

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC).

BOX 447, HASTINGS.

'P O H O K U R A'

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PETER'S PONDERINGS.

A New Club Truck.

'Gwavas Forestry.

9 August 1953

Trip No. 460.

Part 1: The Departure.

This was the first official appearance of the CLUB TRUCK. Ian Stirling and helpers spent many hours of solid work on it, inside and out, before they allowed it to bear the burden of a club trip. As it slowly drew up at Holt's with Ian at the wheel there was something solid and dependable about it that augered well for many future trips.

We tied a long streamer of Club colours across the road, produced a pair of scissors and prepared to 'cut the ribbon' with due ceremony. But a loud protest arose over the cutting of the same so we decorated the radiator with it instead and away she went.'

It doesn't seem very long ago that our super-annuated old 1956 "A" Bedford was swapped for our shiny new 1971 TK Bedford. - Oh the joys of traveling dirt roads in a vehicle with a closed back. It is very long ago though. Thirteen years have passed and despite the efforts of Selwyn, Geoff, Gerald and the rest of the truck crew, the old girl is wearing out.

Our new truck, number 6 in a distinguished line, will feature power steering, exhaust brakes, a purpose-built canopy (designed by Eddie) and a diesel motor. It will be lighter, easier to drive, more fuel efficient and safer.

So now you are all fired up with enthusiasm for this new project and are asking yourselves - What can I do to help? Well, Dave Cormack is in charge of fund-raising so see him about making a donation or ways of earning money. Last time we mended thousands of fruit bins and demolished two houses. The pressing need at the moment is \$\$\$ the more \$\$\$ the flasher the truck. So lets get stuck in and get this truck on the road by Christmas. Tramping Club trucks are more than just transport, they are an institution dating back 50 years, they are a social event, a base and a welcome sight through the pouring rain. So GO for it!

CLUB TRIPS.

EASTER TRIP.

13 - 16 April 1990.

Trip No. 11463.

There were not nearly enough takers for the planned trip to the Kaimanawa area which was disappointing. Instead, a small number of us decided to do a loop trip in the Kaweka Range starting from the J, working west and north through Black Ridge, Rocks Ahead, Venison Top, Makino then south over the main range and back to the starting point.

By the time Good Friday arrived, however, our numbers were down to three but we decided to carry on as planned. The weather was fantastic when we left Napier and the forecast was excellent. The drive to Makahu was uneventful until we were going over the last part of the Black Birch Range. An unhealthy noise made us stop and investigate and we were confronted with the sight of a flat tyre. But no problem - Len quickly and efficiently changed it and we continued to the car park. Several vehicles already there warned us of the multitudes of hunters that we were expecting to encounter.

On the way up we met a hunter on the way down. It turned out that he was an ex-forestry worker who used to be based at Makahu before restructuring struck. He comes back regularly during the roar and was able to give us some very interesting observations about the state of the environment in these parts now. He told us of plants that are now practically gone from the area (e.g. native fuchsia) and commented on how the pines are taking over. It appears that the deer are well and truly back in force; he had shot two the previous day only minutes from Makahu Hut.

We continued plodding up the hill until nearly at the Dominic Riv. At this stage it became obvious that Len, who had been feeling increasingly unwell, could not really go on, so we decided it was best to turn back. Fortunately it was not far and Len didn't have to be carried or anything dramatic like that! Hopefully Len recovered once he was back home. Better luck next time.

Party: Christine Hardie, Len Frost and Christopher Frost.

Three Johns.

22 April 1990.

Trip No. 1464.

Dawn slowly broke as we drove down Highway 50 to reveal a sprinkling of fresh snow on the Ruahines. This was the result of a bad forecast we had had the day before but it looked as if it had passed over quickly and that we were in for a good day.

It was very cold as we dropped down to the Waipawa River where we left Dave and Roger to find their own route up to Three Johns from the Homestead Trig. The rest of us headed up through the gorge and it was good to get into the warmth of the sun when we stopped for a break at the Forks. There is something about the Waipawa River - I like the challenge of finding the best route up the ever steepening grade with the rugged east face of 56 and the face of Three Johns, with its mountain beech, rock and waterfall, in front of you to feast your eyes upon and help take your mind off the climb.

In next to no time we arrived at Waipawa Saddle to a bit of a cold wind from the south. Now we had to tackle the 600 feet up on to Three Johns. It was steep and I was trying to zigzag a bit to ease the pain. Two hundred feet to go and Bruce came back to say that the ground was frozen. Having no climbing gear I thought that we might have to turn back but we managed to kick steps through the thin snow into the shingle. Three Johns has two peaks with a 300 yard broken ridge in between and once we were on this we all felt a lot safer and to add to our confidence, we met Dave and Roger half way along. Noon saw us sitting on top having lunch and admiring the view to Rangitikei, 66 and Hikerangi Range.

It was my plan to descend the ridge which runs down to the Waipawa Chalet. All went well for a start, even when we got into the mountain beech it wasn't too bad. BUT half way down, when we got into head high fern, things went from bad to worse. Two hours of trying to stay together, falling, sliding, crashing and cursing, saw us still a long way from the river. Dave took over the lead and took a more direct approach - going straight down. We finished up above the gorge at a place that we couldn't get down directly. After a bit of a scramble along the side we did get down to the river, 3½ hours after leaving the top - not bad.

Thanks team for following me uncomplaining on this hard and enjoyable trip.

J.G.

Party: Jim Glass (Leader), Bev Pearce, Thelma Tasman Smith, David Charteris, Julie Turner, Judy McBride, Bruce Porter, Lady Lyn Gentry, David Cormack, David Harrington, Al Moffitt and Roger Pawluk.

(See page 18 to find who the Three Johns were.)

Family Trip to the Maraetotara Reserves.

29 April 1990.

Trip No. 1465.

We left Treachers, Havelock North on a sunny mid morning in a convoy of cars, consisting of babies through to Grandparents, and headed off for Maraetotara Gorge and Mohi Bush. Eventually we arrived at the parking area above the Gorge, still in fine weather.

With young ones strapped to the fronts or backs of Mums and Dads, the party then moved off to the left of this car park, into the Gorge Reserve which is by nature steep sided. The track itself is steep in parts, winding amongst the dense bush which contains some good specimens of tree ferns, rimu and kahikatea, just to mention a few, interwoven with supplejack. It was interesting to notice the bird life, with one wood pigeon in particular, feeding at eye level close to the track. The small river consisted of large moss covered boulders, small waterfalls and deep holes over papa rocks. One part was traversed by a natural bridge of sorts which appeared to have collapsed over the years, causing some concern when crossed. On the other side of the gorge we came across a rocky outcrop which enticed some of the younger experienced rock climbers to brush up their skills. The hill-side gallery were duly entertained by these 'mean feats' of endurance with encouraging comments such as "Don't stand too close Children, Daddy might slip" or "Have you got adequate insurance cover?". Seriously though, it was an interesting interlude to see guys spread-eagled across the face and to hear the children encouraging them from the top, having taken the long way up.

We returned by the same way and then made Mohi Bush our next stop, with everyone diving into lunch. This itself, was an interesting exercise. Because the picnic shelter was exposed to the cold winds, the whole party crammed into a narrow cutting between two rocky outcrops on the fringe of the bush. Also provided was a supplejack - a quick exit point for one of the Dads when checking up upon his 'tribe'. The average tourist would have been left in a state of shock on suddenly coming across this varied group of individuals 'sardined' into such an unusual confined space. However, in due course the party moved into the bush and, with the help of some of the more knowledgeable ones on tree identification and habitat, we had a very interesting afternoon discussing the various species of trees, ferns and fungi. Nature also provided swings for the children by way of supplejacks suspended by good stands of tawa, rimu, matai and kahikatea. It was very interesting to note the moss covered floor where the sun never penetrated.

