

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC).

P.O. BOX 447 HASTINGS

P.O. Box 4086 Mayfair

"POHOKURA"

Bulletin No 187

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Easter 1994 April 1-4

Party B.

Friday: Left the truck in brilliant sunshine at the road-end at the start of Moteo-Patea Range track where a sign said approx. 3 hours to top of the range. From 9.15am to 11.40am there was no shade and no flat ground. The route took us over farmland, but very steeply to the top. It was a very slow ascent with 4 day packs with many stops to catch the view (breath) and it was a welcome stop for an early lunch. We didn't take the poled route as we decided that the way we wanted to go was up the first spur and then to sidle around until we met the park boundary and the track to Iron Bark Hut. The boundary was to be a welcome sight as we would be out of the relentless heat and sun. The track down to Iron Bark is also very steep through pretty bush, and it took until 3pm to make our way down. The hut is newly painted and clean, beside the river, and was a pleasant sight after 6 hours. It was obvious at this stage that the original plan to make Colenso Hut that day was not possible and we decided to make camp at the hut and to move onto Colenso the next day. Judy was sound asleep by 7pm, and Rodger made a very quick leap off the top bunk with his sleeping bag and all when a rat peered at him from the rafters. Sue and I then had a very uncomfortable night stuffed completely in our sleeping bags worrying about the dam rats that scurried around all night.

We were happy to get away by 8.30 next morning and had decided to go up the Unknown Stream. A very pretty stream with not too many obstacles and water no deeper than our knees (mostly) until we had been travelling for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour, by which stage we should have met the track to sidle around the waterfall. We could not find the track and we sent Heather through a deep pool to look around the corner. Twenty minutes later she appeared behind us having found the waterfall (plus some shorts, book, toothpaste etc. which puzzled us). She had climbed up behind the fall to find the track which we had passed a good 10 minutes back. (Kathy Ombler's book is very incorrect as to the whereabouts of this fall and the map is also incorrect). Going back we climbed steeply and moved across a spur quite a way until we dropped again very steeply into the river. Moving along the river we found the Unknown Campsite where we had lunch from 11.45 - 12.45pm. Hunters had set up a large fly and a good-sized deer hung from a tree. Just as we were about to leave the "other" party showed up for lunch and we set off with the comment that "we'll soon catch you up" and "you're going the wrong way". We all knew at every stage of the weekend exactly where we were. However, Kathy's book said that the track was 5 minutes up the river and we found it to be about 20 minutes up. The tracks are not at all well marked. We had another very steep climb through very pretty bush and ferns with a lot of bird-life, - very beautiful, and as we came up onto the tops a lovely view greeted us.....limestone bluffs and then Lake Colenso. It was absolutely beautiful surrounded by bush. A steep and very narrow track leads down a very sharp ridge with drops off each side to the valley floor where the track undulates for 40 minutes to Colenso Hut. A lot of Ongaonga and cutty-gras later a tired party arrived at another repainted tidy hut, only to find it contained 2 skinned and bleeding carcasses plus a deer's head. We were not going to stay there and found a stoney campsite across the river. Sue and I set our tent up, helped the others set theirs up and left the billy on before going back to see how far the lake was off the track. It turned out to be only about 3 minutes off the main track and the lake was tranquil and reflective. We saw Blue ducks, Kaka, and the others saw Robins - a place certainly worth the  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hours it had taken us. It really was quite special! After tea the others went back to look at it and we later sat around a candle on the river bed in the dark, with the stars out, not a breath of wind and quite mild. What a day !

We realised we had a long way to go over some steep country and decided to get

away by 8am as it was a good  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours back to Iron Bark over the Army Track and we wanted to climb out to the Park Boundary so as to make Monday shorter. We were worried about time and knew the others wanted to be back by 3pm. Monday. At the track junction 40 minutes back, we met by luck, Dave Harrington, who had raced in to hopefully meet up with the others who had arrived about 40 minutes after we had set up camp (didn't catch us up for some ??? reason). After a short chat it was away again sidling around and then another 300M steep climb. I think Rodger was beginning to wonder if there was any flat land at all. The beauty of the bush and the bird-life was just wonderful and the weather was one out of the book, with some trampers having to take drastic measures to avoid over-heating. We meandered along enjoying the scenery and then dropped steeply into the river opposite Iron Bark. It had taken 4 hours and a pleasant hour of lunch was had, with hair being washed and a chat with a couple of hunters and their lovely dogs who welcomed Rodger's sandwiches.

It was very sunny and warm and we didn't really want to have to climb up the steep 400M to the Park boundary but knew it was necessary. For some reason we must have become fitter or something as it only took 1 hr 50 mins to reach the campsite (on private land just outside the boundary and beside a stream). It had become cloudy and windy and we had an early tea, thank goodness, as just at 6pm down came the rain, and 12 hours later we emerged from our beds to a very cold damp morning. What a long night it had been and we didn't even have a pack of cards. A quick breakfast and off we trudged up the ridge at which stage we sidled round to the exact spot we had had lunch the day we started. It was a long slippery way down the ridge to the farmland and we were back at the truck at 10.15, to sit and wait for the others. Dave H. turned up about 11am saying he wasn't going where the others were as he thought they were mad. He left, and at 2.30pm the others arrived back very foot-sore and weary. Even though we had to shorten our trip quite a bit the weather, views and everything about the trip was "just pertich" and came home very relaxed and would recommend the trip to anyone.  
D.L.

Party: Sue Lopdell (leader), Rodger Burn, Dianne Lawlor, Judy McBride, Heather Jones.

#### Party A

Left on Thursday night so we could break the long drive up and stopped at the Rangitikei River for the night. Headed off early and arrived at Mokai Station about 8.30am then followed the fence line across the farm stopping for a break amongst the thistles, cow dung, and the entire North Island poulation of blow flies at the foot of the Mokai Patea Range. Was hard work climbing the 500M grass hill, but worth it for the views. Here we had lunch then it was down the ridge to Otukate Hut which was first in first served. (2 other parties arrived after us).

Day two was across to Maropea River and up and up for 3 hours to Puketoramea, a climb of 750M - the first part being steep and then a steady climb on a good track. From there a long tramp to Unknown Campsite for lunch, arriving just as Sue's party was leaving for Colenso. The hunters cans of beer cooling in the river would have gone down nice for lunch but we left them to cool some more. Finding the track up the side stream over to Lake Colenso took some finding as it is upstream further than what the map shows and it is in the most unlikely of spots. The track over to Lake Colenson is easy but does get steep on a razor back ridge on the way down, but offers a great view of the lake from the ridge top. Walking through the bush on the way to the hut we passed by an amazing collection of different type of native trees gathered in a small area - only to have this highlight ruined by the deer carcasses inside the hut (we left our comments about this and they were later reported to DoC and spoken to). Waving bye to Sue's party camped downstream from the hut we eventually arrived and camped in the Mangatere River.

Day 3 was cold but clear and by 8am when heading for Patea up this side stream I would describe as Yuk, Patea was reached in a couple of hours, and fully worth the climb for the clear 360° view. Back tracking for 2 minutes to the turn off down to Waikotore campsite, a good track but boggy at the bottom, where we had lunch. The campsite now has a private bivy on site and two hunters living in it. David Harrington who had started on Saturday joined us for lunch. We changed plans and headed off downstream, sidling two waterfalls that are not marked on the map, but offered no problems. Took us 3½ hours downstream to the junction of the Mangatera River and finally made camp half way downstream to the Whakaurekoo River on dark.

Day 4 we continued on downstream and heading for the farm land - good easy walking. I carried a fishing rod for 4 days, used it for 10 minutes and caught a trout and put it away again (great sport). The plan of attack was to go downstream to the first shingle bank then a quick bush bash up to the farm land - good plan - bad bush. 3 hours later we collapsed down for lunch on farm land after getting bluffed, ripped to bits, pushing and pulling packs through impossible scrub. 1½ hour later we were back at the truck, changed the flat tyre, and headed for home after a great 4 day tramp.  
C.S.

#### Reference Notes:

Public Road all the way to the road end on Mokai Station.

Carry plenty of water over Mokai Patea Range as only tarn water available.

Otukate Hut sleeps 6.

Colenso Hut has maori bunks, also plenty of campsites, and all tracks are clearly marked.

Road end to Otukate Hut 6-7 hours.

Otukate Hut to Colenso Hut 8½ hours.

Colenso Hut to Patae 3 hours.

Party: Craig Shaw (Leader), Eddie Holmes, Anne Cantrick, Wayne Hatcher, Dave Cormack.

