

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

BOX 447, HASTINGS

'P O H O K U R A'

Bulletin No. 158

December 1984

PRESIDENT:

Mr G. Robinson,  
605A Grays Road,  
Hastings.  
Phone 87 863

SECRETARY:

Mr R. Perry,  
176 Flaxmere Ave,  
Flaxmere.  
Phone 797 158

TREASURER:

Miss J. Smith,  
1009E Heretaunga St,  
Hastings.  
Phone 68 249

CLUB CAPTAIN:

Mr P. Berry,  
Arataki Road,  
Havelock North,  
Phone 778 772

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ANNUAL REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we move into our 50th year I reflect on the sadness associated with the sudden death of our secretary and fellow trumper, Les Hanger, who gave so much of his time and devotion to our Club. He will be sadly missed by us all. Also I remember Peter Linscott's tragic death last Christmas, while climbing on Mt. Cook. May I take this opportunity to express our deepest sympathy to their respective families and friends.

When one struggles and strives beside others in primitive surroundings, helps and is helped by fellow trampers then, regardless of their social status or beliefs, it is difficult not to respect their strengths and to learn to tolerate their weaknesses. These remarks apply not only to the hardened trumper but also to the new chum battling along on blistered feet yet still willing to raise his or her head in response to the beauty of a fern tree or the glory of a mountain view, the encouragement of a companion or the wonder of a starry night. So I ask you to remember that the art of tramping is not something which can be learned in a day; it takes experience and conscientious practice.

We find that many members just reach the useful, experienced, responsible stage when they are transferred away, clutched by holy matrimony, join the army or are otherwise lost to the cause. Others who have multiple interests are available only for the odd trip which attracts them; and no doubt increased transport costs in these cases means the entertainment budget has difficulty in spreading quite so far, though charges are moderate enough.

We have quite an imposing list of financial members, but the dyed-in-the-wool trampers - people who never neglect a chance to get out into the ranges - are becoming far too few. Folk who really wish to tramp whenever possible, who thrive on difficulties and have a sense of responsibility to the duties they accept, are assured of a warm return.

I would like to thank the members of the committee and in particular, our treasurer and editor. Also thanks to the social committee, trip leaders and fellow drivers. On behalf of our Club I would like to thank the N.Z.F.S. for the use of their huts.

I would also like to make a plea to those fellow drivers to help in sharing the trips and to any club members who hold a heavy truck licence to make the effort to obtain the required passenger service licence. I'm even available to give driving lessons to those willing to learn.

In conclusion I wish the Club an enjoyable further year of tramping and look forward to the coming 50th Jubilee celebrations.

G. Robinson

#### CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

As a Club I think our agenda for '84' would have been hard to match by any other organization. We have this year covered a lot of topics in our own interests. Our trips have covered our own ranges and further afield to National Parks in the North Island but we have yet to organize another successful trip to the south. Let's hope the new committee will put their thoughts together and perhaps arrange a two week South Island trip in '85'.

The committees have performed reasonably well in their duties. The Executive Committee have managed the Club activities very well. I would like to thank all those members for taking time to organise functions. I know all Club members appreciate your efforts. It was a sad moment for us all to hear that our Club Secretary, Les Hanger, passed away. His contributions to our Club will not be forgotten.

Our fund-raising exercises have been rather interesting this year. In January we were cutting Pinus Contorta down in the Tongariro National Park and in Hastings planting pumpkins on Stan Woon's property. We have yet to find a market for our pumpkin crop.

Our Club huts in the Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges have been well maintained. In the past a lot of work has gone into these huts and we all should make an effort to preserve our assets. Perhaps next year we should look at controlling depleted bush areas which surround some of our huts, especially Kaweka Hut.

A lot of time has been spent re-roofing the club truck. Thank you to all those who assisted, especially Geoff for the use of his work premises.

Next year is going to be a busy year with our 50th Jubilee at Labour Weekend. I would like to see everybody contribute to the organization of this event. Remember, the Club's success is a team effort.

Once again thanks to everyone for a successful year.

C. Thurston.

#### SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Social events of this year have generally been of the 'low key' variety. Prior to Christmas Geoff Robinson kindly let us descend upon his house for a barbecue. It was good to catch up with old stalwarts in the Club such as Glenn Armstrong and John Jones. Many thanks to Geoff for the use of his house and lawn.

In the winter months two gatherings were arranged: a meal at the D.B. Heretaunga Hotel was a very successful, spontaneous occasion, and in late July a 'rustic' dance' was arranged at the IOOF hall in Hastings. A small gathering of people thoroughly enjoyed wheeling their way around the floor to the square dance calls of Rex Jones.

At present we are in the process of arranging a Halloween party/barbecue to be held at Peter Berry's property.

During the year the social sessions at the meetings have included many slide talks, films, photo album evenings, games sessions and even aerobic exercises!

Many thanks must go to all those who have helped with the organization of social events, particularly those who have been co-opted during the year to help out on the committee. Without you all it would not have been possible to have such a successful run of events.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the incoming Social Committee good luck and to suggest that if anyone has any good ideas to bring them forward to those members.

J. Brown

## HUT, TRACK AND FIXTURE REPORT

Last year, 1983, saw a lot of hut repairs and improvements. This year we have been reaping the benefits. The only major task was to upgrade the water-supply at Kiwi Saddle Hut. The forest service supplied a new plastic water tank and the material to make the stand. Our job was to assemble the kit and get it operating before the heat of summer. There is now a plentiful supply of water a few feet from the door of the hut.

Members have had the opportunity to participate in a variety of trips in the Hawkes Bay region and occasionally further afield to the Tongariro and Egmont National Parks. Our latest fixture list in the August Pohokura covers seldom visited areas. If you would like to visit an area that we haven't covered, write your thoughts down and pass it on to the Club Captain.

D. Harrington

## TRUCK REPORT

Once again the truck has given us good service over the past year with no real problems arising. A total of 5572 kilometres have been covered this year with a trip to Taranaki, three trips to Ruapehu, nine to the Ruahine Range, seven to the Kaweka Range, and Esk River trip.

Total petrol used was 2145 litres at a cost of \$1603.87, a return of 2.74 kilometres per litre, which for this truck and the roads used is quite good.

The canopy has been re-roofed during the year and with improved design should last longer and shed water more easily. A new ceiling and interior lighting have been added as well and the lower walls have been carpeted.

Due to lack of full entries in the book a financial return will follow later when I have a chance to fill in the missing entries from invoices and trip returns.

P. Manning

## TRAINING REPORT

Training has been an on-going process this year with talks and instruction at every second club meeting night. The talks comprised of:-

- Gear list
- Tents and Flies
- Food preparation
- Map and compass

Clothing (wet weather and woollen)  
Survival  
Tramping boots and stoves  
Leadership functions  
Mountaineering equipment  
Packs and sleeping bags  
Films on Climbing - Shooting - Skiing - Canoeing

In the field we have recently had our annual Search and Rescue exercise for the newer members and a training weekend at Kuripapango which involved map and compass, river crossing, fire lighting and making bivvy shelters.

There is only one other way to better your skills in the outdoor environment and that is to come out and tramp with the Club.

L. Harrison

#### SEARCH AND RESCUE REPORT

As predicted in previous reports, S.A.R. operations carried out during the year were carried out by small efficient teams with helicopter support and although the big search using large numbers of personnel has not disappeared, the frequency of such searches is going to be much lower.

