many countries are finding that the "human impact" has become a burning question in the management of their national parks. Highways through mountainous areas can cause considerable damage; the Abruzzo National Park in Italy has suffered very badly from erosion due to a highway put over a pass and many animals, one of the features of the park, have moved away. Residential development, as New Zealanders are well aware, can completely alter the character of an area and skiing and winter sports can also be detrimental. For example, in Minnesota motor-sleds etc have damaged 50 per cent of the conifers in places along trails, mostly beyond natural regeneration.

Pollution from industry situated beyond the park boundaries robs some parks of their most precious features (clean air and water, pollution sensitive lichens etc.) and disturbance merely by seeing man can threaten the continued existence of some of the more delicate animal species. If courtship patterns are interrupted some birds will not breed at all that year. Noise can also affect the breeding cycle of birds, or even upset their normal migratory pattern. Industrial pollution of feeding grounds is one of the most serious threats but fortunately this is one area that is being closely watched.

In an attempt to overcome the sheer numbers of visitors, some parks such as Yosemite have had to actively encourage walking, riding horses, and cycles and the use of public transport because of the dramatic traffic problems that popularity has created. Foot traffic also has its own problems however. For example, in the Rocky Mountains National Park observations have shown that serious erosion damage has occurred due to tramping and rock collecting and some alpine tundra zones which have suffered irreversible damage will take 5 centuries to recover. Even photography can indirectly affect the environment with an eager photographer clearing away twigs for a clearer view of a birds nest, and thus altering the surroundings which can scare away the bird, make the nest unrecognisable, or expose it to predators.

Man can be viewed as the consumer (shepherd, forester or hunter), the despoiler (the public administrator, politician and men who construct for their own gain) and the visitor who takes from the land the material and spiritual fruits it offers. The third category is the most tolerable, the first must continue to use the land at least until he can

find new resources, but the despoiler should always be banished from protected areas. When a park has to suffer all three intrusions at once it is not difficult to see how complicated and precarious the very existence of parks and reserves has become.

\* With acknowledgements to "National Parks of the World"  
Published by Orbis.

\*            \*

### A NOTE ON HOWLETT'S BOTANY.

Kirk's "Students Flora", 1899, describes *Aciphylla squarrosa* variety *flaccida* from specimens collected by Howlett in the Ruahines.

*Aciphylla squarrosa* is now regarded as a coastal species restricted to the shores of Cook Strait, with distinct local varieties found in the Tararuas and the Central Plateau. The Ruahine plant found by Howlett, and once regarded as a fourth variety, now appears to be a distinct unnamed local endemic species.

While engaged in an extensive botanical survey of the Ruahine Ranges in 1941, Elder, Greenwood, and Druce were familiar with the Howlett herbarium specimen from which Kirk's description was written. The exact locality of the colony was not recorded with the specimen but the "Howlett country" at the head of the Oroua river appeared to offer a clue. After an exhaustive search, the plant was rediscovered in one locality only, an alpine tributary basin of the Oroua river, across the gorge, almost opposite and at approximately the same altitude as the present Howlett's Hut. There it still grows in fair numbers.

\* From material supplied by Dr. J. F. Findlay and the Manawatu group of the N.Z. Society of Genealogists.

\*            \*

### Answers to Crossword No. 1 "Kaweka Pit Stops"

#### ACROSS

- 2 Mangatainoka
- 5 Backridge
- 8 Lotkow
- 9 Kaweka Flats
- 11 Te Puke
- 14 Poronui
- 15 Makino
- 16 Boyds
- 19 Tussock
- 21 Manson
- 22 Te Puia
- 24 Lowry
- 26 Whare
- 27 Harkness
- 28 Hut
- 29 Oamaru
- 30 Middle Hill
- 31 Oamarukokere
- 32 Dominie

#### DOWN

- 1 Otutu
- 2 Mangaturutu
- 3 Ngaawapurua
- 4 Kaweka
- 5 Ballards
- 6 Golden Hills
- 7 Rocks Ahead
- 10 Tira Chalet
- 12 Kiwi Saddle
- 13 Studholmes
- 17 MacIntosh
- 18 Cameron
- 20 Bivvy
- 21 Makahu
- 23 Stagger Inn
- 25 Rats

