

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

P.O.BOX 447, HASTINGS

"P O H O K U R A"

Bulletin No. 167

December 1987

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HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
and  
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SAFE TRAMPING NEW YEAR TO ALL



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In this president's report the hot news is we are replacing Kiwi Saddle Hut. Under the leadership of Eddie Holmes, after four working parties at his workshop, the hut was pre-cut painted and loaded into the truck ready to be transported to the Lakes at Kuripapango. After about two hours of flying and approximately eighteen loads by helicopter it is all on site. The foundations are set in concrete, dead level, and now it's all action; it should be opened for Christmas. The cost of the hut will be approximately \$6,000.00, so there will have to be some fundraising in 1988.

The Club at present is in good heart -- we have a good number of keen young trampers, a core of experience within the older members. During the year we have enrolled about twenty new members to the club and all are performing well. We wish these members good tramping in the future.

The old club members night was a great success. We had five foundation members along and a number of people who were tramping in the 30's to the 50's. We hope to see more of them in the future.

During the year there has been a big change within our tramping area. Instead of dealing with the Forest Service, now we have D.O.C. - Department of Conservation. We have had John Cheyne, District Manager of D.O.C. to a Club evening to explain the changeover and his aims for the Hawkes Bay back country. He was assured that the H.T.C. will assist whenever required.

A project with D.O.C.'s assistance was help replacing Kiwi Hut. Here we must give thanks to Mr Cheyne and Mr Phil Mohi who is the Conservation Officer in the H.B. area; a real good keen man - we hope to see them at the hut opening.

Russell Perry resigned from the position of President during the year. We thank him for all that he has done. I am sure it will not be long before he is back fulltime.

I would like to hear more from the younger members - after all, you are heard in the truck and out in the hills - so have your say - it might just be important to your Club.

Our thanks must go to the Forest Service, Department of Conservation and to all the land owners who have let us cross their land during the past year; to Joy and Frank for the typing of the Pohokura; to a very hard working committee all too willing to do anything asked of them; Glenda and Jackie, secretary and treasurer, who with their hard work, make life easy for the president; to our Patron Janet Lloyd - if in doubt ring Janet - as it was in the 1940's so it is in the 1980's. Thankyou, Janet.

To all club members, may our mountains and streams always be there for us and future generations, to roam around and enjoy.

Good tramping to all,  
Stan Woon

### CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

In the past twelve months the club has maintained itself much the same as the previous year. That is some trips are still low on numbers but we all still have great fun in our outdoors.

During the year we tried to make trips more suitable for the average fitness party, with the faster members breaking off to do their own trip. It's good to see both of these parties venturing off tracks and trying out their maps and compasses. Also the younger members are showing good leadership qualities for the future.

Trips during the year have been mainly in the local ranges, including one to the Whakarara Range which the club hadn't visited for years. We had our annual raft trip, beach trip and pinus contorta trip which we have already booked again for next year. Some of our trips further afield have been to Waikaremoana, Whirinaki, Pureora, Western Ruahines, Kaimai Range and Mt Tarawera. We have been lucky with fine weather on most of our trips but unlucky with the lack of snow on our local ranges for the snow lovers. Coming up in the near future is the Christmas trip to the N.W. Nelson Forest Park in the South Island. In February, we'll be helping the Hawkes Bay Orienteering Club in running a Mountain Marathon in the Ruahine Ranges. In March is our annual event with the pinus contorta.

Lastly I would like to thank the landowners for their permission to cross their land. Also many thanks to all you members who make our trips possible and enjoyable in whatever conditions we face. For you newer members, remember, the best way to get to know us is to come out tramping.

Dave Harrington.

### TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT

Training has been rather dissappointing with no bushcraft course due to the bad weather and no snowcraft because of the lack of snow. However we have a bush craft course coming up next month at Kuripapango.

Training at meeting nights has been reasonably good, with subjects covered being map reading, compass reading, gear for trips, snowcraft, route finding and others. Hopefully in the coming year training nights will be made even more interesting. Thanks to those who have helped with training.

Dave Harrington.

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"A drop of honey catches more flies than a hogshhead of vinegar"

HUT, TRACK and FIXTURE REPORT

As most of you know, Kiwi Saddle Hut is being replaced with a new hut by the club. All materials are now on site and ready to put together. I would like to thank Eddie, who has put many hours into this project, Sue for her hospitality and cuppas and all other members.

In a questionnaire I did for the club some time ago, it showed most people preferred more day trips. This we did, with two day trips to one weekend trip, but somehow we had more weekend trips with greater numbers in them than the previous year. As for day trips we had the same amount of trips but with less numbers. Day trips averaged 17 per trip with weekend averaging 13 per trip, so lets try to build our numbers up this coming year.

Dave Harrington.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

This past year has been a little busier than some of the previous years. Two callouts were well attended by H.T.C. members, but the Search and Rescue Exercise held last month was poorly attended by clubs, including our own. If members indicate their intention to attend these events, could they PLEASE TURN UP. The police organisers were very dissappointed with the response.

The two searches that we were called out for were:  
Two rafters overdue in the Ngarururo Gorge. They had been left behind by their rafting parties. About 6 teams were set to enter the field when a helicopter located the pair and returned them to safety. An interesting conclusion to the day was the noisy death of the police van near Waiohiki, as we were returning to Napier.

The other call out was to locate a missing hunter, Gary Parkin. He was missing in the Black Birch Bivy area of the Kawekas. On Monday afternoon a small group of us searched the length of the Black Birch without success apart from a hut entry and footprints. Tuesday morning saw a large turnout at 5.00am. Search parties attacked the Black Birch from both ends, as well as the rivers flowing from it. Many footprints were noticed around the Black Birch Bivy. Some teams were assigned to the task of seeing where they went from the bivy. Eventually Gary Parkin and his dog were located walking along the road from Makahu Saddle carpark. He had ventured from Black Birch Bivy down into the Donald River (thinking he was in Jap Creek) Down the river, camped at the Donald/Jap Creek junction. Monday down the Donald, up the track to Macintosh Hut (where no entry was put in the log), on to the track to Makahu and once in the Donald River, he left the track and headed upstream, spending Monday night in the river. Tuesday morning was spent climbing up onto the flanks of Don's Spur from where he saw Makahu and the road. A friend of his found him walking along the road and transported him to the Search Base.

Ross Berry

## MAGAZINE REPORT

In this my first year as Editor, we managed to overcome the normal production problems, and hopefully you received a magazine of acceptable standard. I think the Pohokura improved in both content and production standards as the year went by. This is due to the efforts put in by various club members. Their efforts are very much appreciated.

In the most recent edition, a trip report from the Pohokura 50 years ago was included. I hope this was well-received. Feedback to the editor is almost unheard of.

Most trip leaders provided their trip reports promptly, with the other reports coming in after a phone call or two. Thanks to the report writers for taking time out to share their experiences with the rest of us.

Special thanks goes to Joy, in her capacity as Chief Typist/Cartoonist, and also to Robyn for her editorial and typing assistance. Thanks also to Mum and Dad for housing the duplicator, etc. House building prevents me from being editor next year, but Joy has indicated her willingness to take over.

Ross Berry.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Much the same old stuff, some practically fossilized, some DOctored. The same old faces turned up during the year, some of them from 50 years ago. Not forgetting the usual mid-winter Pig Out complete with our friends from Dannevirke.

By popular acclaim Joy won the print section and Dave won the slide section of the photo competition.

Everyone enjoyed the pot luck dinner at our place, a banquet of some note! Thanks also to Ross and Robyn for the barbecue at their place to celebrate Halloween.

Peter Berry.

P.S. With the baby boom in full swing, one wonders what the main social activity has been this year!!!!!!

## TRUCK REPORT

Once again our truck performed a great job of transporting you, our members, to the hills and beyond.

I would like to thank Mac's Services Garage for allowing us to park the truck on their premises and carrying out repairs when requested, sometimes at short notice.

Recently the truck transported 3½ tons of building equipment for our new Kiwi Saddle Hutto Lakes Road end.

It is now being readied for the South Island trip at Christmas.

Thanks to all the drivers who were able to drive during the year and who helped out with maintenance.

Geoff Robinson.

### LIBRARY REPORT

As we are not able to have the library cupboard at St. David's Church hall, and it therefore resides in Stan's garage, access is not easy and use, except by Stan, is non-existent!

invites

However, Stan you all along to use it, and I would encourage you all to see what is there, for while it was at the Boys High School, a considerable amount of borrowing was going on.

We hope that sooner or later, our meetings and the library cupboard will be synchronising in the same place.

Liz Pindar.

### CLUB SCRAP BOOK

The scrape book has been maintained throughout the year with cuttings being taken from local papers.