In February this year I attended an S.A.R. seminar in Wellington which was held to plan the direction of land S.A.R. for the next six years. The main topic of interest is the proposed increase in training and the additional support we will get from F.M.C. and Police H.Q. (more details on this subject will be included in this issue of Pohokura). In general the direction of S.A.R. will be along the lines of the past six years with only small changes and improvements where necessary.

The Club was involved in two major operations this year. The first was a rescue of a trumper from Upper Maropea Hut involving an attempt to reach the hut in extremely bad weather during the hours of darkness.

The second (a Claytons search) <sup>was</sup> for a man reported missing in the back of Hawkston Station. Unfortunately the search proved to be a waste of time as the person concerned was later found at Arapapanui Beach.

Other alerts have taken place and some, including the helicopter rescue of Les Hanger's group from Centre Makaroro Hut, were carried out with limited civilian assistance.

All in all, the past year has been a successful one for S.A.R. in this district and I would again like to thank members who gave up their time to undertake training and participate in operations when required. It all helps to make the ranges a safer place for all to enjoy.

G. Thorp.

## GEAR REPORT

The past year's hireage reflects the on-going upswing of community rentals versus Club usage with an average rental rate of \$1.00 per item per day.

A good year financially, although in anticipation of expenditure I would ask that the rental rates be reappraised with a view to providing an overall return of approximately \$400.00 - \$450.00 per annum. This is because it has become more important to provide a good quality article for community hire which now constitutes 70% of our turnover. Usage, as usual, was highest with rubber boots: \$94.00 was earned but some smaller sizes are well worn. Leather boots followed closely at \$75.00, several pairs need replacement. The seven good packs have earned \$57.00. Randall's very generous gift has been much appreciated. Ice axes earned \$33.00 from Club members on private trips, with 12 axes used on Club trips. Sundry rentals amounted to \$26.00. This gave the Club a total from gear hire of \$285.00.

J. McBride

## PUBLICITY REPORT

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

Bill Craig gave us some good publicity in the Herald-Tribune with his full page of photos on the out door first-aid course.

A dozen of the photos out of the old photo albums have been reproduced on 8"x10" to prepare a display of 50 years of tramping in Hawkes Bay. When this is completed it is hoped to display it in libraries and banks around town.

The scrap book has been maintained throughout the year.

J. Glass

## PHOTO ALBUM REPORT

As I write this there are photos strewn across the floor as I try to sort out the unnamed and undated photos which have been bequeathed to me. Please put trip, date, names and place on the backs of photos if possible.

There is a large new album so please forward to me some more photos for it. I would suggest four to six photos per trip, except the longer or more noteworthy trips, and please send in the best photos only unless they are of particular interest.

I suggest this as the Club albums tend to suit trip groupings rather than individual photos. Per aps if there are several photographers on a tramp they could get together and put in one or two photos each. I will put all the old, unnamed photos in the new album and leave spaces for names. If anyone knows them, please fill in the gaps.

Thanks to those who have contributed photos during the year, especially Peter Linscott's parents who have given us a number of his photos for the Club album.

P. Berry

#### LIBRARY REPORT

The library gets its usual small readership but the new books do encourage custom. Magazines from other clubs are worth looking at, especially if a trip to that area is being planned, but general information and ideas are often interesting, even a new recipe for Tararua biscuits may be found - especially with the new light bulb.

Please, when you take out a book, remember to write your name and address in the issue book, with the book you take and cross it out when you return it.

Books added to stock: Philip Temple's 'Ways to the Wilderness' (presented in memory of Rob Clarke), Michael Crawford Poole's 'The love of Mountains' (presented in memory of Peter Linscott), Russell Jackson's 'Wildlife in New Zealand', All presented by members.

If anyone wishes to see the copy of the Ascent of Everest with the 1953 expeditions signatures, J. Andersen's 'Maori placenames', or Lambert's 'Tales of Wairoa', please ask me, Income (as donations) was \$3.28.

E. Pindar

#### EDITOR'S REPORT

Keep those trip reports rolling in! If you write up your trip straight after you get home (have a bath first!) your conscience will be clear and you will sleep unworried by responsibilities to the Editor!

It makes keeping track of things much simpler if all reports are handed in by the next meeting, or even better, handed over (or posted) before then. Remember to put in as much information as you can about tracks, huts, river crossings, and map errors, as such information is useful to others. Don't forget that black and white pen drawings can be transcribed onto stencils so that illustrations or maps can be reproduced.

General articles, poems etc. are welcomed - recipes, crossword puzzles, in fact anything connected with our interest in tramping and the outdoors.

Thanks go the Ingram Thompson and Berry for the use of their duplicator, to the team which deals with it, to the very efficient typists Joanne and Susan, and to all who help at the stapling parties.

The editor is at the moment brushing up her (non-existent) Spanish. She will return - hasta luego, espero! (see you again, I hope!)

E. Pindar

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 7th November 1984, the following officers were elected:-

<u>PATRON:</u>	Mrs J. Lloyd
<u>PRESIDENT:</u>	Mr. G Robinson
<u>VICE-PRESIDENT:</u>	Mr J. Glass
<u>JUNIOR VICE-PRESIDENT:</u>	Miss J. Brown
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	Mr R. Perry
<u>TREASURER:</u>	Miss J. Smith
<u>AUDITOR:</u>	Mr A. Berry
<u>CLUB CAPTAIN:</u>	Mr P. Berry
<u>EDITOR:</u>	Miss E. Pindar
<u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:</u>	Messrs R. Goldfinch, L. Harrison, D. Harrington, E. Holmes, N. Marano, D. Millard, C. Thurston.
<u>SOCIAL COMMITTEE:</u>	Ms. G. Hooper, S. Lopdell, A. McAdam, Mrs C. Marano and Mr R. Snowball.
<u>HUT, TRACK &amp; FIXTURE:</u>	Miss J. Brown, Messrs P. Berry, R. Goldfinch, D. Harrington, E. Holmes, C. Thurston, R. Perry, N. Marano.
<u>TRAINING:</u>	Miss J. Brown, Messrs P. Berry, D. Millard, D. Harrington, L. Harrison, J. Glass, R. Perry.
<u>TRUCK:</u>	Messrs G. Robinson, D. Millard, N. Marano
<u>S.A.R.</u>	Messrs R. Goldfinch, L. Harrison.
<u>JUBILEE COMMITTEE:</u>	Messrs P. Berry, J. Glass, R. Snowball, C. Thurston.
<u>GEAR CUSTODIAN:</u>	Mrs. J. McBride
<u>LIBRARY:</u>	Miss E. Pindar
<u>PUBLICITY/SCRAPBOOK:</u>	Mr J. Glass
<u>PHOTO ALBUM:</u>	Mr P. Berry



HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1984

1983	<u>INCOME:</u> The Club's Income comprised:	
779	Subscriptions	1025.00
-	Working Party Proceeds - clearing pines	729.12
197	Equipment Hire	296.50
292	Meeting Contributions	325.27
92	Donations - Huts & General	170.40
	- Forest Service grant for	
500	hut maintenance	52.24
-	- Eastern & Central Savings Bank	100.00
350	- Motere Trust for hut maintenance	450.00
400	Subsidy - Ministry of Sport and Recreation	-
480	Interest Received	499.92
74	Profit on Resales	-
3164		3648.45
	<u>EXPENDITURE:</u> The Expenses incurred in running the Club were:	
55	Advertising	18.45
90	Rent of Meeting Room	370.00
77	Supper and Social Expenses	40.95
640	Equipment & Hut Maintenance	144.49
-	Hire Equipment purchased	198.00
-	Book purchased for library	14.95
38	Subscriptions: Royal Society, Alpine Club etc.	46.60
195	F.M.C. Capitation	312.50
50	Insurance - Equipment & Huts	64.33
403	Bulletin Expenses	478.09
86	Stationery, stamps etc.	167.12
-	Loss on resales (see note)	246.10
88	Loss on social evening	-
79	General Expenses	23.29
-	Donation - Cancer Society	41.00
88	Depreciation - Typewriter	70.85
-	Transport Costs	2363.59
-	Truck Depreciation	780.00
		3143.59
	Fares Received	2199.42
3034	Loss on Transport	944.17
4923		3180.89
(1759)	There was therefore a Profit for the year of	\$ 467.56
=====		=====

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

NOTE

A considerable quantity of badges and other material for resale was lost when the Secretary's case was stolen during the year.

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1984

1983	At Balance date the Club owned the following Assets:		
109	Westpac Bank - Cheque account	-	
3000	Westpac Bank - Investment account	-	
1611	Eastern & Central Savings Bank - Cheque account	897.95	
-	Eastern & Central Savings Bank - HIT account	1539.62	
-	Eastern & Central Savings Bank Investment account	4000.00	
170	Equipment	169.63	
345	Stocks on Hand	-	
	1971 Bedford Truck at cost	9363.51	
	<u>Less Depreciation to date</u>	<u>6243.51</u>	
3900			3120.00
	Huts valued in the books as follows:-		
	Kaweka	10.00	
	Kiwi	50.00	
	Waikamaka	55.00	
	Howletts	1905.17	
2020			2020.17
69	Projector at cost	69.00	
177	Bookcase	177.23	
354	Brother Electric Typewriter	283.39	
11755	The total value of the Assets being		12276.99
	However, of this amount there has been set aside for -		
41	Accounts owing	133.45	
139	Reunion Fund	139.00	
87	Subscriptions in Advance	48.00	
(267)			320.45
11488	Leaving a surplus of Assets over Liabilities of \$		11956.54
=====			=====

This surplus is represented by the balance in  
Accumulated Funds:

Balance as at 1st October 1983	11488.98
<u>Add Profit for the year</u>	<u>467.56</u>
	\$11956.54
	=====

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 1984 and of the results for the year ended on that date.

A.V. Berry ACA  
Auditor

CLUB TRIPS

KAWEKA RANGE - BACK RIDGE HUT

No. 1307

18 - 19 August

Although we left Hastings on time, when we arrived at Alva's it was discovered I'd given Rob and Lance the wrong pick-up point. They were duly found and we departed for the Kawekas. We weren't long on the trail before we started to encounter trouble with the truck, seemingly petrol trouble, which forced us to stop and clean out the carburettor a few times. On arriving at Whittle's farm the truck came to a stop once again and we discovered a small broken wire in the distributor. Once that was fixed, we had no more trouble.

After leaving Les and his grandson to their own tramping trip to Kaweka Flats, we headed off up the true right hand ridge by mistake, after telling Les we were going up the opposite ridge. We called into Dominie shelter for lunch and then carried on up to the tops where we added some extra rocks to the Cairn.

The weather at this time was very misty but the air was very still. We carried on down the true left ridge arriving at Back Ridge Hut by mid-afternoon, just before rain set in, which made us decide not to go any further that day.

After spending a comfortable night in the hut we headed off up the opposite ridge, enjoying some great views on the way. Before arriving at the top we encountered really strong winds with visibility down to about 25 metres, but after taking a compass reading we were able to make our way round to the 'J' and pick up the track down to meet Les again.

An enjoyable trip with pleasant company.

Leader: Geoff Robinson

No. in Party: 9

Rob Vork, Lance Pearson, Susan Lopdell, Malcolm Lightband, Noel and Claire Marano, Les Hanger and Joshua

POHANGINA SADDLE

No. 1308(a)

2 September

Leaving Hastings at 6 am, 15 hardy trampers headed on down to Moorcock Base in the Ruahine State Forest. It had been raining for the past three days and it looked as though it might clear later on in the day.

My party of 10 headed off towards Moorcock Saddle along the shingle road in misty rain. We were all confident that we would climb out of the cloud on Pohangina Saddle. This wasn't so; we were in the misty cloud right to Longview Hut. The climb up the ridge was a grind because we couldn't see more than one knob ahead. It was only by chance that the cloud lifted and we were able to see the hut to the left of the ridge we were on. We arrived at the hut at 10.45 am, too early for lunch, so we settled for a quick snack, consulted our maps, and headed south towards Rocky Knob. Our plans from here were to take the ridge below Rocky Knob and head down to Awatere Hut. We sidled Rocky Knob and started our descent, only to be confronted with very thick leatherwood four feet high. We abandoned that route and headed back up to Rocky Knob to pick a better route. The low cloud was causing us problems because we were not able to pin-point defined ridges.

Our second attempt down the ridge led us to a bush-bashing exercise the length of the ridge. Half way down, the cloud started to break up and we managed to have lunch on a rocky outcrop with a terrific view of the lowlying hills and farmland. We reached the North Branch of the Makaretu River directly opposite the old Black Stag Hut, not a very comfortable looking hut, but in an emergency it could be very inviting.

The cloud moved in and it started to rain. Awatere Hut was in good condition. We had a brief stop here and then headed out via Moorcock Saddle. By the time we reached the truck the rain was constant and very heavy. A good trip with a lot of variety. Thanks, Geoff, for driving the truck.

C.T.

No. 1308(b)

While Clive led his group off up the road to Longview Hut, Russell and Bruce decided to accompany me over to Daphne Hut to help carry some timber for later alterations to Howletts Hut. We dropped down into Moorcocks Stream and followed it up till we picked up the yellow markers which led on up. On reaching the top of the ridge on a well-cut track and climbing an old fence, the markers and track disappeared. After taking compass bearings, we struck off down another ridge, when the mist temporarily lifted enough for me to spot a sign post pointing to Daphne on an opposite ridge. This track was marked with red and white markers and seemed to sidle for some time and appeared to be rarely used. It eventually joined another descending track with yellow markers. This track dropped down a long ridge and come out at the junction of the Tuki Tuki River, just above the gorge from Daphne Hut. The river was up a bit and very cold and Bruce's dog was having trouble in the deeper crossings, but proved a very adaptable rock climber if it could avoid another crossing.

After a quick lunch at Daphne, Russell and Bruce talked me into a round trip along the tops. We took off up a recently recut track on a ridge beside the one that leads to Howletts and I had some misgivings when I saw scratched on a marker disc that it was six hours to Longview Hut. The track led on up through some lovely bush, carpeted with thick, bright green moss.

On coming out onto the open tops, the weather was very misty with the air quite still. The mist cleared briefly while we were at the top of Otumore but then clagged in again, making it difficult to find the route down to Pohangina Saddle. We even found it a problem at times to follow the track on the spur down to the roadhead.

