

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC).

P.O. BOX 447 HASTINGS

"POHOKURA"

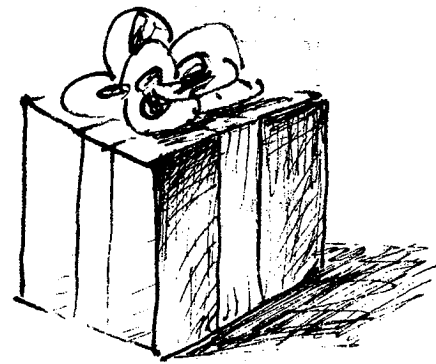


Bulletin No 182

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ANNUAL REPORTSPRESIDENTS REPORT

Our club has been involved in many activities during the year and several of these have been or will be mentioned in the reports given by various members of the executive.

From my perspective, the year has been not only an easy one but also an eye opener. I am much more conscious now of what this Club can achieve. All of your executive has ensured that we've functioned efficiently and achieved what was necessary. Jackie always ensures we've got sufficient funds to operate with, Jim Glass is great at getting guest speakers on some very interesting subjects, and thanks to Mr Lyn Gentry we have some great social functions - unfortunately I've missed a fair few of these.

Len Frost's team has carried out work at Kiwi Saddle, and is poised to carry out more work there and at Kaweka.

David Harrington, as Club Captain and as our Fixtures Officer, has been worth his weight in gold. It's been a bit tough at times going on some of his fixtures but that of course is what makes our tramping interesting, not to mention a bit of a challenge. David is always approachable and that's what makes him a good Club Captain.

Geoff Robbie has kept our truck running and this in itself has meant we've had no problems in completing our tramping programme. Unfortunately we need drivers who are more readily available, - something the new executive will have to look at.

Another tireless worker is Mrs Lyn. Under her supervision the Pohokura has continued to be interesting and informative. Lady Lyn has brought us advertising revenue, a new presentation and an overall easier magazine to read.

Shirley has not let us forget the environment and because of that our club is recognised as being responsible and conscious of environmental issues. This has gained us a lot of respect over time from DoC and other outside agencies. She's also responsible for our photo album - thanks to Shirley we have a pictorial Club history. Something more than many clubs have.

Thanks to Liz Pindar we have a library. Hopefully, this will be updated further in the forthcoming year.

This year I've been involved with training. Julie, our sub-committee chairman, has worked quietly behind the scenes to see that the training programmes have been presented on a wide range of interesting and informative topics. She's also received a lot of support from members and that has made the job much easier.

Judy McBride, I don't know how anybody can do your job and still remain cheerful. My thanks for all those interruptions you've had when hiring out gear. It's been my concern over the past year that a programme of gear replacement take place so that all our gear is eventually updated.

Finally with reference to our Club executive I'd like to thank Kath Berry for all her efforts. Thank God she's not full-time employed - as Secretary of our Club she's always on the go and ensures that we function efficiently and effectively.

I'd also like to thank Stan for his support. As past-President he's been helpful, but more than that, I very quickly appreciated the Club spirit that he had engendered in the Club over the many years he was President. This has helped me immensely.

It has been a wonder to me that we have so many competent people working for us. I've had very little to concern myself about the year with the support I've received from members and executive, it's been an easy task. Thank you all for that support and for the fellowship you've shared with me over the year. I'm sorry I cannot continue on the executive but other commitments have meant I have to let go.

My thanks to you all.

David Cormack
Club President.

VICE PRESIDENTS MEETING REPORT

Over the past year we have tried to make the meetings as interesting and varied as possible, and I think we have succeeded with our guest speakers giving us talks on Search Dogs, Alan Lee from DoC talking on flora and fauna, and L. Smith on Antarctica. We have also had some very interesting talks from our own members. Wayne spoke to us on the town water supply, Kay on her wanderings in Chile with operation Raleigh, and I found her comments of getting on with other members of your party interesting, plus John Berry's talk of his work on Little Barrier Island, and Dave Cormacks Antarctica trip. We had the Photo Competition that Stan ran - I think we've found the right formula at last, and our training evenings organised by Julie.

Many thanks to all those people and I hope every-one has enjoyed our meetings.

Jim Glass.

CLUB CAPTAINS FIXTURE REPORT

During the last 12 months the Club has had quite a full programme. The highlight of the year was the South Island trip to Mt. Aspiring National Park for 7 days tramping followed by 2 days tramping in the Westland National Park. Besides local trips we had quite a few trips covering other parts of the North Island. These included the Tararuas, Tongariro, Whirinaki and the Western Ruahines. In February, along with the H.B. Orienteering Club, we ran our 4th Mountain Marathon which was a great success. We also had a beach trip, a Pinus Contorta trip which was a washout due to bad weather, a Search & Rescue exercise and family tramps.

Now for some statistics. During the last year we had 13 weekend plus trips. Numbers on these trips averaged 18 which is similar to the previous year, and the most popular trip being the South Island trip. As for day trips we had 14 trips. Numbers on these trips averaged 17 which is the same as the previous year, and the most popular being the Cairn Trip.

Lastly I would like to thank all the land-owners for their permission to cross their land. Also many thanks to all you members who make the trips possible and enjoyable in whatever conditions we face.

Thank-you
David Harrington.

GEAR HIRE REPORT

As in previous years the hire gear has regularly gone out and in. With the addition of 3 new pairs of lightweight boots and 2 weekend packs there is now a reasonable selection to suit most sizes and shapes.

Judy McBride.

HUT AND TRACK REPORT

An assessment was made of the work required to maintain Kaweka Hut to a suitable standard without losing its uniqueness. Materials have been purchased for this and are currently at Robson's Lodge where they are waiting for DoC to fly them to Kaweka Hut.

A work party went to Kiwi Saddle to dig a new long drop and weather permitting, to remove the cladding on the hut so the lining paper could be positioned correctly. Unfortunately the weather didn't allow for this. The split in the water tank at Kiwi Saddle has been repaired.

I'd like to thank all those who volunteered their time, including my wife for the pikelets.

Len Frost.

CLUB TRUCK REPORT

Once again our new truck has completed a trouble free enjoyable year of motoring, covering a distance of 12,188km over the last 12 months, from as far as Queenstown and Mt Aspiring in the south and return, as well as many parts of the north island. The awning that was made in time for the South Island trip proved its worth and was much appreciated.

I would like to thank all the drivers for their time and help during the year. Although we have 10 registered drivers in our Club, (with one presently overseas) it is sometimes hard for the leader of a trip to secure a driver, so it may be necessary to draw up a roster of drivers so as not always to fall upon the few.

Geoff Robinson.

TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT

The past year has seen us cover; Bushcraft, First-Aid, pitching and care of tents, packing a pack, search and rescue procedure, and the qualities and skills of being a leader. These topics have all been covered at meetings. We have planned a Training Day to be held next month which will cover map and compass, outdoor First-aid, survival, firelighting, bushcraft and river crossing.

I feel that the best way to learn is when you are out in the field and can put the theory into practice. Hence, our committee has come up with the recommendation that training evenings be held 3 or 4 times a year, (at present we are having one every 3rd meeting, ie. 8 times a year) and that we have an annual training day out in the bush.

Julie Turner.

SEARCH AND RESCUE REPORT

This year has been fairly quiet with only two searches, both in April. The first search was a full scale one, centred around the Comet area for James Smith, a Napier prison inmate who went missing from a work party in the area. This lasted only one day and was found fit and well.

The second search, a hunter Robert McNae, disappeared on a hunting trip based at Tussock Hut. Four of us were flown in for a quick reconnaissance search of the area Bare Top. Later in the day a helicopter located him at Mangatoinoka Hut, fit and well.

The annual Sarex was held in the Makaroro River area and was concentrated on the use of a helicopter along with a mock search. Although some parties didn't spend much time in the field, I'm sure that most learnt a bit about helicopters.

Lastly I would like to thank all those Club members who make themselves available for S & R because without volunteers like yourselves it wouldn't be possible.

David Harrington.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

It has as usual been a very busy year on the Conservation front, and trying to get the message through to some of the Beehive members takes some effort and plenty of endless letter writing as well as explaining, as so many M.P.'s do not have the where-withall to comprehend the subject matter that has been sent or the necessity for urgency of some of the material. Herewith I give my report on the issues that have concerned us as a Club and member of the Federation Mountain Clubs of N.Z.

Letters have been written regarding logging of rimu forests of the Waitutu; roading of State Highway 73 which is in Arthurs Pass; the Governments destructive policy of a further 10 years of chip milling; protection of Ruataniwha area/McKenzie Country; protection of indigenous forests; charges of \$20 a night to N.Z. trampers on main tracks; submissions on status of N/W Nelson area becoming a National Park; amendments to Fiordland National Park Management Plan re use of helicopters landing at Glade House with tourists; and with help from Glenda and Peter a question and answer paper sent out by Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy re Issues and Options for a Conservation Management Plan Strategy.