Jim Glass.

### ALBUM

The photo album is completely up to date. If you have interesting photos, please see me.

Shirley Bathgate.

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### The Shingle Slide.

He started at the top  
so fast  
the first of all the bunch,

Downward like the wind  
he flew...  
but then he had a hunch,

That speed and skill  
should be combined  
as he hit the bottom - c r u n c h !



BALLARDS  
15-16th August 1987.

Trip No 1386

It was supposed to be the "Mid Winter Ice and Snow Trip", but the radio reports that I had been receiving from Randall during the week almost had us putting the cobwebs back onto our crampons and ice axes.

Due to the lack of weekend trampers, a day trip for the Sunday was organised, and Edward offered to take the "weekenders" up to Makahu Saddle in his ute.

At 6.00am on Saturday, five of us, including a member of the Ruahine Tramping Club, left Puketapu and arrived at a very frosty Makahu by 7.30am. At this point we were above the misty fog enjoying a brilliant sunny day. Jerseys and shirts were quickly transferred from backs to packs as three of us puffed our way up to Dominee Bivvy. Tony and Dave H opted for Don's Stream and the snow gut above it.

A munch stop was enjoyed at Dominee, before heading up the "J". After a bite to eat, we donned crampons, and with ice axes, we spent a couple of hours playing about. Dave Mullinder and Adrian were introduced to the delights of self-arresting with crampons on, and step cutting. The snow by this stage was getting a bit soft so we strolled along the tarns by North Kaweka. Ice axes proved useful in locating a source of drinking water. Crampons were again donned and the "South Face of North Kaweka" attempted and conquered. We saw two people heading up from Makahu, so we packed up and headed north towards Whetu. Two hunters followed us north but then one of them started to drag the chain and the five of us dropped down, down . . . down to Ballards, arriving at 4.00pm, half an hour before the Auckland hunters. Randall was already in residence, nursing some very red and raw looking feet.

During the evening, we had regular radio schedules with Graham Thorpe, and were kept well informed of the Election results.

Sunday dawned fine with a little high cloud. At about 10.00am we left Ballards in the care of the two hunters, and ambled up the 200m climb back onto the main range. We headed past Whetu and along the top of Dick's Spur. From this point we dropped down the screes into the creek on the southern side of Dick's Spur. A leisurely lunch was had at the first junction, before continuing down the track to the Makahu-Kaweka Flats track. At this point the plastic boots came off- running shoes went on. Ahh! much better. A leisurely stroll back to the carpark at Makahu capped off a great "MIDWINTER"? trip. Shame about the lack of hard snow and ice though. Maybe next year.

R B

Adrian Brown, Ross Berry, Dave Harrington, Tony Hansen, Dave Mullinder (Ruahine T.C.) and Randall Goldfinch.

KAWEKA J  
16th August 1987

Trip No 1386b

Only a few people had their names down for the weekend trip to Ballards, so it was decided to have a day trip to Kaweka J on the Sunday as well, which incorporated the luxury of a late start.

The truck left from Havelock North just after 7.00am and went through to Napier to pick up another four. We had one new comer with us, Kaye, who works with me at the Catchment Board ( she foolishly mentioned tramping in her application for the job - so was honour-bound to come out on at least one trip.

Leaving Makahu carpark, Kaye foolishly followed the faster members in our group - and soon found out why tortises live longer than hares! She soon waited for the more "sensible" members of the group and carried on upwards at a more leisurely pace.

It was an excellent day, clear blue skies and hardly a breath of wind. From the tops we had a brilliant view over to Ruapehu and Tongariro. The last of us made the Cairn just after 12.00 noon and we walked over to the playground for lunch. Well - it was lunch for 11 of us - Jill decided that another hour or so of sleep was more important than food and was soon snoring away.

The hunger pains abated, it was time for fun in the snow shoot. Pieces of plastic carrying up to six people went hurtling down the hillside with the only major obstacle being a spaniard situated near the bottom. (Peter says "Whose bottom"- was it Brian's?)

After an hour or so of this it was time to wake Jill and head back down. By the Cairn we found another group enjoying the Kaweka sunshine and were concerned to note some of the younger boys tramped up there in gummies ( and not the lace-up kind.)

The trip down was without incident and we took the Trials spur back down to the carpark ( going up we went via Makahu spur). The weekenders were already at the truck so we quickly packed up and headed back to Napier and Havelock North.

Thanks to Peter and Ross for driving.  
G.H.

Day Trippers. Peter Berry, Susan Lopdell, Kaye McGeorge, Brian Culpan, Lew Harrison, Jill Preece, Sandie Dungan, Heather Hill, Joy Stratford, Darin Griffin, Frank Hooper and Glenda Hooper.

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"Men are born with two eyes, but with one tongue in order that they should see twice as much as they say"

Charles Caleb Colton.



KAWEKA HUT  
31st August 1987

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Trip No 1387

Sunday morning was looking to be a great day, until I went out to the truck to find the petrol had been siphoned by some over night raiders.

Picked up the remaining trampers from Holts carpark at the arranged late start time of 7.00am and arrived at the carpark at Lakes Road around 8.30am. After much serious discussion, it was decided to go to Kaweka Hut for the people who hadn't been there, and then splitting up; some going to Cook's Horn, bird watching, with others walking across to Mackintosh Hut. Well, it was certainly a great day. The weather was fine, making the going real easy. There were a few grunts and groans coming from down the line ( is this the last hill, is this as hard as the way out, etc, ) but all in all, everyone enjoyed the walk.

Thanks to everyone on this trip as we enjoyed each others company and it made the day a success.

M.B.

Leader. Mitch Barrett

Party. Brian Culpan, John, and Peter Berry, Glenda Hooper, Jenny Lean, Clive and Karen Thurston, Clare O'Kane, Debbie Middlemiss and Shirley Hunt.

POUTAKI STREAM, WAKARARA RANGE  
13th September, 1987

Trip No 1388

The Club hadn't had a trip into the Wakarara Range for quite some years, so one was planned. We decided to enter via the Poutaki Stream Valley rather than use forestry roads, as the lower section of this valley is owned by a sister of the Berrys.

. Once again I managed a late start and 15 of us left Holts at 7.00am to disembark at Duff Road an hour later. The lower reaches of the shallow stream was fast going, and we raced up to the plaintive bleats of the many goats that grazed the gully. One pair of kids obligingly stayed still while Dave H photographed them. Once into Timberlands territory the stream became more bouldery and turbulent. Dave H's eyes started to gleam with delight. At first there was a section of large shellrock boulders over which the water tumbled. These were relatively easy to ascend as were the small waterfalls further up stream, but wet feet had become the order of the day. Then finally we came to a more tricky waterfall ( which we probably all could have climbed out of if we had really tried) after which, it was reported by John, was a thirty foot waterfall with no way up. Eight of us believed John, and started peering up the very steep valley sides for a way out, while the doubting Peter stupidly made his way up to the top of the said "impassable" waterfall. Dave H then followed him and dropped down a rope for the other five who were silly enough to follow.

Meanwhile, the rest of us slowly made our way up the steep and slippery bank on the streams true right, taking a well earned rest once the gradient had slackened out. Further up-

wards, bashing our way through scrub (with grumbles from the old chap behind me that Susan must be in the lead again), saw us come to a fence line. From the fence we looked down and saw the others way below at the bottom of another small waterfall and heard the yahoos that accompanied Adrian's submergence into the pool beneath it. From the fence we continued up the slope which was now one of cut manuka until we hit the Poutaki Road. After an hour's walk on forestry roads we arrived at the Poutaki Stream yet again and sat down to eat our lunch and wait for the others. This they shortly did, having found the route above the waterfall fairly easy going.

After lunch, Stan took Racheal and Sharon back along the forestry road to the truck, carefully chaperoned by Hamish (or was it the other way round?) The rest of us went up Hermit Road towards Breakheart Peak, initially with the intention of climbing onto the main range. This was soon changed to a climb up to Breakheart Peak. However, dense gorse on the ridge again changed our minds, and the final plan of attack was to head down the Waitangi Stream and then cross over into the Poutaki Stream below the waterfall. The manuka in the upper reaches of the Waitangi Stream had been felled several years ago and the area was now a swamp with many cabbage trees, and a lot of cutty grass, which made the going pretty slow. Fortunately the stream soon became a defined channel and provided a good highway down stream with just the odd deviation to avoid log jams and dead sheep. We cut across farm land back to the Poutaki Valley, which we lowered ourselves into via the cutty grass on a greasy papa slip (or in some cases slid down on their bottoms with gay abandon). We hit the Poutaki Stream by the shellrock boulders and made our way back to the track as fast as we could respectively manage.

