

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

P.O. BOX 14086 MAYFAIR, HASTINGS

"POHOKURA"

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Paron: Arch Lowe

President:	Susan Lopdell	844 6697
Vice President:	Leo Brunton	844 7228
Secretary:	Craig Shaw	843 7242
Treasurer:	Glenda Hooper	877 4183
Club Captain:	Eddie Holmes	844 6032
Editors :	Mike Malone	877 8332
Sub Ed:	Lyn Gentry (Mrs)	875 0542
Committee:	Wayne Hatcher	878 8001
	Lyn Gentry (Mr)	875 0542
	Lyn Gentry (Mrs)	875 0542
	Christine Hardie	844 8149
	David Harrington	843 0290
	Shirley Bathgate	877 8511
	John Montgomerie	877 7358

Sub-committees: Spokesperson:

- Fixtures: Lyn Gentry (Mrs): Wayne Hatcher, Lyn Gentry, Susan Lopdell,
David Harrington
- Huts: Leo Brunton: Craig Shaw, Eddie Holmes
- Truck: Leo Brunton: Geoff Robinson, Craig Shaw
- Training: Eddie Holmes: John Montgomerie, Lyn Gentry (Mr), Craig Shaw,
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- Meetings: Christine Hardie: Wayne Hatcher, Lyn Gentry (Mrs)
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- Junior Rep: Christiana Stevens:
- S.A.R. Eddie Holmes:
- Family Trips: Glenda Hooper:
- Social: Lyn Gentry(Mr): Susan Lopdell, Leo Brunton, Lyn Gentry
- Trip reports:
- Historian: Jim Glass
- Supper: Arch Lowe: & helpers
- Gear Hire: Karen Berry: Ph 877 5205
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MEETINGS are held every 2nd Wednesday in the Harrier Clubrooms, Sylvan Rd, Hastings at 7.30pm.
Visitors are most welcome.

Howletts Hut Working Party

Trip No 1660

Mar 23 - 24 1996

This was a working trip to the club hut. We left Moorcock Base armed with various wire and scrubbing brushes, paint and even nails. The day started dry and cool and later became wet and cold.

The route crosses farmland reverting to bush and well worn track and leaves the bush edge just as the map predicts, giving easy access to the TukiTuki river, 1/2 hour below Daphne Hut. Just below the hut we were diverted by a pair of very tame blue ducks which preened and fed while we watched from 10 m away.

Daphne was clean and in possession of two hunters who even gave up their seats for the ladies. Having lunched there, we girded our loins and attacked Daphne Spur, which attacked us back. Lew and John Staff won their personal struggles easily enough but the rest were made to suffer, some severely in the cold southerly. All were finally at the Howletts 2.5 hours after leaving Daphne. The stragglers were very happy to make tea from Lew's billy. But he didn't give up his chair for anyone.

Just after the sleeping arrangements were sorted out, a man, his teenage daughter and a small dog staggered in. They had left Longview early in the morning and became clagged in on the tops with totally inadequate gear and expertise. Only their cellphone saved their lives. Pat Bonisch from D.O.C. had talked them through. The child had no dry clothing and their gas ran out after 5 minutes. He slept in a wet synthetic sleeping bag that night.

Highlight of the darkness was sighting a superb comet "Hyakutake" which was much better than Halleys. I am eternally grateful to my inadequate bladder, which woke me just at the right time.

Sunday was frosty but bright and teams were soon at work. The hut gleams inside and has new blue paint on the outside walls. The toilet is relocated over a hole hard-won from the greywacke just below the surface. The near-edge of the old hole is 250 cm from the south wall of the toilet and square with it. It seems logical to reuse it as the digging was very difficult, especially without a crowbar. Next tasks are painting the roof and repairing some of the boards at the entrance way.

After a congratulatory lunch, we were soon back at Daphne. At the Kashmir Rd track junction, 5 headed down the river and 5 went back to the truck though the bush. The truck met the river teams at about 6pm and apart from a small side trip, the only navigational error of the weekend, we were home at a sensible hour, blue spotted and blistered but happy.

Thanks to John for driving and to Karen for releasing him and to the rest of a compatible, hard-working team.

ML

John Berry (Driver) Mike Lusk (leader), Chris Waldron, Sandy Claudatos, Lew Harrison, John Staff, Robyn Madden, Gary Smith, Paul Smith, Ros Lusk.