It was 6.30pm and dark and raining before we arrived back to meet the others who were patiently waiting for us, snugly tucked up in the back of the truck.

G.R.

LEADER: Clive Thurston

No. in Party: 17

Chris Hardie, Sue Lopdell, Alva McAdam, Dave Millard, Raymond Lowe, Ted Sapsford, Andrew Doole, Noel and Claire Marano, Hetty Craig, Hamish Tait, Russell Perry, Clifford Holmes, Nathan Gedge, Bruce Perry, Geoff Robinson and Froofie the dog.

RANGIWHAKAM TAKU

No. 1309(b)

15 - 16 September

Leaving Hastings shortly after 6 am, fifteen keen trampers in the truck travelled to the old Whakara Mill. With a crisp cool breeze blowing, we all left at 8.10 am, crossing the discoloured Makaroro River with everyone obtaining part of it in their boots. Then off along the forestry road, past the new Makaroro Hut and back into the river took us 40 minutes. My party of six decided that it was going to be a party of four. That's good, a bunk for everyone, four splashed our way upriver keeping our shorts dry in the swift current until arrival at Colenso Track. At 9.40 we started our long climb up the well-cleared track, spotting five Kakarikis on the way. At 11.45 we stopped for lunch on the bush edge and I was informed that my party of four was now a party of three. Never mind.

At 12.10 we continued our climb of 1000 metres to Te Atua Mahuru trig in tussock and 10 cm of snow with overcast skies. Northwards we travelled along the tops, passing Ina Rock and a large tarn. Then in came that mist and snow. We soon changed direction to the west and looming above us in the mist was the dim outline of Rangiwhakamatapu. Down into the saddle then

up, weaving in and out between snow-covered leatherwood bushes to the summit. After the grand view of the mist we descended the other side on the leading ridge to Colenso Hut with the odd leatherwood bush here and there to the bush edge. Nice open bush with grass as the only undergrowth greeted us all the way down except for the last 200 metres which were a bit thick. At 4.45 pm Colenso Hut received us as its only visitors in the last three months.

Morning greeted us with cloudy skies as we left the hut at 8.15 to wander upstream to the fork just above the old Remutupo Hut site. The stream was good going all the way except for one log jam. At 10.30 we climbed steeply up a blazed track to the snowy tops just south of Te Atua Mahuru. Once back at the trig it was all downhill along Colenso Track then Barlow Track to the new Barlow Hut arriving for a late lunch at 1.30. Geoff, Alva and Frances were still here, but soon disappeared shortly after our arrival. So much for new company. Never mind, we left half an hour later and caught them up about 40 minutes later down the Makaroro River which we followed all the way down to the truck, arriving about 4 pm.

The trip was very successful with a good variety of terrain covered.

Leader: David Harrington

No. in Party: 3

Malcolm Lightband, Nick White

#### MAKARORO RIVER TO PARKS PEAK

No. 1309(b)

After leaving the main crowd at Central Makaroro, four keen bods made a good time up to Upper Makaroro Hut. The river changes considerably in that stretch being more gorge-like and bouldery. It certainly made pleasant tramping and, as the sun shone down on us all the while, we really enjoyed this section. We arrived at the hut, which is a rather old and dingy four bunk hut, at about 2.30 pm and spent a quiet afternoon collecting wood and generally setting in for the evening. Fortunately we just missed the rain which decided to drop on us after we arrived.

The next day dawned fine and clear and we made good time up to Parks Peak Hut. The trot along the tops afforded us good views of the main Ruahine Range and we came to the turnoff with the Yeoman's track about late lunchtime. A decision was made to take the track down to Makaroro Base camp which was somewhat overgrown and rather interesting. The bush is regenerating nicely in this area with many young rimu and totara in evidence. We got back to the main track about

2 pm where we met up with the main body of trampers. The new Makaroro Base Hut is well worth knowing about with its good facilities - i.e. pot belly stove, tables, bunks etc. This was generally a pleasant, if not overly energetic, tramp.

Leader: Janet Brown

No. in Party: 4

Clinton Manners, Clifford Holmes, Darren Morris.

### STONEY CREEK

No. 1311

14 October

The truck arrived at Janet's to pick up the Napier contingent at about 6.30 and headed off towards the Taupo Road with 16 bodies inside. A quick stop at Te Pohue to pick up the permit and off again to the second turnoff at Stoney Creek - arriving just before 9 o'clock.

The first part of the plan was to walk up the right branch of Stoney Creek. This is a pretty stream but in it lie many slippery boulders and logs, and on it's banks, in the most strategic places, the onga onga and cutty grass had established themselves. The bush beside the stream consisted mainly of beech, matai, rimu and totara and at one stage we were treated to the melodious song of the bush robin. There was one waterfall on this stretch of the stream and it was notable because below it, happily swimming round in the swirling water, was a blue mountain duck. The track around the waterfall was a bit hairy but there was a rope to help us around the trickiest bit.

We had lunch at the confluence with a main tributary, just above the waterfall. Part of the crew were muttering about river trips so it was decided we would return via the ridges. Plan B was thus to climb up the spur on the stream's left hand side to the main ridge, down which we would return to the track. The climb up the spur was fairly easy going. The bush here was lovely - mainly large beech trees with one or two big 'grand-dad' rimu and an undergrowth of ferns. Going up this spur we heard a kaka fly past and it replied to Alva's raucous squawk.

We overshot the main ridge but Russell, and a bit of bush-bashing, soon got us heading in the right direction. The vegetation on the ridge soon reverted to scrub, making progress much more difficult. At one stage we came across a blazed trail and were able to move a little faster. We lost this trail before we reached the bottom so we bush-bashed down a rather greasy slope to the creek bed. We didn't have far to go down the creek. We came to the track which led us up and back to the truck, arriving there about 5.30 p.m.

Leader: Glenda Hooper

No. in Party: 16

Susan Lopdell, Janet Brown, Russell Perry, Geoff Robinson, Peter Wood, Dianna Bird, Alva McAdam, Hamish Tait, Aaron Douglas, Albert Nichols, Jane Langley, Whetu Wilson, Cherie Jude, Paige Boswell, Laura Williamson.

Kaweka Walkabout

No. 1312

Labour Weekend '84

Considerable difficulty with transport and numbers meant a change in venue for the Labour Weekend tramp. We'd have to go local - the Kawekas. What could we do that wouldn't cover too much familiar ground?

On Friday morning we rolled up to the car park at the end of Lakes Road. We're not sure what time we began walking, and that was the case for the whole weekend. I must add WATCH to PARTY EQUIPMENT. We lugged the four-day packs up to 4100, quickly scurrying across the small saddle to seek shelter from the strong wind. Here, a quick bounce round of packs revealed that, alas, one of us would earn the name of 'Hand-bag' for the duration. Definitely a little light on equipment!

On, up over the top, down across the clay pans, back up again, then down to Kiwi Saddle Hut for munchies. Gale force gusts made the descent to the hut unpleasant. We brewed up here, and gradually munchies became lunchies and the time ticked on.

Later (?) we descended through the bush en route to Kiwi Mouth Hut via Kiwi Creek. However, someone changed the plans. We headed up Kiwi Creek rather than down. Great - our first new country. The creek was delightful and we encountered no difficulties at all over the next two hours. Progress was slow though, so we lifted out, up along a small side creek and through generally open bush, on to Back Ridge. The wind had died and the views were excellent. Black cloud above the Ruahines and the presence of hogsbacks urged us to seek a fair campsite quickly. We did this just below the tops, set up tents, and passed an excellent night.