All in all a good trip with plenty of varity and fortunately not too much time on forestry roads. Thanks, Peter for driving.

Leader. Glenda Hooper

Party. Adrian Brown, Nigel Brown, Dean Roughton, Clare O'Kane Susan Loddell, Stan Woon, David Charteris, Sharon Charteris, Racheal Hamilton, Hamish Tait, Dave Harrington, John Berry, Brian Cu'pan, and Peter Berry.

#### WHIRINAKI STATE FOREST PARK

26-27th September 1987

Trip No 1389a

Whirinaki State Forest Park is situated on the southeast edge of the Kaingaroa Plains and is the western boundary of the rugged Urewera's. Whirinaki literally means wooden butress and one can only imagine the scene of desolation on the plains after the Tarawera eruption; that this mighty barrier, although no doubt looking very tattered around the edges, being an indomitable sign of nature's resistance, resilience and strength against large catastrophes.

On a previous trip to Whirinaki, I had felt so comfortable amongst it's flora and fauna that when requested to lead a trip into the area again, I was very enthusiastic.

Fourteen members of the Club had rallied at 6.00am on the Saturday and we had an uneventful trip to the Waipunga Road near Rangataiki. After an indecisive entry onto Timberlands roads, we eventually arrived at the Plateau carpark at 10.00am. Maurice and Barbara had spent the night here.

The main party headed off down the hill through fairly open beech forest which was looking rather dry. The weather was absolutely perfect and the sun strong enough to give a little colour to the skin that had been covered up all winter. Our lunch stop was at the cave beside the Whirinaki River, an idyllic spot, with time to explore the surroundings

The tracks and bridges are in excellent order in this part of the park as evidenced by the first bridge crossing we made immediately after lunch. We followed the Whirinaki River for another 1½ hours until we came to the Central Whirinaki Hut, where we had munchies. Some of the party carried on down the track while others made themselves at "home", before settling down to do some birdwatching around the hut. The Tom-tits were quite undisturbed by our presence and at times were landing as close as a metre away. Later in the afternoon, Kakas began their screeching chorus. John, Graeme, Kath, Barbara, Karen, Sue, Joy and Heather arrived back at about 5.30pm after an eventful trip during which they had seen among other birds a blue duck. As there had been a tree sawn into rounds some five minutes down the track, the men set about bringing the wood back. That night most of us went down the track again to see the glow worms.

The following morning we set off at 8.00am back up the track to the Taumutu Stream and after a bit of searching we found the track to the Upper Whirinaki Hut - with numerous crossings through the stream and through some lovely bush. Lunch at the hut and then on to the track junction, where for better or worse, I chose the "high road". This is quite a grunt and I congratulate the "Kaumatua" or mature members on their fortitude in completing this route.

Lew and Bevis were at the truck when we arrived there. They were early and we were late. Maurice Taylor had camped at the carpark and had boiling water for a most welcome cuppa, prior to heading back. Once again the similarity of pine plantings on the road out had us at the end of a blind road but the rest of the trip home was according to plan. SH.

Party. Selwyn Hawthorne, Heather Hawthorne, Kath Berry, Judy McBride, Graeme Hare, John Berry, Karen Berry, Barbara Taylor, Joy Stratford, Heather Hill, Christine Hardie, Susan Lopdell, Josephine Key, Lew Harrison, Bevis Stevens.

Trip no 1389b

We were soon on our feet and away. Even though the grade was downhill we stopped after fifteen minutes to take off our pullovers. We saw Mt Edgecumbe and heard several shots in a nearby valley before dropping into the Whirinaki River. Twenty minutes or so brought us to the Taumutu Stream, which we followed. There was a lot of surface upheaval due to pigs. We had a short lunch in a sunny spot just before following the Kakanui Stream to climb over an open deer eaten saddle into the true

left branch of the Kakanui Stream which we left after fifteen minutes to follow the Upper Mangamate Stream. The bush here was very young - the majority being tree ferns and ferns.

Towards evening we stopped at a hut to chat to three pig hunters who with their dogs were staying overnight. We continued downstream and judging by the big ruts, a four wheel drive vehicle had been up to the hut more than once. By the time we met the Central Whirinaki Hut / Waiatu Road track time was moving on, so we laid down some fern fronds, pitched the fly and ate tea. I didn't sleep well but Lew didn't sleep at all, so we spent a bit of time talking. We got up early, pulled the fly down and ate breakfast. I found, to my disgust, that last night's instant pudding was still liquid, so I tried drinking the awful stuff.

Within the hour we were away, following the track through the best and biggest trees in the whole of our experience of the park. The quality of the track soon dwindled to, in places, a thin line above the Whirinaki River; we remembered how last night, we had been considering walking in the dark to surprise the main party in Central Whirinaki Hut!

From our campsite until the Whirinaki waterfall someone had "decorated" the bush beside the track and the track itself with cotton. In collecting it I got a cotton ball bigger than a softball. Admittedly a lot of leaves and dead twigs helped its size considerably.

We saw a blue duck in the Whirinaki River shortly before the campsite. On arrival at the Central Whirinaki Hut, we were surprised to find the main party were gone, so we had an early lunch. The last leg of the track took longer than expected. This does not take into account a short stop to scrounge around in the unstable pumice cave, and a short chat with some keen cyclists who were in possession of 15 speed trail bikes. When we reached the truck, we were surprised to find the main party not waiting for us. It was another 1½ hours later that they turned up, after visiting the Upper Whirinaki Hut.  
BS.

## MIDDLE STREAM

11 th October 1987

Trip no 1390

25 keen trampers arrived at Holts carpark for a 7.00am departure. The weather looked promising for the day ahead, as the sun shone brightly through the truck windows. We travelled down State Highway 50 towards the Ruahines and as we got closer we could see a blanket of cloud neatly hugging the ranges. The wind was very strong and the truck was slowed down by the gusts.

By good timing, or good luck, we managed to meet up with three more trampers from the Dannevirke Club, right on the intersection of the North Block Road. We all moved over a few inches and managed to squeeze them into the truck. We battled on along the road against strong winds and eventually arrived at the roadend. With much reluctance we all climbed out the back into the cold morning air and changed ready for the day ahead.

It was a slow trip over the farmland and around the new deer enclosure which wasn't there last time we were in the area.

As we walked down into the valley the wind became less of a hinderance and down in the river bed it was very sheltered. The stream was up from recent rain and snow in the ranges and this proved to be slow going especially for those new members with no river experience. The water was very cold from the thawing snow which still covered the tops. A couple of rock hoppers went a little deeper than anticipated!

The whole party eventually arrived at the Middle Stream Hut to have lunch sitting in the long wet grass which most preferred to the dark smelly hut. The inevitable rain clouds opened up and dampened the grass even more. We decided to head back down stream to the farmland. As we made our way back up the steep little ridge from the river Jenny Lean sprained her ankle and limped her way back up to the truck. She had a further 10 days off work to allow the swelling to go down. Everyone made their own way back at different speeds to the truck and changed into dry clothing under the taupaulin.

The trip home was fairly straight forward after a good day in the ranges. Many thanks to Geoff for driving.

CT.

Party. Glenda Hooper, Susan Lopdell, Jenny Lean, Joy Stratford, Heather Hill, Dave Charteris, Jackie Strachan, Barbara Mitchell, Adrian Brown, Clare O'Kane, Mathew Green, Lew Harrison, Christine Hardie, Andrew Dacey, Hamish Tait, Debbie Middlemiss, Wayne Middlemiss, Karen Thurston, Clive Thurston, Anthony Quinney, Lyn Gentry, Kian Gentry, Sandie Dungan, Jim Glass, and Geoff Robinson with Dave Mullinder. Paul and Geraldine from Dannevirke's Ruahine Tramping Club.

#### PUREORA - LABOUR WEEKEND

23rd - 25th October 1987

Trip No 1391

We got off to a good start with the truck actually starting this time and the only problem being Adrain forgetting his boots.

It was a good uneventful trip up to Pureora and after lunch most of the party climbed Titiraupenga. It took between  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours to get to the top which is a volcanic cone. The view was a bit misty but still worth the climb. The trip down was enlivened by the finding of over 20 cyanide baits on the track and two groups having a loaded gun pointed at them by the same guy. Anyway it was into the truck and off to Kokako camp site for the night, with a quick look round the Rimu Track for some and then a look later at the glow worms.

I was up about 4.00am next morning to look for a kiwi which was close to the camp but needless to say it stopped calling as soon as I was up.