#### WAKARARA RANGE - A Touch of Magic

Trip No 1608

April 10 1994

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The drive through the Wakarara was an interesting mosaic of pine forest, scrub and bush with a number of very beautiful patches of both Podocarp and Beech forest. After driving past the end of Leatherwood Road twice, (it is an unmarked grassy track) we finally got our bearings and headed up through a short stretch of pines to the end of the road to where there is again no signs or indication of a track. We dropped straight over the edge into a creek and picked up a very good track running up the spur. A feature of this was the outstandingly beautiful group of Black Beech trees growing on seemingly bare rock which we passed through. Climbing steadily with pauses to admire the perfect views we soon reached the somewhat barren and eroded tops of the Wakararas. From the distance this barrenness seems to be the major feature of this range, but up close much of it is regenerating well, and when we got onto the top of Poutaki we could see two long valleys running away on either side of us from the small saddle with the huts in it. These valleys held large areas of virgin Red Beech forest which we went and had a look at. The transition from dry sunbaked grass and scrub to the cool green world of these huge trees was quite outstanding. Just 10 paces separating these completely different worlds. After a leisurely lunch we headed back the way we'd come in, and all still in perfect weather.

Back at the truck I got the stretcher out and we had a practice with it and headed home to arrive by 7pm. Thanks to Christine for driving home and to everyone for contributing to such an outstanding trip.  
P.B.

Party: Peter Berry (Leader), Garry Smith, Sandie Gay, John & Margaret Jones, Jenny Lean, Ros & Mike Lusk, Leo Brunton, Al Moffitt, Christine Hardie, Susan Lopdell, Kay Ward

MT TARAWERA

Trip No 1611

May 21-22 1994

The weather forecast wasn't that good as 14 of us set off for Mt Tarawera on Friday night, and with very heavy rain at times before Taupo so we were pleased with the offer of shearing shed quarters in Northern Boundary Road. Arrived there and drove for about 9km but couldn't find the place so it was back to the shores of Lake Rerewhakaaitu for the night.

The morning dawned cloudy and cool but fine, and we were on the road by 8.30am and heading for the carpark up the 4 wheel drive track. After parking we set off for the 1½ hour walk to the top (only took us 1 hour). Once there we left our packs at the top of the crater and set off to the other side and the shingle slide. It was full speed down the slide which everyone enjoyed, then the walk along the crater floor and back up to where we had left our packs. Four real keen ones decided that one shingle slide wasn't enough so climbed up and made their way to another shingle slide. The rest of us had lunch and watched them as they climbed up on to the tops and then dropped over the side and down what looked like a very steep shingle slide. After lunch we headed off along the edge of the crater in fine weather to start with but at one stage we had about 10-15 minutes of rain and wind which wasn't that pleasant. Down the sandy dome, then the shingle and into the bush, and then to the jetty on the shores of Lake Tarawera. From there it was a 20 minute walk to our campsite at Hot Water Beach. After tea most disappeared to enjoy a hot swim in the lake or the small hot pool amongst the trees. Some seemed to enjoy it so much I thought they might stay in all night.

Sunday dawned a lovely day and everyone was soon up, packing and leaving at varying intervals. It took us four hours from the campsite to the crater top where we had lunch and waited and watched four keen trampers have another look from the tops and then back down the shingle slide. It was then back to the truck and to Kerosine Creek for a hot swim. For me this was the find of the weekend - thank-you John. On to Taupo for something to eat and home after a very enjoyable trip with great company.  
C.H.

Party: Cathy Hamilton (Leader), John Montgomerie, Kay Ward, Dianne & Graham Lawlor, Mandy Leslie, Gloria Taula, Leo Brunton, Gary Smith, Christine Hardie, Susan Lopdell, Thomas Lawlor, Ann Cantrick.

KAIMANAWA FOREST PARK

Trip No 1612

June 4-6 Queen's Birthday Weekend 1994

We started off with a good number out for a long weekend tramp into the Kaimanawa Forest Park, but unfortunately the weather was not showing up to be brilliant, and on the Friday night there was news of a possible Search and Rescue over the weekend. The remaining 15 of us setting off in the early hours of a freezing windy Saturday morning for the Desert Road, and some-one mentioned they had heard that this road may be shut due to the weather, but the attitude was to get there and then see what we'll do. Travelling the Napier-Taupo Road we came across sleet and even a few snowflakes - winter was upon us! We arrived at the closed Desert Road barrier gates by 10am and it was time to negotiate. After a bit of convincing the guys there they let us through, but this was not the end of our troubles. A short distance along the Kaimanawa Road we were stopped and asked for a permit for the road. Eventually we made arrangements for a bill to be sent to us. We all felt pretty annoyed at having to pay for a little section of road which crossed over Maori land.

By 11am we were all ready to set off for the exposed tops of the Umukarikari Range and down to Waipahihi Hut for the night. Until the bush-line where we stopped for lunch it was a steady climb through very nice bush, and we stopped

only as long as we needed as it was freezing and blowing a gale. Once on the tops it was basically a fight against the windy elements, freezing any part of the body that was exposed to it, and we only made stops to top up with energy. Eddie's party had made a run for it, not seeing them again after Sharp Cone till the hut. We all arrived in battered dribs and drabs around 5pm to share the hut with two hunters. The wind blew frantically all night, shaking the hut now and again.

Next morning Eddie's party was first up and getting ready for a big day to Cascade Hut, but for us our plans had changed. Middle Range was all clagged in and it was still blowing a gale so we decided to head out the same way as we came in. Shortly after Eddie's party had left David Harrington arrived with an ice covered parka and bare legs. We all just about froze looking at him. David had decided to come in that morning after the search was called off as they had found the hunter, and it took him  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours to do what had taken us 6 hours the previous day. About 10am with Dave now in our party we retraced our steps. The wind was even stronger than the day before. It was a real struggle to keep our balance and at times I had to stop to prevent myself from being blown over. Even so, we made quite good time for lunch at 1pm at the bush line. From there it was another  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour to the carpark. Due to the fact we had changed our plans Christine, Dave and Wayne took Dave's car to find the truck party, and later returned to pick Sandy, John and myself up. As we returned with the truck the truck party walked out of the bush just in time to see us pulling up. We caught up on all the news, then settled down to cooking, pitching tents and having an early night.

Waking to another freezing morning we were packed and ready to leave by 9am. On the way out we did a bit of sight-seeing having a look at the Pillars of Hercules, the underground power house which was closed and a sub station. As we pulled out of the area we all agreed it was an area well worth visiting again. Having time to spare we visited Tokaanu for a hot swim which was very nice, and on the way home picked up Eddie's very tired party at the end of Clements Road.  
C.S.

Party: Wayne Hatcher (Leader), Christiana Stevens, Christine Hardie, Sandie Wiggins, John Jones, David Harrington.

Kaimanawa Road - Clements Road      Party B

Day 2

The need for a mercy dash forced me to awake around 7am. It had been lightly snowing all night at Waipakahi Hut with strong winds not once easing. Inside the hut was considerably colder than the average freezer, and inspite of the wind we couldn't wait to be on the track. Departing the hut at 8.20am we said farewells to Wayne's team and faced our first climb of the day, some meagre 500 metres. The climb took one hour and five, but so cold it was that the well deserved rest stop wasn't had. From here (Junction Tops) it was down towards Ignimbrite Saddle - some 400 metres drop to the north east. It was here in the saddle that we copped wind so strong we had to really fight to hold the track. Snow was being blown from the southern hills and sun was shining out to the north. We seemed to spend the entire 3 days just on the edge of the storm, however, snacks were had frequently and took no longer than 3 minutes each time. Brrrrr.

Six kilometers of slowly plugging uphill brought us to Ngapuketerua, 1510 metres above sea level and dominating views in all directions. From here we took a bearing almost due east, and intercepted our track some kilometer and half ahead, saving some climbing, one km and  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour in time. (I love short cuts that actually work out). Here we stopped and drank deeply from the first flowing water we had seen all day. Up a small rise and onto a sidle track which took us into bush where we ate and rested before setting off on the last 6km stretch to Cascade Hut. The ridge drops no more than 100 metres for the first 3km and then gradually bends down getting steeper and steeper. Craig

and myself saw two Jap hinds on the track who slowly moved away as we passed. By this stage it was almost too dark to see in the bush and we made the Tauranga-Taupo river right on dark. As we approached a pair of blue duck went absolutely berserk only 10 metres away from us and as we crossed the river they didn't move away. Cascade Hut was full of hunters so we pitched tents and ate, passed rude comments amongst ourselves and eventually went to bed.