KAIMANAWAS

Trip No 1661

Easter, April 5 - 8 1996

Party A

A bunch of hardy souls headed off from Leo's place 6am on Friday morning, arriving at Kiko Rd road end about 9.30am after having feasted on Snickers bars (which had long since passed their 'use by' date) provided by John Monty, who, it turned out didn't like them and had been trying to get rid of them for ages!

We all headed off together on a good track in very overcast, but not unpleasant conditions leaving party B after a short lunch break, to continue our merry way up to the high point of the day, Ngapuketuru. By this stage the weather had packed up with hail followed by rain. We continued on, on an undulating but easy route and by the time we got to Ignimbrite Saddle (camp site) we were all feeling a little damp and cold. It was getting late in the day and the race was on between Dave and John to find the best posie. After about half an hour of searching Dave found a perfect spot nestled in the bush with a stream nearby, and just enough room for two small tents. In dry conditions there would be room for more tents, but this was all under water.

There had been a lot of chopper activity as we neared the top - the hunters and shooters were out in force as we were to find out on Sunday.

We awoke on Saturday to misty conditions, but at least it had stopped raining! Now for the climb to Junction Top, not arduous but a bit hard on the bod first thing in the morning. The weather had lifted by the time we reached the top to reveal breathtaking views (real soul food) all around. There had been a lot of fresh deer sign along the way and we finally spotted a Red just before lunch, which we enjoyed (lunch that is) on top of the world at high point 1660. We carried on, looking in anticipation of sighting 'Thunderbolt' however were all a little disappointed when it finally came into view, nothing spectacular at all, although we didn't linger while traversing in case we were struck down! The weather by this time was starting to close in again with more hail and rain just up the track a bit. We dropped off the top to an unnamed saddle for the night and battened down the hatches. The wind picked up and it continued to rain throughout the night.

Sunday morning loomed drizzly with visibility about 100m. The good news was that the Easter Bunny had found us after all, I had spied at least two rabbit skeletons along the track the day before and was concerned that he wouldn't get through. Easter eggs in bed - bliss.

Due to the weather conditions we decided not to continue with the intended trip and opted instead to drop down into the river (Waipakahi). Anne had already declared a rest day and was able to do some course reading before the rain eased. We hit the track again about 9.30am. While packing up camp John was complaining about a stiff back, apparently his 'brand new, just out of the wrapper \$170 Thermarest' had gone down in the night!

We had about 2 hours on the top until we dropped over Motutere and picked up a track down to the river, the mist clearing just prior to our descent to give us our last views from the tops. The

track down was good and we reached the river and more rain in time for lunch. We continued on, wanting to get through a gorge some 4 - 5 km down river before setting up camp for the night. The river was running about 4 inches higher than normal, however hunters met along the way mentioned that it had dropped at least 2 feet from two days earlier. Hunters were everywhere. We encountered 10 during the course of the day.

We soon discovered that John and Anne had a fetish for bush bashing; all to avoid river crossings and keeping dry feet. However finally relented part way through the gorge and followed Dave and I across the river. Anne almost disappeared while crossing as John chose what appeared to be the biggest hole he could find to cross in. Dave and I decided to keep a reasonable distance in front for awhile as we had stayed relatively dry. Anne was not amused. We made camp about 500m past the gorge, no rain - what a treat. Anne built a lovely bon-fire, partly to dry off her soaking wet clothes from the swim she had earlier on but mostly to avoid having to go to bed by 7pm! 14 hours lying on the hard ground makes for very long nights.

We woke to a slight frost and a brilliant day on Monday. We decided we'd have a leisurely start to the day, thinking we would be at least 2 hours ahead of party B as they had originally intended to camp at the Urchin Track junction. We were just about ready to depart when, to our surprise, we heard Sue's voice wafting along on the breeze. They had camped about 200m back up river from us, not having seen the two notes we had left for them on Sunday. We all walked out together, enjoying good weather and easy traveling, however with a few too many river crossings for Anne's liking.

We got to the road end just after 1pm, but no truck! Trudged to the top of the hill and still no truck, However the views of Ruapehu and Ngaurahoe covered in fresh snow made up for it. We hadn't been waiting all that long when we heard Christine zooming along at high speed, hoping to get to the road end before we did. Dropped John Jones off at Turangi, headed for Taupo and a soak at De Bretts and back home to arrive in Napier at the respectable time of 6.30pm.