It wasn't worth going back to bed, so three of us went up to the lookout on the Rim Track to listen to the dawn chorus. A bit disappointing, mostly magpies with a turkey and a few roosters for luck. Back to the camp and after clearing up and replacing the firewood used, it was decided that most of the party would climb Pureora while the rest went to report the loaded gun and cyanide at the headquarters. We then picked up the party at the end of another track. We also met Bevis near the track, so he went up with them. We found the Ranger without too much trouble and got a good reception for our complaints. Then a quick trip round the Totara Track. Next we went to the Ecological Reserve for a short walk through some very large trees. One totara was hollow inside and held up to twenty people. My thanks to those who helped carry the kids around. After setting up camp near the Totara Track, it got a bit boring, so we did some sports including three legged races and a tug of war, followed by skipping and grass sliding with a plastic bag and ten bods pulling on the rope - great fun!

Then it was a sing song ( to a violin ) and a stumble in the dark around the Totara Track to look at glow worms.

Not quite so early up next morning but about 6.00am and most of us went to look for kokako but alas, no luck. So back to pack up camp and off home. Did a ten minute walk to see the biggest totara at Pouakani, and stopped at Arataitai for lunch. We then visited the Craters of the Moon and had a swim at De Bretts.

A fun, slightly lazy trip.

JB.

Party. John, Karen, Chris and Philip Berry, Kath and Alan Berry, Glenda Hooper, Joy Stratford, Heather Hill, Susan Lopdell, Christine Hardie, Gavin MacKay, Allan Mouat, Sharon Charteris and brother David, Kevin Chatterton, Christine Foy Zane Couper, Adrian Brown, Richard Dacey, Bevis Stevens, and Racheal Hamilton.

#### CAIRN TRIP - KAWEKA J

8 th November 1987

Trip No 1392

After weeks of beautiful fine weather, the eighth of November dawned a very nasty overcast day. The truck left Holts with a full load at 6.00am, heading for Taradale to pick up another five bods. Three cars left a little earlier hoping to have a slow trip up the ridge without the bustling club types. On arrival at the Makahu carpark it certainly looked as if it would be a dismal day out. Camped at the carpark, we discovered Maurice and Tara Taylor, the Club's latest grandparents, with their campervan. We said Hi, and rushed into the gloom. About a third of the way up the ridge we heard the truck coming down the hill towards the carpark. (Immediately thoughts of ambush, booby traps or something to slow down the onslaught of trampers that was to come).

After a very slow pace we reached Dominie, had a bite and were thinking of taking off for the cairn when Alan and Kath with Barbara Taylor arrived. Then the mob started arriving in dribs and drabs. So look out cairn here we come.

The visibility was nil with a few showers but it was pleasant tramping. We reached the cairn at twenty to eleven and finally started the service at 11.15am. Halfway through the service we halted for a minute as more arrived out of the mist. That popular young lady, Heather Hill, being the youngest member present, laid the wreath on behalf of the Club. The nearest I can get to the number present at the cairn is forty seven. This is a credit to the members and friends present as there wouldn't have been many who would have even been born at the time of the 1939-45 war. To think that these young people climbed to the top of Kaweka J to remember these young men who lost their lives.

Once the service was over, around 11.30, the rain had really set in and people started to head down to the truck. It wasn't long before the cairn stood alone with the trig not far away on the top of the J; lonely it looked but never to be forgotten. Lonely it may be, but during the year many a trapper or hunter will pass by, stop and read the names inscribed there. I only hope that the Club never has to add another plaque to our cairn for any other war, as in all wars there is never a winner.

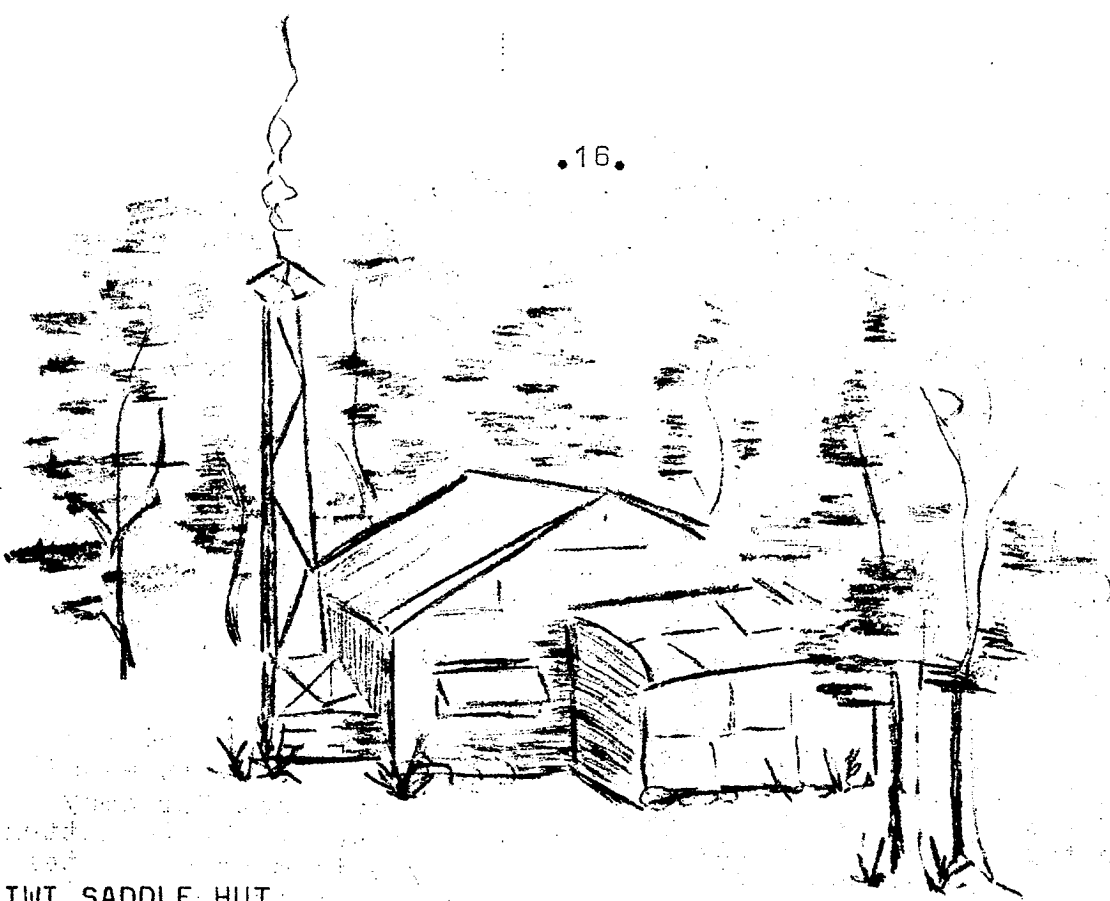
After a slow gallop down hill we finally reached the carpark around 1.30pm, that is except for Dave Harrington and Co, who took off in some other direction to come down. Alan headed for home, followed by Maurice as it had started to rain again. I headed off about 2.15 and did it rain. Left Geoff to round up the rest. All were out of the bush by 4.30 ( and that's not bad for Dave Harrington and gang ), finally getting home round 6.30.

I thoroughly enjoyed the trip; although it was wet, it was pleasant walking, not too hot, but above all the company was great. One can't beat a good HTC party for company. Owen Brown as usual brought a crowd of Napier Boys High pupils. It was quite a thrill to see Ken Thomas reaching the cairn - we immediately went and stood on the highest point in Hawkes Bay together and both agreed it's higher now than it was in 1949! Ken and I were both admitted to the Club as members at the same executive meeting in 1949. We have told many a yarn around the fire while the stew was cooking. It was good to see his knees wobbling going downhill - I know what it's like. To his brother, Ray, and Bryan Jobbin, a great effort chaps - with more trips under your belt it is easier - perhaps Kiwi opening?

Many thanks to Geoff for driving the truck and for keeping an eye on the party.

SW.

Peter Berry, Glenda Hooper, Maurice Kelly ( or in Irish, Muiris O Ceallaigh ) Jenny Lean, Joy Stratford, Heather Hill, Brian Culpan, Hamish Tait, Ken Thomas, Ray Thomas, Bryan Jobbin, Frank Hooper, Mitch Barrett, Heather Hawthorne, Selwyn Hawthorne Karen Thurston, Fiona Sapsford, Dean Roughton, Andrew Dacey Liz Pindar, Arch Lowe, David Harrington, Christine Hardie, Bev Pawluk, Judy Moss, Anne Feltham, Clive Thurston, Stan Woon, Alan Berry, Kath Berry, Barbara Taylor, Owen Brown and about 15 NBHS Paul Jarvis, Reece Jarvis, Richard Ackerley



### KIWI SADDLE HUT

Desiring a hut on Kiwi Saddle a site was chosen by a party of nine members on July 21st 1946.