FINALLY: A campaign has just been launched called "Public Access N.Z." and is a coalition of individuals with a wide range of recreational involvement in land, inland water and sea environments. They intend to canvas support from all outdoor recreation codes. The following goals are as follows:

1. The preservation and improvements of public access to public lands and waters and through the countryside in general.
2. The retention in crown ownership and control of all publicly owned lands with value for public recreation/or conservation plus all inland and coastal waters recreation resources therein.

I have written paragraphs on the following: National Parks, Conservation Areas, Pastoral Leases and Licences, Crown Lands, Lakes, Recreational Sea Fisheries, Fresh Water Fisheries, Public Reserves, Public Roads and so called private ones, Rivers, The Queens Chain, Foreshores and Beaches, The Sea and Game Animals.

You may have found some of this rather boring but it effects every Tramping, Mountaineering and Recreational Club in this country if we are to have the freedom of the natural areas which belong to us all.

Shirley Bathgate.

FMC REPORT

FMC has continued to work quietly away on the usual issues. One of the most important has been the Ngai Tahu land claims question with FMC strongly in favour of no interference with conservation lands particularly National Parks. An appeal was launched for funds to help in the struggle against government procrastination and some clubs have already responded by sending money.

The card has arrived! A membership card is now available to all financial members and this gives discounts on travel, maps and DoC hut passes. Already some HTC members have found it useful and I'm sure you'll agree it's another benefit that you get for your \$7 levy to FMC.

A larger than usual issue of the bulletin came out in October with some thought provoking articles - read them and ponder. Remember that you are welcome to make contributions at any time; the editor is always looking for input. Mention is made of the financial problems that FMC faces at the moment and the Executive is having to be very careful with costs. Aren't we all.

Anyway, thanks HTC members for your support of FMC - I do get quite a lot of positive feedback from people on the work we do. BY the same token though, let me know if there is something you are not happy with. The FMC Executive needs to know if it meets the needs of members and welcomes ideas for improvements.

Best wishes for the festive season and here's hoping we get a decent summer so we can all go tramping.

C.H.

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From the Media

LITTLE SPOTTED KIWI REDISCOVERED

The kiwi recovery programme has been boosted by the discovery of a little spotted kiwi, a species thought to be extinct on the mainland. The bird has been rediscovered in south Westland and would be moved to a safe island home. It was caught and banded last year when DOC staff thought it was a small great spotted kiwi, but since then blood tests at Victoria University and comparisons with skins at the National Museum have confirmed it is a little spotted kiwi. The bird was living in bush near Franz Josef township and the presence of dogs, stoats and probably wild cats meant it had to be moved. The department had decided to move it to Mana Island as soon as possible.

-Dominion

PLAN TO HELP KIWI SURVIVE

Possum control and strict control of dogs in the Kaweka Forest may help kiwi survive in the wild. Regional conservator, John Ombler said a two-year programme had been set up, first to determine how many birds were left and what was causing a reduction in kiwi population. The second stage would be to find ways to eliminate the problems "and this could mean the removal of predators and competitors." Wanganui regional conservator Bill Carlin said the main problems were killings by dogs as well as habitat damaged by deer, possum, cattle and goats. DOC says the board needed to seriously consider whether to ban all dogs into the forest parks. At present the family pet can enter the park without a permit, yet hunting dogs require a permit and must be registered. DOC senior officer Keith Briden said it was possible pig populations could increase if hunting dogs were not permitted, but on the other hand, poisons could be laid as an alternative.

H.B.Herald Tribune.

GOOD NEWS FOR RARE PIGEON

One of New Zealand's most critically endangered birds, the Chatham Island Pigeon, or parea, may be making a quiet recovery, according to new research. With only about 100 left in the world, the parea is a conservation priority. World Wide Fund for Nature New Zealand, with sponsorship from Telecom, is supporting research by the Department of Conservation into the birds behaviour, as part of a long-term recovery plan. By tagging the birds with radio transmitters, scientists have been able to closely monitor the parea's movements and reproduction.

CLUB TRIPS

LOTKOW HUT - Family Tramp

Trip No 1546

July 18 1992

After a couple of weeks of dull, wet weather a good day was needed to release a lot of bottled up steam. As Sunday drew nearer the forecast looked more promising and the list of families grew by the hour and more deciding to join on Sunday morning. As predicted Sunday started with a heavy frost and clear blue skies, and the group left the Taradale meeting place at 10.30am and met the Holmes family at Puketapu. Approximately one hour later we arrived at Lotkow carpark for lunch, and sat in the sun sheltered from the cool breeze. The baby backpacks were eventually filled with little people and the walkers headed off down the steep, muddy track towards the small stream leading into the Donald River. With lots of slipping and sliding we all made it down to the stream bed, but being rather slippery and bouldery it wasn't really that suitable for little legs, so about turn and back the same way. As the carpark was quite shady and exposed to the cold wind we decided to call into Hutchinson's Bush for afternoon tea. However, this was a lot more exposed to the cold wind so a quick cuppa behind the shelter hedge was enough for most. Every-one made their way home after a good day out in good company.

K.T.

Party: Clive, (Leader) Karen, Heather & Hamish Thurston; Sue, Eddie, Claire & Glen Holmes; Glenda Hooper, Peter, Daniel Donna & Natalie Berry; Greg, Erika & Conal Bristow; Heather, Graeme, Tammy & Libby Boaler; Dave & Nikki Harrington; Gloria & Lawrence Taula; Mirjam & Heidi Stephens.

TARN BIVY

Trip No 1547

August 9 1992

Travelling down Highway 50 warm and snug in the truck towards the Ruahines, the weather was not at all amenable to tramping, lots and lots of large black rainclouds. As 10 of us disembarked at the Mill Road end and set off across very boggy farmland towards Moorcock Stream the rain had set in and was to remain with us for the whole trip. Rather than following Moorcock Stream down to the Tukituki River we headed up across farmland for 2kms, dropping down into the wide gravelly riverbed sidling around numerous slips with some large rimu, kahikatea and black beech seen up on the spurs.

100 metres upstream from the second tributary Rosvall's Track was clearly seen, and as the river was very discoloured and swift flowing, the men unsuccessfully attempted to cross, so headed upstream to try again. This time the intrepid four floundered their way across, and began their trek to Tarn Bivy (see report B). Meanwhile the rest of us wandered upstream occasionally having to get our feet wet. Oh, it was too good to last! We were unable to sidle around a rocky outcrop due to the rivers flow, so up we went bushbashing our way up and around a large slip, only to be faced with the same problem 10 minutes on.

With the prospect of more bushbashing, the poor weather conditions and a couple of new members in our group we turned tail and retraced our steps back to Mill Road end. In wet and very windy conditions we walked the 9km of gravel road to where the truck was at Moorcock Base. The tedium of this was broken by one person who shall remain nameless, whose call of nature was interrupted by a very inquisitive cow. The sight of a tramper running down the road busily arranging her clothes followed closely by two mooing cows was a sight to behold.

Arrived back at the truck to find the other party already changed and ready for home. They had travelled down to Awatere and Black Stag Huts in the Makaretu River Basin. Judy and Jenny had the intention of coming down to meet the main party, but met Wayne at the edge of the farmland ending of the track down to Daphne Hut.

In spite of the weather it was a good tramp and good companionship. Thanks Christine for driving.

Party: Susan Lopdell (leader), Christine Hardie, Wayne Hatcher, Lew Harrison, Mandy Leslie, Kay Ward, Lyn Gentry, Gloria Taula, Mark & Fred Bant, Neil Mora, Rodger Burn, Doug Rusbatch, Anne Cantrink, Judy McBride, Jenny Lean, Mike Bull.

Party B - Rosvalls Ridge

August 9 1992

After the river crossing the four of us headed up Rosvalls Track. It is quite a steady climb from just under 500M to about 1400M and it took us one hour forty minutes to the top of Black Ridge. There are some very attractive areas of bush on the way up, and also some beautiful ferns - one really stood out a very fine specimen. On reaching the top we looked across at the Sawtooth - a splendid sight. Most of the tops were clouded in but we could see there had been some large avalanches, and as Doug said this made the tramp up worth it.

Our original plan had been to go up to Tarn Bivouac and then down to Daphne Hut but we thought about the time factor and the weather which did not look too good, and we had arranged to meet the ladies at Daphne Hut so we took off down the ridge. At times the wind nearly blew us off our feet and the rain stung our faces. On the way down we passed two places where a number of trees had been uprooted by the wind, and as the track became steeper it was very wet and muddy. Wayne said this was why he was lying down all the time, I think he was getting a bit tired myself. We had to link up together to ford the river twice before reaching the hut, and after something to eat we waited for the ladies. After a while I said that Sue would have taken the party back as the river was up and it would have been worse as they tramped up to the gorge so we decided to head off down the river to the track which went to Moorcocks Base Camp. I lost count how many times we crossed the river but it was good that there was four of us which gave us the strength to ford safely. When we reached the track Doug had a look down the river with his binoculars, but couldn't see Sue's party. While the boys marked a large arrow pointing to the track I left a note in a plastic bag hanging on a small tree at the beginning of the track, then we headed off up the track to Moorcocks. On the way out we were all still concerned about the party, but I was pretty sure they would have turned back, and on arriving at the truck we were pleased to hear that they had. Sue and Christine - thanks for a good day.