All in all it was a very pleasant trip (good company and easy travelling) despite the poor weather conditions forcing us off the top. I look forward to going back again and finishing our planned route.

D.T.

Party: David Harrington (Leader), John Montgomerie, Anne Cantrick, Debbie Thomas.

Party B:

Day 1. After meeting John and Margaret Jones at the Kiko Rd car park, our party of 6 left at 10 am to make the steady climb to Ngapukiturua high point at 1510 m. The weather was overcast and cool but quite pleasant for the tramp considering the climb and the weight of our 4 day packs. Once we had left the bush, lunch was had with very limited views and then up through tussock and scrub to about 1400 m where we turned north-east on to the Cascade Hut track. We dropped down about 200 m to a stream and camp site to make camp for the night. It was nearly 3 pm and the weather had really closed in with mist, rain and hail. Not very pleasant for pitching tent and cooking meals. One of our party,

"Margaret" had left us before reaching the tops and returned to the car park and then home. Not long after making camp a party of 6 from the Northshore Tramping Club arrived from Cascade Hut and settled across the stream from us.

Day 2. After rain most of the night, next morning was not better as we made our way back up to the tops. Christine, our truck driver, left us at this point to return to the truck as she was to pick us up 3 days later on Waipakahi Rd. Passing the trig on Ngapurituru marked the beginning of a very pleasant trip across the tops as the weather began to clear and we were able to enjoy great views on both sides of the range. Quite a few hunters were in the area as we heard a few shots and as we dropped down to Ignimbrite Saddle, we met one coming up from the Rangitikei River. By the time we had climbed back up again to 1573 m, the weather had closed in and descent to Waiparihi Hut was very cold and wet. Arriving at 4 pm after a 7 hr day, the hut with smoke belching from the chimney was a most welcome sight. We were lucky enough to have 3 bunks out of 12 with Gary in his tent as a big party arrived later on resulting in 6 tents and a very crowded hut.

Day 3. Once again it rained most of the night and there were some fears that the Waipakahi River might be up but as the morning had improved we decided to carry on as planned with the river trip. Our plan for the day was to travel downstream to be through the gorge about 5 km past the Urchin Track and make camp. The weather improved to light cloud and patches of sunlight with a cool breeze and made the journey down the river valley a very pleasant exercise. Of the 30-40 river crossings, the most memorable were at the top end where the river was narrow, deeper and boulder strewn, making it necessary to link arms and take care. As we progressed downstream, the river widened and became easier to cross. Because of the water's extreme clarity, a good crossing point was sometimes found to be much deeper than it looked. Keeping to the true left as we passed through the gorge didn't prove to be too difficult but indicated it would be near impossible during average flood levels. Almost the full length of the river is dotted with very good camp sites and we were not disappointed with the one we used just through the gorge. Arriving just before 4 pm gave us plenty of time to hang out gear to dry, gather wood, pitch tents and prepare meals. Later in the evening we had some very light showers but not enough to stop us enjoying a cosy fire and toasting hot cross buns. Much later that night were all woken by Sika deer exploring around our campsite.

Day 4. The day dawned misty and very cold and areas of river bank not protected by trees were white from the frost that preceded the glorious day that followed. By 8.15 am we were back on the river keen to make the most of the remaining trip. We had not gone more than 500 m downstream when we were surprised to come across our other party of 4 who had come down early from the tops and made camp so close to ours. Our combined party soon made short work of the remaining river and by 1 pm we were waiting on the Waiparihi Rd for the club truck to pick us up. The day was finished off with a hot swim at Taupo and then home.

Thanks to Christine our driver and also to the other member of the party for contributing to a most enjoyable 4 day tramp.

LB

Leo Brunton (leader), Christine Hardie (driver), Sue Lopdell, Gary Smith, John and Margaret Jones.

Sunrise Hut

Trip No 1662

21 April 1996

Well, when you go to bed and its raining hard, things don't look good for a fine dry day's walk. 5 am out of bed and its raining hard with a few wise trampers pulling out the night before. I was hoping the phones would ring with everyone dropping out so I could return to a still warm bed, but no one so off we go, 21 happy trampers heading for Triplex car-park.

