

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)

BOX 447, HASTINGS.

'P O H O K U R A'

Bulletin: 155

December 1983

PRESIDENT:

Mr G. Robinson,
605 A Grays Road,
HASTINGS.

Phone: 87 863

SECRETARY:

Mr L. Hanger,
804 Ferguson Street,
HASTINGS.

Phone: 88 731

TREASURER:

Miss J. Smith,
1009 E Heretaunga Street,
HASTINGS.

Phone: 68 249

CLUB CAPTAIN:

Mr C. Thurston,
1016 Miro Street,
HASTINGS.

Phone: 83 853

PRESIDENTS REPORT 1983

Most experienced trampers will tell you that tramping is likely to influence your life and character to an extent quite out of proportion with the time you spend tramping. You cannot tramp, even for a year or two, without gaining a deeper knowledge of and respect for yourself and others. You gain a better understanding of life too. Partly this is because of the subtle effect of a more intimate association with nature, an association which opens your eyes to the close relationship between man and his environment. It has been said that tramping is not merely a recreation, but a way of life.

As we move into our 49th year I reflect on the sadness associated with the sudden death of our fellow tramper and companion, Rob Clark. It was with deepest shock that we learnt at Christmas last of Rob's tragic death, after having successfully climbed Mt. Murchison. Rob died whilst tramping and climbing with his closer friends and enjoying that activity he loved so much.

I take this opportunity to express our deepest sympathy to Janet, his friends and family.

I wish to thank those members who have prepared and presented submissions on the club's behalf and to the committee for their efforts in the administration of the club and in particular our Secretary, Les Hanger. Also to the Social Committee, Trip Leaders and fellow drivers. And on behalf of the club I would like to thank the N.Z.F.S. for the use of their huts and also the landowners for their permission to cross their land.

With the approaching 50th Jubilee, the incoming committee must look to the planning and organisation that this will entail, although it is still 20 months away.

In conclusion I wish the club a safe and enjoyable further year of tramping into '84.

Geoff Robinson

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

I took on the job of Club Captain this time last year to fill a gap caused by several office-holders not seeking re-election. However, with living some distance from town and not being on the phone, I found it very difficult to keep up with club activities, getting to know new members and visitors etc., while other large commitments didn't make things any easier.

Many thanks to all who helped with the improvements of Waikamaka, Randal especially, for precutting hardboard, chimney-framing, harditherm, and most of all for designing and making a superb sock-drying rack above the pot-belly stove. This work was mainly funded by donations from local bodies.

Kiwi Saddle is all ready for a water tank supplied and to be delivered by the New Zealand Forest Service, and then we will move in to install it.

Two new huts have been built by the N.Z.F.S. in the local ranges. One, much to our disappointment has been situated in Buttercup Hollow in the Ruahines. The other has been put alongside Centre Makaroro Hut, also in the Ruahines. Quite a pleasant change to relax in Lockwood style rather than the old 6 bunk hut.

Shuteye Shack has finally gone. It was dismantled shortly after the arrival of Sunrise Hut, the new hut in Buttercup Hollow.

The club has visited the normal variety of places throughout the year although apart from two trips to Tongariro National Park we have not travelled very far from home. A few club members attended the big bush fire at Ngamatea Station and the Golden Hills area and most of us learnt quite a lot, such as taking lots of warm gear (must be woollen), goggles,

and a face-mask of some description. Gumboots are not a wise idea, as they get extremely hot and are more dangerous than leather boots. Carry a shovel, it's the ideal weapon. Please take note for future call-outs.

I would like to thank the truck drivers for safely driving us to and from the ranges. A few problems with the truck have arisen but on the whole a good year. Thanks to private car owners who used their vehicles on club trips.

Many thanks to the various landowners who let us pass through their property. Thanks to the N.Z.F.S. for the use of huts and the good tracks we mostly rely on.

Once again thanks to all club members for co-operation and companionship. Hope to see you all, and many new faces in the coming year.

Edward Holmes

HUT, TRACK AND FIXTURE COMMITTEE

HUTS

Of the four huts we maintain, only Howletts has missed out on any maintenance this year.

Kaweka - now has a shiny new door handle.

Kiwi Saddle - the space below the bottom back has been covered in and another shiny new door handle fixed. On one side of the roof, spouting was fitted to provide rain water for a future tank which the Forest Service will provide. This will necessitate painting the roof with lead free paint.

Waikamaka - this has been our big effort. Early December '82 saw the open fireplace turned into an alcove to accommodate a potbelly stove and clothes-drying rack. A window was fitted for ventilation and the view down to the river. Later in early April '83 the Forest Service airlifted in all the hardboard etc. and a willing gang of workers lined the complete interior and rebuilt the bench on one weekend. The interior painting has just been completed. These improvements have gone a long way to improve comfort and cut down on vermin.

FIXTURES

Participating members have had good opportunity to enjoy the trips arranged, covering our local patches plus Ruapehu and Kaimanawas in varied and meaningful ways. Whatever your interest, you probably were catered for; if not, speak up.

R.G.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Once again the club has provided a hard core of fit and experienced members for Search and Rescue operations over the 1982/83 period. This core of experienced members seems to have been dropping in number over the last 4-5 years but with any sort of luck we may have reached the bottom of the curve and if Randal's latest callout list is any indication it will be on the way up again in the near future. As it is proposed to run a more extensive training programme in the coming year it is hoped that members of all clubs will participate and this should help to increase the general level of activity.

Undoubtably the highlight of this year's operations was a new experience to club members as they were requested to assist with the fire fighting on the big Ohinewaïmua fire in the back of Ngamatea Station. Several club members participated for two days in what turned out to be an eventful and exciting operation. It was fortunate that most of us had participated in a training day at Kaweka Base before the summer months as this enabled us to arrive on the job prepared to go into action. Another exercise should be completed by the time this report is delivered.

The other major operation occurred on the same weekend as the proposed SAREX in October this year. This turned into a larger exercise than normal with an Iroquois helicopter being used, along with a civilian Jet Ranger on the second day. Further details of this search will be found in this issue of Pohokura.

Other alerts included calls from rafting parties, the rescue of a school party in trouble at Vension Tops (an operation expertly handled by Randal and Russell) and alerts for emergency locator beacons.

Once again I would like to thank all those who have given their time and support to the SAR organisation. It is a job that has its regards and hang-ups but generally I feel that club members can be well pleased with the results that have been obtained.

Graeme Thorp

TRUCK REPORT

This year has not been a good one for our transport with large bills for repairs to the differential, and overheating problems and a tyre thrown on for good measure. With falling numbers on trips, fares are down \$800.00 on normal average with only four trips actually covering costs. We have shown

a loss on transport this year of over \$3000.00 with income of only \$1800.00 but the motor and diff should give no further problems for many years and the truck at the moment is going very well. Total distance travelled this year - 3374 Km, which is down 1000 Km in 1982 and 2000 Km in 1981.

Peter Manning

TRAINING REPORT

The usual yearly events have taken place, such as trial searches, (which turned into real ones) and fire-fighting practice with N.Z.F.S.

Talks at meetings on subjects such as the type of gear and clothing to take out, map and compass work, river crossing techniques etc., were given.

A snow-craft weekend was held at the Tongariro National Park, but nothing was held in the local ranges for a very obvious reason, we haven't had much snow, certainly not enough to interfere with planned trips.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The social year started with a barbeque at Lake Tutira in December, with the hardy folk camping Saturday night and off to the waterfalls in quest of fun on Sunday morning.

The rest of us arrived on Sunday afternoon and spent the rest of the day round about the Lake.

Christmas was quiet with members being down south, and in hospital. However, a get-together was held at Allan Holden's in January to celebrate Mary Madoye's engagement and the return of Russ 'n' Jo Perry.

The fancy dress evening that was held at Roys Hill saw us taking advantage of the facilities offered by the Deer Stalkers Hall for mid-winter occasions.

The general run-of-the-mill talks and films ranging from the South Pole to the deserts of Arizona proved of great interest to us all. I'd like to thank everybody concerned especially those non-members who were roped in to help by adding variety to our meetings.