### Day 3

Snow fell silently most of the night and although it was not a lot it was as low as 800 metres. Breakfast in bed and a 9.30am departure. Through Cascade Creek and down the bench track past Stansfield Whare and up a small climb of only 400 metres. (Gosh, I forgot how much 400M was). On reaching the top at 1240 metres it was down 400 to the heads of Hinemaiaia Stream. A quick lunch and a cuppa and out to the Clements Road, arriving at the same time as the truck and home by 5pm. Many thanks to Anne Cantrick, Anke Knechtmans, Craig Shaw and Lyn Gentry (Mr) for excellent company on an unreal tramp.

Eddie Holmes.

### Summary:

Kaimanawa Rd to Waipakahi over Umukarikari 12 kms - 5 hours.

Waipakahi Hut 12 bunk.

Waipakahi to Cascade 19 kms - 9 hours.

Cascade Hut 6 bunk.

Cascade to Clements Road 10 kms 4-5 hours.

### Truck Party:

After the other two parties left the five of us in the truck party headed up the track behind them, stopping to check any views through the bush on the way up. We had lunch in a sheltered sunny spot sitting in the snow near the end of the bushline. Back down again and off for a bit of touring. First stop was the underground tunnel, - the doors were open so we took quite a close look at this tunnel which went in for 684 metres. A short drive down the road to take in the great river view from the bridge and then to the power station and over the dam. We were actually doing a recce as to the best camping spot and decided to camp back at the tunnel. Next morning was very cold and the ice on the inside of the windscreen was approximately 3-4 mm thick. In case Wayne's group arrived back early we decided to walk to Tree Trunk Gorge in the morning. On the way there we visited the Urchin Track carpark where the views were just great. Also here was the 15 M surge tank that linked up with all the underground channels through here. This area is a magnificent engineering fete and very interesting. Back to the right carpark and what a spot - this was to be our campsite for tonight.

The walk to Tree Trunk Gorge is delightful. A wide bench track most of the way, one river crossing and 1½ hours later we were having our lunch on the bridge at the gorge. It was a l-o-n-g way down to the river but magnificent cascading swirling pools. Mountain bikers use this track a lot as we were to find out on our return journey, and it doesn't pay to be in their way. We had the feeling that they felt it was their track! Back at the truck we decided to do the ½ hour trek to the Pillars of Hercules to complete the day before going to the road end in case Wayne's party arrived back, BUT while we were away Christine and Dave H (in his car) had sniffed the truck out and returned with the party. The weather was a bit ominous so we put the awning up and settled in for the night.

Over these past two days we'd seen some beautiful bush, river gorges and interesting areas. Thanks to Judy McBride, Jenny Lean, Al Moffitt and Mike Craven our driver for a great time.

Lady Lyn.

Trip No 1609 (April 23-25) to the Tararuas did not take place, so a party made their way over to Back Ridge Hut and a merry time was had by all. An alternative one day trip was down in the Wakarara following in the footsteps of Peter's trip No 1608, by a small party who were unable to go then.

June 19 1994

From the initial list 28 people were to be on the trip and amazingly no drivers amongst them, but thanks to Peter Berry who came in place of Glenda to be our driver. 21 people were the eventual trip numbers. Arrival at the carpark on North Block Road gave indications of indifferent weather, cold and windy. I had decided to do the trip over Te Atuaoparapara (trig 66) from the north to the south to enable more scope for secondary trips from Sunrise flat area, and to save wet feet for the end of the trip. I had made estimates from the eventual 21, with people who would be possible for the main trip, but after talking about steep SNOW and ice axes, the numbers dwindled to 5. The balance of 16 all decided to go Sunrise way, out of several other options.

The 5 of us headed off smartly as we would need all the time we could get. Very strong wind was experienced on the way up to Sunrise which did not look very encouraging, and at Sunrise Hut my fears were confirmed - a raging gale - hard to stand up on the ridge behind the hut. We rested at the hut and had a brew and feed and awaited the other 16. The 5 on the original main trip were now looking for alternatives to returning down the Sunrise track, and settled on Armstrong Saddle, over to Patiki high point, and then cross country down the ridge to north of Triplex Creek, and back via Triplex Hut and the carpark. Or, if time permitted, drop down into Gold Creek and out via the Flounder - but time did not permit. The wind was horrendous and risky, but not dangerous, and nearly one hour later we made Armstrong Saddle and in the saddle area crawling from handhold to handhold sometimes being necessary, and it took 2½ hours to do 2½ km to Patiki! Then the bush bash down to height 956, and then a course down hill to the Triplex area and eventually out to the truck at 5.20pm. The A trip had a challenging and interesting day, unfortunately leaving the original trip which would have been suicidal to have undertaken. The B trip had an enjoyable day also I understand.

A Trip party: John Montgomerie (leader), Hugh O'Donnell, Sandy Wiggins, Leo Brunton, David Harrington.

B Trip party: Peter Berry (Leader), Rodger Burn, Alan Whittaker, Ros & Mike Lusk, Robyn Madden, Garry Smith, Lenny Lean, Lisa Staines, Gloria Taula, Graham Abraham, Darren Sayer, Deborah Turner, Graham & Dianne Lawlor, Judy McBride.

#### KIWI SADDLE HUT - MID YEAR XMAS PARTY

Trip No 1614

July 2-3 1994

On Friday night an 'Antartic chill' forecast bringing heaps of snow and strong winds, so everyone gave up the tramping spirit in exchange for a comfortable weekend, - all except the 'Last of the Xmas Party!'

Three good keen men arrived at the Lakes carpark at 10.30am and set off in steadily falling snow, and that's the way it stayed all the way to Kiwi Saddle and our Club hut. Everything was white with a dash of colour on the underside, and the snow just kept falling with a cold breeze now and again. The walk up to '12363' Kuripapango - 1250M and along the Smith Russell track got us in at 1.15pm (2 3/4 hours). Nobody had the 'Little Corker' stoked, and to add to our chores we had to overcome an ice barrier to get at the water tank. Darkness arrived with clear skies, little wind, and a cosy hut.

Sunday morning we woke to an icy, frozen, white world. Ice on the windows, inside and out. Boots and packs were frozen to the floor, and again ice over our water source - this time in the bucket. Dave played Indian rope tricks - his ice axe tape solid and remaining horizontal or vertical, which ever way he pointed it. With some movement we warmed up and moved outside to a calm day, almost clear sky, view of the white Central Plateau, and heaps of snow



all round. At 9am we set off for Kaiarahi via Castle Camp along the ridge tops. Castle Camp has a make shift shelter, a nice camping spot and a water tank. From Kaiarahi, at 11.45 we had beaut views up to the 'J', all around and out to Cape Kidnappers. Every plant had an icy necklace and the beech forest had a bad case of dandruff. A few photos and it was off and along to 'The Tits' at 1418M. West around 'Cooks Horn Basin' and we descended to Kaweka Hut down an icy steep spur. The track was icy hard even under the bush canopy, sending us skating into the hut at 12.50pm for a stop and refuel. We arrived back at the Lakes carpark about 2.15pm meeting the first of the snow seekers in the Tutaekuri River. And so this was the weekend marking the beginnings of the below 5°C sub-club!!  
N.M.

Party: Neil Mora, Craig Shaw, David Harrington.

#### ALTERNATIVE TRIP FOR TRIP NO 1611 MAY 23

Karen, Margaret and I picked up Deborah and Sandie at Pukehaumauma school and continued on up to the Cameron carpark at Kuripapango. We left the Cameron Track just below the cableway and headed up the ridge on the Smith-Rusell track around 9.30am. There was a strong wind blowing straight off some snow so we opted for the sidle track which was on the lee-side. This provided good views and interesting bush as well as shelter. On rejoining the ridge track further up we were subjected to the full arctic blast of the wind all the way to the trig. Regrouping there we headed towards the Lakes carpark and once out of the wind stopped for a brief early lunch. After this we descended rapidly to the carpark. Our route back to Cameron carpark followed the MacPac course past the Lakes on the old track and then along the base of Kuripapango hill. Somewhere along this stretch we had a brief late lunch, grovelled our way down to the Waikarakara stream then along through some small pine trees to the Taihape Road and carpark. We left for home around 4pm after a good day out.  
G.H.

Party: Karen Berry, Sandie Wiggins, Deborah Turner, Margaret Jones, Glenda Hooper.