Driving into the carpark, and after crossing the Waipawa River on the way in the planned tramp of up to Waipawa saddle and around to the headwaters of the Middle stream end changed to a non-river trip up to Sunrise hut and beyond for the day. When we left the truck it was not raining but a strong cold wind got the troops moving upwards. While the majority of the party continued on up to Sunrise, 9 of us did a quick return trip down to the Waipawa River from the Triplex saddle to have a look. Rejoining the rest of the party in a full Sunrise Hut just after 11 am, we all enjoyed a hot cuppa. The weather was slowly clearing and we did get some views of the countryside. Leaving just 3 of us at the hut, the rest of the party took off for a look at Top Marapia Hut with some only going to Armstrong saddle, (an empty hut, gas fire and a bottomless cup of tea, perfect tramping conditions). Leaving about 2 pm for the truck, 5 took the Staircase Track back, the rest returning by the bench-track, A good day's tramp in overcast weather, back home to town just after 5 pm.

CS

Party: Craig Shaw (leader), Sandy Wiggins, Deborah Turner, Barry Pacey, Lex Smith, Sandy Claudatos, Leo Brunton, Paul Handyside,

Southern Kawekas

Trip 1663

4-5 May

Party A (Kiwi Creek)

A cloudy cool start to the weekend after not what you'd call a good week. However on reaching MacIntosh carpark four rugged, enthusiastic young men split from the 'B' party and headed down over the three-wire bridge and up across the plateau country arriving at MacIntosh Hut for an early smoko.

The two hunters in residence weren't overly amused by our presence as they were still in bed (the modern hunter I guess). From the hut we headed south along the Kaweka Hut track for a short distance, we then branched off up MacIntosh Spur, reaching the top about 11.30. Fresh snow lay on the high parts around the 'J' so a hasty lunch then straight over the range and down into the head waters of Studholms Creek. This is a very tight little channel with the beech forest closing in on us as we neared the junction by Studholms Bivy.

As we worked our way down this icy little gut, the small amount of shingle became rock, creating pool after pool and eventually what we had been expecting - a waterfall. We clambered around this without having to climb too much and then dropped back into the creek only to find another waterfall. We had to climb a fair amount higher to negotiate this one. On reaching the creek again, you guessed it - another waterfall and another.

Finally we met Kiwi Stream, this opened up somewhat and was running up a bit on normal flow. There was a lot more shingle and it even looked as though it would offer some camping. By this stage our feet weren't even part of us and the cold was starting to creep further up our bod's, so when a suggestion of Kiwi Saddle Hut finally broke the chilly air, it's not hard to guess the answer.

Bashing up hill through thick manuka and kanuka bush is always fun. I mean, every tramp should have some. But when you add several hundred meters of cut over 'grandfather' contort to the day's chore, tempers start to wear thin. Tired, hungry and desperate for the fire we plodded along the range from where we broke out slightly south of Castle Camp, towards Kiwi Saddle. We reached the hut about 1/2 an hour after dark and barged in on ten or so people already there.

Sunday dawned a perfect day, or so I was told (I didn't actually see the first few hours). After a very leisurely breakfast and laze about Phil's party arrived at about 11.00 and then the day trippers from the Lakes carpark within a few minutes later. Plenty of hot gossip over lunch and we finally wandered out together towards the truck, some people taking the shingle slide off '4100' for a change.

EH

Eddie Holmes, Paul Smith, Craig Shaw, Stephen Bradley

Party B

After having brilliant weather the previous weekend I thought the chances of repeating that occurrence for a second weekend would be pretty remote, especially as a fairly vigorous low had developed east of the North Island and was threatening to nudge closer from mid week on. As it turned out the High coming in from the Tasman Sea had enough intensity to push the crud away east. Eddie Holmes had reckoned this would happen during his pre trip briefing for the A party at the Wednesday night meeting.

I must admit to being rather apprehensive about this tramp, not only because of the impending weather but also as I had never led a party before, let alone camped out at fairly high altitude in late Autumn or Winter. In addition to all these concerns there was always a possibility we could be taken hostage or even shot at if we came across the hunted gunman who is wanted for questioning about the murdered policeman in Flaxmere two weeks earlier. Why did I worry, the weather was brilliant, none of the party misbehaved and we only saw one hunter - who didn't look at all like the fugitive. Another two hunters were observed asleep at MacIntosh Hut by some of the party. Again they looked pretty innocent.