Many thanks and Merry Xmas.

Luke Holmes

PHOTO ALBUM REPORT

There has been an awakened interest in the photo album this year which is pleasing. A steady stream of photos have been most gratefully received throughout the year. There are still a lot of back trips in arrears particularly from the late 60's and early 70's. Older members who are perhaps no longer active could be tracked down and approached for photos. However, present active members are showing a good response with records of exciting events like the bush fire earlier this year.

Most importantly, people, their faces and personalities, will be on record especially with our 50th Jubilee coming up, but these records must still be carried on for the next 50 years so KEEP SENDING THEM IN.

Rob Snowball

PUBLICITY REPORT

The club poster was reduced in size and several copies of this were printed off, this smaller size being more suitable for firm's notice boards and shop windows. There are still copies of these available if anyone knows of a suitable place to put one up.

Over the year the two local radio stations have very kindly put over a notice on their free community notice boards advertising our day trips. This has resulted in a number of new people joining us on our day trips and hopefully becoming new members.

The only publicity we have received through the newspaper is when they have been reporting a search on the big fire. The scrapbook has been maintained throughout the year.

Jim Glass

LIBRARY

In its new position the library cupboard is not very noticeable, nor convenient for browsing while having supper, so I am not surprised that the books are not getting much use, but now with a stronger light-bulb, let us hope that illumination will follow!

9 books have been borrowed; and \$1.69 taken in donations.

Books added to stock are "Outdoor World of Graeme Dingle", by Graeme Dingle, and "Hawkes' Bay for the Happy Wanderer", by Sheila Cunningham, and Geoff Robinson's donation "Antarctic Adventure".

The latest Pohokuras were bound and two old bindings that had worn out were renewed.

The copy of "Ascent of Everest", donated by George Lowe and signed by all the Everest expedition team is at the club librarian's house in safe keeping, as are two possibly valuable New Zealand books: T. Lambert's "Pioneering Reminiscences of old Wairoa", and Johannes Andersen's "Maori Placenames". If anyone wants to borrow these, please see me.

Elizabeth Pindar

EDITOR'S REPORT

Pohokura comes out three times a year and averages 10 club trips in each issue; the rest of the 20 - 40 page magazine comprises of private trips, articles of general interest and poems. These all come from you, the contributors!

When trip reports are handed in promptly they can be stencilled a few at a time, thereby helping the typist enormously. I wish to thank those trip leaders whose reports have been so punctual this year, and to encourage the others. These reports are not just for entertainment, but provide information for others on tracks, huts, river crossings, mapping errors etc., so please remember to include everything relevant. Don't forget that black and white pen drawings can be transcribed onto stencils so if you wish you can illustrate your articles.

After initial teething troubles, such as not having the address books on a stapling night, things started to run more smoothly.

Thanks go to Ingram, Thompson and Berry for the use of their duplicator and to the team who deal with it, to the typists Susan, Karen and Robyn for their proficiency (and I hope that the practice enables Robyn to pass her exams with flying colours) and to all who help with the assembling, stapling, addressing and mailing.

Our club magazine Pohokura is one sure way to secure a claim to immortality so ensure your verballity is written up in Pohokura.

Elizabeth Pindar

GEAR HIRE

Gear Hire has been steady throughout the year. All items were hired out at \$1.00 a day and the gear use was as follows:

Packs	\$50.00
Rubber Boots	\$28.00
Leather Boots	\$55.00
Ropes	\$10.00
Tents	\$20.00
Crampons	\$17.00
Ice Axes	\$ 7.00

with 23 axes used by club - no charge

The total for the year was \$107.00. The gear has been used by various groups as well as on club trips. All gear was returned in resonable order.

J. McBride

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

BEST WISHES

FOR GOOD

TRAMPING IN 1983

3

CLUB TRIPS

HOWLETT'S HUT

No. 1277

23 - 24 July 1983

'Come along, come along, let us foot it out together.
Come along, come along, be it fair or stormy weather...'

- Uist Tramping Song

...and so it was; fair on Saturday, stormy on Sunday. The met service were right!!

Saturday dawned fine. Time dWindled a little through a Napier bod grasping determinedly to a few more winks, but soon three vehicles and nine bodies departed for Mill Road. A quick reshuffling of gear, including works of art on huge, colourful plastic bags to keep tender tootsies dry, and we were away. Across the Moorcock Stream - ah, feet still dry. Across the stream again - some dampness in places. Hmmm.

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1983

1982	At Balance date the Club owned the following Assets:		
2046	Bank of New South Wales		109.17
3000	Bank of New South Wales Investment Account		3000.00
618	Eastern & Central Savings Bank		1611.29
170	Equipment		169.63
278	Stocks on Hand		345.25
	1971 Bedford Truck at cost	9363.51	
	<u>Less Depreciation to date</u>	<u>5463.51</u>	
4680			3900.00
	Huts valued in the books as follows:		
	Kaweka	10.00	
	Kiwi	50.00	
	Waikamaka	55.00	
	<u>Howletts</u>	<u>1905.17</u>	
2020			2020.17
69	Projector at cost		69.00
177	Bookcase		177.23
443	Brother Electric Typewriter		354.24
13501	The total value of the Assets being		11755.98
	However, of this amount there has been set aside for -		
109	Accounts owing	41.00	
139	Reunion Fund	139.00	
5	<u>Subscriptions in Advance</u>	<u>87.00</u>	
(253)			267.00
13248	Leaving a surplus of Assets over Liabilities of \$		11488.98
<hr/>			
	<u>This surplus is represented by the balance in Accumulated Funds:</u>		
	Balance as at 1st October 1982		13246.61
	<u>Less loss for the year</u>		<u>1758.63</u>
			\$ 11488.98

AUDITOR'S 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 and Expenditure Account show respectively a true and fair view of the Club's position at 30th September 1983 and of the results for the year ended on that date.

A.V. Berry A.C.A.
Auditor

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1983

1982	<u>INCOME:</u> The Club's Income comprised:	
518	Subscriptions	779.00
238	Working Party Proceeds	-
117	Equipment Hire	197.00
294	Meeting Contributions	292.36
19	Donations - Huts & General	91.90
	- Forest Service grant for	
280	hut maintenance	500.00
350	- Motere Trust for hut maintenance	350.00
-	Subsidy - Ministry of Sport and Recreation	400.00
443	Interest Received	479.76
-	Profit on Resales	74.35
		<hr/>
2259		3164.37
	<u>EXPENDITURE:</u> The Expenses incurred in running the Club were:	
8	Advertising	55.30
340	Rent of Meeting Room	90.00
24	Supper and Social Expenses	77.00
793	Equipment & Hut Maintenance	639.92
38	Subscriptions: Royal Society, Alpine Club etc.	37.60
192	F.M.C. Capitation	195.20
65	Insurance	49.90
220	Bulletin Expenses	402.80
49	Stationery, stamps etc.	85.74
44	Loss on resales	-
79	Loss on social evening	88.00
57	General Expenses	79.26
111	Depreciation - Typewriter	88.56
-	Transport Costs	4196.22
-	Truck Depreciation	780.00
		<hr/>
		4976.22
	Fares Received	1942.50
130	Loss on Transport	<hr/>
		3033.72
2150		<hr/>
		4923.00
		<hr/>
(109)	There was therefore a loss for the year of	\$ 1758.63
		<hr/>

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. The truck is being written off over 12 years at the rate of \$ 780 a year

Randall learnt the quickest. He doffed his bags before the Tukituki. The rest of us found that large rubbish bags are really only for rubbish, or perhaps for carrying large quantities of water on the end of each leg. Though it was suggested that here was potential for good soup, we agreed that there had to be a better way.

The Tukituki rolled away behind booted feet quite quickly and we arrived at Daphne Hut around 11 a.m. I don't know what happened to "Big Red" here - perhaps he figured our feet smelt although that seemed fishy at the time - but he was next seen up at Howletts. The rest of us changed boots and/or socks, munched a few goodies, then crossed the Tukituki once more to pick up the Daphne Spur.

