

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

P.O. BOX 447, HASTINGS

"P O H O K U R A"

Bulletin No. 166

August 1987

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<u>Gear Custodian:</u>	Judy McBride	89 756
<u>Editor:</u>	Ross Berry	750 532

PLEASE NOTE:

Heretaunga Tramping Club
Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 18th November 1987

7.30 p.m.

RUAHINES - KELLY KNIGHT HUT

Trip No. 1374

28th - 29th March 1987

It is not often that the tramping club gets round the western side of the Ruahines, and so a large number was anticipated on this trip, but in the end only 5 keen souls left Hastings at 5 a.m. With such a good start we managed to get over the Napier - Taihape Road and were tramping by 8.30 a.m. from the road end at the confluence of the Kawhatau and Pourangaki Rivers. We headed up the latter, and found the first few crossings a bit tricky with the high flow after the recent rains. A steady plod saw us leave the farmland behind and the river banks began to get steeper. We were looking for a track on the true right of the river to lead us up to the sidle track leading toward Kelly Knight Hut. With careful observation we managed to find a bit of a goat track up to it. The trip from here was definitely easier than following the stream all the way up.

Since we arrived at the hut early in the afternoon, a few of us decided to head up to the Pourangaki Peak - approx. 1000 metres up. It was a bit of a grunt and the leader, Janet, gave up the jaunt partway up and wandered back down whilst the others, David and Tony, carried on. They eventually got back about 5.30 p.m.

A peaceful night was had by all and the Sunday dawned fine if a little windy. We headed back over the river to pick up the track up to Wooden Peg. This was generally steep but steady going until we hit the tussock and life got harder. The troops didn't hang around on the tops as it was pretty windy but bombed on down to Purity Hut for lunch. This is a super spot affording good views over the farmland below. The wander out was quick but very steep on the farmland but by far the worst part was the hour's walk along the road back to the cars. We definitely decided a shuttle is preferable, if possible. All in all a super trip well worth the effort of driving around to the other side and recommend we visit the area more often.

Leader: Janet Brown
David Harrington, Tony Hansen, Adrian Brown and Dean Hibbs

LAURENCE HUT AREA
12th April 1987

Trip No 1375a

As usual nobody wanted to go with me in case I got lost, then once a couple decided to come, so did everyone else! They were warned and took no notice, so it served them right.

The going was easy onto Don Juan but further along the ridge where the Te Kowhai track takes off, the contorta took over and, to cut a long grind short, after pushing for hours through contorta jungle, manuka jungle and greasy clay pans we hadn't got very far, so we followed the golden rule and chickened out, dropping into Cable Creek via a really slotty gully and reaching the track just on dark.

The fortitude of our party (some of whom were first-timers) under somewhat arduous conditions was most appreciated. It was good to see they had faith in Clive and me to get them out that day. Silly people!

Leader: Peter Berry.

Sandy Dungan, Jill Preece, Ben Preece, Clive Thurston, Glenda Hooper, Nigel Brown, Zane Cooper, Hamish Tait, Dave Harrington, Gavin MacKay, Jim Glass, Brian Turner and friends, Geoff Robinson, Israel Bentley.

Trip 1375b

Leaving the main party at the Lawrence Hut area, four of us, the keen ones, sidled down to the true right of the semi-flooded Tutaekuri River resulting in us getting soaked through, in the wet bush. About 900 metres down river opposite a big stream we all linked together to cross the river. Tony at the top had trouble with his feet not staying on the bottom but we still managed to get across safely. We splashed our way NE up this side stream with good going until a biggish waterfall appeared forcing us up a rather steep sidle on the true left, through wet bush again. Further upstream it was on hands and knees in the creek bed through tunnels of onga onga and clumps of hookgrass. Our stream soon ran out of water, so after a short scrub-bash we were on the tops at GR: 087988, Map U20 Kaweka. The map shows open tops to the NNW, but it's overgrown. We headed NNW on clay pans at first, finding a rifle near a very freshly cut track. Shortly afterwards we met a hunter with a slasher heading out after finishing his track to a trig point. We thanked him for cutting the track for us and were soon dining under a pinus contorta tree at the trig point.

After lunch we scrubbashed SW along a rather overgrown ridge track to GR: 081993 where we bombed off down, heading north, into a stream. Following this stream down was good except for 200m of cascades and waterfalls which was easily sidled on the true right. Arriving at Cable Creek we wandered down it to the track which we followed back to Lawrence Road, joining up with Geoff and Jim on the way.

Two hours later at 5.15pm three of us ran back along Lotkow track in search for the main party, finding them near Cable Creek. The last twenty minutes back to the truck was by torch light with everyone seeming happy to arrive safely.

Leader: Dave Harrington.
Tony Hansen, Gavin Mackay, Alan Mouat.

WAIKAREMOANA
Easter 1987

Trip No 1376

We met Malcolm Smith, a Ranger at the Urewera National Park Headquarters on the way through, then went to the Hoporuahine campsite where we based the truck. Glenda and I walked through to Whanganui with Heather, Selwyn and Co and the two of us were picked up by Malcolm in the jet boat and taken around to Waiopaoa Hut so we could kill wasp nests around the track.

Unfortunately the weather was against us, so we only killed nine nests. The wasps weren't flying in the damp, overcast conditions that prevailed all weekend. Still better luck next time. One particularly aggressive nest was right on the track and I got stung putting in the piece of Shell Pest Strip - dropped the pest strip and cutters and had to crawl back at ground level to have another go (to the great amusement of a group of passersby).