Previously I had done this tramp in a clockwise direction ie Lakes carpark - Kiwi Saddle - Castle Camp - MacIntosh Spur and out to Castle Rocks carpark via the 3 wire bridge, never the other way round. We left the carpark next to our roadside shop in Pakowhai Road, Hastings (very convenient for me) a bit after 6.30am and were at Castle Rocks carpark around 8am and away about 8.30am. Eddies party were away first after a little reorganisation of personnel, as Lord Lyn chickened out of the A Group and Paul Smith was cajoled into taking his place. Paul had told us earlier in the truck that he was definitely coming with the B party.

A stop for refreshments in the sun outside MacIntosh Hut before beginning the long slog up MacIntosh Spur. Interesting to note how the contort had grown since I was last there. Next food and drink stop was well up the spur just above the rocky outcrop where several years ago I had observed a hebe growing in a sheltered spot at the foot of a big rock. That time was mid summer and this plant was in full flower having the very deep blue-purple flowers. It was still there but of course not in flower, contort spread rather threatening it now.

After a leisurely late lunch it was on and over the tops to Kaiarahai and down to Castle Camp arriving there just on 3pm. Previously we had discussed the possibility of going on to Kiwi Saddle Hut for the night if the weather was inclement. When I arrived several tents were already up and there was no question where we would stay the night. DOC have erected a substantial shelter at Castle Camp, about 4m x 3m, with a corrugated iron roof and rainwater collected into a large tank. Plastic sheathing had been put around the outside but this had now disintegrated.

After an early evening meal and a nice fire, helped considerably by Mike's small pruning saw and a spot of story telling it was in to bed on a rather frosty evening. We awoke to a light frost and another beautifully fine calm day. Before leaving Robyn took several of the group down the south side of the ridge opposite where we had camped and rediscovered the water supply she had been to on a previous trip. A short climb through the beach trees up onto a rocky ridge brought Ruapehu, Ngarahoe and all the surrounding country suddenly into sight. Fantastic views of all around in calm clear air, ideal photo conditions. Frequent stops were made along the tops just to take in the views. Rodger gave us a good description of the country he had tramped over whilst on the club Christmas trip. The western side of the ridge on which we travelled along has now had all the larger contorta cut down. One wonders how DOC intends to control the seedlings coming up through the trash as well as those appearing in quantity amongst the celmesia & tussocks along the tops. (Perhaps this is an area in which the club could become involved as a possible fund raising project.)

Coming down the last slope before Kiwi Saddle Hut we could see people approaching the clay pan area just south of the hut. Two pairs of pink shorts stood out and on arrival at the hut we discovered that the shorts adorned the bottoms of Christine & Marjoleine who along with several others had come in for a day trip. What a crowd of club members at the Hut. Eddie suggested we dig new holes for the toilets, and that seemed to be a catalyst for everyone to start moving off- after a quick lunch.

As a diversion on the way home some of us decided to follow Lord Lyn and Judy down the shingle slide off Kuri. Hill. Both had been down it before and we were assured it was quicker. There was no doubt the slide itself is quicker but the getting to it at the top and from it at the

bottom left a bit to be desired. We had left Ros & Robyn at the top to continue the conventional way down assuring them we would not leave till they got back to the truck. Our group of 8 however arrived half an hour after them! Some kind persons had gone up to Castle Rocks carpark and brought the truck back to the Lakes. Thanks for that, it was greatly appreciated. We left there around 4pm and were home by 5pm. Great timing. Thanks Eddie for driving. A very quiet group in the truck on the way home. Great Companie. Great Weekend.

PM

Party B: Philip Mardon (Leader), Mike & Ros Lusk, John & Margaret Jones, Robyn Madden, Gavin Scoble, Rodger Burn, Judy McBride, Lex Smith, Mathew Smith, Lord Lyn Gentry,.
15 5 96

Southern Ruahines

Trip 1664

May 19 1996

The original trip from the end of Ngamoko Road up the Mangatewainui River to Apiti Saddle had to be redesigned when permission from the landowner was denied. For future reference: Pat O'Brian(Ph 06 374 0783) owns the property at the true end of Ngamoko Road; he is happy to let us through. Surrounding Pat, Jeremy Dearden (Ph. 06374 0890) owns the land on both sides of the Mangatewainui and extending right back to the main divide, in other words all of the area we intended to tramp in. Public access to the area is up the Apiti Track which leaves Ngamoko Road about 1 km before its true end. Apparently, this was going to be a road through to Apiti which would be an alternative to the Gorge and put both Norsewood and Apiti on the map!