Saturday, and who knows what time we arose? Glenda had developed a reverse theory on the hour-hand and north idea and this gave us a rough indication. We broke camp and followed the very scenic Back Ridge up to the junction with the spur down to Rocks Ahead Hut. Here, Clinton, Stuart, and I dropped down to the bivvy to record our intentions in the book, then we all wallowed in a glorious spell of sunshine and munched chocolate. All good things must come to an end though, and soon we were bashing our joints to oblivion on the long, steep descent to the Ngaruroro. Lunchtime, although the guesstimate says it's well after noon.



We crossed the river by cable car and headed up to Spion Kop for the afternoon's walkies. It's a long way up to the top! What a grind! The weather worsened again - strong cold winds and turbulent skies to the south-west. Ruapehu must be receiving snow again. Eventually we crossed the various lumps on the map, each one slightly higher than the previous, until we reached Manson. A further half hour saw us all at Manson Hut for the night. None of us really felt too enthusiastic about tenting in the muck.

Sunday dawned pretty miserably too. What now? We decided that there was no point in heading Mt. Meany way because of the weather, so elected to try once again for Kiwi Mouth. This idea was vaguely disappointing because it meant a very easy day - fine for Janet who has badly blistered feet, and for the others, Glenda and Peter, who seemed determined to enjoy the pleasure of a more relaxing walk, but Clinton, Stuart and I wanted new country. Down into Manson Creek - that would give it to us. We split the party and went our separate ways. Rendezvous: Kiwi Mouth Hut.

Manson Creek is very attractive. We dropped straight off the tops (U20 910065) and made excellent progress down to the main creek (U20 899057). Along we went, enjoying a mixture of quiet bush, small rapids and open, grassy banks. Plenty of evidence of deer and we also saw two beautiful trout. The final section towards the Ngaruroro gets quite gorgy and necessitated some messy bushbashing. Not much though, and soon we were at the river itself. This was too high to contemplate crossing so, again, we bashed up some bush and eventually emerged at the swing bridge near Kiwi Mouth Hut. Ten minutes later we rejoined Janet, Glenda and Peter for a late lunch. Soon afterwards, we set off back up Kiwi Creek and up the spur to Kiwi Saddle for the night.

The night was interrupted by perky 'possums pawing pots and packs. Stuart had a go at cataloguing one possum with a file, but this proved no deterrent. The possums have their own portals and came and went at will. Cursed things.

When the sun had been up 'quite a while' next morning, we set off on the last leg. The wind was howling, just for a change, so rather than go out via the normal route we opted to drop into the Tutaekuri and try that. I don't think I wish we hadn't, but I am sure there are easier routes out from Kiwi Saddle. The drop into the river was fine, but the waterfalls an hour later proved impassable. Up we bashed, disappointed at the poor turn of events and frustrated at the almost total lack of clear animal tracks on this, the south side. To top matters off, Huey threw a beaut snow storm at us. Did it come down! The whole scene changed dramatically before our eyes as we thrust into packs for high-octane scroggin and warmer gear.

Eventually we hit the ridge top and recognized the Kiwi Saddle trail, already smothered in 8cm of snow. Quickly we followed this and an hour later reached our vehicle. Back to Hastings.

An interesting trip which gave most of us some new ground to digest. Two comments arise: Food for four days when planning for yourself is easy - but all six of us did just that and ended up with, for most of us, stacks left over 'in case others were short'. The exception to the group was one member whose diet over 24 hours seemed to consist of one spongey pud and a few munchies! Perhaps leader or group planning of food should be revived. Secondly; equipment: four regulars extremely well-equipped, one new member well-equipped, one member dreadfully-equipped. Questions like 'How much tramping have you done?' and 'Have you been out with the H.T.C. on long trips before?' seem useless when trying to ascertain whether a bod will have the right equipment. Gear lists were issued in this case, but poor advice from an experienced trumper plus inexperience meant no reserve clothing at all. Conclusion: never assume the safety of inexperienced members in your party. Either plan for possible inefficiency i.e. extra food and clothing in your own pack; or CHECK his pack. Better perhaps to clearly outline on the Wednesday the leader's expectations and to refuse unknown quantities who join your trip by phone.

Leader: Russell Perry

No. in Party: 6

Janet Brown, Glenda Hooper, Clinton Manners, Stuart Sutherland, Peter Scarborough.

#### WAIPAWA 66 TRIP

No. 1310(a)

30 September

Thirteen of us headed up from Triplex Hut towards Sunrise Hut at about 8.20 am. It was a pleasant walk with no wind and a mild temperature. We arrived before 10 am and stopped for a drink and a nibble. Noel thought it was lunch time; he is not used to Kiwi trampers' nibble habits as yet. I had not noticed the drop in temperature at this altitude until I went to write our intentions in the hut log and found my fingers were quite stiff and that it was rather awkward to write. (Or was it signs of old age creeping up? Noel and Geoff had the same trouble).

On arriving at Armstrong Saddle it was decided that we would divide into two groups. Geoff with five others would go to Top Maropea Hut while seven of us went to '66', down the

Waipawa Saddle and then out.

Looking up at '66' was quite impressive with patches of snow covering it making it stand out against the grey sky behind. At the base of the ascent there are areas of leatherwood which are a bit of a nuisance to find your way around or through, and at this stage very light snow started to float slowly down and there was not a breath of wind. But as we climbed the wind started to come from the N.E. and by the time we had reached the snow, which was frozen and hard, the wind had swung around to the S.E. and if we looked over the west side the snow was blown up into our faces.

At this stage we stopped and put on our wind gear and went along the west ridge of the face trying to avoid the frozen snow where possible. On reaching the trig, 5450 ft, we had very little view as a mist had rolled in all around us. We moved about 30 feet along from the trig using Noel's rope, and, looking down the steep North slope, it was obvious that it was too dangerous to proceed any further so we headed back. Dropping down to the saddle between '66' and Armstrong saddle, I was looking for a suitable shingle slide to drop down, when I was informed by my party that while looking for a way through the tussock and leatherwood, I had led them in a circle and was heading back the other way. 'Silly devils, letting me take them the wrong way. Foolish people! Hang on. Could they be right? Things don't look quite right.'

'About turn. Quick march, everyone.' Off in the right direction. Thank goodness! We could have ended up at Ruapehu! Well, we could have gone skiing. On to the shingle and away we went, until we hit a waterfall. But it did not take us long to work our way around and after that it was a straight tramp down to the Waipawa River back to the truck to wait for Geoff and his party. Thanks, Geoff, for agreeing at the last moment to drive the truck; I bet you felt better for it.

No. in Party: 7

Darren Morris, Andrew Donle, Dianna Bird, Tony Alexander, Clifford Holmes, Noel Marano, Lew Harrison.

#### TOP MAROPEA HUT

No. 1310(b)

After leaving Sunrise Hut we travelled as a group along the ridge where it was decided to form two parties with Lew and his gang going along towards '66' and a few of us dropping down to Top Maropea Hut. It wasn't long before light snow started falling, drifting out of a still and overcast sky.