During the walk we wandered off the main track to a lookout point which gave us a good view of the Waimaramara hills and across the Bay to Mahia Peninsula. On returning back to the car we found that one of the youngsters had brought back her supplejack skipping rope. It was amazing how quickly the young and not so young recovered to have a go! Most then returned home via the back road to take in the sights around Waimaramara and one car load had the most unusual experience of coming across two native pigeons sitting on the fence posts beside the road. In all haste we pulled up with both 'parties' remaining very still and observing each other from all quarters. A sight not to be forgotten. A great day was had by all, encouraged by fine weather, being supportive of each others needs and good company.

R.F.

Party: Sue, Eddie, Claire & Glen Holmes, Roy Frost, Jim Glass, Heather, Graeme, Tammy & Libby Boaler, Liz Pindar, Russell, Joanne, Rachel, Matthew, Christopher, Samuel & Rebekka Perry, Glenda Hooper & Peter, Daniel & Donna Berry, Shirley Bathgate and Clive, Karen & Heather Thurston, Nigel, Sue & Vickie Fields unfortunately arrived too late to walk with us but joined in with the nattering at the end.

Kaweka Hut - Kuripapango Lakes.

20 May 1990.

Trip No. 1466.

THIS was the trip that changed, that changed, that changed, that changed, that actually changed. No, I have not got a bad case of literary stutters, quite simply 'this was the trip that changed'.

According to the Pohokura, the original trip was to have commenced at the Water Gauge Car Park, follow the southern track up Kuripapango Hill then through to Kiwi Saddle Hut and then return via the old Smith Russell Track.

CHANGE 1: I then decided to attempt to find the lower (eastern) end of the old Smith Russell Track, follow it up and then descend to the Water Gauge via the existing track.

CHANGE 2: The Saturday night before the tramp I was talking to a club member who had found and ascended the old track during the last few years. Her comment was that it was pretty overgrown 8 years ago did not appeal, especially as there were 5 people in the party who were to be taking part on their first Club tramp.

CHANGE 3. This was based on the hope that we would have fine weather on the day; start from Lakes car park, climb up Kuripapango Hill and head north-west through the beech trees to spot height 1359, enjoy the magnificent views, have lunch and then return.

Those were the plans and those were the changes (to date) - but we all know what happens to the plans of mice and men, don't we!

During the preceding week the weather forecast was consistent. Heavy cloud moving in on Saturday with rain starting about midday Sunday then turning to the south. Saturday was beaut, warm and no cloud. In fact the sky was clear 10.30 that night. Sunday morning, 5.45 the sky was still clear but the edge of a cloud bank was directly overhead. Good, the weather is about 18 hours behind - we should get a fine day! Yes, well at 6.40 Fiona and I left home and by that time the sky was completely covered by a lowering blanket of cloud. At 7.08 AM a full complement of 18 of us in 5 cars left Holts for the Lakes car park. By about 7.20 we were using wind-screen wipers as the rain rapidly caught up the missing 18 hours. By the time we got to the Lakes car park it was wet enough for the winds of change to blow again:

CHANGE 4: We decided to go to Kaweka Hut and through to Mackintosh and out over the 3 wire bridge to return down the road. The rain was not too bad, nor was it cold. The cloud was obscuring the tops most of the time which was unfortunate as our new people did not get much of a chance to see the ranges that surrounded us to the west. We reached Kaweka Hut about 10 and decided that smoko was the order of the day. Parkas were doffed and those who had it changed into drier clothing. Thelma and Fiona were convinced that some thieving so and so had flogged some of the hut table as they were adamant it was bigger the last time they were there. My mind boggled at the vision of felon or felons unknown flogging our table and carrying it away. Possibly for auction at McKearneys or maybe secretly sold to some overseas museum. Then of course to allay suspicions a replica had secretly carried in so the the HTC would not realise that their treasured table had been pinched, what devious, brilliant minds these table floggers must have. However, not good enough to fool Thelma and Fiona! I suspect that

Liz Pindar may have been an accessory to the heinous crime as she managed to divert attention from the theft with her ingenious proposal of tarring already feathered turkeys and walking them into Kiwi Saddle Hut for the mid winter Xmas Party being organized by several of the younger members. This proposal managed to divert all attention from the wicked theft. Good ploy Liz.

While we were at the hut it really started to rain quite heavily and several of us started to wonder what was happening to the ford on Lakes Road, hence;

CHANGE 5. Instead of continuing on to Mackintosh and finding that we could not get out to the main road, we decided to return to the cars and possibly go to the Blowhard area and have a look around there. Some of the group went back by the main track by which we had come and the rest of us went by an alternative route which starts at the rear of the hut. Our timing was good as we met Kath right at the track junction with the other group behind her.

When we got back to the cars it was still raining but not so hard, still enough for nuisance value. Several of our number wanted to see Kuripapango Lakes and others decided to call it a day while yet another group headed off to Blowhard. We followed the track south to the Lakes. I ventured along the old track that led south to the Taihape Road to have a quick scout around for the entrance of the Smith Russell track. Peter Berry had given me a fairly clear description of where to look, I found the site he had described and it tallied with his description but I was unable to find any trace of old track markers. I was not prepared to waste too much time so gave up and tried to catch up with the rest of the party who had continued around the western lake to the Timberlands track and thence to the car park. Most of our party had reached the car park just ahead of me and were most sensibly changing into dry clothes.

CHANGE 6. To billio with the Blowhard lets go home. We did just that. Despite the rain it was a pleasant muck around sort of day, no pressure and no targets to reach, change definitely being the order of the day. Thanks to the drivers who provided transport and welcome to the newcomers. (Sorry about the weather but please try again, we enjoyed your company).

T.S.

Party: Drivers; Al Moffitt, Mike Craven, Liz Pindar, Nigel Brown & Ted Sapsford (Leader).

Newcomers; Brian & Andrew Fifield, Jenny Rogers, Sandy Maidens & Leo Brunton.

Balance of group; Thelma Tasman Smith, Shirley Bathgate, Jenny Lean, Kath Berry, Fiona Sapsford, Paul Trigg, Sebastian Bacchus, & Vic Bullock.

Waipunga Forest.

2 - 4 June 1990.

Trip No. 1467.

We left my place in Taradale 8.00 clock Saturday morning and proceeded along the Napier - Taupo Road, turning off at the old Pohokura Road and then onto the Waipunga Road. After running up a couple of side roads and realizing that they weren't the right ones, the truck nearly getting stuck and Len trying to confuse

me by saying that I'd taken the wrong road, we eventually found the right one.

We left the truck about 11.15 in steady light rain and walked along the road to Opureke Hut, our starting point. Up and up we went, through beautiful podocarp forest with fine stands of rimu, each setting their own pace. Mist hung around shutting out any chance of a view. We dived under the trees to get some shelter from the rain and the cold for lunch. The track was well defined with a lot of windfalls since I was last in the area. After 3½ hours we reached the turn off to Lower Matakuhia and had another stop for munchies. Henry was most amused as he had never seen people stop so often to eat food. We sidled along the river with a couple of river crossings and the weather was beginning to improve. The track however, started to become overgrown with stinging nettle and bush lawyer, with everyone managing to get stung. Three of the 'fitter types' had gone on ahead and it was nice to round a corner and see smoke coming from the hut chimney.

The Lower Matakuhia Hut has 6 bunks but unfortunately the rats had taken over - all the insulating paper has been eaten and food some previous tenants had hung from the roof had been gnawed. On seeing this we all pitched our tents on a grassy area close to the hut, disturbing a pair of blue ducks whose territory we had invaded. With the aid of torches and candles we cooked our meals and chatted whilst clothes were dried, before retiring to bed.