Access to the Manawatu River from Grant McKenzie (Ph. 06 874 9846) . I don't know who the obliging land owner was where the Makaretu comes out, as Dave Mulindar arranged this for me. Thankyou Dave for all your help. The top end of the Makaretu is slow going for a big party.

Party A: Manawatu River - Makaretu Hut - Makaretu River

If you're looking for the short cut to Makaretu Hut, this is not it! Our mission was to stroll up the Manawatu until it turned a right angle to the West, then up through the beech, along a ridge and down to the hut. Not everyone decided to accept, and of the 10 from HTC who were to go this way only 4 put their boots on when the truck stopped. Three members of the Ruahine Tramping Club swelled our small party to seven and we started walking at 8.15 am.

The first kilometer was a stroll along a farm track until we got to a private hut on a nice open flat. The three shaven headed occupants were just kicking themselves into life for the day and none of them confessed to being Terence Thompson so we left them to it. They are probably still laughing about the prospect of us going up the Manawatu River. As you might have guessed our pleasant stroll changed quite abruptly to a thrash around in the bush. We tried the south bank for a while and although the bush was easy enough to get through, we were having trouble staying close enough to the river to be sure that we were still on course and not up a side creek. The grand Manawatu River at this stage was more like Crud Creek, a gutty, cascading ditch.

We tried the north bank with less success and ended up in the creek. A mutual lack of enthusiasm to get any wetter than we were (it was cold in there) prompted us to head for the ridge earlier than we had planned. This meant doing battle with some very unforgiving scrub in places but we persisted and ended up on top at about 11 am. At this stage we figured that we would get to the hut about 1 pm for lunch and brew up. Most of the ridge top was beech and reasonable going. There had been a track at some stage but it's overgrown now. A bit of navigation work was required to get us onto the right ridge and then, when and in which direction to drop off for the hut. With Dave Harrington in the lead we dropped into the Makaretu right beside the track to the hut. Was this a fluke? We got there just in time to hear the other party leaving which was just as well because they were heading for Longview. Ross blamed this on Sue, I didn't catch her reply.

By now it was 2.30 and the cow-cookies from Norsewood were hanging out for their promised brew. They never got it because we were running late and still had about 7 km of river to cover. It didn't take long to catch up with the other party and we all eventually got out at 5.30, just on dark. Dave Mulinder and Ross had gone on ahead to retrieve the truck and were waiting for us at the road.

Thanks to Dave Harrington for his help and instruction, to Ross Berry for leading the other party and driving and to everyone else (all 20 of them) who made it an enjoyable day.

PS

Paul Smith (Leader), Dave Harrington, Debbie Thomas, Barry Pacey, - HTC
Dave Mulinder, Murray Alderson, Greg Barrow - Rauhiine Tramping Club

Party B: Apiti Track- Makaretu River

After dropping off Dave and his party beside the Manawatu River, we drove around to the Ngamoko Rd car park, where we arrived soon after 8am. By about 8.30, we were trudging up the four wheel drive track heading for the Makaretu River and its hut. The weather was fairly cool and frosty, but a fine day was being promised. Initially, under foot conditions were very wet and slippery. After about an hour we crested the ridge and looked down into the headwaters of the Manawatu. For the next couple of hours we scrambled through bogs, skirted around Toi Tois, slid down rocks, sat steaming in the sun, spiked ourselves on the only spaniard plant in the area, and generally strolled along a rather picturesque track.

Right on midday we arrived at the high point from where the track down to the river branches off. It was a perfect spot for lunch. Brilliant sunshine, wonderful views and no wind. The area in which we stopped for lunch was surrounded by many dozens of regenerating trees, including rimu, totara, beech and lancewoods. After lunch we dropped down to the very picturesque Makaretu River. The track (of sorts) down the river flats, meanders back and forth across the reasonably small creek, and passes many reasonably large rimu and totaras (1-2m in diameter) enroute. We walked in the door of Makaretu Hut at about 2pm and were most surprised to see that Dave's party was going to be later than us in arriving at the 'lunch stop'.