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 10 pm, until then it would not be regarded as cause for parents to worry, but in case some unusual delay should occur, all newcomers should see that the list left in town by the leader includes their phone number. For enquiries about OVERDUE PARTIES please contact one of the following:

BERRY 777-223      PLOWMAN 54-303      THORP 434-238

\*      \*      \*

FIXTURE LIST

On many trips parties may decide 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 prior to a trip. Enquire from one of the following:

Peter Manning Phone 82 963      Les Hanger Phone 88 731  
Liz Pindar      "      67 889      Randall Goldfinch 439 163

TRANSPORT CONTRIBUTIONS: Due to rising petrol and other costs, these have been raised to \$4.00 per person, and \$10.00 per person for trips outside the Bay.

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.

\*      \*

MEETING DATES

Dates for meeting for the next few months are:

2nd September	28th October
16th September	11th November (A.G.M.)
30th September	25th November
14th October	9th December

\*      \*

SEPTEMBER

6

Southern Ruahines

Tamaki River. Not an area we get into often. Take this opportunity. The weather should be getting warmer.

N145 Dannevirke

Leaders: Peter Manning  
Jim Glass

19 - 20

Howletts Hut

If there is any snow around, Sawtooth Ridge may be worth a try. If the snow is gone it may be a good chance for newer members to have a look at the ridge.

N 140 Ongaonga

Leaders: Geoff Robinson  
Gerald Bkackburn

OCTOBER

4

Tutira - Boundary Stream

A beautiful walk. A trip for everyone to enjoy.

N114 Tutira

Leaders: Alan Berry  
George Prebble

17 - 18

Puketitiri Hot Springs

If you haven't tried the bath yet, you haven't lived. A pleasant tramp along the banks of the Mohaka.

N113 Kaweka

Leaders: Geoff Holmes  
Geoff Robinson

24 - 26

Waikaremoana

A beautiful bush walk around a beautiful lake.

Leaders: R Goldfinch  
P. Berry.

NOVEMBER

1

Cairn Trip

A trip to the cairn atop the Kaweka Range for the memorial service, after which the day is yours.

N123 Ngamatea

Leader: President

14 - 15

Maropea River

Start at Triplex, up to Top Maropea, down to the forks and then out over the tops and possibly down Triplex Creek.

N140 Ongaonga

N133 Wakarara

Leaders: Ross Berry  
Bill Bristow

29

Te Iringa - Cameron Hut

Up to the trig then down to the Ngaruroro and along the river to the watergauge. A good river trip.

N123 Ngamatea

Leaders: J. Brown  
K. Lancaster

DECEMBER

12 - 13

Fuljames Rapid

Those of a suicidal nature, this is the trip for you. Bring your rafts, lilos, lifejackets, canoes etc., and drown in the Waikato River.

Leaders: Dave Wilkins  
Greg Bristow

CHRISTMAS - NEW YEAR

To the Coromandel area. John and Karen Berry are organizing this one. More information Later.

Leaders: John & Karen Berry  
Peter Berry

JANUARY

10th Beach trip - barbeque - also to be arranged.

24th Tutaekuri River.

From Kaweka Hut track down to McIntosh track.

Leaders: Heather McBride  
Bill Bainbridge.

\* \*

F.M.C. NEWSLETTER \*

MINING

A court has ruled that objections to eventual mining cannot be made at the time a prospecting licence is being considered. Since mining licences automatically follow prospecting licences under current law there is no way anyone can object to a mine. Minister Bill Birch states that the new Mining Bill will change this. However watch the miners lobby the select committee. If you agree with the bill, say so.

F.M.C. NATIONAL PARK AND RESERVE BOARDS

Venn Young has announced the members of all the new boards. FM.C nominees appointed are:

- Waikato/Rotorua	Nigel Church and Brian Hunt
- Tongariro/Taupo	Nick Jennings
- Wellington	Brian Doughty
- Nelson/Marlborough	Stewart Kennington & Pat Timmings
- North Canterbury	Ian Gardiner
- Aorangi	Garry Brehaut & Gordon Hasell
- Otago	Roger Barrowxlough
- Southland	Duncan Wilson