Quite a while later we all saw each other again. Almost like a reunion really, considering the time between the first and the last to arrive at the hut. The track up to Howlett's is in good condition, although it's becoming heavily ferned over in the lower reaches. However, it's always steeper than the memory allows you to remember so the fern and the bush and the birds proved good topics (excuses) for breathless conversation for the more weary.

The afternoon was spent hauling firewood and exploring the lower flanks of the icy Turaka. Unfortunately, our excellent weather seemed to be deteriorating. What would the morning bring? Howlett's, snug in it's snowy basin, soon hummed with good conversation and camaraderie, steaming billies and a cosy pot-belly.

"Putahi championship!"

"Who wants my steamed pud?" "ME!"

"It's clouding in" Craig brings us this news as he arrives in solo from the road.

... The pot belly burped, rumbled, sighed, and put the rest of Geoff to sleep.

9 p.m. "G'night"

12 p.m. Whisper of stockinged feet.. "It's still clouded in."

2 a.m. "Hey, it's clear outside" "Yeah?" "Yeah, should be good."

5 a.m. "Time to get up" said the trip leader.

"z z z z z z Z Z Z Z Z" said everybody.

5.15 a.m. "Um, it's time to go. Come on, fellas" disillusioned trip leader has to crawl out of warm put to check weather himself.

"Oh, it's absolutely perfect! Quick, get your socks on!"

"Bull dust!"

"Oh, you peeked."

This procrastination continues for some time. Reluctance gained new definitions that morning. Eventually, five decided to peek at Sawtooth if conditions allowed, and move mechanically through the eating of breakfast and packing. Out the door shortly after six into worsening whiteout. Trudge on through the bush, out into the open; things don't look good. Begin climb onto Tiraha, weather worsens. Down? Yes, no point in continuing. Back to the hut.

David decides that now would be a good opportunity to run a SAREX for a watch! It's back towards Tiraha so the theory goes. He and Russell return to search, and understandably fail to find it. Understandably? Yes - the miscreant was ticking away cheerfully in the bottom of its owner's pack, not be found until safely home.

As the last three leave Howlett's to descend and catch the others, it begins to snow heavily. Sawtooth remains untrodden till the next time. The descent is gruelling as usual, with knees taking a real hammering, but soon the river roars in our ears, and we cross to Daphne Hut and lunch once again. The last couple of hours down river pass pleasantly, enlivened only by the demise of an aerobatic marsupial. Craig Crocket and Michael Boone notch their belts again ("Oh, great white hunters").

Heavy showers and a dead motor seek to defeat us at trip's end, but willing hands and dubious advice soon see all mobile. Great trip really, despite not completing the main objective. Thanks to drivers for use of your vehicles.

R.P.

Leaders: Russell Perry, Lew Harrison

No in party: 10

Michael Hawthorne, Graeme Taylor, Andrew Windle, Stephen Bowden, David Harrington, Randall Goldfinch, Geoff Robinson, Craig Ball.

MIROROA (CATTLE HILL)

No. 1278

7 August 1983

It was quite a sight to see so many keen bods in the dim light at Holts corner waiting for me to arrive. But to see one already in shorts and looking at his watch must have meant I was late. I am sure it is usually the other way around.

After adding the extra names to the trip list and waiting for Peter to pick up the abseiling ropes we were away to the hills at a quarter past six. Not bad for a chilly morn.

At the first hill past Waihare the engine radiator started to boil. Billy in hand some went that-away some went another. One group returned with water. Going again we made it to the start of the Lizard Track.

Off went the main party to climb Miroroa. I, three others plus three small ones stayed with the truck to move it further up the road to save a long trek back to the start. Then it was our turn to don packs and one into her back pack on Mums willing back. The other two were big enough to walk. Found the red tape on the four wheel track alright then it was just the pull towards the top. After going for a while a sunny spot in a hollow was found so a rest and bite to eat was required. Watching the small one going under rocks, climbing around them, looking at a pretty view out of the cold wind took quite awhile. Too soon we moved on up to a point where we thought the main party would arrive for lunch and put out the ropes for new and other members to try their skills at abseiling.

The main party arrived a little after mid-day after crossing Omahaki Stream, heading up a side stream, climbing around a few waterfalls and making for a long ridge that comes off Miroroa. Quite a interesting climb with no tracks to follow but the leaders footprints and his voice.

We were all back at the truck by three, packed up and heading for home.

But we were not finished yet; a blow-out! with my luck it had to be a rear inner type. Lost quite a lot of time over that.

All in all a good trip. Thanks to the extra ones that turned up to swell our numbers and to the parents who brought the young ones along. The little one would not even have a nap until we were nearly home. Too many new play mates and food around I guess.

Leader: Les Hanger

No. in party: 27

Sue Clark, Nick White, John Feeney, Janet Brown, David Campbell, Paul Sullivan, Peter Berry, Gerald Blackburn, Lee Barrett, Elizabeth Pindar, Stan Woon, Heather Hawthorne, Ross Berry, Robyn Taylor, Joanne, Russell and Rachel Perry, Allan, Beth, Lisa and Arron Thurston, S. Bowden, Bill Bainbridge, Jeaninne Eves, A. Collinge and P. Thompson.

KAIMANAWA STATE FOREST - CASCADE HUT VIA CLEMENTS ACCESS

17 - 18 August 1983

No. 1279

On Friday night we had driven up the Taupo Road to Poronui and then Clements Mill Road where at 8.25 p.m. five bods started tramping into Te Iringa Hut. It was cold with a clear night sky and no wind, hence a really good frost. By 9.25 p.m. we had arrived, the billy stood on the primus for a brew then into the pits.

Saturday morning: by 8.00 a.m. the party was cruising along, heading for the Kaipo River bridge 10.00 a.m.

Conditions were perfect; fine frosty morning, sunshine shafting in through the beautiful native bush, and from the track we got views out over Poronui Station.

At the Kaipo River (10.00 a.m.) we turned up-stream to Cascade Hut (3.15 p.m.). The tracks are good with frequent river crossings although the sun didn't penetrate much. We stopped briefly at Cascade Hut for a talk with others, then 15 minutes later were moving into Stanfields Hut for the night. This hut was built in 1958 as a log cabin, malthoid roof, cobble stone floor, chimney of pumice blocks stacked up.

After a comfortable night I rose in the morning, one hour earlier than planned!, never mind, we didn't have to rush. There had been a real boomer frost so leaving Stanfields Hut at 8.00 a.m. and making a river crossing first thing was no joke.

From here we tramped over the Hinemaiaia track back to the end of Clements Mill Road by 11.45 a.m. where I brought my car to by 2.00 p.m. Along this last section of track, the same terrific bush with views of Taupo, Lake Taupo and cascading waterfalls. A mighty place well worth the extra travel.

Leader: Randall Goldfinch

No. in party: 5

Randall Goldfinch, Peter Scarborough, Craig Ball, Nicho Drummmond, Nick White.

BALLARDS

No. 1280

20 - 21 August 1983

We left Makahu carpark at around eight o'clock and arrived at Dominie bivvy in wind and mist minus two perons who turned back.

After a good rest we changed into storm gear ready to confront whatever the wind threw at us. Then we were

off once more on the last leg to Kaweka J. Before arriving there however, we decided to drop down to Studholmes instead of battling along the tops all day.

After another rest at the top we made good pace for Studholmes Hut, despite a bit of thrashing around in the bush above the hut. The rest of that afternoon was spent throwing snow around and sitting in front of the fire.

Next day we thought of doing a round trip. Leaving the hut early we walked down past the bivvy and climbed up onto Studholme Saddle. After a little more climbing we were on Mackintosh Spur and heading for Mackintosh Hut, where we stopped for lunch and then headed on towards the Donald River.

As we climbed up the other side we missed the track and it turned out a rather steep, long bush bash. But when we reached the top we found the track which led us to Makahu carpark an hour later.

C.B.