On reaching the hut, we lit the fire and enjoyed lunch while exchanging yarns. Reading through the logbook, I discovered I had last been there in the company of Les, eight years before.

Having replaced the fire wood, we headed back up to Sunrise Hut in the ever-increasing snow. After another rest in the new hut, we descended to meet the others who were already there awaiting our return.

G.R.

No. in Party: 6

Geoff Robinson, James Kitchen, Nick White, Greg Latton, Hamish Tait, Marcus Reinders.

THREE FINGERS - BOB'S SPUR

No. 1313

28 October

A party of twentyone left Holts carpark on Sunday morning and headed off to Mangleton Station. The day promised to be clear and very hot, with no sign of the impending southerlies. We wandered over farmland and came across the track to Three Fingers, travelling through regenerating bush up to open tussock country. The party was spread out and stopped often to quench thirsts and satisfy rumbling stomachs. The higher we climbed the more splendid were the views of farmland and rivers stretching out towards Napier and Hastings.

By 10.45 we had reached the top of Three Fingers, so found a stream and had an early lunch and siesta while waiting for the slower group to arrive. Dave and five others carried on to the track to Ohawai, from which Mt. Ruapehu and Tongariro could be seen.

After studying the map, we were on our way to find Bob's Spur, which two previous parties had been unable to find. The track kept disappearing and often we had to resort to bush bashing our way through prickly undergrowth. Halfway down the spur we were rejoined by Dave's party and continued down rocky terrain. At the end of the spur we were greeted by a two hundred metre long shingle slide and, with some enthusiasm and some trepidation, quickly reached the bottom, most people enjoying the experience.

As it was only mid afternoon when we emerged onto the farmland, we had a breather, then most of us went in search of the waterfall we knew was close by. Four hardy individuals braved the elements and went for a swim in the pool beneath the falls and vowed it was nice.

A pleasant trek back across the fields to the truck and we arrived back in Hastings about 6 pm.

No. in Party: 20

Susan Lopdell, Geoff Robinson, Alva McAdam, Mitch Barrett, Peter Berry, Jim Glass, Tony Alexander, Darren Morris, Hamish Tait, Glenda Hooper, Dave and Graeme Millard, Jenny Lean, Win and Shane Cornish, George Prebble, Clifford Holmes, Dave Harrington, Andrew Doole, Doug Matheson.

CAIRN MEMORIAL SERVICE TRIP - KAWEKA J

No. 1314

Originally planned as a weekend 'reconstruct-the-cairn trip', the annual pilgrimage to the J was reduced through lack of support to the Sunday. A few muddles in Taradale and a late Hastings departure meant we began our walk from Makahu Saddle as late as 8.45 am. The day looked promising though and all set off in good spirit. We ascended via two routes, Makahu Spur and Don Spur, and measured each other's progress etched on the skyline.

The scheduled 11 am service became a 12 noon service. The 'missing' hour was spent tidying the cairn. We figured a decent job would take more time than we had so tentative beginnings were made on one side, simply straightening and strengthening. Alas, a round cairn hath but one side and we couldn't find the end until of course we reached the beginning. Willing hands converted a jumbled pile of boulders into something much more respectable. Not quite the 'bell tower' style of the old photograph, but a worthy effort nonetheless.

The short service was held then. Our youngest trampers of the day, Alexandra and Ursula Allen placed our very nice wreath beneath the plaque and a moment's silence was observed.

Lunch. Some had their sandwiches exposed to the view before the last picture was taken. What hunger! I did manage to 'entice' my youngsters, and Ted, Glen and Clifford to a sojourn down Back Creek to the hut for lunch. This creek never fails to delight and good swimming was had. Still a hint of mountain chill on it, but refreshing!

We departed from Back Hut after 2.30 pm and slowly hauled back to the tops. We chose the open and pleasant spur north of the hut for this. We saw no sign of the others, who'd made their way by various routes back down to Makahu Saddle, so began our descent immediately, reaching the truck around 5.30 pm. A pleasant day! Thanks to Geoff and Mitch for driving and to the wreath makers who toiled in the back of the truck adding flower after flower, ad nauseum!

Leader: Russell Perry

No. in Party: 18

Alva McAdam, Ted Sapsford, Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, Mitch Barrett, Clifford and Geoff Holmes, Karen Glass, Clive Thurston, Glen Cane, George Prebble, Jenny Lean, Roger Schwarzenbach, Phil Gumbley, Albert Nicholls, Tom, Ursula and Alexandra Allen. Owen Brown shared the day with us too, with 6 N.B.H.S. Apologies: G. Robinson, J Brown.

SAREX - two files

13 - 14 October

(a)

Five Horetunga Tramping Club members assembled at the Hastings Police Station on the Saturday morning to wait for the Army truck, which was late.

By 6.45 (yawn) we were on our way, bouncing around in the back of the truck. Most of us tried to get some sleep but the Napier Trumper didn't give us a chance. (I always thought Venturer Scout leaders were talkative).

When we arrived we scrambled into the bunkrooms to get the best (or highest) bunk. By 9.00 am we were sitting down to lectures: one about what happens at camp while the search is going on; another on radio procedures; another on map and compass work and also a First Aid lecture. In the afternoon, we went on a small exercise using our radios and maps, etc. Most of us did all right. (That's our opinion).

After having a great tea we had films. It was 10 pm before we got to sleep. (Who was the person who kept us awake, Andrew?).

Next morning the same person who kept us awake, woke us up. By 9 am we were on our way for the main exercise. About two hours after starting, we found our 'victim' about 20 metres up from Gold Creek. When we laid him down and had carried him across the river twice, we got the stretcher down and, to questions like 'I thought you had a broken leg?', he jumped out and started walking.

When we arrived back at 'base' we had our de-brief then were packed off home. All in all the experience was great and all of us learned something (at least). Anybody who has the chance to go on an exercise, grab it....

T.A.

H.T.C. Members: Clifford Holmes, Andrew Doole, Darren Morris, Dave Millard, Tony Alexander.

(b)

We were in a classroom situation all day Saturday, with some very good lectures on S.A.R. Organisation, procedures, communications, personnel, first aid and navigation. The last lesson for the day was a map - compass exercise within the camp environs, and it quickly became apparent that very few of us were fully competent. This comment includes some Police staff, which was surprising, but we all settled down and tried to solve the problems posed to us. In fact we

worked quite late into the night (with Terry Hamilton-Jenkins) endeavouring to master the map-compass work, but it is clear that most of us need further training.

One aspect which the Police and Search Controllers mentioned was that they do not know a lot of the people turning up for SAREX or searches, and so do not know their capabilities. My comments above include all Tramping Clubs, Deerstalkers, Anglers, etc, so as a member of the H.T.C. I would like to think that when the Search Controllers see 'H.T.C.' beside someone's name, they would automatically know that that person is trained in SAR and is a potential Team Leader. This would be an ideal to aim for but may not be either fair or possible, as membership of the Club changes. Mr Thorp mentioned at the SAREX that he would like to get a training scheme off the ground early next year for SAR and no doubt he has his own plans for that. I would hope that he is supported by all H.T.C. members, as it is only when face-to-face with a problem that one's limitations become obvious. The H.T.C. is well thought of, and if it was known that comprehensive training was available to Club members this could only further improve the Club's standing.