Met up with the others at Te Puna after having to straddle the bridge at Marauiti Hut as the lake was exceptionally high. We then pressed on to Hoporuahine and got Allan to paddle us across to the truck. Killed half a dozen wasp nest around the campsite, then off home the next day, picking up the lads and Jim (a Canadian) at the Park Headquarters.

Thanks to Selwyn for driving and to Malcolm for his assistance.

Leader: Peter Berry
Glenda Hooper, Joy Stratford, Heather Hill, Allan Mouat, Carl Barrett, Tony Hansen, Hamish Tait, John Berry, Heather and Selwyn Hawthorne, Simon and Ben Preece, Brian Watt, Joyce Marsden and Israel Bentley.

TRIPLEX-SUNRISE-WAIPAWA FORKS
26th April 1987

Trip No 1377

E.T.D. 7.15 am. Twenty enthusiastic H.T.C. members took off for the Ruahine Ranges. Peter, Allan and Sandie took off via the Waipawa River for Waikamaka to patch up a large hole that some bored tramper had kicked in a wall. The rest of us walked through the swamp and up the zig-zag track to the top. The wind howled and roared all the way, skidding clouds rushed madly over the tops but fortunately, no rain. Lunched at Sunrise and quite a challenge was presented when going to the loo. At least the blowflies were absent.

Down to the lower saddle- some went back via Triplex and the rest of us walked to the Waipawa Chalet and down the river

to the truck. We waited and waited for the Waikamaka venturers who arrived back just on dusk, having completed a good job.

Leader: Shirley Hunt

Peter Berry - driver, Sue Lopdell, Glenda Hooper, Racheal Hamilton, Sharon Mouat, Michael Mouat, Joyce Marsden, George Prebble, Lew Harrison, Alan Mouat, Adrian Brown, Sandie Dungan, Jill Preece, Brian Culpan, Elizabeth Pindar, Lyn Gentry, Robin Strachan, Darrin Griffin, Joy Stratford.

TE PUIA LODGE - MANGATAINOKA HOT SPRINGS

9-10th May 1987

Trip No 1378

A total of ten keen trampers met at Alva's place at 7am on Saturday, ready for a good weekends tramping. We all bundled into three cars and then set off for the second ford past Pink's Hut.

From there, we all set off along the four wheel drive track to the blue gums before following the walking track along the Mokaka River. The weather was fine, a frost first thing but it was soon hot and really enjoyable. We stopped on the flats by the river for smoko, before going on to the Lodge. The three lads, Alan, Gavin and Hamish arrived at the Lodge about 12 noon, with the rest arriving about 12.45. The sun appeared at midday and was gone by 1.30pm - it wasn't out long enough to melt the frost in front of the Lodge. After lunch it was everyone to do their own thing (fishing, hunting, swimming etc).

The Mangatainoka Hot Springs were a welcome sight after a days walking. A hot swim soaked away the last of ones energy making one feel really tired.

Peter, Glenda and Alva spent the night in tents down by the hot springs, while the rest of the party spent the night in the lodge. After tea the three lads decided to go back to the springs for another swim. (That's their story).

Janet Brown had arrived at the springs with a group of girls for a three day expedition.

The older members of our group had to suffer the pain and agony of having to sleep on two mattresses each, (and who were all in bed by 7.45pm). The boys arrived back about 9.15pm moaning about the lack of mattresses (they wanted two as well).

Sunday was another cold morning with nearly everyone up and deciding to go for another swim. This day was a lazy one with a slow amble back out in the afternoon. Thanks to Gerald, Peter and Alva for taking their cars, as the road wasn't that great for private cars. The truck would have been much better, so come on all you other trampers, lets make each trip a truck load.

Leader: Gerald Blackburn

Lynette Blackburn, Peter Berry, Glenda Hooper, Alva McAdam, Alan Mouat, Gavin MacKay, Hamish Tait, Sandie Dungan, Mitch Barrett.

NORTH RUAHINE - GOLDEN CROWN
24th May 1987

Trip No 1379

The proposed trip for this fine Sunday was to walk up Golden Crown and down Three Fingers and back to the truck across farm land. Alas, it didn't quite work out that way. Dave Harrington, Ted Sapsford and Tony Hansen shot ahead of the rest of us to cover a bit more ground.

The main party climbed up Golden Crown without any hassles, then along the tops and had lunch in a nice sunny spot, where it was decided we had overshot the turnoff by about 500m. Back-tracking, we found the marked spot that we were informed we had to take, but found it to be quite dense bush. So after a bit of bush bashing we ploughed through it to a clearing, then back into the scrub again for an adventurous afternoon of climbing down into a creek, following it downstream until a large waterfall blocked our way. We then climbed up to the top of the ridge sidling around as we went. Then a decision to go back down again, as the top didn't look too promising, but after getting down to the stream again, we found another large waterfall, which was totally impassible. So it was back up again. This time bush bashing was the only means of getting through. After fighting through bush lawyer, onga onga and various other wild plants, we came across the track we had walked up in the morning. So it was down the way we had come up. While waiting for the other three to turn up, we checked the map to see where we had been. It turned out we had come down the Masters Stream.

Leader: Mitch Barrett.

Racheal Hamilton, Sharon Charteris, Dave Charteris, Lew Harrison, Brian Culpan, Lyn Gentry, Susan Lopdell, Joy Stratford, Heather Hill, Dave Harrington, Ted Sapsford, Tony Hansen.