Leader: Craig Ball

No. in party: 9

Michael, Sarah and Heather Hawthorne, Nicho Drummond, Cathy Easterbrook, Michael Henley, Randall Goldfinch, and Peter Scarborough.

KAWEKA RANGE

No. 1281

4 September 1983

Twenty of us got away on time from Holts and headed off up the Taihape Road to Castle Rocks Road and down Lakes Road to the new car park.

We split into three groups finally, with some going straight to Kaweka Hut, while my gang climbed up the Rouge Ridge, followed by Jim's group.

We experienced strong wind on the Rouge, but on reaching the top its strength seemed to abate, making the going easier. On reaching Cooks Horn we had some difficulty climbing around the back of it because of the severe erosion, but finally we found ourselves at the top of a beauty 800 foot shingle scree; (height verified from a 1940 Pohokura) which we proceeded to bound down to the creek below, arriving at Kaweka Hut in time to meet the others who had come down the ridge behind the hut.

Craig and Heather arrived, huffing and puffing having climbed up behind the hut and followed us round and down the scree as well, in record time.

After enjoying lunch in the sun and welcoming a larger group of Colenso High School pupils and teachers who had come in for the night, we set off along the Mackintosh track.

We dropped into the second stream we came to, which proved very interesting as it had cut its way down through the soft pumice and clay.

Eventually we came out on the Tu aekuri River and while some of us went up-stream to pick up the hut track out, Russell led a gang down stream to the three wire bridge and back up the long climb to the road where we moved the truck to meet them.

An enjoyable time was had by all.

G.R.

Leaders: Geoff Robinson and Jim Glass

No. in party: 20

Les Hanger and Grandson, J. Marshall, Daniel Marshall, Craig Ball, Robyn Taylor, Bob and Richard Ackereley, Joanna Wellwood, Martin Glass, Graeme Taylor, Peter and Heather McBride, Russell Perry, Ralph Zonneveld, Kelvin Wallace, Heather Hawthorne.

CENTRE MAKARORO HUT (Parks' Peak projected try) No. 1282

2 October 1983

It was decided to change the trip from Parks Peak Hut via Sentry Box Hut to Centre Makaroro Hut via Yeoman's Mill so that we could inspect the new 'Lockwood' Lodge we had heard about.

We travelled south on the main road and collected Nicko in Waipawa before turning towards the Ranges.

Arriving at Yeoman's Mill to be met by Clive who had missed the truck, we had time to examine the Palmerston North Tramping Club Truck, which was parked there, before negotiating the Makaroro River and heading off along the Forestry Road, leaving Les and young Joshua to tramp to Ellis (Murderers) Hut.

Opposite the old Makaroro Hut the Forestry have located a large Hut, looking very much like an old school house.

We bush-bashed up a long ridge, at times stumbling onto an old track, till we reached the top of the spur, and eventually reached the Yeoman's track - Parks Peak track junction and travelled along this track till we came to the turn-off that led down to Centre Makaroro Hut. This track does not appear to have been used much recently and is hard to follow unless care is taken.

This track drops approximately 2000 feet, and everyone was pleased to reach the river to quench their thirst and cool their feet.

The new Hut is most impressive, except for the "Waimak" stove they have installed and is the same design as the one built up at Buttercup Hollow.

As we stopped for lunch on the way down, we had only a short stay at the new 'Lodge' as time was getting on.

The river was up a little, but running clear, so we had an enjoyable trip back to the Gold Stream Junction, where we climbed up out onto the track that leads past the Forestry Base and returned to the truck.

An enjoyable trip with good company.

Thanks Les for driving.

G.R.

Leader: Geoff Robinson

No. in party: 21

Nick Drummond, Les and Joshua Hanger, Russell Perry, Heather Hawthorne, Karen Glass, Clive Thurston, Robyn Taylor, Susan Holmes, Graeme Taylor, Lionel, Hazel, Adam, Fionna and Vivian Robinson, Hamish Tait, Marcos Rainer, Tony Alexander, Rowan Brooker, Colin Parker, Stewart Sutherland.

RUAPEHU - A

No: 1283

15 - 16 October 1983

After a lot of organisation a party of 28 left Hawkes' Bay late Friday evening heading for the Taumarunui High School Lodge on Ruapehu, which was going to be our base for the next two days.

I took a car load of four ahead of the truck to open the Lodge up, and turn the power and all the heaters on. The truck arrived around 12.00 a.m. everybody scrambled in claiming their bunks and pillows. After a quick cuppa all hit the sack.

Saturday: Weather overcast, windy with a few spots of rain. The forecast for the tops was very poor. Some braved the elements and headed for the ski-fields, the others decided to walk into Tama Lakes near the base of Mt. Ngauruhoe. The track to Tama Lakes left the Chateau and ambled along the sub-alpine tussock flats. We encountered strong winds and driving rain in the open country so we all equipped ourselves with parkas and overtrousers and headed on to Lower Tama Lake.

Our lunch stop was at the Lake sheltering behind some alpine bush. From here the group split, one party headed for Upper Tama and the others returning to the Chateau via the Mangatepopo track. Time was not wasted out in the open country, all parties returned to the Lodge late in the afternoon. It was good to get back into a warm lodge and have a hot shower.

In next-to-no-time a great communal dinner was under way, three courses, and by the end of the third everybody had had enough.

Sunday: What a relief. Weather clear-extremely clear. After a quick breakfast the truck headed up the Bruce Road. My party decided to head for the crater lake, several went skiing and the remainder headed into Whakapapiti Hut - Silica Springs and then out to the Chateau.

There were six in the party which headed for the crater. The views were amazing and the weather beautiful. Dave Harrington, Craig Ball and Andrew Windle headed on further to the summit, those remaining wandered around the slopes watching Grarme Dingle's party being flown here and there in a Jet-Ranger.

All returned to the lodge around 3 p.m. in time to clean up and depart on our journey home. Thank you to those who assisted in organising food and the cleaning of the lodge.

Leader: Clive Thurston

3

With the weather dawning rough and the news that the ski fields were to be closed for the day, most of us set off for Tama Lakes.

We were to experience very strong winds during the day.

Having arrived at Lower Tama Lake, it was decided to have an early lunch, after which some carried on to the Upper Lake to encounter even stronger winds, while the rest of us returned back down the track till we reached the Taranaki Stream.

We followed this water course down for quite some distance, finding the going quite easy, till we struck out overland to intercept the Mangatepopo track, which led us back through some interesting bush, till we arrived back at the Chateau.

Sunday turned out to be a cracker. So after an early breakfast we departed from the Taumarunui High School Lodge, piled aboard the truck and headed for the Top o' the Bruce.

On arriving at the drop off parking area, who should be there but Graeme Dingle and climbing friends, looking a bit self-conscious in all their climbing mockers. I jokingly said that they were waiting for their helicopter, when out of the sky arrives the real flash stretched version of a Jet-Ranger chopper complete with red plush velvet seats, cocktail cabinet etc., which whisked them off to the tops complete with a camera crew. While unloading the truck Atholl Mace and his wife, who are old H.T.C. members, now living in Queensland, came up and made themselves known.

While some went climbing and others skiing, I returned with the rest down the road and tramped into Whakapapiti Hut, and completed the round trip to come out back to Whakapapa Village.

G.R.

No. in party 28

Lee Barrett, Gerald Blackburn, Craig Ball, Karen Glass, Martin Glass, Jim Glass, Nick Hay, Peter Hamerlink, Susan Holmes, Edward Holmes, Geoff Robinson, Glen Armstrong, Graeme Taylor, Joanna Wellwood, Robyn Taylor, Lynette O'Connor, Rob Vork, Lance Pearson, Nick White, Dave Harrington, John Milson, Kathy O'Hallaran, Alva McAdam, Dean Staples, Walter Crummy, and Andrew Windle.