We woke up Sunday morning to more rain (groan, groan) but it was only a shower and the day looked promising. After sweeping out the hut we set off about 8.30, retracing our steps back to the track junction. Just past the shingle slide (after obliging Barry while he took some photos) we came across a second pair of blue duck. The rain had stopped and it was quite pleasant as we walked up towards Upper Matakuhia Hut, the track obviously had had more use than yesterdays. After stream crossings, clambering over fallen logs and sliding down greasy banks (trials of a short person) we reached the hut at 11.30. This hut consists of 8 bunks and was occupied by two hunters who very quickly disappeared after we arrived. There was no axe or saw for firewood and no broom to clear out the rat droppings and the hut stank of rats.

We pitched our tents, allowing them to dry and had an early lunch. David, James and John decided to take a look at a bivvy two hours away while the rest of us decided to have a leisurely saunter along the track, taking in the scenery and bird life. For such a good area of bush the bird life was disappointing for we only saw a tomtit, fantails, riflemen and 5 blue ducks - maybe the wet and cold had something to do with it. We cooked tea while it was still daylight and then as the evening cooled we retired to the hut for a couple of hours before going to bed - the men outstayed the women - strange that.

Monday morning we broke camp and began our trek back to the truck. Mrs Lyn and I had remembered the climb back up from the river but found it relatively easy (packs must have got lighter). The mist had cleared giving us views out towards Taupo and Hawke Bay where we could see brilliant sunshine. We arrived back at the truck at 1.30 where Len had his primus going and a cuppa was appreciated by most.

We had an uneventful trip back, most arriving home around 5.00. This area would provide a great trip in summer. Thanks Barry for driving the truck and everyone for the great company.

S.L.

Party: Susan Lopdell (Leader), Len Frost, Christopher Frost, Lyn Gentry (Mrs), Barry & Diana Thompson, James Chittenden, Jenny Lean, Judy McBride, Alastair Moffitt, John Montgonerie, Bruce Almond, Henry Cornes and David Cormack.

Otumakioire Trig.

17 June 1990.

Trip No. 1468.

The truck left Holts at 6 AM and picked me up at Eskdale at 6.50. Some way up the Taupo Road we saw a car which had slid on the icy road and flipped onto its roof. We stopped briefly at Waipunga Falls where several hardy folk braved the frosty chill and got out of the truck for a look.

At 8.50 we stopped under some pine trees just off the road and got our tramping gear on. Dave went for a quick explore and we all set off at 9 along a track. A few minutes later we all turned around, retraced our steps and headed off in the other direction. We struck tall cutty grass early on and had to bush bash for quite a lot of the way up. Progress was slow but steady and everyone kept up well. We got to the trig at about 11 and had a beautiful view across the plains to the mountains. Everyone was quite hungry so we decided to have an early lunch. Dave was trying to decide where to go next so we picked a peak where we could see a forestry road. Somehow I volunteered to 'gain some leadership experience and practice using my map and compass'. Lew was my backup man.

We bush bashed down the ridge, making one or two side detours when confronted with some long drops. Initially the going was quite hard but the bush opened up and progress was quite rapid. I kept checking my compass and map so I felt that we were headed in much the right direction and we finally arrived at a small stream which we felt was the beginning of our climb up to the forestry road. There Dave asked us where we thought we were on the map and of course we were wrong - not much wrong though. (There is quite a skill in reading a map properly). Anyway, the best way was up and in 10-15 minutes we had clambered out onto the forestry road. We sat in a beautiful sunny spot for a while just relaxing and nibbling on what was left of our food.

It was an easy walk along the forestry road. When we got to a point near the main Taupo Road half the group clambered straight down and walked back along the highway. The rest of us followed a track through the scrub which was a bit rough on the legs but was worth the pain as we saw a fernbird. The sun was still shining when got back to the truck and we set off for home about 4. It had been a most enjoyable day.

R.P.

Party: David Harrington (Leader), Christine Hardie, Susan Lopdell, Roger Pawluk, Leo Brunton, Andre Brunton, Allan Cowan, Vic Bullock, Lew Harrison and Darrell Smith.

Howletts Hut.

30 June - 1 July 1990.

Trip No. 1469.

An early start saw us leaving Holts car park, bound for Moorcock Base and the 'dry' way to Howletts Hut, as dawn broke, on in our case, just sort of fell, looking pretty gray and depressing. However, the forecast was for early morning showers, clearing, with fine weather later in the day. We were all hoping that the clear weather would hurry up and arrive while we changed frantically at the truck in a bitter wind.

Eventually, all rugged up against the wind and cold drizzle we set off along the 4-wheel drive track and across Moorcock Stream to the bottom of the ridge that would take us to Midge's Sidle Track. The track meanders sort of down hill, through a nice area of open bush, until it joins with the track coming from the Pohangina Saddle. Beyond this, the track descends down to the Tukituki River about half a kilometre downstream of Daphne Hut. After four or five crossings we reached Daphne Hut where lunch was eaten with a welcome hot drink. Thus fortified, we once more girded our loins and plunged across the other side of the river where we donned dry socks, before starting the charge up Daphne Spur to our destination.

Christine, Susan and Glenn elected to stay at Daphne to look after the numerous pairs of wet socks. The rest of us, in groups that varied with regard to the level of speed, fitness and energy, carried on our way. The track was soon turned to a morass of mud as we slithered and slogged our way up through the bush to the open tussock. By this time I had reached the conclusion that the weather was not going to improve. Probably the thing that impressed this on me was the way my knees had turned blue with the peppering they received from the sleet, driven horizontally at the speed of at least 400 miles an hour. With visibility down to about 100 metres, and cold, blustery, wet conditions, we were all more than happy to reach the hut.

By the time I arrived at the hut Sandie and Pat had the fire going and the billy on the boil. Leading from the rear does have its advantages in cases like this. Everyone was soon milling around, getting into dry clothes and quaffing copious quantities of hot drinks. Soon we were enveloped into a delicious smelling hot fug, as various teas were constructed and rapidly disposed of, with hardly a backward glance to the tonsils, all the while being ably entertained with quick, although inane, repartee by Messrs Crammins and Gentry. In no time at all yawning, weary bodies were making their way to their sleeping bags.

Sunday morning saw little, if any, improvement in the weather, with just an occasional glimpse through the mist of Tiraha and patches of rapidly disappearing snow. After a leisurely breakfast we were away on our way again, down hill to Daphne, where we stopped for an early lunch and to give our knees a chance to recover from the jelly like state they were in.

After retrieving our little bundles of socks from the hut and environs, we headed off downstream to the start of the Sidle Track. We went in groups of four, with the intention of practising our river crossing, although the river was not running particularly fast or high. A good opportunity nevertheless. In what seemed like no time at all (I speak with forked tongue) we were over-

looking the Moorcock Stream and the last leg. Arriving back at the truck we found Christine & Co., who had left Daphne a couple of hours ahead of us, had been befriended by a horse that seemed to know there could be a few tidbits in the offing.

A change of dry clothes and we were soon on our way home, arriving back at Holts at about 5.15. Although the weather could have been better, I don't think we could have improved upon the company and those individuals who kept everybodys spirits up. My thanks to them and everybody else in making my job as leader easy, and also to Christine for her driving.

L.F.

Party: Len Frost (Leader), Christine Hardie, Susan Lopdell, Diana Thompson, Kris Williams, Leo Brunton, Sandie Dungan, Glenn Bixley, Lyn Gentry (Mr), Reagan Gentry, Pat 'Gutter' Cremmins, Ray Slavin, Mark Craven & Thelma Tasman-Smith.

Makino Hut.

15 July 1990.

Trip No. 1470.