### Labour Weekend, October 26th 1946.

Fourteen members went out on a working party and camped at the cottage at Kuripapanga. A track was cut to the scree and ridge abreast of the lakes and malthoid, wire netting and nails were taken to the site,

### February, 1947.

Stan Craven led out a party of 13 and work was carried out on the site, rocks and timber being collected. As materials were deteriorating, the leader of the Labour Day party visited the architect, Archie Toop, with a view to finalising arrangements. It was decided that a party of three, Archie Toop, Clem Smith and Angus Russell, should go out on Thursday October 23rd to start work in preparation for the main party. As this party would have to carry in food for five days as well as tools, a flying squad left the Sunday before, Oct 19th, to carry tents, billies, nails and boards to the site. Time from road to the site - 3 hours and 20 minutes.

### October 23rd.

Archie Toop's party left Les Holt's at 6.15am and staggered with 50 lb. packs to the Saddle. Time - an eternity! Tents were erected, malthoid placed across poles to form a sleeping pavilion and water supply improved.

### Friday, October 24th.

At 4.00am Archie had us up and we cleared the site, fixed the main piles, felled four inch diameter trees for plates and ridges. Clem continued on this job without a mate while the builders set out the frame - ceased work 7.pm. George Lowe, Lindsay Lloyd and Noel Fendall left town 7.30pm



.17.

Friday and camped at the drover's whare. They arrived 11.am. next morning carrying wool packs for bunks. Lindsay specialised in bunk joinery. The race to get the frame up for the main party never ceased until light failed.

#### Saturday October 25th.

The main party consisted of Muriel Shaw, Muriel Saywell, Betty Beckett, Jo Comour, Doc. Bathgate, John MacIntyre, Max-Brown, Doug Napier, Walter Shaw, Bailly Carrodus, Ian McArthur, John Bathgate, old Uncle Tom Cobley and all. The party was led by Stan Craven. They left town at 6.30am - willows 9.20 - arrived 2.00pm carrying woolpacks, door and a thirst. Light nor'west showers at night. Clem, Bailey and Muriel showed great fortitude in enduring the dripping water torture while asleep!

#### Sunday October 26th.

All knobs on framework likely to contact malthoid were smoothed down, wire-netting in place and all the fencing wire stays bracing the building were well stapled. Time 10.am and the malthoid found itself being nailed in place. Windows were yet to be made so it became very dark inside. However it was a hut and gave comfort to 16 sleepers on Sunday night. See they faces in the flashlight photo. Rocks and logs were stacked around the piles where the plate of wood was well clear of the floor.

On Monday the door was hung and sundry details were attended to. Some parties moved off, the main party reaching the road at 6.pm. The tents had dried during the day.

George Lowe and John MacIntyre retrieved some malthoid from the Kaweka slopes.

Muriel Shaw and team put on some first class stews and we are indebted to Clem for a fine series of photos. Everyone was eager to speed the job along in any way but our success was mainly due to the skill, drive and persistency of Archie Toop and the assistance given by Les Holt in preparing and procuring materials and gear. We later members have learnt from them why the Club pushed ahead in pre-war years. There is real Club companionship and enjoyment in working parties.

Red beech was used for the piles. The windows and chimney are yet to be made and fixed, the visitors' book and a mirror provided. Experience may dictate that we leave the floor in it's present state and free from stones. Most important of all, we must protect every living tree, shrub and ground plant in the environs. Keep the axe blunt - a sharp axe or slasher creates impulsive destructive insanity in some souls! The water supply must be improved. The latrine will be placed on the eastern slopes well away from the water supply.

This is a wonderful site with a good stand of suitable poles for building. It is convenient, providing a great extension of good trips. We hope in time to find an easier, safer and more sheltered route to the Kaweka Track. We must guard

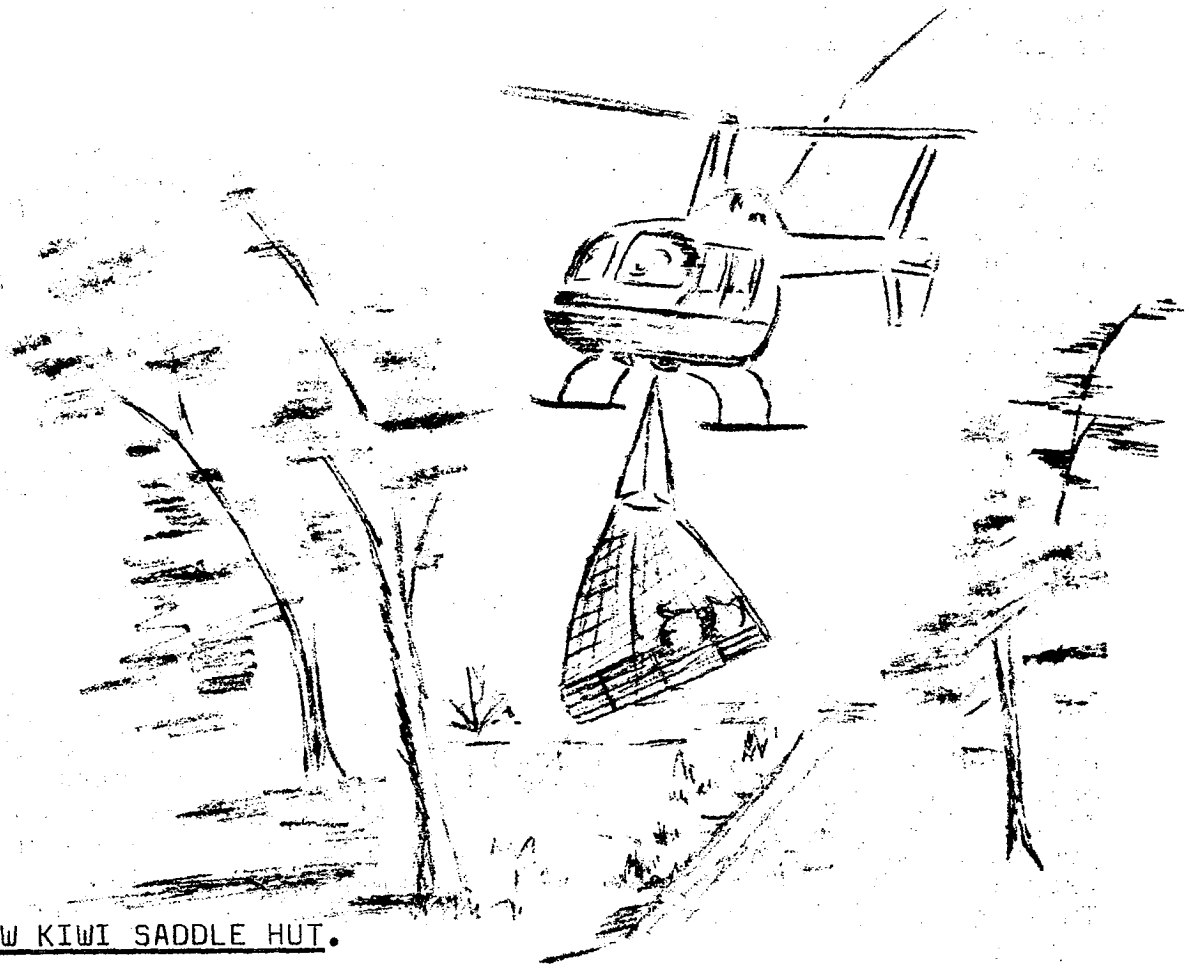
against erosion caused by tracks. It has been suggested that we take periodic photos and records of the growth or decline of all nearby vegetation. This should in time become valuable data for the Catchment Board.

We appreciate the help given by some of the Rover Scouts who have accompanied us on some of our trips.

May our chimney be smoking by Christmas, then we can admire one another, our completed hut and it's glorious surroundings.

How much each of us owes to the efforts of all the others.

Angus Russell - Leader.



#### THE NEW KIWI SADDLE HUT.

After four working parties at Sue and Eddies our new precut Kiwi Hut was ready for transport to the Kuripapanga Lakes. So the truck was loaded on Saturday ready for the appointment at 8.00am on Monday 19th October, with a helicopter which was to transport our hut right to the site.

What a thrill it was to fly past the shingle slide, the route used to carry the old hut up, one bit of iron at a time! Here we were carrying up about thirty sheets plus, in about 6 minutes - great invention these choppers. After approximately 18 loads the hut was on site plus seven members ready to start building - all fresh and raring to go.

Spades and shovels got going and before long about 21 holes were dug ready for the piles. "ReadyMix" Randall started to mix the concrete in a wheel barrow kindly brought in by D.O.C. About three hours later, Randall mixed his last load and Eddie and another good keen man had the most important job of getting everything dead level. I won't mention who the good keen man was but there are photographs available for you to find out.