#### KAUMATUA TO ELLIS

July 17 1994

July 17 1994

Trip No 1615

'Don't knock it! till you've bashed it!

After losing the keys, and a couple of minor deviations we arrived at the Kamatua Road end having dropped off Sandie, Lew and Neil who went up to Parks Peak from Sentry Box and back down the Kamatua track. With faith in navigational ability having been effectively shattered 10 took off with Dave leading to go up the Kamatua track then head south bush bashing towards Ellis Hut. The other 8 of us dropped into the river below Kamatua to have a look at the creek just downstream. One look was more than sufficient so we headed up the spur between the stream and the farmland which was quite open with ancient broodleaf trees. Then we bashed through scrub with heaps of young lancewoods, and this grew progressively thicker. Near the top we came into shorter scrub with dracaphillum and lots of young cedars coming away. We then chickened out, cut onto farmland and walked a couple of hundred yards to where a tongue of bush came down. This young beech forest was very beautiful with hundreds of young Rimu growing up through it. We made excellent time through this forest, then hit old sparse trees with waist high pig fern. Mostly Beech with occasional Miro. Everyone should experience tramping through waist high pig fern at least once in a lifetime. Heading further south we dropped easily into a stream passing some incredibly large ear shaped lichen on a small tree. When we had nearly finished

lunch when we heard Dave and Co who came down next to us.

I like stream travel and this moderately sized creek got better and better as we travelled down it. Then we came to a small waterfall that looked hazardous but turned out to be quite easy. Soon afterward however, the stream became so interesting that we climbed out on the true right, walking all the way up a good open spur (covered in 1080 baits), then along the main spur to hit the end of the last piece of farmland. While on top we had a shouting match with Dave's team telling them they were lost, but apparently they were headed further south and came back via the old track from Ellis's and the Ohara. This spur was again home to some wonderfully beautiful young Totara and Rimu and was good travel. After half an hour we came onto the farmland and had to walk west, parallel with our stream (which was steeply bluffed on both sides) until we hit a farm track which led us back just as it was starting to drizzle. About an hour later when I was starting to think about looking for them, out of the damp darkness dribbled the other 10 and we all took off for home and fish & chips.

And what did they all think of the trip? "We loved it!"  
P.B.

Party: Peter Berry (Leader), Mike & Ros Lusk, Garry Smith, David Harrington, Dianne, Graham & Thomas Lawlor, Neil Mora, Lady Lyn Gentry, John & Margaret Jones, Lew Harrison, Darren Sayer, Gloria Taula, Graham Abraham, Glenda Hooper, Leo Brunton, Sandie Wiggins, Deborah Taylor, Sue Holmes.

#### PARKS PEAK HUT - PARTY B

At 8.30am only three jumped out of the truck at the Sentry Box gateway. All keen for a view from the tops, the lack of cloud made it look very possible. A short walk through the bush and we greeted two hunters cooking their breakfast in Sentry Box Hut. From the hut a steep scramble through scrubby low vegetation and we reached the rocky outcrop at 978M. Misty white cloud swirled around in the bottom of the valleys below us. With plenty of good yarns it was a steady climb through tall beech to the ridge top at 1320M, arriving at 10.30am. From the outcrop the snow steadily got deeper, sometimes thigh deep and offering a challenge now and again. On the top however, often the top was packed and hard to walk across without sinking in.

Apart from a cool breeze in exposed places the air temperature was very mild making the white environment comfortable. A 15 minute diversion along the ridge north to the high point Pohatuhaha (1368M) proved very rewarding. From the rocky trig point 360° views of white tops and farmland all the way to the Cape made an enjoyable break with a hot drink in hand. Back at the Sentry Box Hut track junction at 11.30am and by 12.15 we'd traversed the snow covered ridge south to Parks Peak Hut. The tidy little 4 bunk orange hut gave us shelter for lunch as the outside air temperature had noticeably dropped.

At 1.15pm we departed back along the track north to the Kaumatua Stream track junction, marked by a number of tree tags. Initially the track, although well tagged, was not a clear pathway, overgrown in places with bush lawyer. As we lost altitude following the track on the spur we descended into misty cloud losing the clear open tops. Standing for a moment in tall bush, the absolute silence of the bush was eerie. With an easterly change in direction the track dropped more steeply off the main spur sidling into the Kaumatua Stream. Across the stream amongst the large beech, we dropped into the small hut with 'Hydro Hut' written across the door. Windows missing, no fireplace, bunks just wooden slats and a bench with a pile of rubbish underneath. Good for a bite to eat. Down an overgrown wide swampy track, then across farmland to reach the truck at 3.30pm and contemplate from which direction the others groups would return. Thanks to Sandie and Lew for a great day on the tops.  
N.M.

Party: Neil More, Lew Harrison, Sandie Wiggins.

WHIRINAKI FOREST PARK

Trip No 1616

July 30-31 1994

After a few pull-outs 25 of us ( a full truck load) left Hastings for Minginui - a long way through the forest but we did well. We were tramping by 10.30am and 3 made a visit to the Arahaki Lagoon while the other 21 made their way along the Central Whirinaki track. The weather was fine and we stopped at the waterfall for lunch about noon and after photos were taken off we went. The river was running high - absolutely beautiful and the best I have ever seen. We saw Blue ducks and Kaka (Well, I didn't see them but some did), through the tunnel and reached the hut about 3.30pm. Seven stayed in the hut while many tented. Neil and I cooked a beautiful tea - baked potatoes, pumpkin, kumera, peas, beans, steak, mint sauce and gravy, topped off by the elusive spongey pud! We had a fun filled night with table traversing bringing out of the wood a new club character - Ros Lusk, great to see, hut traversing with the trophy going to Lew, then onto some magic and mysterious fun games with Kathy and Julie. It proved there were some thick people out there (including myself), but it really was a great night. Bacon and eggs for breakfast and off just before 9am and up to the caves. Dave, Craig and myself went up the river and the main team met Mike at the caves who had come in from Plateau Hut, then everyone travelled the main track out, arriving about noon and the other three of us an hour or so later.

My special thanks to Mike Craven because without him we could not have done the trip. He drove us round to Minginui, dropped us off and then drove round to Plateau Hut Road end, spent the night solo then came in to meet the team. Thanks to everyone for a most enjoyable weekend.  
L.G.

Party: Lord Lyn Gentry (Leader), Dianne & Graham Lawlor, Margaret & John Jones, Lew Harrison, Robyn Madden, Ros & Mike Lusk, Darren Sayer, Garry Smith, Susan Lopdell, Gloria Taula, Graham Abraham, Christiana Stevens, Wayne Hatcher, Craig Shaw, Neil Mora, David Harrington, Alan Whittaker, Kathy Turner, Julie Turner, Bruce Almond, Wayne Lee.

# #

From the media....

The air drop of 1080 poison in the Kaweka Range between the Ngaruroro and Tutaekuri Rivers is to go ahead after objectors decided to stop court proceedings. The H.B. branch of the N.Z. Deerstalkers Assn and the 1080 Action Network initiated legal action against the H.B. Regional Council, the Department of Conservation and the Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council in May to stop the aerial application of 1080. They were over-ruled in the hearing but Justice Gallen, in his decision, left open the options for the applicants to seek further legal remedies. The H.B. branch of the Deerstalkers Assn said that while the Assn did not expect to stop the drop due to start in late August or early September, it would be making submissions to the H.B. Regional Council's regional water resources plan in an attempt to stop further drops north of the Tutaekuri River. The Regional Council General Manager said the parties taking legal action had recognised the area covered some very difficult terrain which largely prevented effective ground control.

H.B. Herald Tribune

# # # # # # # # # #

BARN DANCE    BARN DANCE    BARN DANCE    BARN DANCE    BARN DANCE    BARN DANCE

FOR A NIGHT OF\* FUN AND EXHAUSTION!!!!

December 3rd      7.30pm start      \$10 per person

Bring: A plate and yourself in "country dress"

Where: The Woolshed, Charlton Road, Te Awanga

Plenty of prizes

Contact: Graham Lawlor 8448086

for tickets

PRIVATE TRIPSTONGARIRO - WELL, ALMOST!

30th November - 3rd December 1993

To shake off School Certificate exam blues and to avoid pre Christmas rushes we took off for Tongariro for what was to be a restful trip. Up to Ketetahi Hut was O.K. enough in gusty winds and drifting rain squalls. A good warm lunch, storm gear on and the latest report of "improving weather" for tomorrow saw us departing from a lovely warm hut and out into the snow. Snow drifts in the gulleys provided some fun as the winds rose and the rain thickened. Our goal was to spend 2 nights camped somewhere around Blue Lake, and undaunted I was sure we'd find shelter behind some boulder somewhere, so we plugged on.