QUEENS BIRTHDAY - RUAPEHU

Trip No 1380

Our trip began by my flatmates waking me at 3am when they came in from "night clubbing". As they went to bed, I prepared for three days of snow. The weather was good and the three of us made good time to the mountain in Tony Seniors Subaru. When we arrived we packed the last of our gear, a good omen at the beginning of a trip. The weather at Whakapapa was dubious but keen as we were, we strode up the mountain, stopping to look at the amazing new quad chairlift. We needed to put crampons on at the Knoll Ridge Shelter for the glacier was extremely icy. After a short time we stood at the top of the glacier, ready to say farewell to the fine weather for the rest of the trip. From there it was up to Dome Shelter for lunch and a two day sentence in our sleeping bags, due to the weather changing to whiteout conditions with gale-force winds. With the exception of a dash over to the Cathedral Rocks at about 3.30pm on Sunday, we just sat in the Dome Shelter till about 10.00am on the Monday. The only thing we had to look forward to, was the next very refreshing toilet dash, out into the whiteout and vicious snow blowing gale.

The trip down was uneventful, as you can imagine, when all you can see is your feet. It stopped snowing at the Knoll Ridge, when it started to rain. "Great sun" and "let's do this again" were phrases not heard when we talked about the trip on the way down. We got to the car for lunch and had a beer to celebrate my 20th birthday. We then drove back to Hastings. The trip wasn't the greatest but the company made up for it. Thanks to Tony for driving - it's very much appreciated.

Leader: Micheal Hawthorne
Tony Senior, Tony Hansen

KAWEKA FLATS - IRON WHARE
7th June 1987

Trip No 1381

The truck arrived early at Odilins, Napier, only to find three, not four people waiting. Where was the trip leader? Only a few minutes late due to her alarm not going off, but that didn't stop all the rude comments which greeted her as she threw her gear in the back of the truck.

We left Napier about 6.40am, travelling up the Puketitiri Road to the Kaweka State Forest and Makahu carpark, which was surprisingly empty of hunter's vehicles. We organised ourselves into two groups, with Dave Harrington taking a party of five on a slightly longer excursion.

My group set off at a leisurely pace heading north towards Kaweka Bivvy. The track passes through a beech forest with a lot of young totaras and rimu to be seen. We spent about an hour at Kaweka Bivvy, sitting around having something to eat, while Randall and Peter gave some of the younger members instruction in the use of the compass.

Leaving Geoff, who was to bring the truck around to our collection point, we set off along the track toward Middle Hill, in search of Iron Whare. We crossed a couple of small streams and on entering another stand of beech turned off to the right, eventually turning up at the Whare about 11.30am, in time for an early lunch. The Iron Whare was built about 1860 and for many years was derelict till Wayne Mouat (Alan's father) did some renovations. It is a slab hut lined with tin, quite suitable for sheltering in if the need arose. We had a quick lunch as it was rather cool in the bush and Randall's primus was much appreciated.

Our route out was through bush sidling along a stream till we reached the Makahu River, where at some stage everyone got their feet wet. I regretted my rash promise at the Wednesday night meeting about 'guaranteeing dry feet'. The river level was fairly low, making progress downstream easy. We met Dave's party just as we were about to bush bash our way up a spur, following deer tracks through the kanuka, to the tops. It was an easy 20 minute walk along the tops to the quarry where Geoff was waiting with the truck. We arrived back in Napier at 6.15pm after a most enjoyable trip. Thanks to Geoff for driving..

Leader: Susan Lopdell
Geoff Robinson, Sandie Dungan, Randall Goldfinch, Lyn Gentry, Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, Alan Mouat, Heather Hill Joy Stratford, Jenny Lean and Darryn Griffin

KAWEKA PARK Party B
7th June 1987

Trip 1381b

Arrived at Makahu Saddle in club truck.
 Weather had overcast skies with cool breeze in open areas.
 Five of us followed benched track to Kaweka Flats Bivvy.
 Continued on track crossing main stream to next ridge.
 Left track and continued east along ridge top.
 Good travel through beech and scrub most of the time.
 Lunched on clay pan halfway along in sunshine.
 Half an hour later we continued on.
 Open ground most of the way.
 Thick scrub at end of ridge for a while.
 Travelled south past spot height 929 then down spur.
 Descended on scee slopes on top half of spur
 Open scrub and beech travel at lower half.
 Adrian demonstrated his talent of somersaulting
 the steepest section!
 Followed Makahu River up 100m to side stream
 Past Susan's party which looked a bit lost.
 Started heading SSE up small side stream.
 Found three biggish waterfalls.
 Climbed first one, used rope on second, sidled the third.
 Six little waterfalls after that, all being easy.
 Very good travel between waterfalls.
 Crawled 10m underground through stream tunnel.
 Climbed out onto open ridge top meeting Susan's party
 again.
 What a coincidence happening twice.
 Followed short track through thick scrub to truck in
 quarry.
 Home bound after an excellent trip

Leader: Dave Harrington
 Tony Hansen, Adrian Brown, Bevis Stevens, Brian Culpan

AHIMANAWA RANGE
21st June 1987

Trip No 1382

Stoney Creek off The Taupo Road.

On a very frosty morning, eleven bods left Holts at 6am heading for Napier to pick up a further seven. Then on to Westshore and the Esk Valley for another two, making a total of 20. Coming over the top of Titikura and looking down into the Mohaka Valley, we realised that it was certainly a frost, as the whole valley was white. Around 8.30am we arrived at the parking area. Now was the time that the leader should assert his responsibility and lead from the front. But this was not to be. Right from the first step, which was incidentally in the wrong direction, this leader led the remainder of the trip from way back.