I would mention that the St. John Ambulance person at the SAREX (who gave a very good lecture) made it known that it is expected that around 300 separate Hawkes Bay school parties will be going into the hills between now and Christmas, and that the use of helicopters is being reduced due to high costs; all of which means that the possibilities for call-outs are increasing again after a drop-off in recent times.

D. Millard

#### DONALD RIVER

No. 1315

25 November

My sister and I rolled up behind the club truck outside Alva's about 6.30 a.m. and we were all on the road soon afterwards. A pretty quiet trip ensued until arrival at Makahu carpark where chatter soon erupted and hurried plans were made. After consulting with Peter McBride, it was decided to take the entire party down the Donald River until the MacIntosh track crossing, where I would pick a smaller party to carry on to Lotkow Hut, while the rest would climb out onto the Matauria Ridge and walk back to the truck.

The upper Donald didn't prove to be much of a hassle - just wet boots; well, I suppose that's a hassle, eh? It got trickier as we moved further down: a few of the smaller boys got proper dunkings through not being careful and Peter McBride was enjoying himself by taking photos of all the fun. The first major waterfall we negotiated by traversing around the top where there was less objective danger, until I saw my sister cartwheeling towards the edge. On the verge of cardiac arrest, I could only watch from the bottom as Clinton pulled her back up. Soon afterwards I gave a lecture on being more

careful and then we were off again.

Arrival at the second and last major waterfall was about 15 minutes from the Mackintosh track. Peter McBride and I decided to lower everyone by rope and harness, while Peter Berry and three others decided to try their luck by climbing high and around it. In retrospect, I think most people enjoyed getting lowered down, but some of the petrified faces as they took those first few feet off the edge still make me chuckle.

The whole party regrouped and had a quick lunch before walking down to the track turnoff. Here, Peter McBride, Anne-Margaret, Malcolm and I carried on down the Donald. It drizzled all afternoon but, after the waterfalls, not much of interest eventuated. It was just a long slog down an ever-widening Donald till a wire bridge came into sight. This marked the track up to Lotkow Hut. Just our luck that it was all uphill - the pace slowed perceptibly but by then we were out, the truck loomed up (The others had returned along Matauria Ridge and Geoff had driven the truck round to us,) and another day was done.

A.W.

Leader: Andrew Windle                      No. in party: 17

Darren Morris, Malcolm Lightband, Glenda Hooper, Hamish Tait, Geoff Robinson, Mitch Barrett, Clinton Manners, Noel & Claire Marano, Clifford Holmes, Tony Alexander, Richard Wooster, Nicholas Lowe, Peter McBride, Peter Berry, Anne-Margaret Windle.

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#### SOCIAL NEWS                      Congratulations!

Engaged: Karen Glass & Clive Thurston  
          Robyn Taylor & Ross Berry  
          David Perry & Georgina Thomson

Married: Gerald Blackburn & Lynette O'Connor  
          David Harrington & Jenny Christmas (missed you in  
          Steve Bamford & Mary Madore                      (the last mag.)  
          Graham Stichbury & Sue Murphy

Birth: a son, Ross, to Allan & Wendy Holden

#### CLUB NEWS

- Our Secretary, Les Hanger, died on September 28, 1984. See obituary on page 25.
  - Mr Maurie Taylor has been granted Life Membership of the H.T.C. in recognition of his many years of service.
  - Mrs J. McBride and Mrs A. Hanger have been granted honorary membership of the club in appreciation of their support.
  - We wish Lyndsay Lloyd, husband of our patron, Janet, a comfortable Christmas in hospital.
  - Dave Wilkins is based at Kuripapango for the summer.
  - Vicki Carlyon is operating from Turangi & Ketetahi Hut for the summer.
- - - - -



OBITUARY: LES HANGER

On Monday, 1 October, many of the H.T.C. gathered to farewell with so many others a tramping companion and friend: Leslie Hanger: "Les". He'd gone on ahead three days before, without his pack this time, to perhaps check out the trails and begin new journeys. His departure was sudden - a heart attack - and he left behind a saddened family and a host of people who reflected quietly on the gift of having known him. The H.T.C. strongly conveys its sympathy and support to his wife, Avril, and to his family.

Les joined the H.T.C. in 1974. Most of our members join the tramping fraternity in their younger years, but Les was well-seasoned before taking up the game. His objective was to introduce his sons to the outdoors, a recreation medium he considered both meaningful and beneficial. Eventually the boys became young men with other interests, whilst Les remained.

Through the years since, he has given strong support to his club. He became a member of the Executive Committee then, eventually, Secretary. He assumed the role of our Mountain Safety Representative and then poured much of his energies into teaching bush safety as a fully-fledged, enthusiastic N.Z.M.S.C. Bushcraft Instructor. He drove our truck on numerous occasions, seemingly tireless on the longer hauls. Any who shared the cab with him found this time enlightening, amusing and instructive as Les quietly recalled the wealth of experiences garnered over a full 52 years. Working bees were yet another way of support, and rarely was Les's willing arm missing.

Les's final employment illustrated many of the values that he lived by. He seized the opportunity to work with the STEPS programme in Hastings, passing on the love and lore of the outdoors to unemployed youngsters from our community. He took these people into the hills in the hope that they might find personal strength and, as usual, he led by example. That these same youngsters gathered so strongly to farewell him on Monday says in itself how successfully Les conveyed his message.

That's what Les's tramping was all about: being prepared, passing on knowledge, holding firm values, sharing his warmth and joys, encompassing all with equal favour in his twinkling gleam.

Les: generous, caring, sometimes unbending and stubborn but always with good in mind - those of us who shared the packed-in bottle of plum wine, who knew the peace of the hills and the wrath of the storm with him, will ever remember.

R.P.

\* \* \* \* \*

NEWS FROM S.A.R.

Some comments from newsletters supplied through Graham Thorp, the S.A.R. co-ordinator for our area.

Training: Graham proposes to start a programme of training at regular (two monthly?) intervals in this district, starting in February/March '85. He is looking for members who are keen to assist with organization. Ring 434 238 Napier if interested.

From the training point of view the biggest problem we have is the low number of operational searches involving sufficient people to keep up the interest. In this type of atmosphere training becomes even more important because we all lose touch with equipment and procedures and operations become much more difficult to run as a result.

The problems that develop are not always obvious. Clubs usually provide members who are fit and have good bushcraft experience. This is only the starting point however and training is needed to ensure members are conversant with SAR techniques, i.e. how can radio reception be improved if you are having difficulty, how do you conduct a close search and a contact search of an area, what is the exact location of a clue. Field Search Controllers are also having trouble deciding who to place in teams for the appropriate tasks. Controllers normally place personnel they know in teams that are in important areas or operating in difficult conditions. New members sent out by groups may have a wealth of knowledge and experience but cannot be tasked properly because there is no guarantee that they can perform in that position. Alternatively, as happened on the last trial search, several members claimed they were fit and capable of carrying out searches on the western side of the main Kaweka Divide. However within a short time we had 3 teams who had modified tasks due to problems with members' fitness. Had the members' abilities been known to base personnel they would have been put into one team with less arduous tasks, leaving two fit teams to complete the more difficult and important tasks.

It is expected that a regular training programme of both evening training sessions and field exercises will overcome most of these difficulties. Initially training will be given to team leaders as they are the key to a successful SAR operation.