With a pink blush at its reticence the sun rose slowly, adding warmth to an icy world. Frost clothed the paddocks and in the back of the truck we huddled together for warmth, like the sheep that we were driving past.

Geoff drove us to the saddle on the Hot Springs Road where we unhuddled then set off with varying degrees of enthusiasm for Makino Hut. Steep at first, the track flattened out through kanuka that was regenerating into bush. By the time we got to Makino Bivvy, a magnificent relic of a bygone style of architecture (read - grotty hovel), the kanuka, attractively understoreyed with lycopodiums, had given way to young beech forest. A trace of cloud clothed the tops as they appeared at intervals on the track but the brilliant sunshine soon dispelled the hardness of the morning's frost. Red beech is so beautiful with the dappled sunlight playing on the carpet of leaves and Makino has the best of all the Kaweka bush.

We lunched lazily on the over-grazed grass at Makino Hut then Bruce, Glenn and Martin set off for Te Puia, where Geoff and Mike had gone. Shortly afterwards the Speediatrics left, heading back to the saddle, spying a falcon on their journey. The Speediatrics were followed by the 'lambling, interested in their surroundings' mob (who saw the guts from the falcon's lunch).

Wandering down to the Springs we passed Barry and Diana & Co. in a land-rover before reaching the truck. Steam and the odour of rotting trampers finally overcame my aversion to being buried alive in a cave and I went down to explore the tunnel that the hot springs come from. After you drop into the tomo your eyes adjust and you walk through a short cave to another tomo where the thermal water oozes out. Very interesting. Downstream looked very very interesting - (stupid I may be, but brave, never).

And so tired and at peace with the world after a tranquil day in the hills we returned to the city. A simple but wonderful trip, thanks everyone for making it such a wonderful day and thanks Geoff for driving.

P.B.

Side Trip.

Trip No. 1470b

I had been keeping an eye on the Kaweka snow level for a week or two, so when I found the Club was heading up to the Makino area, I contacted Lew and we organized a day trip to the tops. To make up the numbers 'Kenwood' came along for the walk too. We felt fairly laden down as we left Makahu shortly after 8 am. At this stage the 'J' was covered in cloud with a fairly strong wind blowing. We stopped at Dominee for a nibble and a few puffs, and soon after, put on our crampons and unstrapped the ice axes. As we neared the top of the ridge the wind died down and the cloud disappeared, leaving us basking in glorious sunshine with hardly a breathe of wind. With sunglasses resting on our noses we headed north to North Kaweka, where I dropped down to the tarn in an unsuccessful attempt to get some water. By this stage a fairly lazy southerly breeze had sprung up and a few bits of wispy cloud were crossing the main range behind us.

We stopped for lunch just south of the Camp Spur junction and, as it was now about 1.30, we decided to drop down to Middle Hill from here. Camp Spur is fairly straight forward and we arrived at Middle Hill Hut about 2.50 pm. Ten minutes later we were off again, heading for Ron Pink's hut where we arrived about 4.15. Soon after the truck arrived and we headed for home.

Thanks, Lew for the company and Mum and Dad B for getting us to Makahu.

R.B.

Party: Main trip; Peter Berry (Leader), Susan Lopdell, Shirley Bathgate, Geoff Robinson, Jenny Lean, Judy McBride, Joy Stratford, Heather Hill, Julie Turner, Nigel Brown, Bruce Porter, Shirley Hayward, Mike Craven, Martin Stafford, Thelma Tasman Smith & Glenn Bixley; Side Trip; Ross Berry & Lew Harrison.

Waikamaka - 'Good Keen Men' Trip.

28 - 29 July 1990.

Trip No. 1471.

It was a 7 am start at my place. As there wasn't enough for the truck we took two cars (thanks drivers). The weather looked good on the way up, as did the snow, so it was crampons and ice axes on the packs. The river was fairly low, but cold. Up at the saddle the snow was pretty thin and the weather was starting to pack up, so it was over the top and down to Waikamaka for a late lunch.

After lunch we dug a hole for the new bog which will hopefully be installed in October. It was hard going but there was plenty of supervision and it was soon deemed deep enough, especially as it was starting to rain. The wet wood that we had gathered didn't burn well so it took a long time to cook tea. Later it was put to good use by everybody telling yarns. After tea we played cards and then off to bed. A mattress each was bliss.

Rain was heard in the night and in the morning there was fresh snow on the ground with big flakes falling thickly from the sky. We decided to move out reasonably early (after bacon & eggs) and got a surprise to find the stream knee deep and filthy brown. It was freezing with wind, snow and sleet on top of the saddle.

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PRIVATE TRIPS.

Round Ngauruhoe.

Horizontal rain, low cloud and cold temperatures meant a soggy walk in to Mangatepopo Hut but our hearts lifted when we walked into the warmth of the hut to find friendly occupants and cosy bed space for the night. After a delicious tea of chicken stew we joined up with an Australian guy (nicknamed Oz) and another family to play 'Murder' and 'Pig'. During interval Andrew took much pleasure in showing off his card trick that has taken him a year to perfect. However, Oz wasn't as dumb as he looked and he soon worked it out (much to Andrew's disgust). We all had rather an early night in the hopes of awakening and finding the weather had cleared allowing us to head over Mt Tongariro to Ketetahi Hut. However, after a long night with either Fiona's knees in my back or Andrew punching out the odd fist or two, we arose to much the same weather as we had gone to bed with.

After a wholesome breakfast of baked beans and spaghetti we decided to have a go at climbing the saddle, bearing in mind that we could still return to Mangatepopo if necessary. Somehow we got to the top of the saddle at the foot of Ngauruhoe. This had been a real grunt for Fiona and I as we had paced ourselves against Andrew and found that $2\frac{1}{2}$ of our steps matched only one of his strides. We stopped there and had a good refuel on chocolate Moro and Mars bars (which were all frozen solid and didn't even chip when thrown on the ground!) We were also given a cup of soup from some very nice guys who had just gone up there for a day trip. The weather at this stage had become more closed in with strong winds that nearly had us airborne, especially going up Red Crater and past Blue Lake, - which wasn't even visible. Oz had caught up to us by now and was much appreciated as he acted as a good wind break. He also lent Fiona his overtrousers, as unbeknown to Andrew and I, she didn't have any.

On the tops we were hit with sleet and light snow which made us appreciate the shelter as we sidled down to Ketetahi Hut. When we finally reached the hut we found it packed and the only beds left were in an outside room. No one inside, especially after paying hut fees, was really prepared to move over for us so we bravely faced the cold. After dinner of beef casserole and potatoes we soon became the envy of everyone else as we started pigging out on a chocolate cream sponge cake. That was delicious and one lady remarked that ours were the biggest smiles she'd seen all day.

That night as we crawled to bed, we began to believe that the weather would never clear up as the wind howled around the hut corners. Wednesday, 0600 hrs; awake to Andrew saying "It's a beautiful morning!" It was too, with a lovely sunrise, clear sky and no wind. Andrew braved the chilly morning and took off for a hot swim before we others got up. He soon reappeared stating that the pools were either too hot or too cold or too small. Anyway, after a good breakfast of porridge with real milk (thanks Andrew) we were ready to leave, "Hold on" says Andrew appearing with a raincoat in his hand, "Whose is this?" Well it turned out to be one of the guys who had shared our room so off went Andrew, running down the track to try to catch them (they had left for the Ketetahi car park 15 minutes earlier). We watched Andrew catch

these guys just as they were disappearing out of view. It only took him 2½ minutes to catch them but a little longer to walk back. On his arrival back at the hut we found they'd also left a big container of salt behind. For some reason Andrew didn't offer to return that to them! We let him have a 45 minute rest and he caught us up just before Blue Lake. It had snowed the previous night which made the view from the tops brilliant. We stopped for a bite and some of Fiona's L&P (which was reviving cause I hadn't carried it) and met up with a Californian guy who attached himself to us going down the icy Oturere crater and had lunch with us at Oturere Hut. It was only 2 o'clock so we decided to carry on to Waihohonu Hut, supposedly 3 hours but we got there in 1 3/4 hours.