Around 3.00pm Jim started for home, followed an hour later by Clive and Wayne. The remaining four cleaned up and got ready for a night in the old Kiwi Hut, well satisfied with the days progress.

Joy and this good keen chappie were up at five to give Randall and Eddie breakfast in bed and we were out on the job just after six. We nailed, stapled and wired thing-a-me bits of wood (bearers) onto the piles checked the levels again and she's bang on; this hut is on the level!

After a cuppa and a bite, Joy and this good keen guy took off up that!!! hill that is still there as it was so many years ago - only it's higher now. Eddie and Randall started off half an hour later; I won't say where they caught us up! Reached the truck early afternoon and arrived at Sue's where she made us a most welcome cup of tea once again.

Maurice and Barbara were there. Maurice had gone up to the Blowhard and watched the air lift through binoculars - pity you didn't come up, Maurice, you might have got a ride.

I would like to thank D.O.C. (Department of Conservation) for all their assistance in this project; without them it would have taken an awful long time to get where we are. To John Cheyne and Phil Mohi and his workers - thanks. Your assistance is very much appreciated, by the Club. Eddie Holmes, the planner and "boss" of the whole job, Sue for being such a great hostess during the working parties at your home - thanks from the Club.

After carrying iron and timber up the shingle slide a few years ago, this helicopter racket is terrific. My first ride as for about four others on the trip.

By the time this goes to print, the hut will be finished and will be giving shelter to many who pass that way by Christmas.

SW.

Cast: "Boss Edward Holmes  
Slave Wayne Mouat  
Slave Jim Glass  
Can Opener Joy Stratford  
Ready Mix Randall Goldfinch  
Slave Clive Thurston  
Overseer Stan Woon

1962 the hut was renovated and Maori bunks installed.

1965 a floor was added

1967 the malthoid walls were covered by sheet iron

1976 the fire and chimney added

13-15th November 1987

Well, a certain degree of insanity must be a prerequisite to membership of the H.T.C. and this very virtue must have been the driving force behind those who were involved in the building of the new Kiwi Saddle Hut. The weekend weather forecast promised northwesterly winds and rain in the ranges, but a keen bunch of 24 men, women, boys and girl and two dogs turned up on the job.

Wayne and Allan Mouat were the first group to go in on Friday morning, with Joy, Heather, Edward, Randall, and Robert and Jess arriving in the evening. They settled in and prepared for an early start in the morning.

Meanwhile at 6.00am, the club truck left Holts in Hastings, arriving at Lakes Road carpark by 8.00am. A party of eleven set off, separating into three groups - fast, slow, and slower still, and dribbled into Kiwi Saddle at varying times. The sounds of industry - hammering and sawing - resounded across the ranges as everyone ripped into action.

The piles had been set in place and the floor joists installed on the 19-20th October, so work progressed with a great hiss and a roar. The floor, framing and roof lining were all on by 12.30 on Saturday when lunch was eaten in shifts - 16 cans of spaghetti and several loaves of bread disappeared with great haste. The teamwork was incredible, whether it be stoking the fire, boiling endless billies of water for tea and coffee, sawing timber, chopping wood, there was a job for every pair of hands. Only Harry, our DOC representative chose to forgo feeding in favour of working stoically on.

Afternoon progressed and the hut was taking shape, but alas, though there were hammers in abundance, there rapidly became a shortage of nails. However, by 6.30pm on Saturday night the hut was closed in, a tribute to Ed's organisation and planning, the whole day having progressed without hitch (except for the window opening, which someone nailed full of dwangs, and an errant four inch nail which went through the sole of Lyn's shoe and embedded in his foot.)

By teatime, the windows were installed, bunks and ladders in place, the floor was swept and the first fire lit in Wayne's very efficient stove.

Evening closed in, and in the new hut it was party time, with much chat, more coffee and endless packets of biscuits. The new stove proved excellent, and in a short space of time it was warm and dry and very cosy indeed. Sleeping positions were elected and we all prepared to settle for the night. No one particularly wanted to bunk with either Ed or Peter who had eaten baked beans for both breakfast and lunch, and promised to be rather unpleasant bed-mates, so they were shared, one in each hut! Joy and Heather, Lew, Randall, Wayne, Robert, Muiris and Peter spent a nostalgic night in the old Kiwi Hut while the other 13 (and Jacques) opted for 'opening night' in Kiwi Mk. 2, with Edward sleeping closest to the door.

Night came and a merry time was had in both huts with jokes flying and the sounds of laughter travelling to and fro - in Kiwi 2 a bag of bread (which burst and became slices, which fell apart and became crusts and wads of dough . . . ) also flew round the room. (Who started that?) Eventually, quietness overtook and all that could be heard were muffled snores and the gentle throb of Lyn's foot.

The wind howled and the rain poured and our wee houses stood firm.

Sunday dawned - well, it didn't really - the weather was horrendous. Peter Berry appeared in the grey half light of morning with a face one would not wish to meet over the breakfast table, and ordered Adrian and Zane, snivelling and muttering from the warmth of their sleeping bags. No one envied them as they shook off their breadcrumbs, and pulled on all their clothes and set off in the mists to meet Brian. Brian very conveniently, had planned to come up on Sunday - most fortunate as after Saturday's effort a radio message had been sent, and Brian was to come to the rescue with a box of nails to replenish our diminishing stock. With almost nil visibility, he managed to connect with the three going out to meet him, and by the time they returned, the hut site was a hive of activity. Only finishing touches to be done - outside wall cladding and exterior door etc...

The return home took place in stages, the slowest leaving first about 10.00am. Lyn hobbled off with the girls and Zane bearing a huge roll of sisalation on his back. Others came in dribs and drabs, and by the time the slow party had reached 4100, they were passed by the last guys at a great rate of knots. A very pleasant trip home it was too - mostly downhill, with the skies clearing and even a glimpse of Ruapehu through a break in the clouds.

Everyone reached the truck by three o'clock, some of the early arrivals having braved a quick dip ( boots and all ) in the lake, and we all piled in and headed back to Hastings.

A great weekend's labour - it was a privilege to be part of such a good bunch of people and although it is sad to see the unique old hut replaced, I know the Kiwi Mk 2 will be a haven in the ranges that many will enjoy in the future. Perhaps a special thankyou should go to Ed for all the backstage work, to Wayne for the beautiful wood stove, to DOC for helicoptering 18 loads of materials in, ( and Harry who helped load the helicopter and arrived to help put the hut together), but really to everyone who has been involved right back from the days of planning and the working bees, a big THANKYOU.

J.P.

Cast - in order of appearance.

Wayne and Allan Mouat, Edward 'Boss' Holmes, Randall Goldfinch Robert Marshall, Joy Stratford and Heather Hill with Jess under someones feet.

Harry, Zane Couper, Gavin MacKay, Clive and Karen Thurston, Jill Preece, Sandie Dungan, Selwyn Hawthorne, Geoff Robinson with Jacques, Peter Berry, Nigel and Adrian Brown, Lyn Gentry, Lew Harrison, Dave Charteris, Muirís 'Irish' O'Ceallaigh, and Brian 'spare nails' Culpan.

KIWI SADDLE HUT

21-22nd November 1987

Trip no 1393

The last Kiwi Saddle Hut working party I was on was September 21-22nd, 1969! The weather hasn't changed!

Ten of us left Havelock North just after 6.00am on Saturday morning and we left the truck at the Lakes carpark about 8.00am. Because of our various conditions we didn't hurry in, and did have time to notice the range of spring flowers in the alpine fell fields, violets, primulas, various celmisias and herbs and a delightfully scented clump of small flowered clematis on the track on the side of 4100. Visibility was low in fact almost non-existent in places, which was of considerable help as the height of the further ridge didn't show, and neither did the drops from the rocky ridges!

The new hut's roof could just be seen shining through the murk and as we arrived the overnights were sorting themselves out after a late "brëkkie". The hot drink was good! We were immediately sorted out into carpenters, plumbers, shingle carriers etc, and before long the new hut had a verandah being added. It's two metres deep and full width, with a partly enclosed end facing the worst weather! Framing was removed from the timber pile and fitted together, the base laid, the roof nailed and raised (short people can't lift high enough) holes for piles dug (and moved) -- all this while the Kiwi Shingle Company manfully barrowed the edge of the helicopter pad to the hut surroundings.

A lunch of savoury tomato "plus" was wonderful, (not much of the working party food remained by now) and by the end of the afternoon the verandah was roofed, floored but not all nailed, piles concreted and the spouting was up and anchored securely by Randall's efforts with the battery-powered drill (fantastic) and the pop-riveter. The hut was so warm that night, with the lovely stove and perhaps the heat generated by the card games, that we sweltered -- all that is, except the one who came up intending to go back with Eddie and Tony, but stayed on, sleeping-bag-less!