Down the slopes beside Blue Lake was really awesome. We found a levelled old tent site, scraped away the snow and attempted a tent pitching. The Lake water resembled mysterious oil, swirling into pools and all sorts of Loch Ness monsters driven into a frenzy by the now gale force winds. The fog dropped like a suffocating cloak, and soon the lake even disappeared. Tent pegs were useless and so we tried tying the guy ropes to rocks and even these couldn't hold in the "Hurricane". We crouched inside, trying to hold up the tent with our backs and three packs in three corners and me in the fourth. Somehow we managed to cook up a meal while the tent threatened to deteriorate into tattered shreds. Nobody was very happy. I kept thinking of the now gone soldiers on Ruapehu - to leave what shelter we had and retreat in a huge hurry or to cling fearfully to what miserable shelter we had? I put the question. Within 20 minutes we had packed everything (except Eileen's asthma inhaler which surely disappeared into orbit for a crash landing somewhere in the Atlantic!) and we were off. The snow drifts had now turned to slushy ice so care was needed, but still the wind continued to batter and a few buttercups clinging to rocks waved madly to us as we slithered past.

Oh, Ketetahi Hut was so warm and welcoming to us as we lunged in the door. We all wanted to carry the ice axe to look impressive but the weather outside told it all, and we were made welcome with comments like "You've been up at the top!" or "No-one could camp in this!" so we soon felt better and less 'chicken'. Next days weather report was for gale to severe winds, heavy rain, freezing level ???, so we had a very comfortable time assessing the talent as it came and went and keeping warm and consuming large quantities of food. An excellent group of Taihape College students on Outdoor Education kept us well entertained (a real credit to their teacher/leader). At the other end of the scale was a group of 30 or so students from an elite boarding school, some literally staggering through the hut door, soaking and frozen and too numbed to even drink a cup of hot Milo put into their hands. Some were hopelessly equipped, hired ill fitting boots, tiny nylon sports parkas - but the Leaders were fine - they were first into the food and hot drinks! Lucky to get out at all some of those kids will never go tramping again. We later heard they'd been hurried off in the morning even without breakfast. They left a flooded hut in their wake - perhaps DoC needs to assess a different hut payment system. The day trippers (and indeed paying tour party leaders) seem to be the ones who wolf in, using gas and facilities, and even anyone's gear around the hut, and yet no hut fees.

We enjoyed the company of a lovely German lass acting Ranger (Oh where was Martin??) and next day still in rain, wind and fog we plodded down the 3000 steps back to the road end.

Glennys Taylor, Eileen & Pam Turner

+ + + + +

Be realistic: Plan for a miracle.

B. Rajneesh

KAWEKA KHRISTMAS KAPERS  
Dec 27-31 1993

I like to get away for a tramp just after Christmas. It helps the body dispose the excesses of the recent over eating and drinking. This trip was in the pleasant company of John and Margaret Jones, new HTC members who hadn't seen much of the Kawekas. I prefer planning trips with plenty of time for lazying about and this trip was no exception with our earliest start time 8.15am and latest arrival 4.45pm.

Monday 27th.

We started tramping on our first day at Mackintosh Carpark, descending to the Three Wire Bridge. Some members may know the carpark as the Castle Rocks Rd Carpark, - things change. Even the 'Water Gauge' is now the 'Cameron Carpark'. We climbed up onto the Mackintosh in slowly improving weather to arrive at the hut for a snack and drink, then down to the Donald for lunch at 12.45pm. The track from Mackintosh to the Donald is generally well benched with plenty of zig-zags but the track up to the Matauria Ridge is something else again. It's a 300M + grind up a well benched track with zigs and zags about every two steps. I look forward to climbing it again, but next time with a day pack. The trip along to Makahu became a little boring as we grew tired, and in places the track is a cut chasm in the Contorta. At times it obscured our views but provided shade as the cloud had cleared and we were open to direct attack from the sun. We arrived at Makahu at 4.45pm to find two MacPac trainees in the hut. John and Margaret decided to tent and set up by the chalet.

Tuesday 28th:

The two MacPacers were away by 7am and the three of us started climbing the 'J' at 8.15. We were overtaken quite regularly by daytrippers on their way up, and some we met again on their way down, but finally arrived for lunch just below the Cairn at 11.30am. The 'J' offered great views all round. Ruapehu remained in cloud most of the tramp so that was one view we missed. Climbing the 'J' we decided to head for Studholm Saddle Hut instead of Back Ridge. This was mainly due to the bad weather forecast given by Graham Thorp the night before, and we didn't want to get caught with high running rivers. We checked out the fault line that runs along the back of the range before getting back on the track and off to Mad Dog Hill. Stopping here for another large dose of the views and sustenance we could see that dam ridge out of the Donald (it seemed so long). Just past Mad Dog Hill and to the right the track to Studholm Saddle Hut drops quickly, and taking care on this scree slope we shuffled into the hut at 2.30pm. After a well earned cuppa we got on with the domestics and sprucing up. I even did my washing (cold water surf in a plastic bag and shake it all about - works good too). We were joined by a young tramper from Patoka at 3.30. He had left Makahu at 1.30pm (what you can do when you are young), and was with us about an hour, then deciding that he had too much to do next day he rolled up his sleeping bag, loaded his pack and took off on his way back to Makahu. I talked on my radio to Randall Goldfinch ZL1NW from Hamilton and received the weather forecast and an "all OK at home" then off to bed as the light failed.

Wednesday 29th:

We decided two nights at Studholm would give us little to do through the day so moved on to Kiwi Saddle Hut. We all commented on the clear crisp water of the little stream that flows down past Studholm Hut and were saddened to see the bed, in places, full of dead Contorta, felled from the ridge above. DoC have cut much Contorta from this area and it looks real good too, but Contorta seems to rot away as fast as the dam stuff grows so I guess the stream will be clear next time I visit. Margaret and John were learning that there was 'Up' and 'Down' and either 300M of 600M between them. The almost 300M climb to Kaiarahi was done in fine style but due to a chilly SW wind we had only a quick look at the views then headed for Castle Camp for lunch at 11.30am. At present there is a large tent and 'Cookhouse' made of poles supporting a corrugated iron roof, wrapped in plastic, and complete with water tank. It was there last year when I went through and is being used by DoC for the team ripping into the Contorta.

Arrived at Kiwi Saddle at 2.45pm and finding two hunters having a pre stalk snooze we boiled the billy on the veranda and began to relax. Before taking

my boots off I ducked into the beech to find a bag of tinned food I had hung in a tree about 10 days earlier. After two attempts at finding my goodies I couldn't remember if it was 20 paces from the hut, two trees or a wharata. John and Margaret helped and on the third attempt we eventually found the food miles away. Next time I shall be more careful and write down locating instructions!

Good copy on my radio sked with Graham, Geoff and Randall. Tonight we were joined by our President, Lord Lyn ZL2AFG, Ross Berry ZL2BCK and from the HTC Christmas trip John Montgomerie ZL2MB. We had just snuffed out the candle when our hunter hutmates arrived back with news of a strike, but with the deer falling over a bluff into Kiwi Creek.

Thursday 30th:

Leaving Margaret behind at Kiwi Saddle John and I set off over the high route to Kiwi Mouth Hut. We had left at 9am and arrived at the hut at 12.10pm and while John sneaked in a swim in the Ngaruroro I got the billy on. By 1pm we were on our way back up Kiwi Creek. Many of the markers I can remember from earlier trips are now missing resulting in passing by the odd track entry, but by 2.30 we had started our climb out of the creek. The last 15 minutes of our journey was accompanied by thunder and lightening and next day we were to find that much rain had fallen on the track from 4100 to the carpark. We arrived back at 3.45pm and Margaret soon had the billy on for us. Dinner for me this night was the goodies I had left in the tree, however, I did share the spongey pud and UHT cream. Had a radio sked with Graham, Geoff, Randall and Dave Walker and watched a thunder storm over Hawke's Bay to the east.