L.H.

Party: Doug Rusbatch, Wayne Hatcher, Neil Mora and Lew Harrison.

TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK

Trip No 1549

August 22-23 1992

On Wednesday, the night of the club meeting, the weather forecast for Saturday was lousy with strong southerly winds, snow down to 600M and finally improving on Sunday. Fridays forecast for the weekend had deteriorated to hail, further snow, freezing down to 800M, and to top it off avalanche conditions high. Sounded like a recipe for a blizzard!

We left Joy's just after 6pm on Friday knowing too well that we would be unable to venture on to the mountain tops, - who knows, the forecast may be wrong. Our first stop was at the Taupo Truck Stop for a bite to eat. From here on we noticed the weather deteriorating, cloud had moved in and by the time we reached Turangi we had hit our first shower of rain. As we left the Desert Road to turn on to the Rangipo Road we noticed the Desert Road barrier arms down closing the road to all traffic. What lies ahead of us? By the time we reached the Chateau Road the rain had turned to sleet and the sleet to snow, visibility was down to approximately 20M and our truck speed to walking pace. Our destination for tonight was the Mahuia Campsite, a few k's past the Chateau Road turnoff on the left hand side, and as we were slowly making our way to the campsite a white car passed the truck probably travelling at 60 kmph. He managed to get about 500 metres ahead of us before he lost control ending up on the opposite side of the road, facing the way he came lying in a ditch. We offered them accomodation for the night but they declined saying they would prefer to hitch-hike to National Park in a snow storm at midnight. The campsite was as far as we could safely take the truck, and as we settled down for the night a general discussion developed about our tramping intentions. We had several alternatives - retreat to Turangi for Saturday night, drive to Mangatepopo or simply stay around the Chateau.

On Saturday morning we woke to a reasonably clear morning with heavy snow under foot. Our first consideration was to get the truck out safely onto the National Park Rangipo Road and head in towards Mangatepopo Hut. It was unfortunate that the truck is not equiped with snow chains, something the committee should consider. The National Park Road had recently been graded which was a great relief to us all. Cautiously and very slowly we headed down the road, but at the Chateau Road turn-off we were confronted with a traffic jam. The National Park Rangipo Road was closed due to snow and ice. Our only choice was to take the Chateau Road to Whakapapa Village which proved an ordeal of its own. Joy powered the truck uphill passing cars stranded on the side of the road, some in ditches and others unfortunately in need of body repairs.

Simply making it to the carpark just below the Chateau was a great achievement. Here we pitched the canopy and pondered over our options. After visiting the Park Headquarters we decided, as a group, to do a small walk into Silica Rapids and return via the Bruce Road. As we headed off we met a Park Ranger skiing down the road, and he advised us not to attempt any high altitude walks and re-emphasized the weather conditions. We took note of his warnings and made our way through the bush and up the Waikare Stream. Just past the Puraruku Falls the weather deteriorated with visibility down to only a few metres. As we walked out of the bushline on to the exposed slopes the true force of the blizzard struck us. We had no choice but to back-track down to the bushline and make our way back to the Chateau. It wasn't much of a walk but it gave us a taste of what bad weather really is.

After lunch at the truck we decided to make the best of the road conditions and head around to the Ketetahi Carpark. What a difference, the sun was shining and the clouds disappeared giving us a great view of Mt Tongariro. It was such a nice day that half of us decided to pitch our tents and sleep out rather than sleep crammed in the truck. After a brew a group of us decided to walk up to the look-out just above the bushline. The views were great. In one direction you got an uninterrupted view of Lake Taupo and facing the mountain you could pick out Ketetahi Hut. We all looked at each other and said how silly it was to leave our packs down below. We could have spent the night at the hut!

After a good nights sleep we woke to find a sprinkling of snow on the tents and a reasonably clear day. Our aim today was to do a day trip to Ketetahi Hut, have some fun in the snow and be back at the truck just after lunch.

It was quite a walk to the hut because of an icy wind that just seemed to cut you in half. Just above the hut on the left hand side we found a valley ideal for bum sliding. Everyone had a great time sliding down on orange pack liners at break-neck speed. Time had come to head off down to the truck. It didn't take us long to get down and pack the truck. Maybe the hint of a hot swim at deBretts edged people along.

Just as we were about to leave the carpark a very distressed English girl came up and told us that she had turned her car over on the Ketetahi Road. She was returning to the Chateau after dropping two friends at the Ketetahi track. Wayne raced off up the track to locate her two friends and luckily they were only a short distance up the track. Within a short time we were at the accident site, the car was pushed back onto it's wheels and then pulled out by the truck. We headed off leaving three shaken tourists and a battered rental car. The car was fortunately still driveable. The hot swim at deBretts topped the eventful weekend off. Great group and thanks Joy for driving.

C.T.

Party: Clive Thurston (Leader), Jake Bacchus, Mark Bart, Guido Vrieze, Bruce Pomeroy, Mandy Leslie, Gloria Paula, Doug Rusbatch, Wayne Hatcher, Anne Cantrick, John Montgomerie, Graeme & Dianne Lawlor, Julie Turner, Jor Stratford.

BURNS RANGE

Trip No 1550

September 6 1992

Not the nicest of days so far this winter, but none the less 16 bods managed to pluck up the courage to go forth into the ranges and carry out the proposed tramp. On arrival at Kuripapango Base, the key which was to have been left for us to the locked gate was not to be found, so in desperation I unloaded passengers at Robsons Lodge and drove back to Kaweka Base to get a key from Carter Holt forestry. Mission accomplished, I shot back to Kuri and loaded up once again and drove up to the end of Burns Road.

Here eleven people followed me down the Burns Range for approximately three quarters of an hour and then dropped over the edge towards the Ngararoro River. The going was fairly straight forward bashing through scrub out onto a huge slip which took us almost right to the river, then a short scramble down the last few metres in bush to the water. Here we lunched in comfort, and then after some discussion decided to continue along the side of the river as it was not to be taken too lightly. We were hoping to find a crossing opposite the ridge we were to take up to Komata Hut but for a considerable distance up either side of the river there was 30 metre bluffs and no way into the river.

By now time was not on our side and Komata Hut was out of the question so a big grunt back up to the top of the range and no truck. It could be seen some distance away parked at Komata Hut. 9kms of Burns Road, 10-12kms of Taihape Road and 4kms of Comet Road, oh well, s'pose someones got to do it, so Neil and I set off running, - not exactly thrilled at the thought but keen to get home. Fortunately for us a Carter Holt ute met us after about 10 minutes and very kindly drove us around to the truck and the truck support group. We drove back to pick up the rest of our group who were almost at Robsons Lodge and we had a quiet trip home, where we found it had poured with rain all day but we had had perfect weather.

E.H.

Party: Eddie Holmes (Leader), Neil Mora, Gloria Taula, Jenny Lean, Bruce Almond, Christiana Stevens. Jenny Ives, Dave Charteris, Thelma Tasman-Smith, Christine Hardie, Judy McBride, Anne Cantrick.

Truck Party: Joy Stratford, Rodger Burn, Liz Pindar, Laurie Hook.

NGAMOKO RANGE

Trip No 1552

September 19-20 1992

It was a 5am start from Joy's place for about 15 so called very hardy trampers. The weather was cold, wet and snow, and the forecast was for the same. Heading through the gorge and turning right at Ashurst and on out into the Manawatu we could see who had had the rain. Boy, it was real gumboot country and there was going to be wet boots right from the time we stepped out of the truck. The last couple of kilometers of road was thought to be public access but as we were going through the gate the farmer told us different. However, diplomatic Dave Harrington sorted the misunderstanding out and the farmer allowed us on through.

About 9.30am the main party started out up Knights Track which was well signposted but very wet, slippery, steep and slow going. Again we headed up into the fog and rain, and the view was becoming familiar as like on most other tramps of late. We stopped for lunch at about 12.30pm near the top where it was cold and wet and some of us should have perhaps taken the opportunity to put on more clothing. We carried on after lunch up into the snow to Taka Trig where we stopped to sort out who was going where. It was bitterly cold with a strong icy wind. The party split and 4 carried on to Leon Kinwig Hut and the rest of us turned back down Knights Track. A good lesson to be learnt by some of us that wool is better than Pro-pel!!! Back down the bottom and over Coal Creek which had risen since we crossed it in the morning and on to the welcome sight of the truck where Joy had the canopy up and the water boiling.