KAIMANAWA DRENCHING - LABOUR WEEKEND

No. 1284

21 - 24 October

Ten bodies donned packs laden with the makings of a four day camp - tramp. It was 10 a.m. - a chill, blustery, uninviting Friday morning. The pastures of Poronui Station lay before us as we set off for the Mohaka River, about 8 kilometres away. What an uninspiring beginning to a tramp trekking across farmland is!

The crossing of both the Mohaka and Oamaru Rivers was straightforward and we lunched at the spacious Oamaru Hut. The weather looked grim but we continued with plans to camp up the Oamaru River so set off once more. Several camp sites were examined until we eventually found one to suit, off the main trail. This was near the junction of the Te Tamae Rangiharakeke and Oamaru Streams (NZMS 113 658 847). Unfortunately, just as we stopped the rain started. It poured right through until 2.30 a.m. By that time the campsite had been considerably rearranged. One tent had collapsed, another had wet bodies in, and much shuttling had occurred between tents to find the warmest, driest spots available.

"It's all good experience," said the leader.
(An intriguing variety of replies was made to this profound comment. Sadly, I forgot to write them down, so they must be left to the reader's imagination.)

"Saturday: the sun is shining, the birds are singing, oh, sweet bliss!"

Clotheslines were soon put up and burdened with steaming bags and various soggy masses. Drying out made for a slow departure but Graeme and Cliff kindly volunteered camp caretaking services so the rest of us prepared day packs and set off by 10 a.m. Two younger ones found they required a rest day after about twenty minutes of walking, so Janet and I escorted them back to camp, then raced back to catch up with the others. We found them valiantly teasing a fire into action on Waitewhero Saddle. Our fine day had gone, replaced by wind and heavy rain once more. (This continued until Sunday morning!!)

After lunching on the Saddle we headed south-south east via various and devious routes until we arrived somewhere. Maps were rapidly approaching a porridge-like state so, rather than continue on we navigated onto a stream descending into the Oamaru and followed it down. This little experience finally dampened any remaining dry bodies.

"It's all good experience," said the leader.
..... Silence!! Back to our tents.

Sunday, and a pleasant change: it was only drizzling. At this stage we abandoned original plans of a tramp up the Te Tanae Ra giharakeke Stream to Maungaorangi. It was too wet! The Oamaru had doubled in size overnight, and this certainly meant the recrossing of the Mohaka would pose difficulties on the morrow. Besides, with wet gear, packs would be much heavier and our travel slower. So, out the Oamaru, up the Kaipo, and camp somewhere near the bridge by the Tukituki-Kaipo junction.

Five of the party now sprinted up that "stream-with-the-long-name" to find the 76m waterfall, whilst five others began the tramp out. The sprint crew were only zipping in, minus packs, for a looksee but were unsuccessful in their search. We would have to return someother time. We met the others again at Ruatea (Jap) Creek. They'd stopped here as a precautionary measure because it was running quite well. A rope was fixed quickly though, and the crossing posed no difficulties.

The rest of the day passed quickly, completing the Oamaru by lunchtime, then on up the beautiful Kaipo to camp. Thankfully, it didn't rain at all in the late afternoon - evening. This made the camp our most pleasant one so far. Enormous quantities of food were consumed, each bubbling cauldron teasing the nostrils with garlic, cheeses, thyme, chili, onion and copious measures of pepper.

"Ah, garcon, bring me se Chateau Refresh Kiwifruit '83, s'il vous plait."

Monday. Drizzling, but not too daunting. Pack-up is efficiently completed and off to cross the Kaipo suspension bridge. The trail out was to be via the Ohaoko Saddle and a beautiful, leisurely route it was. There's some lovely, untouched bush in this area. This was completed by lunchtime - the trail brought us right back to the Poronui homestead and our transport. End to trip!

Our thanks must go to Mr J. Howard of Poronui for permission to cross his land.

Though the trip didn't quite achieve all it set out to, much of value was gained. Camping and tramping in very wet conditions is a good test of supplies, equipment and spirit. To survive this and learn from it lends a great confidence for next time. Let us leave huts alone for a while and freshen up on some unused skills.

After all, as the leader said, "It's all good experience!"

Leader: Russell Perry

No. in party: 10

Janet Brown, Graeme Taylor, Nikko Drummond, Cliff Epplett, Kathryn Jeffares, Lisa Gestro, Greg Latton, Stuart Sutherland and David Rankes.

BIG HILL BIG DEAL

No: 1285

30 October

Six of us set off at 6 a.m. in high spirits for high adventure; it was Daylight Saving time of the year! We had a great start because at the end of one and a half hours we were through the gate and on to a private road. Two minutes later ... holy hell ... there came a mightly, bang, wallop, crash, thump ... the three in the front seats hit the hood; the three quietly reposed in the back were all shook up in a mass of contorted bodies ... and the engine stopped.

Somehow it was re-started and we crept along until it was safe to park on a clear patch. But, what happened? The wishbones holding the front wheels were badly displaced and the engine had moved a few inches out of alignment. There was nothing that could be done to take us on so it was a case of packs on backs and the marathon began. I thought this outing was to be an ordinary tramp, but you should have seen the pace setters. After an hour on the road a Forestry Land Rover appeared from the high country and since the driver took pity on our plight, decided to transport us 'up top' in a swift twenty minutes rally style drive. Again we set off on foot, on and on, with

no rest stops (what were we trying to prove?) until we eventually arrived at Dead Dog Hut sign. Consultations were held and it was decided we had over-shot our mark, so back we went to a roadside lay-by. Here we had our first rest at 12.15 and we had been on the move since 8.15! Call this tramping?

Here the party split up - three to wander back, call at Ruahine Hut, have a leisurely lunch, mess around, what have you, and perhaps, later, return to the wagon. The other three, unfortunately I was one of them, conducted a Search and Find expedition. It seemed Diane's Hut was missing-I've never seen two fellows so obsessed with the need to find this hut.

We raced on down country, down into a gorge, what a helluva long way down, compass sightings indicating frequently 'that it is this way'. And so we went on down to the stream. We scrambled over rocks and boulders, and waded through the water, would you believe 80 times when it was decided we should have lunch, at 1.50. Seven minutes for lunch. Not enough, I say. I must see the Union Boss about adequate rest stops, and regular spells because this is no ordinary tramp. So we retraced our route, another 80 crossing! When we reached our original point of entry into the stream, it was decided we should venture further up-stream, because Diane's Hut must be here somewhere! Somewhere??? Another 33 crossings of the stream and it was getting late, so now we were confronted with the challenge of climbing out of this gorge. What a climb - up a sheer rocky face with two goats on the opposite side watching three silly goats on the other, slipping, sliding, and scrambling trying to gain foot-holds. It must have been 900 feet up that steep slope. Eventually we gained easier ground, and territory we had previously traversed. With 'back* tracking' the name of the game as we came across bare ground to determine whether our earlier footprints were registered for all time! And so we returned to the lay-by which we left at midday, and it was now 4 p.m.

Now began the long hike down towards the Ruahine Hut side-road. A hunter whom we came upon took pity on us at one stage and piled us on to the back of his ute with his motor bike and dog, and gave us a 10 minute ride to the Ruahine Hut junction. Lo and Behold! a note awaited us neatly folded and placed in a split at the top of a Manuka stake. It was to inform us, that the other three members of our party had continued on their way down to the wagon. From here we really stepped it out to eventually arrive back at the means of transport at 7.45. Twelve hours solid tramping, with few rests, is hardly an appropriate initiation into the Heretaunga Tramping Club activities for an old-timer!

Back at the wagon we found that the girls were up at the farm house - watching tele and eating toast, would you believe! We three changed from our wet gear into something more cosy and warm, piled into the transport and hoped it would at least

get us up to the farm. It did after numerous fits and starts, but no way would it get us all the way back to town. It was arranged that a relief vehicle should come out and pick us up. Meantime homes were rung to explain the predicament we were in and that we would not be in till late. Late for me was to arrive home at 11 p.m.

Why Andrew, our leader, with a passion for operating on a compass bearing, and Geoff, our President, with an obsession for locating Diane's Hut, did not achieve their objective, after scrambling up and down a steep gorge and making 193 stream crossing, I do not know. Perhaps it was because I tagged along and my reward has been the doubtful privilege of filing this report. Maybe I was to blame for this day's several failures.