Tea was delicious and once again Andrew had to show his card trick to the two hut wardens who spent the rest of the night playing cards with us. That night wasn't cramped and we had a whole mattress each, but Andrew had to swap places with Stephen as his legs were apparently too long.

Thursday morning dawned bright and beautiful and we departed for civilization at 9.30. We had a leisurely walk out with lunch at Tama Lakes and a stop at Taranaki Falls. We finally reached the Chateau at 1530 hrs and made our first stop the local dairy.

This was an enjoyable 4 days with us experiencing all kinds of weather, meeting wonderful people and passing of my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition.

Kathy Turner (Leader & Scribe), Andrew Dacey, Fiona Holdsworth, Stephen Holdsworth.

Tahuhunui. Wed 25 April 1990.

About 10 of us took cars over the Gentle Annie to where the Taihape Road crosses the Taruarau River. The day was fine but cool, a few rain spatters around mid day and light drizzle just as we were returning to the cars at 3.30.

We set off, hopped over the Mangataramea Creek and then up a 4-wheel drive track to the foot of the zig-zag. This part is a good well formed track but a bit of a lung buster as you climb up 400 metres onto the south end of the Tahuhunui Range with the nearest marked high point (Te Turiokanawha, 1060 m) just across to the left. After this climb it is good easy traveling over a rolling, somewhat flat topped range with a mostly well defined track. Down into a saddle, where the track weaves through kanuka for a bit, then another gradual climb over N.Z. moor-land scrub with lots of interesting alpine plants. I remember one rather pleasant patch of beech forest. We stopped for lunch in open low scrub at about 1200 m.

Our leader had promised us a great view if we'd climb this last scrubby knoll. So we did and it was! Away to the west, across Ngamatea country were the volcanoes hidden in cloud. To the south was the Sparrowhawk and Otupae, with the Taruarau winding between them. The Hogget was due north from our observation point while north east was a slanting back-side view of the Kaweka Range, Kaiarahi, Mad Dog and other horrible MacPac memories. The most

striking thing about this country is the great range of colours in the 'developed' farmland contrasting with native bush and scrub - pinks, browns and several shades of green. Great stuff. We returned back to the cars (about 6.15) by retracing our steps but there are plenty of alternatives available.

Al. Moffitt.

.....Club Trips continued from page 11.

The Waipawa was also high enough for us to link arms on some of the crossings and to get you wet where it counts (and freezing with it). Cold, wet but happy we got back to the cars for a late lunch and home. By the look of the weather we were lucky we got out when we did and it was probably just as well there were no 'good keen women' on the trip as they may have got their feet wet.

J.B.

Party: John Berry (Leader), Len Frost, Dave Cormack, Lyn Gentry (Sir), Leo Brunton, John Montgomerie & Eddie Holmes.

I understand that 2 members of the above party received a bit of frost nip on the way out. Perhaps, in future, it would be advisable to keep Len on a leash for Winter trips.....G.H.

WIND.

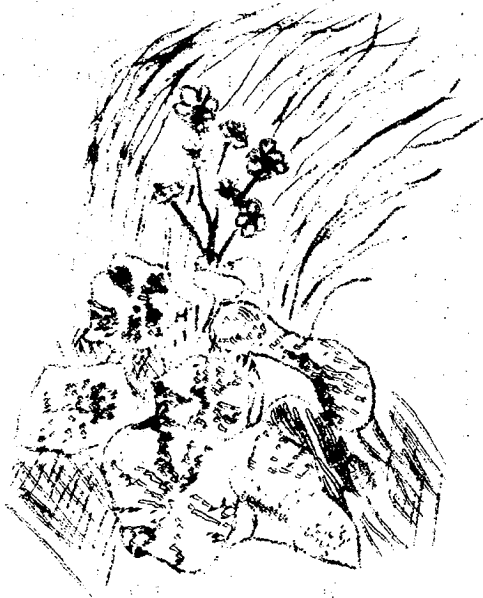
Wind is moving air currents
Caused by changes in temperature and pressure.
It feels like an invisible tide,
Pushing and pulling you.

Warm and soft.
Silky, creeping round
The corners of my tent.
Rippling,
Soothing me to sleep
With the constant chatter
Of a mountain stream on rocks
Coming and going softly.
It can put you in different moods;
Hot winds - exhausted, thirsty, grumpy.

The wind is moving
Twisting branches
Quickly, quietly,
Doing its dances.

Whistling down the gullies,
Creeping through trees so tall,
hurting, lashing, burning,
At times I have to crawl

Eileen Turner (12 yrs).



NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS.

WE NEED FUNDS.

WHY? - To purchase a new truck

HOW MUCH? - \$15000

The Club has decided that the old Bedford needs to be replaced with a more modern vehicle with a more stable canopy.

The truck is the basis of our sport. Without it we have to rely on private vehicles and we miss out on the fellowship and conviviality of each others company.

The cost for this will be in the vicinity of \$20-25000 for the truck and \$8-10000 for the canopy.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET THESE FUNDS:

Cash already held	17000
Donation already received	3000
fund raising	<u>15000</u>

35000

WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW

We've canvassed some members for ideas and we've come up with the following ways to raise money.

1. Donations, large and small, from members
2. Debentures/Loans from members. These would be in \$100 amounts at 7% and due for repayment over, say 5 - 10 years, or as funds become available. Repayment would be by ballot.
3. Run a mountain marathon
4. Contract our labour. Anyone with large painting, picking, demolition or other projects needing our services, please let me know.
5. Increase Club membership fees or impose a capital levy on members.
6. Run raffles - these could be large raffles or small raffles run each Club night, or a mixture of both.

These are some of the ideas. If you have others, please let us know and they can be looked at.

Could all members complete the questionnaire sent with this Pohokura and return it to us as soon as possible. We have to act NOW.

Thanks for your help.

DAVID CORMACK.
(phone 776354)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Mr Editor, I find the 'Club Cronikill' to be completely scurrilous and disgraceful, although I haven't as yet been attacked personally. Well named though - 'Cronikill' will guarantee to kill off all your 'cronies' - you'll have no friends left in all of the HTC if these gross, exaggerations, lies and more lies are allowed to continue unchecked. However, at the risk of becoming embroiled, I really must protest at the piece of 'straight out slander' concerning the 'eolian booted' (spelling boo -boo Ed. - it should be Aeolian, the poet sez!) Lyn & Len the Macpac Men and their supposed acceptance into the Amblers group. The Amblers could not possibly accept them because:

1. The Amblers may travel at snails pace but at least their representatives in the Marathon finished (albeit 4th to last - but to complete is to compete so they say).
2. They are not OLD enough yet - and anyway I'm told their boots wings were made of CHICKEN feathers - yes WHITE ones!

An Ambler (name supplied).

Glad you enjoy the Cronikill. Your Poet must be a bit more unflexible than my dictionary, which allows both spellings of eolian.... Ed.

Mr Editor, I read that, through a decision by our Exec. Committee, the HTC now supports the DOC Hut Pass System. If I remember correctly the original decision not to support DOC in this aspect was made by a unanimous decision by all Club members at a Regular Wednesday Night Meeting. Surely then it would have been more democratic for Exec. to approach members at a similar meeting before annulling this decision? I for one believe that all those factors against hut passes that were considered before making the original anti pass decision (it erodes our back country etiquette, it encourages people not to use hut books, it creates an 'I've paid for it' attitude etc.) applies just as much today as it did then. Surely the HTC does not need to agree with all DOC policies in order to support them (we had after all, agreed to abide by the pass system even though we didn't support it).