Next morning most of us were not very full of energy but Dave H. and myself headed up on Shorts Track and only taking $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours to the top. Shorts Track was better and more easy going than Knights Track. The weather had lifted and made it quite pleasant but after 5 minutes on the top in sunshine it then rained, blew and snowed, so back down we came. After doing a little exploring we found only 2 young ladies in the remaining party had bothered to stretch their legs.

About 2.30pm we left Sixtus Lodge and headed back to pick up the remaining party of four who almost made it to Norsewood. - Well done. Back at Joy's place about 6pm, and thanks to Joy and Eddie for driving.

D.R.

Ngamoko Range Party: David Harrington, Eddie Holmes, Doug Rusbatch, Gloria Taula, Bruce Almond, Mike Bull.

W-E Crossing Party: Wayne Hatcher, Graham Lawlor, Geoff Clibborn, Kyle Johnston.

Truck Party: Joy Stratford, Guido Vrieze, Diane & Thomas Lawlor, Jesse.

PARKS PEAK HUT

Trip No 1553

October 4 1992

On an overcast, first day of "Daylight Saving" a party of 7 set off to Sentry Box Hut. After a brief history reading from Al about the hut, it was decided to split into 2 parties. A slow but sure trio, and myself attempting to keep control of three young men bent on making record time to the main ridge. The two parties again met around 11.15 at the main ridge track junction, then we made our way to the trig on "Pohatuhaha" 1368M where there was a thin covering of snow over everything. On the bald region where the trig sat we had a view of whiteness, and a chilling wind encouraged us to move on to

Parks Peak Hut for lunch. Lunch was had in the simple orange coloured hut, and even before the trio arrived we quickly scoffed down a tin of fruit salad, snarlers and noodles and a carefully made chip sandwich! It was also noted that the Sarex visitors had been and gone.

Again on the return the two parties formed, and from the main ridge a furious descent was made. Legs slipping and sliding, arms reaching for firm holds and a trail of bog was left behind by the downhill terrors, for the trio to negotiate. Steffan, you had better do something about your footwear grip and stopping procedure. Many a bush became flattened where he decided to make a quick halt.

Thanks to Al, the trip leader and Glenda who gave private car transport, but it was Glenda who gave a bit of excitement when doing a racing turn in reverse she rammed her exhaust into the bank, and her engine died! So with using Al's patent car un-locking wire we got the Lada going again.

N.M.

Party: Al Moffitt (Leader), Niel Mora, Glenda Hooper, Mark Bart, Jake Bacchus, Tim Williams, Stefan Tupper.

NGAMOKO RANGE - West - East Crossing Trip Report. (Trip 1552)

After leaving Daves H's group Wayne, Geoff, Kyle and Graham all set off to find the trig which was found about three-quarters buried in snow, around 2pm in white out and severe wind. We took our bearings and set out moving one at a time keeping visual contact, and leaving one at at the last snow pole, and only ran off line once but back tracked after 200M of going down the wrong ridge. The snow was waist deep or deeper most of the time and we kept falling through the top crust.

From the trig we dropped 700M odd to the river which was up and flowing swiftly. We spent 15 minutes finding a crossing point as it was marginal and the fact that we were all relatively "short chaps", but with the hut in sight and no camp site on this side we went for it. After successfully negotiating the river - up to our ribs in very cold water, we arrived at the hut 5 minutes later and stripped off our wet clothes, changed into dry gear, put on the billy for a 'cupa' and had an early evening meal. Had many attempts to start a fire, and turned in early with it raining all night

Woke around 6am and packed, ate, messed out, and were on the track by 8.15am. We started with a steep climb of 500 - 600M. The bush and surrounding terrain was very pretty as it was changing from one type of climatic flora to another with altitude and exposure to the prevailing weather. Once on the ridge we followed it to the track intersection where we managed to misplace ourselves. We took off for the river and walked out where we found some cattle in distress. We pulled one out of the river, and kept well clear of the other! Once on the farmland we told the others and they actioned the bush telegraph quick smart.

We arrived at the road early so decided to keep walking, as to stop we'd freeze, being wet. Norsewood, here we come, and set out for the BIG SMOKE. We fell short but next time will make it. A most enjoyable weekend had by all, embracing all elements that were thrown at us. Thank you one and all.

G.L.

MAUNGAHARURU RANGE

Trip No 1555

October 18 1992

After the inclement weather during the week my prayers were answered when Sunday dawned a glorious spring day. Travelled up the Napier-Wairoa road turning off at the Tutira Store onto Pohokura road where the truck stopped at the saddle carpark. Twenty-one of us set off across farmland towards Bell Rock where we had "smoko", photographed the views and frolicked in the snow. Here Geoff and Anne left us to return to the truck to travel to Titiokura (our pickup point) via the Waitara Road.

We followed the fenceline round and came to the access road up to the radio relay station at Taraponui No 2 Trig. We had an early lunchstop at 11.45am and the weather was great, no wind, mild and the visibility perfect. We could see from Whirinaki to Cape Kidnappers, the snow-capped Ruahine and Kaweka Ranges, Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe through to Mt Tahara. Staying near the top of the limestone escarpments we travelled across a variety of farmland and gullies (where the tarns had quite thick ice on them) towards Ahuateatua trig (no longer standing), past Galbraith Hut (private) nestled amongst the trees in a picturesque valley below us to Kopua Trig. The snow varied in depth from 4" to thigh deep in places, with only the tops of the fence posts seen in the gullies. Inevitably the "boys" found the snow hard to resist and snowfights continued on and off through-out the trip with everyone joining in.

From Kopua we sidled around to the left finally dropping down to 900M and the start of the ridge track (4 Wheel drive farm track) and the end of a 20-25 km journey that saw us tired but happy. The weather, tremendous views and a new area for the club made it a memorable day. Thanks to Goeff for driving and to Dave H. for organising the access across the farmland.

S.L.

Party: Susan Lopdell (leader), David Cormack, Anne & Ted Sapsford, Kevin Frater, Philip & Sharon Mardon, Tim Williams, Gloria Taula, Dianne, Graham & Thomas Lawlor, Doug Rusbatch, Leo Brunton, Julie Turner, Mike Bull, Thelma Tasman-Smith, Gary Smith, Jenny Lean, Geoff Robinson, Judy McBride.

TE PUIA LODGE

Trip No 1557

October 31 - November 1 1992

Due to the lack of drivers for the truck 4 cars left Eddies 6.30ish for Pinks Hut. Doug and Kathy took my car to the Blue Gums while 10 of us climbed on up to Middle Hill. The weather was fine but coolish as we headed toward the 3½ gorges on our way to Makino. Lunch was had on the tops after the 2nd gorge - lovely country, then on up to the high point before dropping off to Te Puia which was 1½ hours straight down.

At the hot springs a party of 2 rafts had just arrived and what gear they had - dozens of cans, bottles of Vodka and ½ ton of sausages and onions. Camp was set up, cups of tea had and then the "Dip" and most did the compulsory 15 lengths of the new pools. Magnificent new deck and 2 pools - thanks DoC. It was at this stage that Doug crept up on those of us in the pools with a large bucket of very cold (13°C) water and made several instant friends. The wind died, dinner was had, the fire was lit and we sat around and talked dribble.

The morning dawned cloudy, and after the compulsory dip by all we set off in 2-3 groups over an hour. It was now that some felt was the right moment to get Doug back, so a deer head was aquired from the rafters and placed in his pack. He eventually found it and chased Kathy - can you imagine the

squealing! Te Puia Lodge was empty (unbelievable), the weather cleared and a temperature of 28°C was had - what a day, and several mad trampers dived in the river (13°) and out even quicker. (Yes, absolutely Mad - Ed).

At the road end we drove one car out to Pinks and ferried 3 cars back for the rest of the team.

L.G.

Party: Leo Brunton (Leader), Neil Mora, Gloria Taula, Kathy Turner, ,att Green, Lyn Gentry (Lord), Bruce Almond, Diane Lawlor, Doug Rusbatch, David Cormack, John Montgomerie, Anne Cantrick.

CAIRN TRIP

Trip No 1558

November 8 1992

With swirling mist there was talk of The Hound Of Baskervill and Wuthering Heights as we made our way via various routes towards the top of the Kawekas. I wasn't going too good and had to drop back to the slow party - I should have that cup of tea and bite to eat before I left the truck.