Filed by: Rex Ridgeway, retired superannuitant and prospective member.

Leader: Andrew Windle

No. in party: 6

Geoff Robinson, Rex Ridgeway, Graeme Taylor, Sue Clark and Joanne Wellwood.

CAIRN TRIP

No. 1286

13 November 1983

The club's annual pilgrimage to the cairn commemorating members of the H.T.C. who died in World War II is held annually on the Sunday nearest November 11, which in 1918 marked the suspension of hostilities. We left Hastings at 6 a.m., picking up the Napier contingent at Randall's on the way.

Liz did a great job constructing the wreath, from flowers brought along by various members, while travelling on the back of the truck.

Having arrived safely at Makahu, we donned our tramping gear and started for the top in clear and still conditions. The track showed signs of having suffered recent heavy rain and as we progressed we encountered heavy mist through which we continued to Dominie.

Everybody made good progress to Dominie Shelter where we had a quick snack-stop and then on through thickening mist to the top.

The traditional service and wreath laying was held at the cairn followed by the reading of the 13 names of those members who gave their lives during the 2nd World War.

After posing for the usual group photos it was decided to tramp down to Back Ridge Hut via the left ridge as you face Ruapehu which we could see at times through the mist.

Russell with a few others took off at a gallop down the middle, heading for the stream that led to the hut encountering several waterfalls on the way, arriving about 20 minutes or so after our main party,, where we enjoyed a well earned lunch break.

The climb back up was negotiated via the opposite ridge where we all met up again together before descending down the Makahu Spur, arriving at the truck at about 6 p.m.

It was good to have Athol Mace from Australia along with us, being a past Club Captain whom we hadn't seen for some time.

G.R.

No. in party: 18

Leader: Geoff Robinson

Janet Brown, Sarah Law, Katherine Jeffares, Fiona McLagan, Lisa Gestro, Graham Thorp, Mike Bull, Dave Millard, Athol Mace, Russell Perry, Liz Pindar, Arch Low, Hamish Tait, Marcos Rainer, Michael Henley, Heather Hawthorne, Stewart Sutherland.

NEW MEMBERS

David Campbell	John Feeney
Heather Hawthorne	Selwyn Hawthorne
Michael Hawthorne	Sarah Hawthorne
Blair Horrocks	Robyn Taylor
Rob Vork	Nick White
Andrew Windle	

SOCIAL NEWS

To Diane and Greg Jenks - a son, Philip.

Engagements:	Bill Bainbridge to Jannine Eaves
	Mary Madore to Steve Bamford
	Geoff Holmes to Marcine Wigmore

Wedding:	Susan Taylor to Edward Holmes
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PRIVATE TRIPSRUAPEHU

7 - 11 August 1983

We arrived at the Auckland Tramping Club Mountain Lodge up on the Bruce on a sunny Sunday afternoon.

Awaking next morning at seven we looked out of the windows to see Ruapehu in all its glory; a perfect day to head for the Top, so ten of us headed up on the chair lifts (five members of the Napier Club came with us). It was a sorry sight for skiers; the Rock Garden was a rock garden, there was no snow at all; the Waterfall run was not much better. From Knoll Ridge onwards we needed crampons as it was good firm ice, in places higher up it was quite hard. We stopped at the Glacier Shelter for a bite to eat, with the view in all directions really splendid; standing on the Dome we could see all the peaks, Paretaitonga, Cathedral Rocks, Te Heuheu, Pyramid Peak and the highest Ruapehu, 9175 ft., with the Crater Lake sitting at its foot, truly a beautiful sight. We also could see to the west Mt. Egmont, and to the N.E. Mt. Tongariro with Mt. Ngauruhoe showing a slight puff of smoke. Pressing on we arrived beside the Crater Lake where we were looking up at the highest peak, Ruapehu. Only three of us had carried on, Edward, Nick and myself, and both the young chaps raced off with me following cutting steps for a firmer footing, for if you slipped no way could you self-arrest on this ice slope; you would take off like a rocket. On climbing over the rim just below the top I found myself close behind the other two, as they had to cut steps too now, and as we arrived at the top we were hit by a biting wind. The scenery was magnificent but I'm afraid we did not stay long! Edward raced off leaving Nick and myself to stroll back down enjoying the view, (he may have been in a hurry to get back to Sue?) So ended a beautiful day.

Tuesday morning Sue, Edward, Nick and Graeme headed off up to the Te Heulheu Valley ski-tow to play in the snow; Nick took up his supersledge H.T.C. mark III model (Big Tank Man.) The five Napier chaps with Geoff and myself decided we would have a change and go for a pleasant bush walk to the Whakapapeiti Hut down the valley track and up to the Silica Springs and then back up the Bruce Road to the lodge. It started off alright with the sun appearing and disappearing then half way around it started to rain and it never stopped. It was a lovely trip up the Bruce Road; wish you were all here?

On Wednesday morning we awoke to a very unpleasant day and decided to stay indoors until 3 p.m., when four of us older and hardier types decided to go down to the local Tavern for a reconnaissance trip, as Geoff had convinced us that the water in the tank was off?

Thursday turned out to be a beautiful day, Ruapehu standing out magnificently covered by a new light

snowfall with a clear sky behind. Our young friends decided to try skiing again but Geoff and myself decided to head up top again. Personally, on a day like this I could not resist it, the tops were like a magnet to me. Arriving at the top of Knoll Ridge we took note of the terrain above for as it had been snowing the day before, it was obvious that avalanche conditions could exist, with pockets of snow lying in gullies on the slopes ahead so we decided to drop off the end of Knoll Ridge and go back down a bit and then up a ridge keeping to the top of it until arriving at Te Heuheu about 8265 ft. We had dinner at the top enjoying the scenery, a great place to have a snack. When heading down we had trouble in places with our crampons balling up at times. At the top of the Waterfall chairlift we meet the others ready to go back to the lodge to pack and tidy up the place, I think it was about 4.00 p.m. when we left.

I would like to thank everyone for working in together and making it a pleasant few days, also Geoff and Edward who supplied transport thus making it possible.

Thank-you.

L.H.

Sue and Edward Holmes, Geoff Robinson, Nick Hay, Graeme Taylor, Lewis Harrison, Brian Viggers, Nigel Savage, Ron Lee, David Sweetapple, and Harry Osborne.

BUTTERCUP HOLLOW

5 November

My friend Marilyn and I decided to go out on a trip in place of the cancelled fundraising one for the Cancer Society, so left at a rather later hour than 6 a.m.! We had trouble in finding the entrance to Triplex Base, but found a little pond and some lovely clematis while searching: you don't follow the fence but bear right once over the stile.

The day was overcast but in the bush we weren't particularly aware of the wind and had a pleasant bush walk along the Waipawa Chalet track to the turning and view down to the Waipawa River, and then up to connect with Armstrong track. Clematis was flowering over many of the trees; it is very abundant in this part of the bush. The steep part of the track to Shuteye and above was scoured clean of mud: there must have been heavy rain very recently. Old Shuteye Shack is no more, just a cleared patch, two 44 gal. drums and a small cross on the fireplace site.

The wind really hit us as we came out of the shelter of the last stunted beech trees, and going up the scree of the track we had to move between the gusts and hold on

when we heard the next roar approaching. We were very glad to get to the shelter of Buttercup Hollow, and there in the middle of it, between the tarn and the swamp, is a smart Lockwood Home!

I thought we could do with a hot drink, found I had only 5 matches, got dry kindling, and the 1st blaze was sucked out by the draught; another effort and it was blown out, and the last 3 matches blew out before anything caught - so no hot drink!

The hut was quivering with the impact of the gusts, practically bouncing against the stay wires, and when we went to have a look Armstrong Saddle we didn't go beyond the shelter of the scrub. The wind was getting stronger all the time and we went on hands and knees over some of the exposed parts back to the shelter of the track to Shuteye. We went back down the original Armstrongtrack - it lives up to its name of 'Staircase' and it was almost calm in the bush under the big trees.