Enthusiastic hunters left in the damp wetness of early morning returning wet and venison-less an hour or two later, to spend some considerable time in their pits, playing cards!

The rest of the verandah was finished, more shingle carted -- Joy and Hamish make a good team there -- the rest of the spouting secured with straps, and an "early lunch" of guess what -- savoury tomatoes "plus", gobbled with enthusiasm, and by twenty to twelve I was on my way out with only four heavy laden types following. It was quite funny being overtaken practically at the run by the young hunters, who if enthusiasm was enough, should have had at least one deer considering the tracks all around. The rain had made the track quite slippery in places and one or two interesting angles of descent were enjoyed by assorted persons.

The tools were all brought out to be dried and oiled etc, and to prevent the inevitable happening when a sharp edged implement and a tree are seen by some empty headed individual. The first hut builders at Kiwi were aware of this propensity and acted

accordingly. Unfortunately, a tree or two has recently been wantonly cut down close by the hut. We all should endeavour to keep hut surroundings clean, and to preserve the vegetation around them, as concentrated use in a small area can do so much damage.

We were away by about 4.00pm, and home in time for me to wash my muddy socks by daylight! It was a good trip in spite of the weather and with all of us working in harmony and enjoyment, doing a worthwhile job and having fun doing it.

EP.

Peter Berry, Glenda Hooper, Joy Stratford, Heather Hill, Ross and Robyn Berry, Eddie Holmes, Tony Hansen, John Berry, Jim Glass, Randall Goldfinch, Liz Pindar, Allan Mouat, Gavin MacKay and Merv Hyvam from Doc.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### AMBLETS GROUP

Quite a few years ago, two members of the HTC, Nancy Tanner and Helen Hill, started a group for trampers who were still interested in tramping but felt they could no longer "keep up" on the usual HTC trips. This group functioned for several years and held trips about once a month - usually during the week.

I would like to re-start the group, so if you are still reasonably fit and would like to get out tramping or you know someone interested please give me a ring at home.

Kath Berry phone 777223  
(or any committee member)

\* \* \* \* \*

#### "CLUB CHRONI-KILL"

Welcome to the new social, gossip and "straight out slander" column.

We welcome to the Club heaps and heaps of new members. Welcome to: Heather Hill, Andrew Dacey, Zane Couper, David Charteris, Claire O'Kane, Debbie Middlemiss, Bev Pawluk, Dean Roughton, and the unforgettable Irish man, Muiris (damn the expense, feed another cat to the goldfish) O'Ceallaigh! It is requested that older members unstack them and generally look after their welfare.

Talking of new members, it seems everyone in the Club is doing their best to provide a new generation for the Club, with Dave and Jenny and Eddie and Sue producing daughters, Nikki and Claire, respectively. The rest are still working on it with everyone doing well except for Stanley, who put his foot in, by spreading unfounded rumours about a certain Club member who was seen in a babywear shop.

Gavin has somehow or other landed an apprenticeship at Mackerseys and according to my notes, Allan received tramper award. Actually I would have given them a paragraph each except for the incident with my bush shirt. I'll learn them yet. (Note to the Editor: Please twink 'Learn' and replace with 'teach' for Glenda and Russell's Pohokura.)

I was going to title this part achievements but I'm not sure of the spelling.

Janet Brown of the 'Taranaki in white sauce' fame, was the second woman to finish in the Labour Weekend 3 day mountain to sea triathlon in a time of 20 hours 56 minutes and 23 seconds. The event included cycling, canoeing and running. (Good thing it wasn't a sea to mountain job or she might still be there.)

Bevis Stevens won the 1987 Hawkes Bay Music Teachers scholarship.

Heather Hawthorne won a first prize for her new secretarial skills at the Polytechnic.

I suppose I should mention that Zane Couper was awarded the H.T.C. trip to the Outdoor Pursuit Centre, and Hamish Tait is going on the Spirit of New Zealand over in Australia

The Club Library is now in Stan's garage, so do try to make more use of it there.

Finally subs are due.

Adults	\$15.00
Juniors	\$10.00
Associate	\$ 6.00
Couples	\$22.50
Family rates on application.	

P Berry.

-ooo 000000 ooo-

#### To Dry Fruit

Dissolve 200g Sodium Metabisulphite in 2 gallons water.

Cut fruit in half, remove stones.

Put into solution for 12 hours putting a plate on top to weigh fruit down.

Drain and rinse well in clean running water.

In a sunny place spread out the fruit cut side up.

Leave in the sun for at least one day - then they can be put anywhere to finish drying off.

Store in air tight containers.

(The solution can be used 3-4 times.)

Notes: We have found - 1 gallon solution does a bucket of fruit. 4 buckets of fruit makes 3 icecream containers full of dried fruit.

Fruit is ready while it is still soft and pliable. It takes 2 or 3 days of good sun outside.

We use 2 or 3 layers of shade cloth spread on cobble stones to dry the fruit on.

Plums, apricots and peaches - use as above.

Apples and bananas - slice and soak for 2 - 3 hours - rinsed and dried are successful.

Onions can be chopped up and just put outside in the sun.

KMB.

-ooo0oooooooo0ooo-

"Something attempted, something done,  
Has earned a nights repose"

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.



PRIVATE TRIPS

KAWEKAS

12th-16th August 1987

Wednesday:

After a late start I left Pinks Hut at 9.30am heading for Middle Hill Hut in perfect weather for lunch, and loaded with 5 days goodies in my pack, I clambered slowly up onto the tops where I had a few big patches of snow to cross. Above Ballards I buried my weekend food in the snow, to wait for my return and continued over to Tira Lodge, arriving at 5.15pm for a cool night.

Thursday:

At 8.00am I followed across Venison Topsas if going to Rocks Ahead Hut, but once in the beech trees I headed straight west down a ridge to the junction of Omarukokare Stream and the Ngaruroro River, arriving at 10.00am. The going was easy, well defined and once down I crossed the stream but was too cautious to visit the bivy across the Ngaruroro. After a brew, by 10.30am I started up the ridge, north to Ngakawekaiti trig and Te Puke Hut. I gained the trig, 1247m, by lunch time and finally the bush line by 2.15pm. The going was easy at first but I encountered several places where "down on all fours" was the only way. Across the tops north to Te Puke Hut at 5.00pm was a stroll.

Friday:

After a comfortable night, I went up to Te Puke Trig and had a play with my radio. Later, 11.30am I was off back to Tira Lodge 4.00pm past Mangaturutu. The weather remained perfect.

Saturday:

Left Tira Lodge 8.30am heading to Ballards Hut, 10.30am. My food had kept okay. I cut wood, had lunch, sat around in the sun until Ross & Co arrived at 4.00pm. Had a great night.

Sunday:

I continued with Ross & Co out to the Makahu carpark, then home.

Randall Goldfinch.

PUREORA - SIDE TRIP - TITIRAUPENGA

25th October 1987

Shortly before the truck with the rest of the group left the campsite, Bevis Stevens and I headed for Mangakino, with the intention of getting fuel. After two filling stations, the first being closed, we headed for Titiraupenga. We left the car at 11.00am with an overcast sky above and three Brittons in front. We were determined to catch up with them and set a fairly brisk pace. After a short chat with them we continued at the same pace towards the top but alas, Bevis's pace proved too much and I had to let him go on ahead.

From the top, which we reached in about 45 minutes, the view was shrouded in cloud although we were able to make out Lake Taupo, Lake Whakamaru and most of Mt Pureora. We then raced to the bottom in about 16 minutes stopping only at the stream for water. After a quick change we were back on the road for Taupo where we had Kentucky Fried for lunch, before Bevis dropped me off at De Bretts' on his way to Taihape. Five or ten minutes later the truck pulled up and we all went down to the hot pools. David Charteris.

MACPAC N.Z. MOUNTAIN MARATHON - RUAHINE 1988

Preparations are well under way for this event and to those involved February 1988 seems just around the corner.

The event area will provide a dramatic variety of terrain. Those who competed at Tongariro, Holdsworth and Waiouru will all feel in familiar territory as the courses unfold and the vegetation and geology of the routes change. The area will provide high rolling tussock country with imposing rocky escarpments dominating the open valleys providing sharp contrast to routes through native beech-podocarp forest and over sparkling mountain streams. High ridges and spurs above the snowline provide magnificent views - the mountains of Tongariro National Park to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east.

This particular event will differ from previous mountain marathons in several ways.

The normal mountain marathon courses like most cross country orienteering courses follow a roughly circular route. The Ruahine event is going to provide an exception to this tradition. Courses One and Two over the two day period will cross the Ruahine Range from west to east. One day they will start on a remote inland plateau and on day two will descent the steep spurs of the eastern Ruahine's and emerge on open farmland at the foot of the ranges.