Call-Out Personnel: If SAR is to operate efficiently when the call comes, each group needs to be ready and have member call-out lists up to date. The availability of trained personnel plays an important part in the success of any operation and it is expected that clubs will provide members who are trained in bushcraft and are fit enough to undertake the required tasks. In some instances in the past few years members have been sent out who were quite unsuitable for the allotted tasks. This resulted in time being lost as teams retraced their steps.

Contacts: These must be updated. Call-out goes to four organizations i.e. Napier and Hastings Deerstalkers, Napier and Heretaunga Tramping Clubs. No contact - no call-out.

Radios: There is some possibility that a small HF set which runs on penlight cells, and is not much bigger than a large glass tumbler, may be available for SAR use. The radios are currently being manufactured for other uses and frequencies and could well be modified for SAR use. More on this subject when further information comes to hand.

G.R.T.

Training Course: The National Training Course is to be held at Woodbourne/Dip Flat from 2-13 April. Forty-four members from all over New Zealand will be selected from District nominations on the following basis:

- (a) current members of SAR squads who have not attended the course;
- (b) reserve members of SAR squads, and then
- (c) country members.

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Take up tramping; even Dr Johnson approved of it:

"Almost every occupation, however inconvenient or formidable, is happier and safer than a life of sloth."

As our editor is off travelling in South America she fears that another of Dr Johnson's remarks will be only too true:

"he that wanders about the world sees new forms of human misery".

Let's hope that another remark will also be applicable:

"All travel has its advantages. If the passenger visits better countries, he may learn to improve his own, and if fortune carries him to worse, he may learn to enjoy it."

We're looking forward to Liz's account of her adventures when she returns.

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#### GEAR HIRE

Charges for gear hire to the public have increased from \$1/day to \$2 for the first day and \$1/day thereafter, per item. Charges for members have not changed. A full list of gear available for hire is in the last Pohokura or may be had from the secretary.

#### PUMPKINS

We raised a princely \$121.37 from the sale of our pumpkins. This represents a return of less than \$1 an hour, and after lengthy consideration, the executive feels this may not be profitable! Nonetheless, a big thanks to Stan Woon for the opportunity.

TYPISTS Thanks to Sue Holmes, who did the bulk of the typing for this issue, and to Joanne Perry for the remainder. Russell and Joanne Perry were editors for this issue in Liz's absence.

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following members to the club. Happy tramping.

Tony Alexander  
Bill and Hetty Craig  
Noel and Claire Marano  
Stuart Sutherland  
Andrew Doole  
Ted Sapsford  
Dave Millard  
Clifford Holmes.

### RESIGNATIONS

We regretfully accept the following resignations from the club:

Cheryl Cooper  
Jo Ballagh  
Keith Mitcherson  
Kerry Halpenny

### NEW CONSTITUTION

At the Extraordinary General Meeting, held on September 26th, 1984, the remits as listed in the last Pohokura were considered. Many of these were adopted. The remainder were amended on the floor and then adopted.

If any member wants his own copy of the constitution in full, please send 50c (suggest that you include it with your subscription payment) and we'll have it copied for you.

### POSSIBLE SUBSCRIPTION RISE! (AGAIN)

Please read carefully the articles in the November '84 Bulletin, pp 2-6, summarising the discussion paper on employing paid staff. This will be raised at the F.M.C. A.G.M. in May '85, to which we'll be sending two members. The H.T.C. Executive has already given tacit approval and your comments are welcomed. Should there be sufficient dissent, it may be necessary for the club to vote on the matter. Subscription increases of \$2 or \$4.50 are involved, so this is an important matter to be considered.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL

SAFE TRAMPING IN 1985

### 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 two 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

### TRANSPORT CONTRIBUTIONS

These are \$7 per person for local trips, \$5 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. Please pay on the Wednesday night.

### 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 for further information:

JANET BROWN: 51 926                      PETER BERRY: 778 772  
GEOFF ROBINSON: 87 863                      RUSSELL PERRY: 797 158

#### January

20 LOWER TUTAEKURI GORGE: Try the sport of cascading as you shoot between great limestone blocks. Map U 20  
Leader: Peter Berry 778 772 or 435 093

#### February

2-3 COASTAL WALKWAY: Aropoanui to Waikari River.  
Leader: Jim Glass 778 748

9-10 TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK: Contorta - fundraising and funraising removing Pinus Contorta.

17 WAIUAU RIVER - RAFT TRIP: This is intended as a watery day out. There are many scenic parts but lots of excitement for rafters too. Map N 105  
Leader: Peter Berry 778 772 or 435 093

#### March

2-3 HOWLETTS WORKING PARTY: It's always fun to visit this club hut but this time there is a purpose so bring a large capacity pack. Maps N 140, U 22  
Leader: Geoff Robinson 87 863

17 WAIKOAU GORGE (OPOUAHI): A trip recently covered but so impressive it has been requested again. Map N 114  
Leader: Russell Perry 797 158

30-31 OROUA RIVER VIA POHANGINA SADDLE: An area seldom visited but it should prove an interesting back route to Howletts or to Triangle and Iron Gate Huts. Map N140  
Leader: Edward Holmes 700 299                      U 22

- April  
5-8 WHIRINAKI STATE FOREST: David Bellamy's book has made  
Easter this area famous. It is one of the last stands of  
podocarp forest in the North Island. Maps N 95, N 104  
Leader: Janet Brown 51 926
- 14 KIWI SADDLE HUT: Possibly a working bee on our club  
Hut or a different route over to Cameron Hut. Map N123  
Leader: Randall Goldfinch 439 163 U 20
- 27-28 WAIPUNGA STATE FOREST, OTAWHIRI RIVER: A new area for  
most but it is reputed to have some fine kahikateas.  
Leader: Dave Harrington 56 614 Maps N104, 114
- May  
12 TRAINING DAY: KURIPAPANGO: Excellent day last year. A  
good chance to 'brush up' on your bushcraft skills.  
Social evening on Saturday.  
Leader: Lew Harrison 85 701
- 25-26 BALLARDS, VENISON TOPS, MAKINO RIVER: To Ballards via  
the headwaters of the Makino River. Scope here for  
breakaway parties. Maps N113, N123, U 20  
Leader: Andrew Windle 55 966
- June  
1-3 PUREORA STATE FOREST: Come and hear the morning call of  
Queen's the kokakos. Refer Forest & Bird Society magazine Feb.  
Birthday '84 for information. Maps N93, N84, N102  
Leader: Peter Berry 778 772 or 435 093
- 9 MYSTERY PA HUNT - TUTAEKURI-DONALD AREA. There's a pa  
in the Donald Tutae kuri confluence somewhere. Can the  
club find it? Authority Pat Parsons will provide the  
clues for a fine day of anthropological sleuthing.  
Organizer: Russell Perry 797 158
- 22-23 WAIKAMAKA HUT, WATERFALL CREEK: A familiar area to  
many but lots of scope for new routes. Map N140, U22  
Leader: Janet Brown 51 926

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#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

These were due immediately after the A.G.M. and must be paid soon, please.

Family/Married: \$14	Active Junior	} \$6
Active Senior: \$12	Absentee	
	Associate	

#### MEETING DATES

The club meets at St David's Parish Hall, corner of Park Road and Queen St, at 7.30 p.m. on the following Wednesdays.

January	16	April	10
	30		24
February	13	May	8
	27		22
March	13	June	5
	27		19

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