From the carpark we dropped down to the river where Dave took a party up the left branch, with the intention of getting to the tops and in a round about way join up with the rest later in the day. The main party continued up the stream with the intention of a nice slow steady pace. They had the odd stop for a rest but as soon as the leader who was away back caught up, they would take off again!

Around eleven we found a sunny slope and the smoko turned into lunch. With Sue once again in the lead, up a side creek through as much onga onga as she could find and up the steepest hill in the range and through the thickest bush that could be found this lady finally gave up the lead! Well, we finally climbed out about halfway up and had a rest. The chap from way back said "If we are only halfway up, then he was going back down the river". Barbara and Jim said they couldn't let the old geezer go on his own so they went with him. After bashing our way down the spur, we reached the river. Setting an easy pace we travelled downstream until Jim discovered he had lost his watch. Luckily after going back about 50 yards, he discovered it lying on the track. The river bed was still frozen solid, and the river still cold, but we happily wandered downstream and finally reached the truck. One fella had forty winks and the other two walked on up the road. While up in the bush our friends were lost. Yes, the dental nurse and Madame Secretary had taken the lead and got them all bushed. BUT don't worry. Pete, like a homing pigeon, using all his experience saved the day, and brought them back to the truck around 3pm, where hot drinks were served all round. Most of the party except one started to get settled down for a long wait for Dave's mob. But a few minutes after 4.30 as previously arranged they arrived to more hot drinks.

We took off for home at 5pm dropping bods off every now and then, arriving at Holt's at 7.15pm. Looking back, a cold but a very good trip, new country to many of us. Many thanks to Dave for leading the fast party and to Peter for driving us there and back and for his "great leadership" up in the bush.

Leader: Stan Woon

Dave Harrington, Susan Lopdell, Jim Glass, Peter Berry, Glenda Hooper, Nigel Brown, Adrian Brown, Tony Hansen, Sharon Charteris, Judy Moss, Bev Pawlat, David Charteris, Sandie Dungan, Barbara Mitchell, Judy McBride, Bevis Stevens, Jill Preece, Brian Culpan, Bryan Watt.

Ed note: I have it on very good majority . . . (female) that Pete got the party lost, and the two ladies did the rescue. Shame on you, Peter Berry, telling tales like that.

Fast Party

Trip NO 1382B

With the weather cloudy and the frost all over the place, the five of us divided from the main party to follow the shady, ice covered Momonanui Stream. From the start we had no choice other than to wade right into the freezing water.

We bumped into a log jam within five minutes, and in picking a route past it we were careful to avoid healthy looking onga onga plants. We came across a track which led to a nicely situated campsite underneath the beech trees.

On more than one log-jam (some were over 15 ft high) crampons would have been useful due to the ice! A small but difficult waterfall was circumnavigated by means of a rough track and an unreliable looking piece of rope which was more of a nuisance than help because it ran above the "track" at pack entanglement height.

After the bigger log-jams there was always a nice open length of stream to follow for a while. Just as sheep jump into the air after passing through a gate, so Tony whooped every time we negotiated a difficult spot. It was catching!

At the end of three hours walking a stop was made for lunch. We then followed a ridge leading to a spot height (3240ft). The ridge though easy and open to start off with but soon became covered in fern. We startled a couple of deer and watched as they ran away. It was on this ridge that we stood in the sun for the first time. On top another stop was made. We left before we fell asleep, to head down the ridge to the Ohane/Stoney Creek Stream. On reaching the stream we stopped once more before following it back to the truck. In comparison to the Momonanui it was easy going, with no waterfalls and no big log-jams. About an hour before reaching the truck we saw the first signs of the large party.

A stop was made at the hot spring. Here Nigel scrapped out a pool in which he warmed up his numb feet. We discovered two other hot springs nearby. The water was only lukewarm and though too cold for winter conditions would make a nice shower in the summer.

The truck was reached at 4.30 where hot drinks were heartily welcomed. Thanks Dave for an excellent tramp.
B.S.

Leader: Dave Harrington
Bevis Stevens, Adrian Brown, Nigel Brown, Tony Hansen

TUI

Prothemadera novaeseelandiae

The tui, a clever mimic and melodious songster with an impressive repertoire of musical notes intermingles with a variety of other sounds, is found in forests and patches of bush in and around towns throughout the country. It is more often seen during the breeding season which is between September and January,

The female tui incubates two to four eggs for two weeks, during which time the male sings from a nearby tree. The female may sing while sitting on the nest. Both parents appear to feed the young, which are fully fledged at about 21 days.

The tui is a honey eater; its downcurved beak and brush-tipped tongue enabling it to extract nectar from a variety of flowers in spring and summer. It also eats fruit and insects.

Its role in the forest is an important one, carrying pollen from plant to plant, it helps in regeneration.

WAIKAMAKA

4th - 5th July 1987

Trip No 1383

Quarter to eight is a much more civilised hour to start than six, and it saw thirteen of us heading off in substandard weather for the Waipawa River. The river was low and very cold. We wandered up to the chalet in rather cold drizzly conditions. The sun shone for a while during lunch, but as we got back into the river the cold hit us like an Antarctic blast. So on with all our wet weather gear and then we sweated our way up through the beech trees. It had got warmer almost as soon as we toggled up!

About a foot of soft snow with more falling in flurries (some horizontally) slowed progress to the saddle, where we were met with a moderate wind. We cut south instead of following the poled route and came down next to the waterfall, which was mostly frozen with massive icicles.