There were several shining cuckoos calling although we didn't see them, a kaka in the huge rimu by Triplex Base, and slipper orchids along the track. A very pleasant, though windy, day.

E. Pindar

OUR TRUCK

The club has had our present truck for seven years now, and has travelled a total distance of 46636 kilometres over many roads, mostly bad, in both North and South Islands. We have had good service from the truck but lately several large repair bills have put the transport rather in the red. Falling numbers on tramps have also had an effect on funds here too.

Over the last three years a comprehensive ledger has been kept solely for the transport, to record expenses, inward monies, repairs, and distances. From this ledger the committee can tell at any stage how the transport is doing and it is essential for records in order to claim the petrol tax rebate. In the ledger book are the distances of all trips the truck has done in the last three years, enabling standing and distance costs to be calculated at any stage.

From this ledger I will give a few facts of our transport over these three years.

Petrol used 5093 litres	\$ 3396.20
Repairs, Licenses, Insurance, Registration and others	\$ 5681.50
TOTAL COSTS	<u>\$ 9077.70</u>

Monies received including rebates and donations	\$ 6709.46
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Which shows a loss over three years of	\$ 2368.24
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Total Distance travelled - 13214 kilometres

This gives a bare minimum cost per kilometre of 69c. This means that a trip of 178 kilometres to the Waipawa river roadhead will have a minimum cost of \$122.82 to get the truck there and back. To get this amount would require at least 20 persons on the truck at present rates; if more people come on the tramp the transport would only then begin to show a profit of this one trip. To date the transport is still being subsidised from other sources.

Until this year when diff. and overheating problems gave us repair bills of \$2406.42, the petrol costs and repair costs were about equal but unfortunately things wear out and break down. We have now done major repairs to the diff. and motor and the gear box was repaired when we bought the truck in 1976 so I would hope that we can now look forward to a few years trouble-free running.

There is still work to be done on the canopy but at the moment it does not appear to leak at all, so maybe it will last another year and allow funds to build up a bit.

Various distances and bare minimum costs to commonly used roadhead, roundtrip figures:

	Km	\$
Mill Farm (Howletts)	180	124.20
Moorcocks Base	180	124.20
Makahu Saddle	183	126.27
Makahu Station Hayborn	192	132.48
Castle Rocks Road - Kaweka Hut	139	95.91
Tongariro Nat. Park (Chateau)	540	372.60
Waipawa River - Waikamaka Hut	178	122.82
Yeomans Makaroro	182	125.58
Te Waka	148	102.12
Te Kooti Lookout	201	138.69
Waikoau Gorge	153	105.57
Glenfalls	192	132.48
Whirinaki Forest Plateau Hut	395	272.55
Tararua Range - Holdsworth Lodge	413	284.97
Hikurangi	774	534.06
Clements Access	303	209.07
Waikaremoana	412	284.28

These costs are the bare minimum as depreciation of \$780.00 per year is not allowed for and as can be seen if numbers on tramps are not kept up further losses will ensue. To look seriously at the transport, it is costing us money, and we will have to discuss whether to keep the transport and increase costs, or sell the truck and continue with private transport which will cost more individually, but less for the club. An important issue give it some thought.

P.M.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

The club has been involved in two operations in the past couple of months.

The first was part of the Police Search for Kirs Jensen. The Police had requested assistance from the S.A.R. organisation mainly to assist with leadership of teams searching road-side areas. Things had been getting out of hand during the previous week's searching when the public had been assisting the Police with their search tasks.

The Saturday that we were involved was to be the last day that the public assistance was requested and as there were in excess of 200 people in the field, the Police requested that we assist with some of the control problems.

A wide area was covered and teams worked on all roads leading out of Napier and Hastings from Maraetotara to Patoka to the Napier-Wairōā road. The operation lasted about 5 hours and we would have all been home by 1400 hours.

The next operation was supposed to be a S.A.R.EX. using Iroquois Helicopter support at Kuripaponga. Some time had been spent organising the S.A.R.EX, and the helicopter involvement had been organised 18 months before the exercise. All was going to plan on Friday morning and on Friday afternoon Randall and Craig left for the MacIntosh, Studholme area to start laying clues and give them a good start for Saturday morning.

Unfortunately all this good work went out of the window at around 1545 hours when we got a call from the Napier Station to advise that 3 men (about 24 years of age) were overdue in the Northern end of the Kawekas. They had flown to Vension Tops on the Friday before and were due out at Makahu on Thursday night. There was still a chance that they would come out on the Friday night so we decided to leave the S.A.R.EX. arrangements intake until after dark. We then had a round table discussion at the Napier Station and proceeded to relocate the S.A.R.EX./search at Whittle's farm instead of Robson Lodge.

Saturday morning dawned with foul conditions in the Kawekas. High winds and persistent showers were the order of the day and things generally didn't look good for the chopper. Contact was made quite early with Whenuapai and they advised that the chopper had left for search headquarters so we then had the job of deciding whether the weather would allow the chopper to operate or not.

In reflection the right decisions were made for all teams but Russell Perry's. We didn't think there would be a problem getting to Middle Hill in the chopper but the turbulence on the east of the range was quite bad and Russell ended up in the rocks east of Middle Hill quite late in the afternoon. Two teams were sent out on foot before the chopper arrived, Clive Thurston leading a team along the top of the range to Ballard Hut and Gerald Blackburn co-leading a team through Kawe Flats to Middle Hill.

The chopper was also delayed with the weather and didn't make it until after midday. The crew looked a bit tired but set to work as soon as they had been briefed on the situation. The first team in was Dave Harrington's to either Venison Tops, Rocks Ahead or Back Ridge Bivy. They were dropped off at Rocks Ahead Hut in an island in the river. Comments made by the crew on their return suggested that they were lucky to get into the area. Russell's team went next and then two further trips were made to drop Peter Berry's team and Geoff Robinson's team into Te Puia Hut; Peter to check the

Makino river and Geoff to do the Makino Spur to Ballard.

Saturday night arrived with all teams in huts poised for an early start on Sunday morning. Dave Harrington advised that the missing men had left Venison Top on Tuesday for Ballards and Clive Thurston advised that they had left Ballards on Wednesday morning. This mean't that they had got into trouble in the very bad weather we had had on the Wednesday and they were now 4 full days overdue. This confirmed our fears that the men may have come to grief earlier than Thursday and it was now rather urgent that we pull out all the stops if we were to find them alive.

During this time of course Randall and Craig had been up to their own escapades. We managed to contact Randall by Radio by 0800 hours and by that time he was able to tell us that there had been no-one at MacIntosh Hut or Studhol Saddle Hut. I don't really know what Randall said when we advised him that he was wandering around in the wrong place but I would have loved to have seen his face when the message came through. Randall and Craig returned to the car on the Taihape Road then went back to Napier for lunch. They then came up to base in the afternoon and assisted there for the rest of the day.

Sunday morning was all go. All teams were ready to go by 0600 hours and with the earlier problems with the helicopter over things settled down to a more normal operation. The weather improved quite a bit and teams were able to operate on the tops in changeable conditions. The fact that the Iroquois was able to land on the top of the main divide suggested that conditions were generally good.

Most of the teams were given difficult tasks i.e. checking the head of Rocks Ahead Creek and areas in the upper Makino: There were two reasons for doing these areas first.

1. They were high probability areas and had to be checked and
2. If they weren't checked on Sunday fresh, teams with extra food would have to be sent in to check out the area.

Clive had also given us a clue that foot-prints had been seen on the tops as far as North Kaweka but it was not possible to confirm they belonged to the lost party.

Based on this information we made up two more teams to cover Don's Spur and the head of the Donald River and Kaweka J. to Back Hut, Back Ridge Bivy and Rocks Ahead Hut. The Back Hut team was dropped off by chopper and Randall headed up to Makahu to check out Don's Spur. They were just setting out when they spied the missing group coming down from Makahu Spur.