Glenda Hooper.

To the Correspondents:

John, Lyn, Len, Eddie, Leo, David & John; I don't know how you survived your ordeal. Perhaps you should change your deoderant?

S Bathgate-Hunt; Really! my type writer does not have a blue ribbon. Anyhow, I have it on good authority that the Honorable Minister that you refer to, was born in wed-lock.

Dr Suess; I am sorry but there is not much we can do to stop our Leader constantly reminding everyone of the ill positioned Makahu Stream on a trip when you promised everybody dry feet.

The MACPAC Kaweka Challenge - AREC's View.

Radio played a quiet, but major part in the recent successful mountain race with radio communications being provided by the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps (AREC). AREC's task was to provide reliable communications between the Start/Finish area (Lakes Road), town and 9 locations on the courses. Some of the hurdles, both practical and technical, maybe of interest and are detailed below.

PEOPLE: Only Amateur Radio Operators are permitted by the International Radio Regulations to use Amateur Radio frequencies. This meant that AREC had to find operators that could tramp and be able to cope with whatever weather was thrown at them. Fortunately, Hawke's Bay is blessed with enough tramping Amateurs to cope, and still be able to release Graham Thorp, Lyn Gentry and myself to enter the event.

FREQUENCIES: There were two choices: HF (High Frequencies) and VHF (Very High Frequencies). We decided to use both. The familiar TR105 (as used by SAR) was set up at Middle Hill, Makahu and Lakes Road and provided HF communications. The TR105s were kindly lent to us by the Department of Conservation.

Many Amateurs own VHF Handhelds. These radios weigh very little and use small batteries. The radios themselves cost about \$300 - \$600 depending on age and type and are recognised as the cheapest way to enter the hobby. Most of our tramping Amateurs own Handhelds and those that didn't have their own gear were lent it by others.

REPEATER: VHF radio waves travel in straight lines. Generally, if you can't 'see' the other station you can't talk to them. Amateur repeaters are established at Tarapounui (725) and Kahuranakahi (670). As neither of these two repeaters were accessible from all control sites, we borrowed a portable repeater from the Auckland AREC and installed it at Grid Ref 071075, spot height 1083, on the Black Birch Range. This repeater gave excellent coverage of all control points - except when it rained we had problems at Lakes Rd (Rain on Pine Trees!) The use of the portable repeater also permitted the use of low power and thus less battery consumption, and simple aerials for the field sites.

Battery consumption was also a concern in another area. If a SAR operation was required, we had the wrong radio gear in the field. If we had brought the right gear it would have been at the wrong end of the ranges! So we left it all at home and made provision to allow the network to operate at least until the Tuesday. This was done by ensuring that all radios, including the repeater, had adequate battery capacity.

THE NETWORK: On the weekend we had;

- i) VHF communications via the portable repeater, to all control sites (the main channel).
- ii) VHF communications, via simplex, with selected control sites (the secondary channel).
- iii) VHF communications, via the portable repeater and the two permanent repeaters, to Napier.

iv) HF communications between all sites where people were camped on the Saturday night.

THE FUTURE: AREC was very impressed with the operation of the portable repeater and are going to build one for use in our area. And yes, AREC will be there for the next one (AREC also provided communication at the Ruahine MACPAC event in 1988) and will also be involved at the planning stage. (Ted has already invited me to be on the organising committee).

Amateur Radio is a fascinating hobby, if you the reader are interested, please contact me at home, phone 436052.

Good Tramping,
Mike Bull.

WHO WERE THE THREE JOHNS?

Just exactly when this peak was so named is not quite clear, but it is very likely to have been about 1933. The story centres around Norman Elder who taught at Hereworth School in Havelock North and the large numbers of boys he introduced to tramping in the ranges over a period of 23 years.

We do know, however, that Norman Elder taught at Hereworth from 1931 - 1954, and it was school custom - until very recently - that only boys in their final year go tramping; - it was considered a privilege. We also know that the three Johns in the tramping party after whom the peak was named, were all in their final year in 1933. They are:

Herbert John Collins 1930 - 1933

John Grant Dasent 1929 - 1933

Edmond John Wilder 1930 - 1933

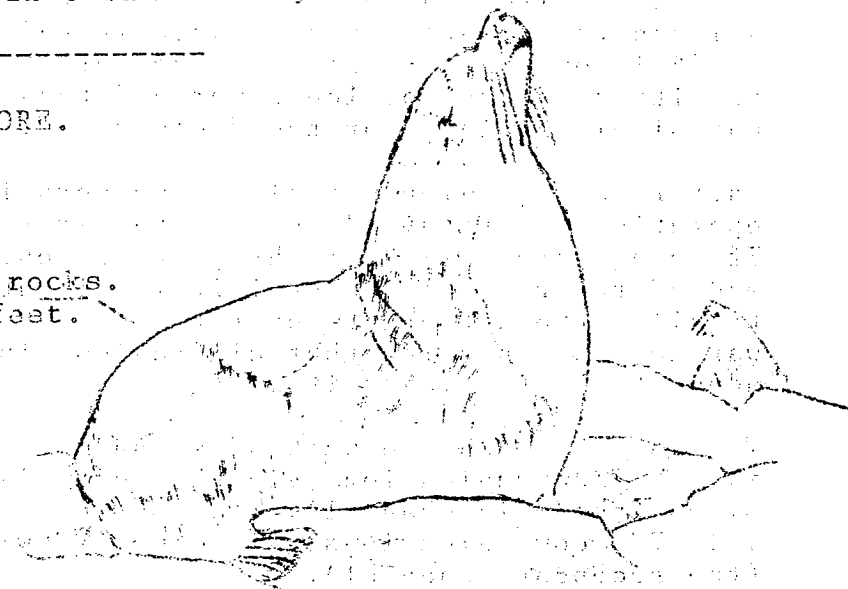
John Dasent was killed in the Second World War, John Wilder has since died. John Collins later returned to teach at Hereworth and was last known to be teaching at Waihi School, Winchester, South Canterbury.

All three Johns were prefects in their final year at Hereworth.

ROCKY SHORE.

Rocky shore,
Big waves,
Foam spewing everywhere;
Crashing, smashing, splashing rocks.
Seaweed gathering round your feet.
The cold salty water
Hermit crabs nipping,
Water glistens.
Rocky shore.

Eileen Turner (12 yrs).



CLUB NOTICES.

AGM:

The Annual General Meeting is to be held at St Mark's Church Hall, corner of Queens St and Park Rd, Hastings on November 14 1990. The AGM will commence immediately after the Regular General Meeting. Please try and remember to bring a plate for the supper.

Part of the Business at the AGM is the Election of Officers and the following positions are all elected annually. Now about YOU putting your name forward for election and thereby give a little bit back to the Club?.

PRESIDENT: - The President chairs both Club and Exec. meetings and oversees all Club activities and delegates when necessary. The President should be experienced in the affairs of the HTC and have a good working knowledge of the Club Constitution.

VICE-PRESIDENTS: - The Vice-Presidents must be prepared to stand in for the President. They therefore have similar responsibilities.

SECRETARY: - The Secretary keeps the Club Minutes, handles the Club correspondence, files all other Club information for future use and generally ensure the smooth running of Club affairs. She/he must be able to attend meetings regularly.

TREASURER: - The Treasurer handles all accounts, oversees Club finances and keeps records of all transactions. As the Treasurer is required to present regular reports to Exec. she/he must be able to attend meetings.

CLUB CAPTAIN: - The Club Captain must be prepared to chair the Training and Fixtures sub committees and supervise leader preparation and execution of trips. He/she must assist in the preparation of new members towards safe tramping and assist with the organisation of the Club's Search & Rescue commitments.