We reached the hut about three thirty, chased out the RATs Maximus, blocked it's entrance with a lump of wood, cooked tea, played cards and went to bed.

Midnight! All is quiet... Scrunch, gnaw, nibble, pause, scrunch, gnaw, nibble, ad nauseum...you lay awake listening to the RAT trying to get in, and trying to sleep. Once somebody admits being awake, so does everybody. As leader it seemed my noble duty to get up and do something, so I took out the stick, slashed open a tube of contact adhesive and pushed the open tube into the hole!

Ten minutes later! Scrunch, gnaw, nibble, squeak, rustle, then squeak again as John tries to stab it with a fork through a gap. Then scrunch, suck, slobber, squeak and we heard no more for the night. In the morning I pulled out the tube and the rat's two front teeth were stuck in it. So we decided to call the rat Stanley, cause he too, lost his teeth on a club trip!

Sunday was a beautiful day with fantastic views and we met a party of nine from King's College who were going in for four days, as we came out.

Leader: Peter Berry

Susan Lopdell, Brian Culpan, Frank Hooper, Joy Stratford, Heather Hill, Ashley Hill, Wayne Turner, Darrin Griffin, Adrian Brown, Nigel Brown, John Berry, Glenda Hooper

SENTRY BOX, PARK'S PEAK, KAUMATUA

19 th July 1987

Trip No 1384a

Something kept telling me that I shouldn't be going tramping the next day. After a week of bad weather Saturday was as bad as ever with heavy rain all day and all night. Still when you're leader you have got to go and the weather can only get better. When we climbed out of the truck at the foot of Sentry Box Spur, the rain was down to a drizzle.

We needed chains to get a grip on the muddy steep track above Sentry Box Hut. We yodelled to Dave and his party, catching sight of them on the skyline as they made their way up the Pohatuhaha Spur to the north of us. Before reaching the top the weather clagged in with fine cold rain.

Upon reaching the top we turned south along the ridge and travelled on the very wet snowy track which in a short time took us to the shelter of Park's Peak Hut. We found the door had been left open and an opossum had been in and had a feed of pepper and honey. After lunch we were glad to get moving again, to get warm. Back tracking for fifteen minutes took us to the junction with the Kaumatua Track. Although this track was marked with yellow metal strips it was still hard to follow in parts due to the windfalls, the regeneration of the bush with many young totaras and rimu. One species that seemed to be growing in their hundreds was the native cedar.

Across the stream at the bottom and along an overgrown four wheel drive track, took us back out onto farm land and along the road to the truck after a most enjoyable trip made better by the good company. Picked up Dave's party just as they reached the road after coming down Golden Crown.

Leader: Jim Glass

Susan Lopdell, Dave Harrington, Glenda Hooper, Adrian and Nigel Brown, Peter Berry, Ross Berry, Ted Sapsford, Tony Hansen, Bevis Stevens

The Sentry Box.

You who come to the Sentry Box,
Sneak up around the limestone tracks;
Before the dawn be on your way,
Snooze off awhile in the heat of day,
And when the sun is getting low
Go back and have another go;
Keep down below the ridge line,
And hark for sound, and watch for sign;
Then if you don't land pigs or deer -
Just blame it on the atmosphere.

Lester Masters.

ARANGA HUT

Trip No 1384b

We all headed off at 8.30 am from Sentry Box Hut in three different parties, one party led by Dave Harrington roared off up Pohatuhaha Ridge, while the rest of us went up behind Sentry Box Hut in two groups. It was good until about halfway up the spur when it started to rain lightly and it carried on like that until lunch time. Ted, Ross and I arrived at the top of the ridge to find some fresh snow had fallen during the night. A little way along the ridge top we noticed this small trig and decided to drop our packs and go and have a look around. The trig is called Pohatuhaha. We gave out a few shouts to see if Dave could hear us since this was the spur he would have come up, and a minute later they arrived out of the mist and so we were off again.

We stopped and had lunch at Aranga Hut and boiled up some soup with four different soup sachets. Soon we were packing up and away. We reached the track junction to the Golden Crown in 48 minutes. We had a good walk down and rescued a lamb and assisted a sheep. We had just reached the road when we heard the truck rumbling along the road. A well enjoyed day with good company, thanks a lot Guys. Adrian Brown

Leader: Ross Berry
Adrian Brown, Bevis Stevens, Tony Hansen, Ted Sapsford, Dave Harrington.

TE IRINGA - SOUTH KAWKA

2nd August 1987

Trip No 1385

Twelve of us left Hastings at 6.30 am with a promise of a good day. We stopped to pick up Bevis at the Matapiro-Taihapa Road junction and continued on to the starting point at the top of The Gentle Annie.

From approximately 700 metres we climbed to Te Iringa and Mt Cameron at 1326 metres, affording great views of snow covered Kaweka J and away to Mt Ruapehu.

We had passed through patches of snow on the way up, enough for the odd snow fight, which made us envious of those who were heading away to Ruapehu for the week.

A breakaway group consisting of Peter, Brian, Lyn and Bevis headed back via Te Manihi and down to the Ngaruroro River. The main group followed on up Te Manihi and part way down the ridge where we lay back, resting in the sunshine admiring the views. We retreated back to the main ridge where Shirley and Joy had been resting and all continued back down the track we had climbed earlier.

We drove down to the water gauge where we met up with the other party who were rather wet, having to cross the cold Ngaruroro River.

A good trip in great weather and with pleasant company.

Leader: Geoff Robinson
Susan Lopdell, Jenny Lean, Brian Culpan, Karen Berry, Judy McBride, Bevis Stevens, Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, Lyn Gentry, Shirley Hunt, Chris King, Joy Stratford

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB

"A.G.M."