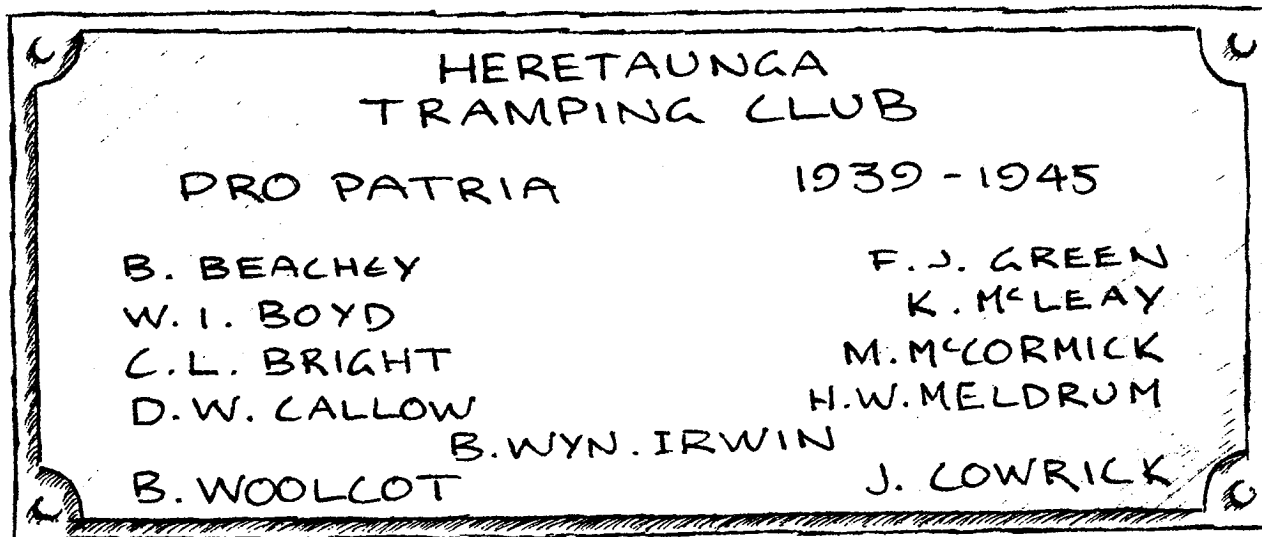
On reaching the summit plateau we turned to go towards the trig and cairn and I imagined I was in Antarctic white out conditions with only the tops of the steel poles showing above the snow, the most we have had for a number of years. We had our short service to remember the 11 who gave their lives in the 2nd world war. I can't help thinking it is a large number as there can't have been more than about 50 members who went away to the war. At the end of the service Thomas laid the beautifully made wreath on the cairn.

We didn't have the place to ourselves, there was another group of about 8 trampers and about 30 Mahora scouts arrived to join us to spend a pleasant hour sliding down the snow in plastic. Dave and his small party went off to explore the headwaters of the Donald and 5 of us went to the North Kaweka hoping that the mist would lift, but no such luck. Back along the top and down the way we had come up. Daves party struck a waterfall and had to climb back nearly to the top.

A great day, thanks to Goeff who helped out with the driving and also to Joy who made the beautiful wreath once again.

J.G.

Party: Jim Glass (Leader), Gloria Taula, Kathy Turner, Jenny Lean, Dianne, Graham & Thomas Lawlor, Doug Rusbatch, Sandie Dungan, Arch Lowe, Dave Harrington, Mark Craven, Liz Pindar, Shirley Bathgate, Bing Potts, Geoff Robinson, Rodger Burn, Graham Thorpe, David Lewis.



MATAHORA ROAD AREA - Family Tramp

Trip No 1559

November 9 1992

First stop was Tutira to regroup, where the classic mix-up occurred. We were the first car and stopped at the southern entrance - all other cars did not stop, but carried on. Peter, in hot pursuit took off after them exiting via southern entrance, but unbeknown to us they all returned to Tutira via northern entrance while we went to Opouahi. - Boy the truck makes life simpler. Anyhow we all had lunch at Opouahi and then did a circuit of the lake.

After Opouahi we carried on along the road to the first entrance to Bell Bird Bush. The track here goes down a ferny side to a stream and some lovely bush. We wandered through this bush to Spooners Hill, a grassy area, and then returned back to the cars.

Home via scones at Josie's place after a great day out.

G.H.

Party: The kids were: Daniel, Donna & Natalie Berry, Erika & Conal Bristow, Jessica & George Dodd, Tammy & Libby Boaler, Beckie, Jmaes, Rowan, Emmy, Libby & Lucy McMillan, Heidi Stevens and their parents.

ORANGIKINO - RANGITAIKI FOREST

Trip No 1560

November 15 1992

Well, if November 14th was very hot, November 15th was miserable. We all travelled to Dave Harrington's for a 6.30 start. I would tell you how we got to the start of the tramp but I was asleep. I gather we turned left off the Napier-Taupo Road, 37km before Taupo - into the Rangitaiki Forest.

We left Alva, Arch & Shirley to explore the rather barren vicinity. Shirley tried to convince us that they walked to the Takahiopo River and back, followed by the first stage of the walk that we completed. The tale is heard that Arch and Alva snore loudly so what went on is anyone's guess.

We began our ascent of Orangikino in a beautiful garden of yellow blooms. Bloomin' gorse I think someone said! Our keen leader, keen to show us every type of vegetation, branched off the semi-respectable bulldozed track, on a bearing directly up an overgrown logging track of cutty grass. Anxious to respond to our requests for a change we began the bushbashing. This was navigatable but with very wet undergrowth, - those at the front of the line were considerably damper than the dry headed people in the rear ranks. We were assured by Dave and his map, and altimeter that the final grunt was only 60M. It certainly seemed more as we pushed through the undergrowth. Orangikino's top was remarkable only for its trig point plus the fact that it was unexpected - a fat drain pipe covered by vegetation and penetrating, we were told, many feet. The view was vaguely familiar as cloud looks much the same anywhere.

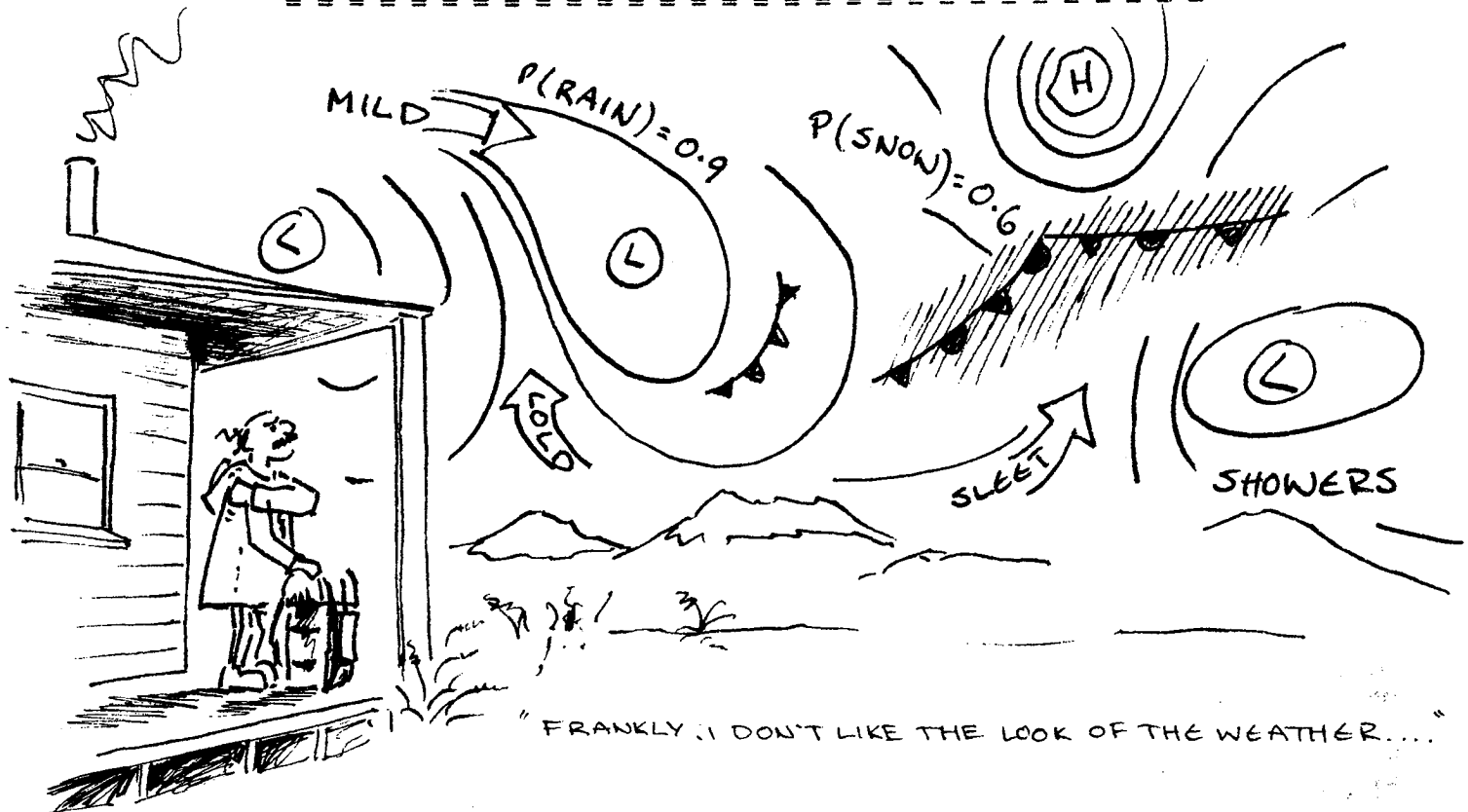
We had a lunch before continuing on the faithful compass bearing, to meet another vegetation - Scrub. There were many moans and groans and scratches before we escaped its sharp clawing tips. There was a final section of open green bush which made pleasant walking, with bright trunked fuschias scattered in amongst monstrous rimus and other native trees, some hung with mosses, lichens with rather pretty effect. The way was not always clear but Dave seemed to know where he was going. We walked back the length of the ridge along a flat tussock river plain - the Takahiapo Stream. A few showers past over us but generally we were treated to a dry walk out on a 4 wheel drive track, listening to the occasional hum of the native scrub motorbiker.