As it turned out the lost Party nearly didn't make it along the tops and it was only just at the last that they found the sign indicating the location of Back Hut. They then descended to the hut and spent the next three days there trying to recover. On Sunday they made their way out. Our team to Back Hut jumped over them in the chopper.

The rest of the day was then devoted to the recovery of teams in the field. For this we had an extra Jet Ranger helicopter which had been brought in from Bridge Pa to assist with the search should it have gone on through Sunday and Monday. There was some excitement at times pulling the teams out by chopper because the cloud was coming and going and they had to be grabbed off the tops as conditions allowed.

Anyway things were all cleaned up by 1630 hours and we headed home after what has probably proved to be the best Search and Rescue exercise we could ever have. I think every aspect of S.A.R. was covered and everyone from helicopter pilot to Search Controller had a good workout.

Those participating on the Search were:

Clive Thurston, Peter Berry, Russell Perry, Geoff Robinson, Craig Ball, Randall Goldfinch, Gerald Blackburn, David Harrington, Lee Barrett, Janet Brown, Andrew Windle, Michael Hawthorne, Dave Millar, Trevor Plowman and Graham Thorp.

IN MEMORIAM - ROB CLARK

Almost a year has gone by since Rob Clark was unfortunately killed in a climbing accident at Mt. Murchison in Arthur's Pass. Time does not lessen the regret we must all feel at losing Rob's personality and experience from our midst. I hope, and I am sure, that this misfortune will not have diminished our love for the hills, mountains and rivers, and the sense of adventure that we feel from being amongst them. I hope only that it will serve to make us more aware of the dangers that we face when venturing into them.

I would personally like to take this opportunity to offer my gratitude to all the members of the H.T.C. for their kind support in the last year, and to share with you the lines which a close friend of ours (Micheal Weakley) wrote about Rob soon after his death. The poem was concerning a trip we all did into the Waipawa River to lead a number of school girls on their first outing into the hills.

J. Brown

DAWN SERVICE

As the mist cleared, we sat in the cold
And watched the early morning sun chase your legs up
the ridge.

And in the cold of the bivy
Huddled in the bush off the track
We sat wet and weary waiting
For the crunch of the gravel
as you ran the stream.

And as the cloud broke
The sun stretches its neck
To watch you dump your pack
While we tasted the light and warmth
Of your dawn service.

And later as the sun breathed tongues of fire
Like drunk bees we sidled upstream dancing the boulders
Through waters waist deep
As you led the way.

And so here's to you Rob
Our every morning tramp
Will be a dawn service
Our thoughts with you.

Micheal Weakley

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB COMMITTEE

President:	Geoff Robinson
Vice President:	Randall Goldfinch Peter Manning Russell Perry
Club Captain:	Clive Thurston
Secretary:	Les Hanger
Treasurer:	Jackie Smith
Gear Custodian:	Mrs J. McBride
Editor:	Liz Pindar
Librarian:	Liz Pindar

Auditor:	Alan Berry
Committee:	Lee Barrett Gerald Blackburn Janet Brown Jim Glass Dave Harrington Lew Harrison Andrew Windle
Social Committee:	Lee Barrett Peter Berry Robert Snowball Janet Brown
<u>Sub Committees</u>	
Training:	Russell Perry Lee Barrett Lew Harrison Jim Glass Gerald Blackburn Clive Thurston
Hut, Track:	Russell Perry Andrew Windle Janet Brown
Fixture:	Dave Harrington Clive Thurston
Truck:	Geoff Robinson Peter Manning Randall Goldfinch Gerald Blackburn
S.A.R.:	Randall Goldfinch
Scrap Book:	Jim Glass
Album:	Peter Berry

MEETING DATES

Meetings will start at 7.30 p.m. from 18 January 1984.

December 7	February 29
December 21	March 14
No Meeting January 4	March 28
January 18	April 11
February 1	April 25
February 15	(Easter Weekend 20 - 23 April)

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 it could take 2 or more hours to return, plus any unexpected delays. Beginners should make sure that parents, or any others who may worry about them, know this. Although normally not nearly as late as 10 p.m., until then there would be no cause for parents to worry, but in case of some unusual delay all newcomers should make sure that their phone number is included in the list the leader leaves in town. 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 divide so that fitter members can undertake a more strenuous trip in the same area. Changes due to unforeseen circumstances could be made prior to a trip. Enquire from one of the following:

CLIVE THURSTON: 83 853 PETER BERRY: 778 772
GEOFF ROBINSON: 87 863 LES HANGER: 88 731

TRANSPORT CONTRIBUTIONS

These are \$6 per person for local trips, \$4 for high school students, payable at the meeting before the trip. If you are unable to make the trip, and notify the leader, your fee will be refunded. If the leader is not notified your fee is accepted with thanks.

FIXTURE LIST

December

10 - 11 SOUTH RUAHINE RANGE: Down Pohangina River from its source. Easy river travel but quite long. Will cater for all degrees of fitness.
Maps: N140, N144, N145
Leader: Randall Goldfinch Phone: 439 163

January

22 TUTIRA AREA: Down the Esk River. You'll certainly get wet.
Maps: N114, N124
Leaders: Gerald Blackburn Phone: 797 245
Karen Glass 778 748

February

4 - 6 KAWEKA RANGE: Manson (Otutu Bush) - Ngaawapurua. In via Kiwi Saddle, probably Friday night, and out somehow.
Maps: N113, N123, U20
Leaders: Randall Goldfinch Phone: 439 163
Geoff Robinson 87 863

11 - 12

ABORTA CONTORTA: Working bee, Tongariro National Park. We would like a lot of support from all members to cut these trees down.
Maps: N122, N112

Leader: Clive Thurston Phone: 83 853

19

KAWEKA RANGE: Tutaekuri River. Good waterfalls. You can do as much of the river as you're prepared to swallow.
Maps: N123, N124, U20
Leaders: Peter Berry Phone: 778 772
Raymond Lowe 798 372

- March
3 - 4 AHIMANAWA RANGE: In towards Tunurangi, and out via Omaroua Stream. A navigating, camping-out trip.
Map: N114
Leaders: Dave Harrington Phone: 435 367
Andrew Windle 55 966
- 18 SOUTHERN RUAHINE RANGE: Coppermine Creek. Visit to old mine workings.
Map: N145
Leaders: Lew Harrison Phone: 85 701
George Prebble 86 024
- 31 - 1 CENTRAL RUAHINE RANGE: Up Government Spur to Ohuinga, down into western watershed. Return over the tops.
Map: N140
Leaders: Randall Goldfinch Phone: 439 163
Geoff Robinson 87 863
- April
15 KAWEKA: Kuripapanga Orienteering based at Robsons' Lodge. Map and compass, river crossing, fire lighting etc. Make a weekend of it and stay Saturday night at the lodge.
Maps: N123, U20
Training Committee
- 20 - 23 MT EGMONT NATIONAL PARK - EASTER: An area seldom visited by our club, scope for mountaineers, trampers and amblers. National Park Map
Leaders: John Jones Phone: 66 462
Andrew Windle 55 966
- 29 KAWEKA RANGE: Lawrence Hut - Lotkow Hut. Tramp the Blackbirch or the Donald River. Bring your compass.
Maps: N123, U20
Leaders: Lew Harrison Phone: 85 701
Jim Glass 778 748
- May
12 - 13 RUAHINE RANGE: Waikamaka Hut, Wakelins Hut.
Map: N140
Leaders: Randall Goldfinch Phone: 439 163
Peter Berry 778 772
- 27 RUAHINE RANGE: Hinerua Hut, Smith Stream Hut or up Ohuinga.
Map: N140
Leaders: Janet Brown Phone: 53 961
Edward Holmes 20 859
- June
2 - 4 TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK
Maps: N122, N112
Leaders: Russell Perry Phone: 797 158
Clive Thurston 83 853

Note: The trips on the fixture list will cater for all degrees of fitness. Let it be known to the leader your capabilities prior to the trip. 'Enjoy your tramping!'