As we were leaving the hut half an hour later, Dave's party arrived. After a brief discussion on the best route to use, we headed off downstream. At about 3.30, Dave's party caught us up again and it was decided that Dave Mullinder and I would go ahead of the main party, and collect the truck from the Ngamoko Rd road end. At the Makaretu Forks, Dave M expressed an interest in using the 4WD track from there to the road. As my feet were already beyond caring about the water temperature, I decided to stick to the river. It was quite surprising that the time required by us, to walk down to the bridge was the same. We collected the truck and were back to greet the rest of the party when they arrived just on dusk at 5.30.

It was an excellent trip in perfect weather. Thanks to all those who made it such an enjoyable day.

RB

Ross Berry (Leader), Jenny Lean, John Staff, Lex Smith, Mike Malone, Rodger Burn, Darren Sayer, Carmel Corbett, Sue Lopdell, Bev Waerea, Gary Smith, Gail Harvey, Lisa Webber, Melissa Wilson, Leo Brunton, Marjoleine Friedeman

WHIRINAKI FOREST PARK

Trip No 1665

Queen's Birthday Weekend 1996

Friday 31 May

Eighteen trusting souls set off at 7 pm on Friday night bound for the Whirinaki Forest secure in our leader's assurances: "There's nothing higher than 50m, it's nearly all flat; you can jump across the streams; and the weather will be great." Well, one out of four wasn't bad!

We turned off SH5 onto Pohokura Road at 9 pm fortified by a chocolate cake baked by Gavin's wife, Jenni. The road into the Plateau Road car park was heavily rutted in places and Dave did a sterling job of keeping the truck on the road and the passengers in one piece. He also produced a mini-saw to cut back some of the pines stretching out well into our path at two places.

Upon arrival the awning was erected, water heated, hot drinks downed and everyone bedded down (12 in the truck, six under the awning) by about 11.30 pm.

Saturday 1 June

After a gusty and wet night, Saturday dawned cold and grey with blue trying to poke through. The pattern of the three mornings was established with barely a whisper (apart for all the loo trips) till 7 am, then once someone made a move, controlled chaos leading up to a departure around 8.30 am.

The Fast Five - Neil, Paul, Barry, Matthew & Craig - soon cleared out leaving a main party of 13. The track initially looked a little uncared for with bracken stretching from both sides making

finding footing difficult at times. The estimate of 1½ hours to Upper Whirinaki Hut was shown up when after a 45-minute climb we came upon a sign saying "Hut 1½hrs".

Neil's group got to an empty Upper Whirinaki Hut about 10.30 and had "time for a cuppa" before the rest of us arrived about 11 am. After a short break everyone set off with the intention of meeting again at the junction of the Taumutu and Upper Mangamate streams.

Lord Lyn enlivened the break by putting his elastic knee bandage on the wrong leg, adding to his already leaving his shorts behind and having to spend the weekend in a spare pair of Leo's!

The two groups joined up again for lunch as planned. The weather was cool, but not uncomfortably so and no rain despite the forecast. By 1 pm everyone had hit the trail again and began making their way at various rates of speed up the Upper Mangamate Stream towards Mangamate Hut. By this time the assurance about jumping streams came a real cropper as it is hard to jump streams when half the time you're in them because that's the track!

Bogs, heaps of cutty grass (some with bush lawyer cunningly hiding in it) and the aforementioned track/stream made for a fun afternoon! The scenery was pleasant at times but several people commented that they wouldn't have wanted to be in some of the stream beds any later as they were getting gloomy by mid-afternoon (the stream beds not the trampers).

Track markers ran out various points making some detective work necessary, particularly when the track came into and out of the stream. Alison decided the day wasn't exciting enough so she took a short cut by jumping backwards (she says she fell) down a pumice bank into the stream bed. She was okay but enjoyed the experience so much she had to restrain at several washouts above the river later in the trip.

Eventually everyone made it to Mangamate Hut before dark after a longish day. The first thing you see of the hut is the dunny - Gavin said he had never been so glad to see a dunny and he didn't even want to go to the toilet!

With a bit of furniture reorganisation all 18 were fitted into a nine-bunk hut. Dave decided during the night to sleep outside on the verandah but returned later reporting seeing a "polar bear with its knees knocking".