New St. Davids Church Hall, Queen Street East, Hastings

Wednesday, 18th November, 1987 at 7.30 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE NEW MEETING LOCATION

PRIVATE TRIPSQUEEN'S BIRTHDAY 1987

30/5/87 to 1/6/87

As the planned Ruapehu/Kaimanawa Club Trip was abandoned due to lack of numbers interested, six of us decided on a gentle weekend trip to Parks Peak. We departed in fine but cold weather taking care to watch for the weather station on the Mangleton Road which signals the start of the Kaumatua Track.

Beware! The first part of the track is a bulldozed access to a small scout hut - its covered in toi toi and wet toi toi plays like scaples on bare legs! The track, after the clearing, by this hut is very overgrown - you need to look for a 'deer' type opening in thick regrowth. After the Kaumatua Stream it was reasonably easy to follow the combination of the old red venetian slats and the bright new yellow ones. Easy that is where the trees were still standing. It's disappointing to see tins for cyanide beside the markers further up.

After a slowish trip with heavy packs, clean, cosy Parks Peak Hut welcomed us just a "Huey" sent us a friendly down-pour, as a warning of altitude.

Tried to play "five hundred" with Jenny and Karen by candlelight - the suit of "clover" seemed to be dominant.

Sunday dawned fine and cold. After a heart rendering version of the usual songs to celebrate Craigs 18th birthday (the poor soul had carried his own presents up: namely one new pair of boots and a sleeping bag) Craig was left with Heather with instructions to top up the empty firewood store (and a grand job they did too), while the fit adults decided at mid morning, a trip down to the Upper Makaroro would be a nice easy short day trip. Oh, what a mistake. Jenny reckoned it was just like the drag to Howletts. It's the only trip I've ever done where downhill is slower than uphill. A tremendous lot of beech wind throw-over there - to scratch the areas that eluded the toi toi!

Lots of deer sign and two well worked kiwi areas.

The hut itself is a "Club Med" for *rattus vulgaris*! Hunters who had spent the previous night after having collected two deer, entered the log book with "one was big enough for a good stew for four". (referred to the rats). They'd cleaned the hut out but in six hours the rats had already built another nest in the mattresses. And the smell! Needless to say lunch was picnic style beside the river.

Back at Parks Peak Sunday night. Jenny found out that boil-in-bag chicken is better eaten on the first day out

Huey played monster tricks on the poor little hut all night - how it strained, creaked and groaned. Monday, of course, was very cold, wet, and windy. With breakfast over the hut cleaned, on went all storm gear and home we headed. We stopped for Heather to have a session of giggling at the absurd noises the roots of beech trees made as the wind rocked them backwards and forwards in their own private mud pools. The weather improved after half of the descent and the rest of the trip was over in time for three keen rugby followers to see the world cup game. A lovely weekend.

J.S.

Karen Berry, Heather Hill, Jenny Lean, Craig Hill, Frank Hooper and Joy: Stratford.

SOCIAL NEWS

BIRTHS

Graham and Tracey Bailey a daughter
Russell and Joanne Perry a son - Samuel

NEW MEMBERS

Bevis Stevens	Brian Culpan
Judy Moss	Lyn Gentry
Jill Preece	Darin Griffin
Simon Preece	Craig Hill
Ben Preece	Carl Barrett
Sandie Dungan	

Michael Henley - ex Canterbury University, graduated with a "B.Sc. with Honours" (Maths and Physics)

Craig Ball is now married and living at Burnham. He recently returned to N.Z. after serving with the Army in Singapore.

MEETING DATES

September 9th
September 23rd
October 7th
October 21st
November 4th
November 18th
December 2nd
December 16th

RUAHINE MOUNTAIN MARATHON

During the weekend 20-21st February, 1988, the Hawke's Bay Orienteering Club and the Heretaunga Tramping Club will be combining to hold this event.

Since 1983 there have been 5 major orienteering mountain marathons held in different parts of New Zealand.

1983	Tongariro National Park
1984	Ida Range - Central Otago
1985	Tongariro National Park
1986	Mount Holdsworth - Tararua Range
1986	Waiouru - West Kaimanawa

In this type of event, competitors in pairs, make their way round a course in mountainous terrain, visiting a specific number of control sites on route. The two longest courses will require competitors to carry full gear, including tent/fly and food. They have to reach a set campsite to stay overnight. On the two shorter courses competitors will return to the starting point both days. These people still have to carry basic survival gear and protective clothing to allow for the worst climatic conditions.

Most cross country type orienteering events including the previous mountain marathons have one thing in common. The course route is normally roughly circular and the finish is reasonably close to the previous days start.

The Ruahine event will break the traditional approach for the two top courses. It is planned that they will cross the Ruahine Range from west to east over the two day period.

We have been promised sponsorship by MACPAC who seem quite keen on the project. They have promised to provide prizes and assist in other areas as well. Our aim is to attract competitors from differing mountain usage backgrounds trampers, hunters as well as mountain orienteers. It is this multi sport approach which has attracted Macpac, and I hope that people who take part in the event and participate in the contributing sports will in turn support Macpac.

The only advance information obtained by the competitors, will be the start location for the first day. They will be given a map with their course marked on it, for the first day, about 3 minutes before they start. This procedure will be repeated the second day. Those taking part in course 1 and 2 will start from the overnight camp. Approximate details of the various courses are:

Course 1 This will be approximately 25 km in length each day with between 1200 and 1900 metres climb per day. Competitors in this course will have to be extremely good navigators and be supremely fit.