Margaret and hunter hutmates had been busy for the day and here is Margaret's report of her day:- I actually had a rest day which was much appreciated as I'd found the going fairly tough, as warm weather and a five day pack from the Donald is no joke! I took the track up from Kiwi Saddle to just past Cameron & Kiwi Hut sign and sat and watched two other trampers who had come up from Kiwi Mouth a little earlier, disappear over the ridge. I also made trip notes and absorbed the terrific views. A shower of rain sent me scurrying back to shelter behind some Contorta and then it was back to the hut. On the way down I heard an odd sound echoing through the hills, and arrived back at the hut to find one of the hunters had been straightening out one of the aluminium bowls, and he'd also cleaned it up - it looked great! The hunters had also had a great tidy up around the hut and had a fire going burning all the rubbish. Many thanks to Mike who was so patient with a decrepit tramper.

Margaret Jones.

Friday 31st:

We were up and away by 9am. Great views all round, even Ruapehu briefly, and as we tackled the climb out of the saddle we could feel the day heating up and heading for a scorcher. Stopped for a drink at the Cameron track junction and again as we started into the beech. From 4100 we saw a localised shower being dumped on Okawa, and at the carpark we saw our ride home turn up. Arrived at the carpark at 12.30pm, had a swim, a cuppa and lunch and on our way home by 2pm where I arrived in the middle of a thunder storm well satisfied with the efforts of the last 5 days. Thanks Margaret and John for your company. I hope thoughts of tackling the Kaweka's wee humps and hollows don't put you off any other excursions in them thar hills. Also thanks to our drivers Brian and John, and the Amateur Radio Operators who joined the tramp by radio control.

Mike Bull

Thanks Mike for leading Margaret & myself on a marvellous informative trip over a very scenic area in weather that would have been hard to beat. Looking forward to having another go in the Kaweka's and may even find some of Mike's cache of tinned spongy pud and UHT cream hanging from trees! Hope we didn't slow you down too much.

John Jones.

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It's what you learn after you know it all that counts.

John Wooden

WILDERNESS CHALLENGE - 2 Day Mountain Marathon  
January 12-13 1994

Mid-week dates seem an unusual time to hold an event like this. However, when Graham and I arrived the night before at Six Cross Camp we found numerous tents already pitched. The location is approximately 1 hour 30 minutes driving time from Taupo heading south on the Desert Road, being on N.Z. Army restricted training area on the eastern flank of the Desert Road. As darkness fell we had our gear checked, and then pitched our tent in the dark in a cool wind that blew off the mountains.

Wednesday morning we awoke to a hive of activity and a clear sky promising a hot day. Mt Ruapehu stood almost clear as we looked on while eating our breakfast. By 7.30am we were at Shepherd's Hut area, the starting site just south of Six Cross Camp, with numbers swelling with other arrivals.

Variations of clothing and gear pranced around and even unknown languages were heard. (This event had been listed on the APOC '94 schedule). Fifteen minutes before our start time we received our map, control card and control descriptions. The coloured map, an orienteering map covering a much larger area, had a scale of 1:50,000 and a contour interval of 15m. Most of the land looked to be open, dotted with pockets of beech forest and scrub. Some gorges had contour lines overlapping, and I didn't like the look of those considering the contour interval!!

Time!! Off we set, Graham and I with 14 other teams on the Excursion course, one of six. Today we were to cover 20km (as the buzzard flies) and tomorrow 15.5km. The longest course had a total of 53km over 2 days. The Elite course included an overnight on course camp.

Route choice for control 1 took us uphill on a gravel road to rocky tops and then down a tussock covered spur skirting a patch of scruffy beech forest. Already it was getting hot, and we had a few mouthfuls of fluid. Control 2 took us down into a creek bed and then a climb up on to tussock covered hills to intersect and follow a 4 wheel cut track. At this point, about 10km into the event, Graham's knee began giving him trouble on the downhill! Down a spur and into the top of a re-entrant we clipped control 2. Back to the vehicle track, and we looked down the rest of the course as much as we could view. Graham was still receiving shots of pain around the knee area, and the rest of the course covered more uneven tussock covered ground with many ups and downs, so we decided rather than have a total breakdown and do more damage, it was better to give it away. And so we headed back to the start area and pulled out of the event. It was then back to Taupo for a couple of days with sunburn and an insight into the mountain marathons, that having been our first event of that kind.

Graham Shepherd & Neil Mora (Scribe)

WET WAIKAMAKA  
May 20-20 1994

John had never been there and I hadn't been there for some time, and we had a week to pick the right day to go. After much careful studying of the weather forecast we decided to go on Friday, only to read in Thursday night's paper that 5 young guys had been stranded in the hut for several days. So, it was with some trepidation that we headed down the river from the end of North Block Road. The river had plenty of water in but we managed to cross with care and by helping each other. Up through the gorge the threatening dark bank of cloud brought the rain which drove into our faces the rest of the way up the river.

My first trip with the club in 1954 was over this saddle and it hasn't got any easier over the years. The track up through the alpine garden was running with water and it would take quite a bit of work and money to fix that. The wind was howling as we poked our heads over the saddle, so it was quickly down the other side hanging onto the piece of No 8 fencing wire. On reaching the stream we found it a bit like Milford Sound after heavy rain, with waterfalls and streams everywhere, so the stream had to be negotiated with care.

The hut was a welcome sight and we found from the log book that the 5 young guys had been in there for 5 days, and gone out on the Thursday. The hut was clean and tidy but not much firewood. Seeing the rain stopped for a while at 4pm we put our gear back on and waded back upstream searching for dead leatherwood which burns much better than dozy beech. It seemed to rain on and off all night and in the morning it was still driving up the valley, but the stream had dropped a little and was now the colour of cider.

Our plan to go out over Three Johns and Rangitikei had to be abandoned and we went out back over the saddle only to find the Waipawa River had more water in it than the previous day, and was rising all the time. It hosed down while we were in the Forks Chalet having lunch so we decided not to risk going down through the gorge and went up to the Sunrise track and down. It was a good two days in the hills with the weather making it more of a challenge.

Jim Glass (scribe) and John Jones.

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed,  
Or are you just contented if your name is on the list?  
Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock,  
Or do you stay at home, and criticise and knock?  
Do you take an active part to help the work along,  
Or are you satisfied to be the kind that just belong?  
Do you ever go to visit a member that is sick,  
Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?  
Don't be just a member, but take an active part,  
Come to every meeting and help with hand and heart.  
Think this over, member, you know right from wrong,  
Are you an active member, or do you just belong.

- submitted by Geoff Robinson in 1979

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### Update on the Bridge to Nowhere:-

The famous Bridge to Nowhere in Whanganui National Park may have to have the rust cut from it so that the underlying concrete can be patched up. However, Chris Munn of Construction Techniques Southern Ltd which has just completed a structural investigation of the bridge says it is very strong and was well made with good concrete.

Rusting steel and flaking concrete appear to have arisen from difficulties getting good compaction when the concrete was cast, particularly around the bridge stirrups. He says where there was a large vertical pour of concrete there's been shrinkage and water has risen to the top causing the concrete to slump.

"That's left voids where water and air have been able to get into the reinforcing steel causing it to rust."

Mr Munn and two other men spent three and a half days climbing all over the bridge during nonstop rain which saw the nearby Whanganui River rise by five metres.

They had to walk in after a jet boat trip up the river and helicopters were used to transport equipment.

"It was an interesting job and I've never done one quite like it before," he said.

Wilderness Magazine

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Our annual PROGRESSIVE DINNER to be held on August 20 is to be held in Hastings this year. "SOUTH PACIFIC" is the theme. Contact Graham with your name -8448086



FAMILY TRAMPSMaraetotara Stream February 20th

After meeting at Havelock North we drove out to Craggy Range Road. We set off across the paddocks towards the river and wandered down the river bank until we hit the cascades - about 900 metres in downstream. After a quick lunch we tackled the cascades with much sliding around by various people both large and small. Thanks to Fiona and George for allowing us to walk across their land. S.H.

Monktons Scenic Reserve May 29th

After meeting at Maraekakaho we headed south to the Monktons Scenic Reserve. After an early lunch we set off around the track with the children walking really well, and we were back at the cars by 1.30pm. With the afternoon up our sleeve we headed for Waipukurau and Tukutuki Scenic Reserve along the banks of the Tukutuki River. After a short walk through this Reserve we had an enjoyable afternoon tea in the sun.

Various families were on both these trips.

Te Mata Park July 24

While there were only 3 families in attendance we numbered 19 ( yes, you've guessed it, the Perry's were there). We left the carparks by the main gates about 12.45pm and headed up to Peak House. There we crossed the road and followed the track up until we could get onto the Te Mata Track. This we followed down to the exotic plantation, and a stroll down the hill through the Pine trees saw us amongst the Redwoods. A long rest was had there while the children built bridges and other children climbed trees - Matthew and Russell managing to get to the top. For the return trip we retraced our steps through the Pines then headed through Webbs Bush and out to the road. Crossing the road we returned to the carpark by the same route we had left it arriving there at 3.45pm.