EDITOR: - The Editor is responsible for the production of 3 Pohokuras a year. This involves bullying people for reports, ordering supplies of paper etc., finding typists and people to assist in the gestenering and stapling of the magazine.

COMMITTEE: - Committee members should be prepared to do more than just attend Exec. Meetings. They must be willing to accept sub-committee work and/or other responsibilities.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: - These people organise the occassional gatherings as well as every third meeting night activity.

If you don't feel that you have enough time for any of the above positions you can still assist the Club by putting your name down on one of the Sub Committees i.e. Training, Hut and Track, Truck, Environmental, Fixtures, Search & Rescue. Just approach one of the Exec. Committee personnel and let them know that you are available and willing.

CLUB NOTICES (Continued).

RETAIL DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE:

All financial members of the Club will receive from Jackie (the Treasurer) a membership card with the current year printed on it. If you have not received your's, ask Jackie for it.

This card can be used at the following shops to receive the appropriate discounts. If there is any problem at any of these shops, check with the Manager.

Hastings;

Stirling Sports, 107 Heretaunga St. E.

Manager - John Vandermeer.

10 % off all tramping and related goods.

Sams For The Outdoor Man, 236 Heretaunga St E.

Manager - Murray Dale.

Will negotiate a discount on tramping equipment. Discount will vary according to stock type with a maximum of 10 %. See Murray.

Forbes & Co., 440 Heretaunga St W.

Manager - Blair Forbes.

5 % off all stock.

Napier;

Neals Army Store, 36 Hastings St.

Manager - Winston Hancock.

Will negotiate according to stock type up to 10 %. See Winston or his wife, Marion.

Military Surplus, 31 Tennyson St.

Manager - Bill Carter.

12 1/2 % off all goods with the exception of special price items.

NOTE - Use your card so that the Club can retain these discounts, as they will be withdrawn if they are not used.

BACK COUNTRY HUT PASSES:

The HTC is now an authorised retailer of Department of Conservation Hut Passes. These can be obtained from the following members;

Stan Woon 84680

Kath Barry 777223.

David Harrington 439999

either at Club meetings or from their homes.

Price Schedule;

Class 3 Hut (1 pass)	\$2	youth (student)	\$4 1/2	adult
Class 2 Hut (2 passes)	\$4	youth (student)	\$8	adult
Class 1 Hut (3 passes)	\$6	youth (student)	\$12	adult

CLUB PHOTO ALBUM:

In order to get as complete a record as possible of Club Trips for our photo album photographers are asked to consider requesting a double set of photos when developing their films. Unless you

are like us and develop your photos lo-cost then this should only cost you another \$2.

DEPARTMENT OF SURVEY AND LAND INFORMATION MAPS:

Our Club is now an official retailer for all DOSLI maps. The Club price is approximately 23 % less than normal retail price. The more commonly used maps are:

NZMS 260 Topo Maps (1:50000)	\$9
NZMS 273/4 Park Maps (various scales)	\$7
NZMS Track maps (various scales)	\$7

If there is any other DOSLI publication you require, we can get it for you. To find out what is available, see:

David Harrington 439999

SILVA COMPASSES:

Limited quantity available at reduced price:

2 only 7NL - Basic protractor type	\$22.50	\$20.00
3 only 3NL - Longer base plate with inset magnifier	\$28.00	\$25.00

Contact: Ted Sapsford (798993).

NEW MEMBERS:

The following people have been accepted as Club members over the last 4 months. Welcome to the Club all of you and happy tramping.

Daniel Cremins	Pat Cremins
Martin Mallow	Graeme & Heather Boaler
Andre Brunton	Leo Brunton
Allan Cowan	John Montgomerie.

And now a couple of limericks -

A trumper drove up to the ranges.
She drove up with a truck full of strangers
It drove home full of friends,
Just as every trip ends,
After sharing the joys and the dangers.

They called themselves good keen men
And they numbered three fewer than ten.
Cause they scorned snow and sleet,
Never minded wet feet,
With no women along to support them.

EXEC. NEWS.

Truck: The Club has decided to purchase a new truck (see items elsewhere). Geoff Robinson, Eddie Holmes, Gerald Blackburn and Nigel Brown have been requested to look for something suitable and report back to Exec. Anyone with definite ideas on what they would like in a truck should discuss them with one of the above.

Dave Cormack has been put in charge of the fund raising required to buy the truck.

Waikamaka Ablution Block: The Club is to make a new toilet for Waikamaka. This edifice is to be made back here in town and will be helicoptered to site courtesy of the Department of Conservation.

Pinus contorta: We are applying for a weekend in late March/early April for our annual Ruapehu contorta expedition while the Kaweka one is to be held on the 1 December.

COMING SOCIAL EVENTS.

We now have a trophy to be presented annually to either the HTC or NTC after the running of an officially organized event. This year will probably be an Orienteering Challenge. The date has not been selected as yet.

Many thanks to Stan for making the ice axe which adorns the piece of wood which was provided by the Napier Tramping Club.

Barn Dance: Hopefully there will be a barn dance this year but we need somebody to organize it. Anybody prepared to do this, please give your name to Lyn (750542).

Guy Fawkes: Again we are looking for volunteers. What we need is someone with a bit of land and a pile of wood for guy fawkes festivities. Contact Lyn (750542) if you can oblige.

Xmas Outing: This is to be held at Balls Clearing this year. Training day will be on the Saturday while Saturday night and Sunday will be fun, social times incorporating all members and families..

MOERAKI BOULDERS

Age smoothen,
ocean moulded contours,
space invaders shrapnel,
gourds of Maoridom,
spent tide fingers,
touch gently the cogent boulders,
white foam
murmurs epochdom.

from 'Softly Growing' by Rua Longley.

CRAYONACYL.

Those of you who haven't seen Tony Hansen about for a while, its because he has moved down south to the mountains. Four babies this time; Jenny and Dean Stairmand had twin girls, Megan and Naomi, Janet and Bill Turvery had daughter, Avril, while Josie Boland and Greg Bristow were successful in having a son and heir, Conal. Congratulations all.

Quite a bunch of Social events this time. Gale force soccer, sixty aside resulted in a one all draw between us and the NTC and a 2 nil win for the wind. More recently we met again at 10 pin bowling but as the teams were mixed and everyone was as bad as each other, there was no conclusive result. Progressive dinners are always fun and we thank Joy, Alan and Zath and Brian and Pam for their hospitality. The theme this time was Heroes and Idols which was won by Len as Christopher Robin. Other outstanding outfits were Martin as Princess Di (best looking) and The Duck (cutest bottom).

Martin Mallow also won the photo competition this year while Mark Craven won the best print. Congratulations both of you. Next year I expect everyone to vote for my photo or I will write horrible things about you in this column.

Congratulations also to David Charteris who was highest placed in his Architectural Drafting year at Waikato University. And also congratulations to Julie Turner who will be receiving her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award from the Governor General soon.

A recent comment made by Stan at an Exec Meeting regarding what enticed him into tramping:

"I was at night class and my tutor said "Boy, you would be better off in the hills than here". So the next weekend I took my army blanket and safety pins and headed off to Kiwi Saddle."

And finally a little bit of historical gossip regarding Club Trucks:

About 40 years ago Arataki Apiaries, as it was then, bought a 47 3 ton Austin for a load of hives and used it until it was basically worn out. This truck, driven by Ian Berry, was used on Club Trips in the early 1950s. As is the way with worn out trucks, it sat around in the paddock until Russell Berry left school (about 1957). He did it up and then did another 70,000 or so miles with it. It was then swapped for two loads of battens with the mill at Tutira.