Course 2 Shorter courses, about 20 km each day. The navigation will not be as exacting but it is not for amateurs. This course is designed for the fit and fast.

Course 3 Day one, this will be held on the Western Ruahine side, day two on the Eastern side. These courses will be 15-20 km in length and will be technically difficult as far as navigation is concerned.

Course 4 Fairly simple courses no longer than 15 km in length.

Several control sites on the route through the main ranges will be manned by teams from the Heretaunga Tramping Club who will be serving a dual purpose.

1. At these controls a radio will be stationed to enable the progress of all competitors to be monitored and relayed through to the finish.

2. In case of emergency the H.T.C. teams at these controls will mobilise as Search and Rescue groups. I would rather not see this function utilised!

However, due to the type and route of courses 1 and 2, it is considered that maximum precautions should be taken. The success or failure of this event could well depend on the swift action of the H.T.C. contribution. They will provide a positive function which will definitely streamline communication and assist competitors. The tramping clubs role will not be an obvious one to spectators or most competitors, but without it the event could not be held.

Ted Sapsford.

BOOK REVIEW

THE FOREST AND BIRD BOOK OF NATURE WALKS

Many people holidaying around New Zealand enjoy cross-country hikes or leisurely country walks, sometimes by the sea or perhaps through forest or alpine areas.

Previously there has been no handbook offering details of a wide variety of routes for such day excursions, covering the entire country in its scope.

Over the years members of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society have compiled records of numerous botanically and scenically interesting walking routes. This wealth of knowledge has now been tapped to produce a country-walks book containing a mass of local detail, photographs and maps, of routes through areas from Cape Reinga to Stewart Island.

All essential information needed to enjoy and appreciate the listed walkways is included, such as time taken to cover

each route, details of road access, degree of fitness necessary for grade of track and, of course, a multitude of exclusive and fascinating features to be discovered.

Being of size suitable for inclusion in a large pocket or small backpack, this is a guide-book that will be greatly valued by the keen walker on holiday, wherever he or she might choose to wander.

With soft cover and compact lay-out, The Forest and Bird Book of Nature Walks, by David Collingwood and E V Sale, is excellent value.

Review by David Appleton

The Legend of the Club's Emblem

The Lizard which appears on the Club's badge is of course, Pohokura, the pet lizard of none other than the great Tamatea. The story of Tamatea and the lizard was recounted by the late Norman Elder in his 21st Annual Report in 1956:

"On the arrival of the Takitimu canoe, the newcomers finding the land already inhabited, proceeded down the East Coast to pick a suitable site for settlement. Their venturesome leader was Tamatea, known as Pokai Whenua (literally, rolling the country into a bundle) from the extent of his explorations.

On reaching Heretaunga, he set off up country with his son (Kahungunu) to examine the lie of the land. He eventually came to a pa called Otupae, on the snowy shoulder of the Ruahines that we see through the Tararua Gap. Here, while he sat and rested, he put down the calabash containing his two pets, Pohokura, a lizard, and Kahu o te Rangi, a crayfish, and when he came to pick it up his pets had escaped.

Pohokura's outlines are visible today in the ridges of the Ruahine Range and the moaning Kahu o te Rangi who lurks in the valleys of the Kaimanawa can be heard when bad weather is approaching."

A.V.B.

POHOKURA 50 YEARS AGO

Bulletin No. 7

1st May 1937

EASTER TRIP - TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK

The main party of 23 left Hastings by N.Z. Railways bus on Thursday night, and two members travelled by private car. After a fairly slow trip due to foggy conditions the party

reached the Chateau Tongariro tired but happy, and was there joined by four other members - two from Wanganui - one from Auckland - and one from Martinborough. Camp was immediately pitched in the camping ground, and after a hearty if belated breakfast everyone felt much better. In the afternoon the party went to Taranaki Falls - a pleasant trip along a well defined track - looking back some glorious views of snow capped Mt. Egmont silhouetted against the blue tinged back ground were obtained. The more energetic members of the party went on to Tama Lakes.

The next morning an early start was made, the main party being on the road for Mt. Ruapehu by 6.16 am. Conditions were not too promising and when the Ski Club Hut was reached, it was doubtful whether it was worth proceeding. However, our leader for the day (J.E. Tattersall) decided to go on, and we were rewarded as the sun broke through as we toiled up the Whakapapa Glacier. After spending some time at the Crater Lake, the party descended, the weather breaking on the way. This rain continued during the rest of our stay.

This evening, and the next, we were entertained by the members of kindred clubs in the Park - the Eltham Alpine Club, Paua Tramping Club, and several members of the T.T.C.

On the Sunday all ideas of climbing Tongariro and Ngauruhoe were abandoned on account of the weather and a trip was made to Ketetahi Hot Springs where everyone was thrilled by the geysers, blowholes, fumeroles and other thermal phenomena.

On the Monday, the main party left the Chateau early and after some delays on the road, including a stop at Taupo for a hot bath, eventually reached Hastings after a really memorable holiday.

The trip was organised by F.J. Green and L. Holt was the leader.

-:-

RUAHINE TRAMPING CLUB

At a meeting a couple of months ago, we had the pleasure of the Dannevirke based Ruahine Tramping Club's company.

The night was enjoyed by all, with a few slides being shown by members of both clubs.

The hearty supper that followed capped off a great night.

As a result of this visit, one of R.T.C.'s members, Dave Mullinder, joined us on our recent wander into Ballards (trip report next magazine). Maybe the H.T.C. could return the visit sometime. All we need is an invitation.