Courses Three and Four will be set using the normal approach. The roughly circular route. The main exception here is that on day one these courses will be over the rolling tussock and rocky valleys of the high country stations of the Ruahine foothills. All four courses will finish at the same point.

In an attempt to open this type of event to a wider range of entrants, course two has been kept simple, inasmuch as the route course is minimal and the route is straight forward. This course has been designed as an endurance event. It will cater for trampers and other fit mountain users. I stated that this course is simple, it is, but only to people used to navigating with map and compass in the mountains and trackless forest.

In a further endeavour to open up this type of event a special map is not being printed. The scale and detail of N Z M S 260 series of Land and Survey topographical maps is such, we have decided to use the appropriate area map. This map will be corrected where considered necessary and will be water protected.

The Ruahine Mountain Marathon is being organised by the Hawkes Bay Orienteering Club and the Hastings based Heretaunga Tramping Club. As an orienteer, it is interesting being exposed to the ideas and the different approach of those involved in what I now consider to be an allied sport. Our activities are normally poles apart but at this level and type of event the differences tend to disappear; it is only the degree of navigational difficulty that remains.

The trampers have organised an efficient and mobile search and rescue contingency over the mountain route. I hope that they do not have the opportunity to use this particular arm of our organisation.

A combined effort by the trampers and the Napier Amateur Radio Branch will provide communication both days. On the second day there will be several radio controls along the mountain route which will enable progress reports to be relayed to the finish. This will enable spectators to follow the progress of competitors through the ranges to within an hour (?) of the finish.

Last, but not least, the event is to be widely promoted and supported by a keen and active sponsor - MACPAC. This firm of outdoor equipment manufacturers produce so much of the gear essential to outdoors and mountain people, including orienteers. They manufacture all the major items of gear and clothing required by mountain marathoners. I am sure that the Ruahine Ranges will provide a tough test for both equipment and competitors.

I hope to see you somewhere in the Ruahine Ranges.

Ted Sapsford.

-xxx XXXXXX xxx-

#### LETTERS

From the Department of Conservation, we have received the following:

"This letter is to inform your members as to the reasons why a gate has been erected at the start of Kaweka Road which gives access to Makahu Saddle. There has been some ill-informed rumours that we are closing access.

I would like to stress that this road will continue to be open to the public. The main reason or purpose for this gate is primarily 'Public Safety'. As you and many of your members will know, we can get the odd snow fall down to the 500 metre level. With snow down to these levels members of the public in two wheel drive vehicles still attempt to use the road. This does lead to a dangerous situation especially if we have icy conditions. This access is narrow and in places a steep gradient.

A secondary purpose for this gate is in these conditions some members of the public resort to chains or spikes. The damage caused by these few people is way out of proportion to the total number of vehicles using the road over the year.

So, to recap - when the road is in a dangerous condition i.e. low snow level, with icy conditions, this gate will be closed. As well as a sign at the gate, public announcements over the main radio stations will take place if conditions on the road reach this stage.

Looking at last winter, and this winter to date, we have only experienced these conditions 2-3 times. After the last heavy snowfall the road was closed for 4 days.

All your members need to remember if there is a heavy snowfall i.e. 500-800 metre level, they can ring me at 298-882 as to the condition of the road to Makahu Saddle.

Yours faithfully  
Phil Mohi.

-X-X-X-X-X-

And from C E Harris of Wellington comes;

"While staying at Waikamaka Hut at the weekend with a party from VUWTC, I observed that your hut (renovated in 1982) was fitted with a wallsocket of a type which was taken out of production in 1975 or shortly thereafter on the grounds that its Earth contacts spread too easily and tended eventually to fail to connect with the plug.

If your hut had been wired by a registered electrician I would have expected that in 1982 he would have used the new type (distinguishable by a small stipple above the Earth slot).

I suggest that you get the wallsocket replaced and check to see whether the hut has been professionally wired.

Yours Faithfully,  
C E Harris  
Batchelor of Engineering (Mechanical)

To which we replied;

"We acknowledge your letter of 23rd April, 1987 and apologise for the long delay in replying. Local electricity inspectors were most reluctant to travel to Waikamaka to check the hut for faulty or dangerous wiring.

We have researched your complaint and would like your views on the following suggestion. The present wiring of the hut presents in no way a dangerous situation. However, if a person qualified as a Batchelor of Engineering (Mechanical) such as yourself would be prepared to help with the connecting of the present generating facilities sited thirty metres to the rear of the hut to the existing wiring we have a registered electrician on standby to check all circuits for safety.

Details of requirements for a methane driven generator for a person with your qualifications should present a stimulating exercise and being a keen tramper we are sure you would like to donate time and energy to improve an otherwise free facility for your comfort when you return to Waikamaka."

Needless to say, we are looking forward to his reply!

-X-X-X-X-X-

"As we advance in life we learn the limits of our abilities."

James Anthony Froude.

## 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 transport, it may take two or three more hours to return, plus any unexpected delays. Beginners should always make sure that any who may worry about them know this. Although usually earlier than 10.00pm, until then there would be no cause for worry. In case of concern, all new-comers should ensure that there 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 354-303 or Graham Thorpe at 434-238

## FARE: CONFIRMATION

Fare; Local: \$10.00 seniors; \$5.00 juniors; \$8.00 school students  
Other: Fare set by 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:

### DECEMBER 20th- WAIKOAU GORGE

A social end of the year trip to a limestone gorge with huge boulders, tall cliffs, but easy to explore. A picnic follows at Lake Opouaki. Bring the family.  
Map. N 114 (NZMS 1) Leader. Christine Hardie 434912

### CHRISTMAS TRIP - SOUTH ISLAND

N.W. Nelson is where we are going, into the Cobb Valley. An interesting area to tramp. Nelson Lakes will be visited on the way home.  
Maps. M 26, M 27 Leader. Peter Berry 774183

### JANUARY 16 -17 th - RANGAIIAKA BEACH

This beach is just south of Cape Kidnappers. Plenty of sandy beaches and sunshine. A good relaxing trip after the Christmas rush.  
Map. W 21, W 22 Leader. Allan Mouat 799391

### JANUARY 30 - 31 st - KIWI SADDLE HUT OPENING

Leaving Saturday afternoon to spend the night at our new hut. After the official opening, we'll dismantle the old hut.  
Map. U 20 Leader. Stan Woon 84680

FEBRUARY 14th - SOUTH KENAKAS

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

Map. U 20

Leader. Sandie Dungan 355209

FEBRUARY 20 - 21st MOUNTAIN MARATHON

We will be helping the H.B. Orienteering Club to run this event. It's held in the Ruahines. Contact your Club Captain now if you can help.

Map. U 20

Leader. Dave Harrington 439999

FEBRUARY 28th - RAFT TRIP

This year it's down the Ngaruroro River starting from the confluence of the Taruarau River and going down to Whanawhana. Can be walked if you wish.

Map. U 21

Leader. Nigel Brown 798239

MARCH 12 - 13th PINUS CONTORTA

Our annual event on the lower slopes of Mt Ruapehu, to destroy this giant weed (tree). A Friday night start and always a good social trip.

Map. S 20 - T 20 (I hope) Leader.

MARCH 26 - 27th KAPITI ISLAND

The Clubs first trip to this flora and fauna reserve which contains plenty of species of birds, including rare ones eg; Saddleback. Sunday is the day. Saturday to be spent somewhere else.

Map. R 26

Leader. John Berry 776205

APRIL 1 - 4th EASTER TRIP

A social camping trip based at Kuripapanga with activities like abseiling at Cattle Hill, fishing, target shooting etc or just lazing around.

Map. U 20

Leader.

APRIL 10th EASTERN RUAHINES

Into Gold Creek to see the hut, with a nice stream to follow in beech forest. A round trip could be made.

Map. U 22

Leader. Adrian Brown 798239

APRIL 23 - 25th WAIPUNGA FOREST

An area off the Napier - Taupo Road with beautiful podocarp forest with the Matahuhio Stream flowing through. Good tracks and huts in this area.

Map. N 104(NZMS 1)

Leader. Bevis Stevens 775358

MAY 8th - KAWEKA RANGE

Up Makahu Spur, along the tops a bit, then back down via Camp Spur and Kaweka Flats. A good round trip.

Map. U 20

Leader. Ted Sapsford 798993

MAY 22nd - GOVERNMENT SPUR

Leader. Russell Perry(0728)68313

JUNE 5 - 7th ROUND RUAPEHU TRACK

Leader. Brian Culpan 84975

JUNE 19th - THREE JOHNS

Leader. Ross Berry 750532