Despite the wet bush and cloud, it was refreshing to be in a completely new area with so many vegetation types. Dave's compass and map were in his hand from the beginning to end and were invaluable, and his use of them was an education to see. Thankyou. Thanks also to Christine, our driver. The journey must have been smooth - I slept well.

K.W.

Party: Dave Harrington (Leader), Christine Hardie, Kay Ward, Kathy Hamilton, Neil Mora, Wayne Hatcher, Julie Turner, Gloria Taula, Gary Smith, Susan Lopdell, Doug Rusbatch, Craig Shaw, Sandy Dungan, Arch Lowe, Christiana Stevens, Lyn Gentry (Lady), Sue Holmes, Shirley Bathgate, Alva McAdam, Malcolm Lightband.

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POEM IN NARRATIVE VERSE STYLES ON AN ATTEMPTED 'COMET'

If you want to go from to to fro
Then join the HTC.
For ten dollars a day
You can make your way
To places you'd rather not see.

From the depths below comes a loud "hello",
We think they've got down to the river.
With cliffs either side and the whirlpool beside
However shall they now come hither.

By crowsflight it's three miles or so -
We left them at eleven,
But nine hundred metres down, then up
Not my idea of heaven.

However, the cliffs were a little too steep
And the river was running both fast and deep
So they turned back to the climb.
And the transport had to be brought around
And their feet could barely move over the ground,
But we all came out on time!

L.P.

Lady Lyn.

AN INTERESTING AFTERNOON

Taradale RSA November 12 1992.

NEWS FLASH!

Huck Finn was in town and wanted to meet some of her old tramping mates of the pre war days.

Nora Finn started tramping in the very early days of the HTC. She was a nurse, and on the outbreak of WW2 she went over to the Middle East to work in the Army Hospitals throughout The Desert Campaigns, just short of the front lines. After talking and listening to this lovely lady for a while one could almost imagine what Florence Nightingale was like. I suggest you read the Pohokuras of the early 40's in the club library and I'm sure you will see what I am trying to tell you.

Huck, as she was so affectionately known, was the hub of the HTC those days in the Middle East. Whenever any member came back from the front for a spell, the first person they looked up was Huck. They would go off for a meal or just a walk. One story I heard was Huck and two or three other HTC members were having a picnic on a hill-top. Within their sight was the bombardment of Casino. They had a grandstand view, - that is until some Yankee bombers arrived and started bombing them. No-one was hurt, but as one said "just as well the yanks were aiming at them as they never could hit what they aimed at".

During the afternoon we heard of the building of Waikamaka Hut, Kaweka Hut and many of the incidents and happenings of the early days of the Club. Just sitting, watching and listening to these "Golden Oldies" was a real eye opener to us "Youngies". "Do you remember?" was the opening phrase of many stories, and it was one of the most interesting afternoons I have spent for some time. No wonder the Club got off to a great start with the calibre of these people and many of the originals I have met over the years.

The new president took us over in the Club truck and they were very impressed with our new mode of transport. The pressure has been put on the Club for a 60th reunion in 3 years time in 1995. The time preferrably November as all these originals want to come, yes, even Huch from Woodburn, South Canterbury and she will walk into Kaweka Hut again, and I'm sure she will.

Those that were present: Lucy Hodgson, tramped 1938 and who tried to teach Shirley at school - an impossible task; Dave Lynch, tramped 1936, NZ Chess champion for years; Harold Cooper, tramped 1939; Dudley Sheppard, tramped 1938; Nora Finn, tramped 1936; Ailie Cook (nee Baird) tramped 1935; Joan Smith, tramped 1935; Marge Clayton, tramped 1938; Nancy Tanner, tramped 1937; Arch Lowe, tramped 1937 and STILL going.

To all hese people thank-you for your memories.

Joy Stratford, Shirley Bathgate, Jim Glass, Stan Woon, Mrs Arch Lowe.

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ARCH LOWE - LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Arch joined the club in 1937. On the outbreak of war he joined the army, and arrived home on leave with a blushing bride - much to the disappointment of many a young lass in the HTC. Arch went to the Middle East war zone where he, along with others started a branch of the HTC. Unfortunately there are not many of these members left.

On his return Arch came out occasionally tramping or as a truck driver, but in recent years he is often seen in the back of the truck. The trip he rarely misses is the Cairn Trip, just to remember his old tramping mates on a special day. Whatever he does it always ends up a top job - this he has showed us with the work he has completed on the new truck, and Arch possibly spent over 100 hours making up the catches for the pack lockers.

His nickname in the early days was Tarchie - this had something to do with the fact that there was another Arch in the club at the time.

Arch and his wife Joy, are very keen trampers - campers and have just come home from somewhere in Africa. Congratulations and happy tramping.

APOLLO'S RAYS (Approaching Summer Sensibly)

With the summer months approaching lets look at Apollo's Rays.

New Zealand has the second highest incidence of melanoma in the world (Queensland the highest).

Melanoma is a form of skin cancer that can be caused by the sun's rays, and causes the death of around 200 New Zealanders each year.

Therefore we need to take action to reduce melanoma. Many of the deaths are preventable. Over 90% of cases can be cured if the disease is caught early.

REMEMBER; EARLY DETECTION LEADS TO EARLY TREATMENTWHAT DOES ONE LOOK FOR?

In it's early stages a melanoma usually looks like a normal freckle or mole, but unlike a normal freckle a melanoma grows and changes, often quickly.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SPOT SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS.

Consult your doctor if a freckle or mole changes size, shape, or colour, as it could be a melanoma.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND CHILDREN GETTING MELANOMA IN THE FUTURE BY FOLLOWING THE GUIDELINES ON COVER UP.

- Seek shade during the middle part of the day and early afternoon.
- Use clothing to protect your skin such as hats, long sleeved shirts, long pants.
- Use recommended sunscreen (Sun Protection Factor 15)
- Remember on windy and cloudy days skin can still burn.
- Remember on snow or sand or in the water skin can burn.
- Remember to protect your skin when doing normal activities, gardening, walking, shopping and taking part in sports.

HERE'S TO A HAPPY SENSIBLE SUMMER FROM THE HEALTH EDUCATOR HAWKE'S BAY CANCER SOCIETY

Fiona Goodin

For further information contact the above.

NGMOKO ED

(Please refer to trip report
No 1552)

There were five of us to sleep in the truck
So to keep it clean we removed all the muck.
That the cattle had left
When out from the mizzle, the mists and the mud
Came "What - no awning up" from Eddie and Doug.
I said we'd put it up once, mid blizzard and storm
But weren't quite sure whether we'd done it the norm.
Said Ed "Worry no more - it's a great time to be taught"
So the awning, from under the deck was soon brought.
Said Doug (from the left) "don't you thread it from here?"
Said Ed - "Either end will do, you've got the chief designer here".
But right was not right, as Ed was to see,
We looked, we chuckled, the gang and me
To see the inside out, and the outside - well guess!
But with prompt thinking, and to justify this mess
Said Ed - "it always gets washed on the outside you see
There's method in madness and the rains beating down
It'll wash the inside for me!"

J.S.

THE ROAD TO TAIHAPE VIA KURIPAPONGA

Kuripaponga. This was a well known ford across the Ngaruroro River in old Maori times and was an outpost of the Ngati Hotu tribe who inhabited the district known as The Inland Patea, - the "Inland" being used to distinguish it from the well-known coastal district and town of Patea in Taranaki.

The Ngati Hotu were driven back from this outpost by a strong raiding party from the East Coast Tribes. The leading chiefs in the attacking party wore cloaks of dark brown or black dog skins and hence the scene of the fight was named, in Maori fashion after this incident, Kuri Paponga.