You might think that that was the end of the matter but around 15 years ago, when Russell was looking for some fork lifts, carting tomatoes around an orchard was a cut down truck converted to a fork lift. This he purchased and, yes, you guessed it, one 47 3 ton Austin truck returned to the bee keeping business! Since then it has had a new motor (cost \$10 from a wreck on the Hauraki Plains) and a \$7000 super flash double fork unit.

With such tenacity in a vehicle, I can only suggest that we endeavor to purchase it for our new Club Truck. Sure we'd have to do a few modifications but we could carry the packs in a bin up the front and the forks would be a wonder for fallen trees and locked gates.

MEETINGS: DATES AND DUTIES.

DATE	HOSTS	SUPPER
5 Sept	Ted Sapsford Jenny Lean	Bruce Porter Clive Thurston
19 Sept	Len Frost Pam Turner	Adrian & Nigel Brown
3 Oct	Peter Berry Thelma T Smith	Jim Glass Glean Bixley
17 Oct	Sue Loddell Julie Turner	Lyn Gentry Martin Mallow
31 Oct	Poss Berry Arch Lowe	Julie Turner Jenny Lean
14 Nov	Shirley Bathgate Joy Stratford	Christine Hardie Eddie Holmes
28 Nov	Bevis Stevens Mike Craven	Andrew Dacey Craig Murray
12 Dec	Jim Glass Dave Cormack	Geoff Robinson Craig Double
9 Jan	Clive Thurston John Berry	Aud. Holmes Shelley McMurtrie
23 Jan	Nigel Brown Bruce Porter	Eddie Turi Heather Hill

BEST WISHES to Stan, Alistair and George whose recent illnesses have kept them away from tramping. We hope to see you all back soon.

Christmas Trip

As yet there has been no Xmas Trip organized but surely there are some of you out there who want one. Get thinking about where you want to go and then find out how many others are interested.

e.g. Mt Egmont and Matemateonga Walkway
Coromandel Peninsula
Northland Kauri Forests.

Family Tramps

Hopefully we will get better weather now. Leaders will be decided later on. Just use the contact person only if you can't make the Wednesday meeting 10 days before the tramp.

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OVERDUE TRAMPERS

Although returning parties 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 2 or more hours to return. Beginners should make sure that any who may worry about them know this. Leaders will try to get a message through to one of the overdue contacts if the return seems likely to be later than 10 PM. In case of concern all newcomers should ensure that their contacts phone number is included with the list the leader leaves in town. For enquiries about overdue parties please contact one of the following:

Stan Woon (84680), Alan or Kath Berry (777223) or Peter Berry (or Glenda) (774183)

FARE CONFIRMATION AND CANCELLATION.

Fare: Local; Senior \$10 Junior Member \$5 Junior Non Member \$3
Other; Fare set by Trip Leader to cover costs.

The above fares must be paid NO LATER THAN THE THURSDAY PRIOR TO THE TRAMP. Meeting night payment is preferred. Persons paying late will only be accepted at the Leader's discretion and then only if a late fee is paid.

Cancellation: If unable to make the trip, contact the Leader BEFOREHAND and your fare will normally be refunded (a portion could be retained if costs have already been incurred). Rarely does the Club cancel a trip. If in doubt, contact the leader or check at the embarkation point.

FIXTURES LIST.

The trips listed below are designed to cater for people of average fitness. Although the area for the trip is generally adhered to, the suggested objective may change for a number of reasons. For pre trip enquiries contact the Leader or David Harrington (439999) or Stan Woon (84680).

August 25 & 26: Mount Holdsworth. Tararua Range.
Map: S25. Leader: Ross Berry 774436.

September 2. Family Tramp. Contact: Glenda Hooper 774183
A day trip to Mangakuri Beach with maybe a look at the Elsthorpe Scenic Reserves as well.

September 9: Tamaki Area. Sth Ruahine Range.
A round trip going from the picnic area at the West Tamaki Road, up to Traverse Hut, along the tops and down to Stanfields Hut. Then back down the Tamaki River. An easy trip with good views.
Map: T23 Leader: Sandie Dungan 355209

September 22 & 23: Tira Lodge. Kaweka Forest Park.
Up to Kaweka J, along the open tops towards Ballards then onto Venison Tops. Out via Dicks Spur.
Map: U20 Leader: Lyn Gentry 750542.

September 30: Family Tramp. Contact: Glenda Hooper 774183.
We will visit Moncktons Walkway and Adeans Bush.

October 6 & 7: SAREX Ruahine Forest Park.
The annual Search & Rescue exercise is to be based at Wakarara Outdoor Education Centre. I would like to see all SAR personnel on this.
Maps: U21 & U22 Contact: David Harrington 439999

October 7. Gold Creek. Ruahine Forest Park.
Into Gold Creek Hut by either Gold Creek, the ridge track or the Flounder. The trip is mainly in beech forest.
Map: U20 Leader: Jim Glass 778748

* October 19 - 22: Colenso Lake. Ruahine Forest Park.
A combined trip with the Napier and Ruahine Tramping Clubs to follow the footsteps of William Colenso across the Ruahine Range from east to west. A shorter 3 day trip in this area may also be available.

Maps: U21 & U22 Leader: Christine Hardie 434912.

* October 28: Family Tramp. Contact: Glenda Hooper 774183.

A trip to the Blowhard area on the Taihape Road. A great area for all ages.

* November 4: Cairn Trip. Kaweka Forest Park.

Up to Kaweka J to the Club's memorial cairn to hold a brief service for those members lost during World War 2. Various routes available for the return trip.

Map: U20 Leader: Stan Woon 84680.

* November 17 & 18: Sunrise Hut. Ruahine Forest Park.

A night walk in on Saturday night up a very good track to Sunrise Hut. Returning Sunday over 66 and Waipawa Saddle if the conditions allow.

Map: U22 Leader: Andrew Dacey 776728

November 25: Family Tramp. Contact Glenda Hooper 774183

Lake Tutira with trips round either Tutira for the faster or Lake Waikopiro for the slow ones. Canadian canoes etc. will hopefully be available.

* December 1 & 2: Contorta & Tramp. Kaweka Forest Park.

Saturday will be spent pulling out Pinus contorta for DoC somewhere in the Kuripapango area. We will stay overnight at Kuri then on Sunday the tramp is up Te Iringa, along to the Hogget and down via Tahuhunui Range to the Taihape Rd. For an easier trip some may prefer a return trip up the Tahuhunui Range from the Taruarau River (see Al Moffitt's private trip report).

Map: U20 Leader: Ross Berry 774436

* December 15 & 16: Bush Craft/ Family Tramp.

Time to learn about skills relating to tramping on the Saturday. The night will be spent at Balls Clearing together with family groups for a good social evening. A small tramp Sunday morning then home around lunch time.

Maps: U20 & V20 Leader: David Harrington 439999

* January 13: Stoney Creek. Ahimanawa Range.

A wander up the tributaries of Stoney Creek, an area of podocarp forest, hot springs and good stream travel.

Map: V19 Leader: Geoff Robinson 87863.

January 20: Family Tramp. Contact: Glenda Hooper 774183

A trip to Frank & Sandra Hooper's place which is on the Kahuranaki Road. Farm walks, gig rides and a barbecue.

* January 27 & 28: Te Matai. NE of Kaweka Forest Park.

An area of land between the Mohaka and Ripia Rivers in which we have had 2 searches recently. Very nice beech podocarp forest.

MAPS: U19 & maybe U20 & V19 Leader: Eddie Holmes 446032

CLUB MEETINGS: These are held every second Wednesday (the ones before the tramps marked *). They are held at St Marks Church Hall, corner of Queen St, & Park Rd, Hastings. Doors open 7.30 pm. Visitors are welcome.