Party: Rachel, Matthew, Christopher, Samuel, Rebekka & Hannah Perry; Erika & Conal Bristow; Daniel, Donna, Natalie & Stuart Berry plus parents & Nanna Pat.

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FIXTURES LIST - FAMILY TRAMPS

August 21:  
Opouahi

Contact: Janet Turvey 8357041

September 18:  
Upper Ahuriri Estuary

Contact: Heather Boaler 8774698

October 16:  
Gwavas Bush

Contact: Glenda Hooper 8774183

November 13:  
Bush Reserve - Puketitiri area

Contact: Ed. Holmes 8446032

December 11:  
Rowe Road Bush & Tukutuki River

Contact: Josie Boland 8351805

Extended New Year tramp for Family Tramp New Year trip.

LONG TAILED BAT STUDY - PUKETITIRI

During the timber milling days of the 1940's my Dad used to recall finding the bruised bodies of Bats crawling from the freshly eaten trees around what is now Balls Clearing Scenic Reserve. During the 1950's I kept a record of these little mammals as they hunted across the farmlands near the Reserve and interesting facts emerged over the years. Within the area I studied the population seemed to be around 4-8, sightings coincided each year, and even one became 'tame' diving down to catch the insects from my hand as I released them. Their flight path followed a definite route, and their sonar guiding sounds were easily audible to my young ears. These records later found their way into the Dominion Museum and have since proved both useful and interesting to other observers.

In January of this year I was fortunate enough to be invited into the banding and observation scheme being carried out by Tony McCann of Landcare Research, and it was a real thrill to actually hold a real live little Bat after all these years of having watched them flying about. They are incredibly beautiful, with soft russet brown fur, intricate web-like patterns across their wings, rather large and mobile ears, the tiniest brightest deep brown eyes imaginable, 5 tiny 'toes' on each 'foot' and miniature 'fangs' - certainly nothing at all like the 'Draculas' portrayed in horror films, and they weighed between 11 and 15 grams. In fact I found them so beautiful, and watching Tony handle them so very gently, it was quite difficult not to let emotions over-run scientific research. On the down side however, a large number of them are lousy with a mite like infestation, and they often 'piddled' in ones hand when caught - (one or perhaps two drops per Bat!)

Bats we caught were carefully measured - wingspan, tail length, forearm/leg lengths, sexed, teeth assessed, weighed etc and then tagged with special numbered "Bat Tags" recently sent out from England by the Mammal Society. These were carefully placed so they could slide along the forearm. Selected Bats were also fitted with transmitters and were later tracked while feeding or sleeping. Particularly exciting was tracking a lactating female to her nest deep in the flax bush and accessible only by crossing water. One male was found during the day out in the Kaweka foothills, returning each night to Balls Clearing for feeding and other Bat business. One night he travelled some four kilometers into a head on storm in just three minutes!

Sitting crouched by the creek (alive with flapping eels), the light of one glow-worm to keep us warm, moreporks screeching all around, and clutching the sonar box as Bats "Chitter-chatted" back and forth perhaps isn't everyone's idea of bliss, but to me it surely must be the highlight of 1994. It is early days yet and I eagerly await further discoveries as more information is collected.

Pam Turner

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OBITUARY - JANET LLOYD

One of our foundation members Janet Lloyd, nee Montcrief, climbed her final mountain on 18th June 1994. A very keen tramper and club member, Janet was treasurer, and then for many years in the 50's and 60's the Editor. Janet married Lindsay Lloyd - probably the first "Club" wedding, in the late 30's.

Janet was born in 1904 and was one of the first woman in New Zealand to gain a University Masters Degree. She even taught Shirley Bathgate-Hunt. Didn't she do well.

Failing health in 1987 saw Janet enter Otatara Rest Home but her interest in tramping still continued as our Patron until 1993. Her gentleness, dedication and approachability endeared her to all who knew her. Janet, we were privileged to be your friends.

Joy Stratford.

ONGAONGA (N.Z. TREE NETTLE)

Perhaps the most obnoxious of our native plants is Onga-onga or Tree Nettle. This dangerous plant grows in the form of a shrub which may be as high as 3M. Its pale green leaves, narrow ovate-triangular in shape have coarsely toothed margins. Both surfaces of the leaves as well as the leaf-stalks and stems carry fine, but rigid and brittle, translucent stinging hairs which may be up to 6mm in length. On even the slightest contact with the skin the contents of the hairs are injected and cause intense pain and local inflammation. Where contact has occurred over a substantial area of skin, systemic symptoms develop which may be severe.

Fatal poisoning in humans was first recorded in 1961 when a young man died after extensive contact with the nettles while walking through very thick bush lightly clad.

A deer stalker slipped in wet grass and fell into a Tree Nettle. He was scratched about the hands, legs and lower face. He experienced strong painful abdominal cramps 15 - 20 minutes after contact with the nettle. His vision became blurred after about an hour, and he also experienced a burning sensation about his feet. Further symptoms included profuse sweating, salivation, difficulty breathing and hypothermia. His companions noted that he was unable to speak clearly, was ataxic and had difficulty moving his legs. Twenty-four hours after contact he was able to walk with assistance of his companions, and he had a slow recovery, marked by an alteration in taste sensation, muscular stiffness and soreness and residual tingling of the fingers and tongue.

Signs and symptoms:

An intense burning in the affected area which may become red and swollen. Pain and swelling persist for days and the numb area may be numb to touch. In severe cases weakness and a feeling of exhaustion, together with abdominal pain. Paralysis may develop and involve respiratory muscles.

Treatment:

Topical antihistamine/calamine lotions and/or steroid cream should help relieve local effects.

\* \* \* \* \*

SOCIAL CALENDAR & DATES TO REMEMBER

August 20: PROGRESSIVE DINNER 7pm Fancy Dress Theme "SOUTH PACIFIC"

October 1: "JUST DESSERTS NIGHT" For all you sweeties out there.

October 20: AUCTION NIGHT Look out for white elephant etc.

November 16: H.T.C. Annual General Meeting 7.30pm

December 3: BARN DANCE 7.30pm start. \$10 & a plate. (note elsewhere in mag)

\* \* \* \* \*

COMMITTEE NEWS

The recent 'rubbish' working bee raised over \$900 for club funds. Thanks to all those who helped.

If you have put your name down on a trip list, and haven't been able to go to the meeting prior to the trip, and don't intend going on the trip PLEASE telephone the leader to let them know.

D.O.C. have a substantial library for use to those interested. Contact Ken Hunt at D.O.C.

Fancy some time at the beach this summer? Come and go as you like. The Club has a house available to be used by members at Waimarama Beach 6-12 February 1995, \$5 per night per person. Contact the Club Captain.

MEETINGS: DATES AND DUTIES

| DATE   | HOSTS                            | SUPPER                        |
|--------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Aug 24 | John Montgomerie, Geoff Clibborn | Joy Stratford, Leo Brunton    |
| Sep 7  | Shirley Bathgate, Mark Craven    | Margaret Jones, Judy McBride  |
| Sep 21 | Mike Craven, James Chittenden    | Darren Sayer, Glenys Taylor   |
| Oct 5  | Christiana Stevens, Peter Berry  | John Jones, Ros Lusk          |
| Oct 19 | Graham Lawlor, Mandy Leslie      | Graeme Sheppard, Lyn Gentry   |
| Nov 2  | David Harrington, Garry Smith    | Glenda Hooper, Geoff Robinson |
| Nov 16 | Sue Lopdell, Rodger Burn         | Dave Cormack, Gloria Taula    |
| Nov 30 | Jim Glass, Jenny Lean            | Mike Lusk, Kay Ward           |
| Dec 14 | Wayne Hatcher, Liz Pindar        | Kathy Turner, Craig Shaw      |

DUTIES OF THOSE ON SUPPER AND HOST

HOST - Greet visitors and fill in visitors book, sweep the floor and check the heaters and lights are off at the end of the meeting.

SUPPER - Bring 1 Lt milk. Put on zip, cups, sugar etc out. Wash dishes and leave kitchen in a 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, then let the Secretary know.