The Hawke's Bay Maoris claim the name "Patea" commemorates a well known local chief of that name who stayed away from home on a bird hunting trip for a lot longer than his wife believed to be necessary. He did not improve his standing with the aforesaid lady by arriving home with a very poor "bag" of the potted birds, especially as his wife had managed in his absence to fill up the family pataka (storehouse) to overflowing. This particular lady was noted for her scolding tongue and her incessant nagging. When Patea took her for a walk, she fell over a cliff and was killed. To save having to appear at the tribal inquest, Patea fled up-country back into the district now known as the Inland Patea, where it is claimed he left many descendants.

The old Maori track from Heretaunga to the Inland Patea was by way of the Ngaruroro River as far as Whanawhana, then up the Omahaki Stream and over the range to come out at the back of Lumsden's homestead and across the ford at Kuripaponga.

The thousands of acres of open tussocky country of the Inland Patea made a strong appeal to the sheep men of Hawke's Bay and in 1879, Mr G.P. Donnelly took some of the first sheep from Hawke's Bay to the Inland Patea - the forerunners of many thousands of sheep which were to be grazed there for their wool clip. In the early days of settlement all of the wool from the Inland Patea came out to the Port of Napier and of course all the supplies for the stations came from Hawke's Bay. Mention of certain of the stations and their flocks during the "good old days" of the Inland Patea will give us some idea of the magnitude of the transport problems. For instance, there was Erewhon Station with 40,000 sheep, Karioi and Waiouru with 40,000, Owahaika (Ngamatea) 60,000, Moawhanga 30,000, Mangahane 30,000 etc.

It was necessary for all the stations even as far as Karioi and Waiouru to be supplied from the East Coast because of the mantle of bush extending up through the King Country.

It was not until the main trunk railway opened in 1905 that much of the trade went out via the main trunk and Taihape.

The first road to the Inland Patea was by way of Puketapu and the Tutaekuri River which had to be crossed and recrossed en route. The first road went up as far as Kouini where there was a hotel and stables - about 30 miles from Napier. If you were to turn off along the Flag Range Road to its end, you would get on to the old road a few miles below the sight of the old Kouini Hotel.

Later on the road went to Willowford where there was a big accommodation house and stables. The wool from the stations was brought out to the road-head from the Inland Patea by packhorses. It was first scoured on the Stations to wash out the dirt and so lighten the weight of the woolpacks for the horses. Nevertheless, it meant employment of large numbers of pack horses - it's been said up to 300 in numbers - which must have entailed an enormous amount of equipment and food for men and horses.

In 1885 the road over the Blowhard was opened as far as Kuripaponga. It is interesting to note that there was no scrub on the Blowhards at the time, only fern. This was burned off and grass was sown on the burn and sheep grazed on the new pastures. This disastrous policy was repeated until in only 10 to 15 years the soil was destroyed and erosion followed, with nature attempting to cover up man's destruction by growing a mantle of manuka scrub. Now the Forest Department has taken over this area in a praise-worthy attempt to correct the mistakes of the early settlers by tree planting.

As the road was pushed through a low level bridge was built across the ford at Kuripaponga upstream from the present high level bridge and a narrow swing bridge was constructed for pedestrian traffic.

In 1880 MacDonalds built an Accommodation House across the river and Kinross built a licensed hotel this side of the river. MacDonald finally brought out Kinross and ran the Kuripaponga Hotel and Guest House together with the Post Office, general store and blacksmith's shop, stables etc., on this side of the river.

The first dog trials for the North Island were held at Kuripaponga in 1889.

In 1890 the road was opened as far as Moawhanga.

The high level bridge at present crossing the Ngaruroro was built in 1897. For some years prior to this, coach services had been run from Puketapu to the road-end which was first at Kouini, then Willowford, Kuripaponga and finally at Moawhanga. The journey from Puketapu to Moawhanga was a two day trip with a night at the Kuripaponga Hotel.

The six-horse woolwagons with their high loads of wool bails must have made an impressive sight, as must also the coaches with their five-horse teams and skilful drivers. A story is told of one of the coach drivers having turned his coach and five-horse team on Gentle-Annie - he must have picked a good corner and a quiet team.

Kuripaponga has seen some exciting times, for not only was it the distributing centre for the Inland Patea but it was also a very popular tourist resort with tennis parties, riding parties, picnics etc. where fun and hospitality were the order of the day.

What a succession of events Kuripaponga has seen from the days of the Maori outposts, intertribal raids and ambushes at the ford, to the days of explores like Colenso who used it as one of his three routes to the Inland Pates. These days were followed by the influx of sheep, dogs and packhorses with musterers, shearers, cooks, rouseabouts, and the Station tradesmen and packmen. Then came the coaches and the wool wagons with their horse teams, travellers and tourists - an exciting busy period.

Next came the opening of the Main Trunk in 1905 which sounded the death-knell of the hotel accommodation houses along the road to the Inland Patea. This together with the advent of motor traffic, finished them off completely.

Now in summer there is a limited transport service to and from Taihape and this, together with summer carting of wool and the odd private car, is all that disturbs the peace and serenity of the old road. For a while after the 1931 Hawke's Bay earthquake, old times seemed to come again because all roads to and from the north had been closed by disastrous slips and all the motor vehicles travelling to and from Hawke's Bay from the north had to use the Gentle-Annie Road - or else had to go right down south and go through the Manawatu Gorge. It would be interesting to know what concentration of traffic there was on that historic difficult road in February 1931. The writer saw some of the people who came through at the time and the general opinion was "never again" except in a case of emergency.

Some day no doubt it will be declared a main highway and improved quite a lot. It has been suggested that the road will run on a new route from the top of the Blowhards and strike the Ngaruroro River opposite the mouth of the Kakekino Stream, proceeding up it's bed to rejoin the present road. This would of course cut "Gentle Annie" out altogether. It will be a long time before this is accomplished and by that time some, but not all, of the old romance of this road will have gone.

D.A. BATHGATE "Pohokura" No 67 August 1954.

My reliable source of info tells me some of the very nasty windy bits of this road have been straightened out some-what, (just as well or I'd never make the grade without a few truck stops!) The "Annie" has been sealed, and the rabbit gate on the bridge at Kuri has gone. The first forestry was planted in approx. 1950. and since then vast areas planted. Now that logging of some of this forest is starting it may herald a few changes yet to come on this road. - Ed.

* * * * *

SOME NEWS OF OLD MEMBERS

DAVE CHRISTIE:

Dave was the leader of the first club trip back in 1935. He lives on the lake edge at Arcacia Bay, Taupo in a very lovely home with a magnificent garden. Dave still goes for the odd walk in the many hills around Taupo.

JUNE SKINNER (nee BUD):

June Bud had been described as the club stirrer in her day, eg. if someone found a rock in their pack then it had to be June who put it there. Modern day example would have to be Kathy Turner! She joined the club in 1935 or 36 and over those early days was a very prominent trumper and by the photos not a bad looking chick. I found June in the Country Lodge Rest Home at the southern end of Te Puke. She sends her love to all her old tramping mates, and informed me that our Arch Lowes nick name was Tarchie. June has had a stroke but will not lie down, - she is getting around on a stick, and she said how much she enjoyed the reunion in 1985. I would suggest to any club member travelling around Te Puke to call in and see June. She is a delightful lady and loves to talk tramping.

VAL SMITH (nee Doige)

Val was one of the few nurses who joined the club in the early 50's. Val married Peter Smith, another tramping club member and a very popular guy. After Peter's death Val moved to Taupo where she started writing for news papers and finally wrote 2 or 3 books on nursing. Val is a member of the Taupo Tramping Club, and she has tramped in the Himilayas, around the South Island and all the local hills around Taupo. Now this lady is off to Antartica, to write another book no doubt.

We wish her an enjoyable trip and a safe return home. I am sure she will come and give the club a talk on her adventures.

Stan Woon

* * * * *

WHITE PINE BUSH TRACK GETS AWARD

A disabled persons track through the White Pine Bush at Tangaio has won a national award for the Department of Conservation in Hawke's Bay. The White Pine Bush project was carried out by a team of Restart workers, together with members of a Ministry of Youth Affairs Conservation Corps and DoC employees. Financial Assistance was given by H.B. Regional Council and donations of time and materials by Russell Asphalts. This project won the national award for recreation projects.

GIARDIA FACTS

Did you know:

- * Giardia has been in New Zealand since at least World War II and possibly since World War I or even the early colonists.
- * Giardia is present in water throughout New Zealand and in wild and domestic animal populations.
- * Normal healthy adults are not greatly affected by giardia, although unpleasant, it has no long term consequences for healthy adults.
- * It is possible to have giardia without knowing it and a carrier can transfer the disease to others through poor personal hygiene.
- * Tramping trips will not normally be affected by contracting giardia as it takes 10 days from ingestion of the cysts for symptoms to occur.
- * A person is more likely to contract giardia from pets and farm animals through poor hygiene, than from drinking mountain hut or stream water.
- * You're more likely to contract stomach illness from other bowel bacteria in untreated drinking water than catch giardia.
- * As far as is known, no one has ever died from contracting giardia in New Zealand.