CHAMPION OF THEM ALL

Oh! Woon. Oh! graceful Stanley Woon,
 Stumbling and tripping along the track,
 With his mighty 5 pound pack.
 But lo ! it was too much for Stan,
 That mighty 5 pound pack.

Running thro' the bush and fern,
 Getting weaker at every turn,
 'Till he felt like going astern
 With that mighty 5 pound pack.

Now down on hands and knees
 With the girls ahead going like the breeze,
 Winding in and out of the trees.

With his rifle slung round his knees
 And his pack held up mainly by the breeze -
 A stag walked out from among the trees.

Up got our Stan and with careful aim,
 At point blank range, it was a shame,
 He pressed the trigger and the gun went clack
 For the bullets they were in
 That mighty 5 pound pack!

Back down the track came the two girls
 A pitiful figure they did see
 Was Stan on the track
 Flat on his back
 With his mighty 5 pound pack.

The girls saw the stag and took aim like a flash,
 Down came the stag with a thundering crash.
 A 22 pointer it turned out to be
 Much to the amazement of our "Stan-a-lee"
 Homewood bound along the track,
 The girls with their stag well up the track
 And Stan well back upon the track
 With his mighty 5 pound pack!

Written in the 1950's by two ex friends of Stan!

-:-

The Editor thanks Joy and Robyn for the typing and
 printing assistance.

Thanks also to Kath and Alan Berry for providing the
 duplicator, paper and stencils with a home.

OVERDUE TRAMPERS

Although returning parties usually plan to be out of the bush well before dark, safety considerations must always come first. Even after arriving back at the transport, it may take two or more hour to return, plus any unexpected delays. Beginners should always make sure that any who may worry about them know this. Although usually earlier than 10.00 pm, until then there would be no cause for worry. In case of concern, all new-comers should ensure that their contact phone number is included in the list the leader leaves in town. For all enquiries about overdue parties please contact one of the following:-

Alan Berry 777-223 Trevor Plowman 54-303 or
Graham Thorp 434-238

FARE: CONFIRMATION AND CANCELLATION

Fare: Local: \$10.00 senior; \$5.00 junior; \$8.00 school student

Other: Fare set by the trip leader to cover costs

You must confirm your intention to take part in the trip by paying the fare NOT LATER THAN THE THURSDAY PRIOR TO THE TRIP. (Meeting night is preferred).

CANCELLATION:

If unable to make the trip, notify the leader beforehand and your fee will be refunded. On long trips a portion may be retained if costs have already been incurred. Rarely does the Club cancel the trip. If in doubt, contact the leader or check at the embarkation point.

FIXTURE LIST:

The trips listed below are designed to cater for people of average fitness. Those wishing to cover more ground should get together on the Wednesday night before the trip and work out a plan.

SEPT. 13 - WAKARARA RANGE

An area seldom visited by the club. Entry will probably be from Duff Road, heading up Poutaki Stream and up to Breakheart Peak.

Map - U21

Leader - Glenda Hooper 774-183

SEPT 26-27 - WHIRINAKI F.P.

A very beautiful podocarp forest with very good tracks and huts throughout the park. This trip is a must.

Map - N104 (NZMS 1)

Leader - Selwyn Hawthorne 750-544

OCT. 43 - 4 - S.A.R.E.X.

Basic training for newcomers at the Wakarara School Camp.

Map - U22

OCT. 11 - EASTERN RUAHINES

A trip into Middle Stream with interesting and good travelling. A hut lies upstream, a small gorge lies downstream.
Map U22 Leader - Clive Thurston 89-900

LABOUR WEEKEND - PUREORA F.P.

Maybe a three day trip into this Podocarp Forest with many species of birds to be seen including kokako and kaka.
Map - T17 and T18 Leader - John Berry 776-205

NOV. 8 - CAIRN TRIP

Up to Kaweka J, to our memorial cairn for those club members who died in the 2nd World War, to hold a memorial service for them.

Map - U20 Leader - Stan Woon 84-680

NOV. 21 - 22 - KIWI SADDLE HUT

Come and join the fun of building a new Kiwi Saddle Hut to replace our old club hut - many hands make light work.

Map - U20 Leader -(Boss) Edward Holmes 446-032

DEC. 6 - TRAINING DAY

A day to learn or refresh your skills on river crossing, abseiling, orienteering and any other subject you want. Let your Club Captain know as soon as possible. Base at Kuripapango.

Map - U20 Organised by Training Committee

DEC. 20 - WAIKOAU GORGE

A social end of year trip into a limestone gorge with huge boulders, tall cliff but easy to explore. A picnic will follow at Lake Opouahi, Bring the family.

Map - N114 (NZMS 1) Leader - Susan Lopdell 448-763

CHRISTMAS TRIP - SOUTH ISLAND

See Peter Berry 774-183 to discuss dates and areas you wish to tramp in. N.W. Nelson could be the area but he's flexible to meet peoples needs.

JAN. 16 - 17 - BEACH TRIP

We are heading to Rangaiika Beach which is just south of Cape Kidnappers. Plenty of sandy beaches and sunshine. A good relaxing trip after the Christmas rush.

Map - W21 and W22 Leader - Alan Mouat 799-391

JAN 31 - SOUTH KAWKA

A stream trip down the Tutaekuri River from the three wire bridge to Lawrence Road. This stretch of stream is mainly gorge with some nice trout pools enroute.

Map - U20 Leader - Sandie Dungan 55-209