% %

MEETING NIGHT PROGRAMME

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Aug 24 | Liz Pindar - Solomon Island slides                 |
| Sep 7  | Wayne Hatcher talking on our local sewage problems |
| Sep 21 | Social Night                                       |
| Oct 5  | Guest Speaker                                      |
| Oct 19 | Auction Night                                      |
| Nov 2  | Plant I.D. Night                                   |
| Nov 16 | A.G.M.   |
| Nov 30 | Social Night                                       |
| Dec 14 | Mike Lusk "Speaks"                                 |

CLUB NEWS

Congratulations to the Photo Competition winners: -

|                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Wildlife, Plants & Insects: | Martin Mallow |
| Panorama & Pictorial:       | Joy Stratford |
| Club Character:             | Mark Craven   |
| Slides:                     | Martin Mallow |

**OVERALL WINNER: Joy Stratford**

Welcome to new members Ros & Mike Lusk. Hopefully your time with us will be enjoyable and fun.

In January Eileen Turner is off to the far away land of Bolivia for a year as an exchange student.

= = = = =

It's pleasing to see more folk getting out tramping with the option of the day trip being organised for when weekend trips are on. Keep it up.

A.G.M. MEETING

H.T.C. Annual General Meeting to be held November 16 1994 7.30pm at the clubrooms.

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 number is listed in the list the leader leaves in town. For enquiries about overdue trampers please contact one of the following.

Ross Berry 8774436

Jim Glass 8778748

Glenda Hooper 8774183

FARE CONFIRMATION AND CANCELLATION

Fare:

Local: Senior \$10; Junior \$5

The fare 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 may 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. Alternatives are available on most trips but these may not necessarily be shorter or easier. 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, Eddie Holmes 8446032 or Lyn Gentry 8750542

August 14: Pohangina Saddle Map U22 \$10

Party A: Up to Longview Hut for a play in the snow maybe? Out via Awatere Hut.

Leader: Neil Mora 8782892

Party B: Along Midge's side track to Tukituki River.

August 27-28: Tongariro National Park Map T19, T20 \$20

Party A: In from Waihohonu Hut over to Oturere Hut and some snowcraft. Out via tracks to Mangatepopo Hut.

Leader: John Montgomerie 8777358

Party B: Waihohonu Hut along tracks to Chateau.

Party C: Local day trip to be arranged.

September 11: Apiti Saddle Map U23 \$10

In via Mangatewainui Stream to huts. Up and across to Apiti Saddle. This trip will be a compass bearing exercise.

Leader: Glenda Hooper 8774183

September 24-25: SAREX / Morere Springs \$20

Party A: Travel to Morere Springs Saturday morning. A cruisy truck trip.

Driver: Geoff Robinson: Leader: Susan Lopdell 8446697

Party B: Annual Search & Rescue exercise, Northern Kawekas Map U20

Contact: David Harrington 8430290

October 9: MacIntosh/Kaweka Hut Map U20 \$10

Driver: Ross Berry

Party A: From 3 wire carpark to MacIntosh, up to Kaiarahi and down to Kaweka, out to the Lakes.

Leader: Craig Shaw 8437242

Party B: Same as party A but via lowland track to Kaweka Hut.

Leader: Dianne Lawlor 8448086

ALTERNATIVE LOCAL DAY TRIPS to be arranged for when weekend trips are on.

October 21-24: Mt. Egmont \$25 Drivers: Martin Mallow/Jov Stratford  
A visit to Mt. Egmont and surrounding area. It's been nearly 4 years since last club visit - don't miss it. Four parties to be arranged. For further information contact the leader. Leader: Neil Mora 8782892

November 6: Cairn Trip - Kaweka 'J' Map U20 \$10 Driver: Martin Mallow  
Our annual tramp to the top of the Kawekas to remember those from the HTC who died during the war. Leader: The President

November 19-20: Pureora State Forest \$25 Driver: Joy Stratford  
Party A: Map T18, S18 From Waihora Hut to Nuffield Lodge over the range. Leader: Wayne Hatcher 8772186  
Party B: Map T17, T18 From Waihora to Waihaha, possibly up to Weraroa. Leader: Susan Lopdell 8446697

December 4: Caving/Bush walks \$10 Driver: Martin Mallow  
Visit Coonoor caves for 2-4 hours and/or Makairo Bush Walk. Leader: Mark Craven

December 17-18: Waikamaka Hut/Wakelings \$10 Driver: Ed Holmes  
Party A; Map U22 Waikamaka River down to Wakelings, Maropea Forks and Top Maropea. Leader: Ed Holmes 8446032  
Party B: Waikamaka Hut working party. Paint exterior of Hut. Leader: Leo Brunton 8447228

#### Proposed Christmas Trips:

|                                    |                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Departs Clements Rd. on 26th to... | Departs Water Gauge on 26th to...    |
| Dec 26 Oamaru Hut (via Te Iringa)  | Manson Creek confluence              |
| 27 Boyds                           | Otutu Hut (via Manson & Kiwi Mouth)  |
| 28 Tussock                         | Harkness (via Ngaawaparua & Te Puke) |
| 29 Mangatainoka                    | Mangapapa Saddle (via Tussock)       |
| 30 Te Puia                         | Mangatainoka River                   |
| 31 Gum Trees                       | Gum Trees via Te Puia                |
| Jan 1 Middle Hill                  | Middle Hill (via Makino)             |
| 2 Venison Tops (via Ballards)      | Venison Tops (via Ballards)          |
| 3 Manson (via Rocks Ahead)         | Backridge (via Rocks Ahead)          |
| 4 Kiwi Saddle (via Kiwi Mouth)     | Makahu (via Kiwi Flats & Iron Whare) |
| 5 Lakes 12.00 Noon. Home           | Kaweka (via MacIntosh)               |
| 6                                  | Kiwi Saddle (via Studholmes)         |
| 7                                  | Lakes Rd 12.00 Noon                  |

Leader: Mike Bull

Leader: Craig Shaw

#### December 31 : NEW YEARS EVE PARTY - DAY TRIP

Food dump for trips and start or finish for anyone.

An overnigher at the Hot Springs for a social outing New Years Eve. Anybody with any alternative plans or options see Ed Holmes who will co-ordinate transport. Prices to be arranged.

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#### THE END OF A TRACK

There's an old shack at the end of a track,  
Across the range over there;  
A place that I know, a tumbledown show  
Beyond the reaching of care.

It's there I would be, where the air's more free  
And the stars more brightly shine,  
Away out back at the end of a track,  
With the one who now is mine.

Lester Masters

\*\*\*\*\*

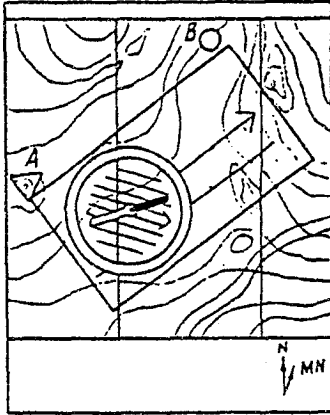
CLUB MEETINGS are held every second Wednesday in the Harrier Club Rooms, Sylvan Road, Hastings. Meeting starts 7.30pm. Visitors most welcome.

## TRAMPING NAVIGATION 1

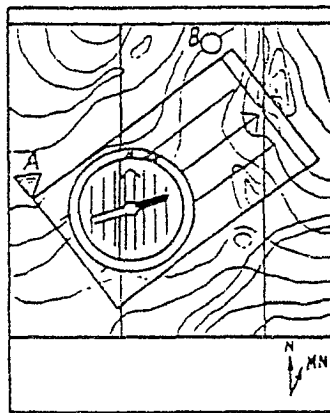
All "Land & Survey" maps suitable for tramping have Vertical Grid North lines.

Compass bearings are read from Grid North.

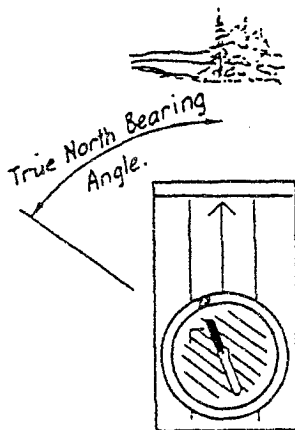
### Procedure for taking Compass Bearing from Map.



1. Place compass on map with frame pointing in direction of travel. A → B.



2. Turn compass dial, so dial lines align with Grid North lines on map



3. Hold compass in hand with red needle pointing to 23° on dial, compass frame will indicate direction of travel.

To take a bearing do step '3' and read off Grid Nth Bearing angle or relate back to map as in step '2'.

To orientate map hold compass to map as in step '2' then rotate both until red needle is on 23°