DOC' VISITOR PROGRAMME

This year DoC's Hawke's Bay Conservancy Visitor Programme will be running over 6 months from November 7th - April 6 1993. The activities have been spread out over more than just the summer months having something for everyone with daytime activities and night time events and fun for the children. Trips have been graded in terms of difficulty and transport is available on some, and a few have car pools to be organised. There is a fee for most activities and bookings are essential.

By the time you receive this Pohokura two of the helihikes would have been, but for those keen on this sort of thing there is the Eastern Ruahine Helihike on 13th March; the Kaweka J Conquest on 30th January; a coastal clamber through Ridgemount Station on 7th February; a 4WD Adventure on 13th February; and on 27-28 March a Kiwi Camp Out at Kaweka Flats.

Evening activities include a Cape Kidnappers Clean-up; an Ahuriri Estuary Walk; Basic Bird Banter; Forest Food for thought; and an Introductory Marine Mammal Workshop.

The childrens programme includes a chance to explore the Kaweka Lakes; a trip to Bellbird Bush; discovering the range of tasks a Ranger carries out and a paddle and explore in the Ahuriri Estuary.

For further information and bookings contact DoC, 59 Marine Parade, Napier. Telephone No 06 835-0415.

MEETINGS; DATES AND DUTIES

DATE	HOSTS	SUPPER
Dec 9	Al Moffitt, Christiana Stevens	Ross Berry, Bing Potts
Jan 6	Rowan Sapsford, John Berry	Dianne Lawlor, Peter Berry
Jan 20	Shirley Bathgate, Leo Brunton	Gloria Taula, Jim Glass
Feb 3	Christine Hardie, Christopher Frost	Geoff Robinson, Jan Marshall
Feb 17	Graeme Lawlor, Pam Turner	Wayne Hatcher, Joy Stratford
Mch 3	Anne Cantrink, Clive Thurston	Rick Bowker, Julie Turner
Mch 17	Sue Lopdell, Ted Sapsford	Mike Craven, Kathy Turner
Mch 31	Jenny Lean, Bing Potts	Neil Mora, Len Frost
Apr 14	Rodger Burns, Mandy Leslie	Kay Ward, Eddie Holmes
Apr 28	Thelma T/Smith, John Montgomerie	Jenny Ives, Laurie Hook

DUTIES OF THOSE ON SUPPER & HOST

HOST - Greet new people, fill in visitors book, vacuum the floor and check the heaters and lights are off.

SUPPER - Bring 1 Lt milk. Put zip on, cups, sugar etc out. Wash dishes and leave kitchen in tidy condition.

If you are unable to be at the meeting on your specified date for Host or Supper please organise someone to take your place, and then let the Secretary know.

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MEETING NIGHT PROGRAMME

Jan 6	Christmas Trip Reports
Jan 20	Africa Trip - Arch & Joy Lowe
Feb 3	Training
Feb 17	Christine Hardy - Talk on FMC
Mar 3	Quiz - Social Committee
Mar 17	Training
Mar 31	Aerobics Demo - Gloria Taula
Apr 14	Jim Wall - Talk and Slides on Nepal
Apr 28	Training

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CLUB NEWS

Welcome to the following new members, and we hope your time with the club will be enjoyable, long and fun.

Laurie Hook, Gloria Taula, Scott Bartlam, Guido Vrieze, Neil Mora.

SONG BOOKS:

Out, at long last. The secretary has these and they are \$2 each.

CONGRATULATIONS to Wayne Hatcher - Trumper of the Year.

CONGRATULATIONS to our new Life Member - Arch Lowe

FROM THE EXECUTIVE: Shirley needs photos for the album. Please pass on any that you may have.

The truck committee is looking into the problem of getting chains to fit the truck. Junior Fares - These are for school members (not tertiary) in line with subs.

OVERDUE TRAMPERS

Although returning parties plan to be out of the bush well before dark, safety considerations must come first. Even after arriving back at the transport it may take 2 hours or more to return.

Beginners should make sure that anyone who may worry about them know this. Leaders will try to get a message through to one of the overdue contacts if return seems likely to be later than 10pm. 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 trampers please contact one of the following:

Stan Woon 8784680

Ross Berry 8774436

Jim Glass 8778748

FARE CONFIRMATION AND CANCELLATIONFare:

Local: Senior \$10; Senior Non Member; \$15 Junior; \$5 Jnr Non Member \$8;

Other: Fare set by 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 leaders 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 tramps 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, David Harrington 8439999, or Lyn Gentry 8750542.

January 1-3: Family Tramp.

Camp at Tutira & visit Shines Falls etc during days.

Contact: Josie Boland 8351805

January 9-10: Taruarau River

From the Taihape Rd, down the Taraurau River with a few pack floats to the Timahanga Stream or Comet. A truck party may base itself at bridge GR 894842 and visit the Waipiropiro Hot Springs.

Maps U20, U21

Leader: Leo Brunton 8447228

January 24: Koau Stream/Waitutu Stream

Two trips. Lyn's trip from Ruahine Hut to Koau Stream to look for Shute's headstone & hot springs. David H. is going over Desolution & up Waitutu Stream to a 35M falls.

Map U21

Leader: Lyn Gentry (Lord) 8750542

January 31: Arapaoanui Beach to Waipapa Waterfall Family Tramp

Contact: Karen Thurston 8789900

February 6-7: Kawhatau River

Start from Kawhatau Base, up along Hikurangi Range, down Trig Creek to Kawhatau River. Sunday down river. Shorter trip available by dropping down to McKinnon Hut.

Map U22

Truck Fare \$20

Leader: Eddie Holmes 8446032

February 14: Women's Suffrage Summitt - Kaweka J Contact: Josie Boland 8351805

February 20-21: Mountain Marathon

Our 5th Mountain Marathon held in the Kaweka Range. We need plenty of members to help based at Kuripaponga, Kiwi Saddle, MacIntosh Spur, Kaweka J, Dicks Spur & Makahu Saddle. Please let me know A.S.A.P.

Map U20

Contact: David Harrington 8439999

February 28: Kuripaponga Lake & Old Kaweka Hut Track F/Tramp Peter Berry 8774183

March 7: Smith Stream

Start from Alder Rd, up & along Hinerua Ridge to Hut, down to Smith Stream then down stream with one waterfall to sidle. Out via Hinerua Rd.

Map U22

Leader Peter Berry 8774183

March 20-21: Rocks Ahead Stream

Start from Makahu Saddle, up to the J, down to Sterns Saddle & Maminga. Dropping to heli-pad in Rocks Ahead Stream. Upstream to main range somewhere & out. Shorter trip available.

Map U20

Leader: David Harrington 8439999

March 28: Maraetotara Stream Family Tramp

From Clifton to Cascades.

Contact: Sue Holmes 8446032

April 4: Mathews Stream

Start from Mathews Shelter, drop into Mathews Stream and follow it down to a cave. Will continue downstream to the Ohara Stream. If time allows will look at bottom reaches of Gull Stream.

Map U21

Leader: Stan Woon 8784680

April 9-12: Bridge To Nowhere

Friday driving to Pipiriki. Saturday morning jet boat ride to Maungapurua. Landing to start tramp to Bridge to Nowhere and onto Whakahoro. Truck party may do tramps in the Tongariro National Park.

Maps R19,R20,S19,S20.Truck Fare \$30, Jet Boat \$55 ea. Leader: Mike Bull 8436052

April 17-18: Ruahine Traverse Stage 3

Continuing on from Ngamoko Rd, along the divide to camp out near spot height 1174. Sunday, along past Longview Hut, Otumore to Daphne Hut & out. Shorter trip via Makaretu & Awatere Huts. Truck party also available.

Maps U22, U23

Leader: Wayne Hatcher 8763387

April 25: MacMillans Farm - south Raukawa area Family Tramp

Contact: Mandy MacMillan 8749712

May 2: Dead Dog Hut

Start from Herricks Hut, along sidle track & stream to Dead Dog Hut. Out via Hollowback Ridge or back down via Big Hill Stream.

Map U21

Leader: Clive Thurston 8789900

May 15-16 Makaroa River

Go in from Sentry Box up to Parks Peak, drop down to Makaroa River and follow to Aranga Hut, & back out along the tops.

Map U21

Leader: David Harrington 8439999

May 30: Iron Whare

From Trig I, down to Makahu River, up to Iron Whare which was built in the 1860's. Across the Kaweka Flats & out to Makahu Saddle.

Map U20

Leader: Susan Lopdell 8446697

THERE ARE SHORTER ALTERNATIVES ON ALL TRIPS

CLUB MEETINGS are held every 2nd Wednesday at St Marks Church Hall, cnr Queen St and Park Road, Hastings. Meeting starts 7.30pm. Visitors Welcome.