Sunday 2 June

The morning was chilly and made even more so with wet (frozen for some) boots and socks. Just before we left a light snow flurry drifted down. Within 50m of the hut it was back into the stream, which at least meant everyone traded wet feet for cold feet - much better! The party reformed at the falls on the Whirinaki River at 10.40 am and after a munch and a photo stop set out along the Whirinaki River Track.

Soon afterwards we came across a big tree which had fallen beside the track and caused a lot of damage in doing so. The "stump" was about 3m high and you could have got four people standing up in the hole through the middle.

The lunch stop was just before the Kakanui Stream and when people saw how close we were to Central Whirinaki Hut some sped up and some slowed down to enjoy the scenery. Everyone was at the hut by about 3 pm and the time until dinner was spent lying around and playing cards - euchre, and "Up and down the river", courtesy of Lee Heaps, which was a good group game as 10 could play.

We were joined by an older lone tramper, the only other person we had seen, though the log book indicated a party from the Auckland Tramping Club was in the area but going the other way.

Table traversing kicked off the after-dinner entertainment. No-one managed the length of the table but Dave Heaps and Neil Mora managed to go around the width. Leo and Lex went very close. Neil also managed to make his way around the room without touching the floor.

Chris, Craig, Lex and Paul completed the Frog Lift (or the Lolly Gobble) which requires the contestant to balance on their arms with their legs folded up and locked outside their elbows and lower their head and themselves to the table top to consume a piece of chocolate or similar. A couple of them headbutted the table in the process in their desperation to get to the prize.

Other party tricks (one of which led to our leader being renamed The Phantom Shuffler) and lots of jokes (arguably the best of which was contributed by someone who wasn't even there!) rounded off a fun night. The 17 bunks meant only one person had to sleep on the floor, though two others chose to.

Monday 3 June

It was a pleasant ramble back to the truck on the Monday morning with blue skies above us. We reached the caves about 10 am after greeting another sole tramper heading for Central Whirinaki and back on a day trip. Just after leaving the caves there was an area notable for its bird life. It wasn't notable because there were so many birds (about six) but because it emphasized that for most of the trip there had been so few.

At some sheltered spots on the track there were dustings of snow on the ferns and mountain cabbage trees making for picturesque scenes. After a quick cuppa and snack at the truck we were underway about 12.15 pm and enjoyed ice creams etc. at Te Haroto before carrying on home.

Thanks to everyone for their company, thanks Dave for driving, and thanks Lyn for the weather and for not losing anyone.

Party: Gloria & Graham Abraham; Leo Brunton; Leader Lyn & Lady Lyn Gentry; Dave & Lee Heaps; Alison Greer; Mike Malone; Neil Mora; Barry Pacey; Gavin Scoble; Garry Smith; Lex, Craig & Matthew Smith; Paul Smith; Chris Waldron. - GS.

Mangleton Rd to Ellis's Hut

Trip No 1665C

2 June 1996

During Saturday's atrocious weather I lost half the party. The weather forecast 6.30 AM Sunday was not comforting, but persevere we did, arriving at Pernell Orchard at 7. Driving through the persistent rain the day dawned and we could see snow on the top of Mt Erin as well as on the hills to the west. At Maraekakaho the road was dry and the idea of at least getting started before the rain seemed possible. We parked at the sheds on Gill's place, donned raincoats for protection against the very cold wind, put on boots and headed off down the farm track to the Ohara River just before 9 AM. At the river we turned west and walked up the tongue of farmland, which still had a sprinkling of snow on it, to the bush edge of the Ruahine Range. We stopped at the bush edge for morning tea a few minutes before 10.

From the bush edge we skirted at deer fence and tramped on a bearing slightly west of south, luck was with us and we seemed to follow a track for a considerable distance. After crossing two small stream we came to a significant drop down to the next stream so headed up valley to find a convenient crossing place. The stream crossed we found yet another track to take us up the other side and the going was good until we got to where the land flattened out. Here there was a very dense thicket of red beech seedlings so we put Mike in front to dry out the going for us. After the thicket the going was pretty easy and we intercepted the old logging track, which we intended to follow to Yeomans Track, near its highest point just before 11. The track from there through to Yeomans track was mainly through cutty grass and scrub with lots of windfall from the previous days storm, but the going was good and we got the Ellis's Hut for lunch bang on 12 o'clock, still not having a drop of rain shed on us.

It was not a protracted lunch due to the cold and by 12.45 we were kitted up and set off back to our track, to follow it all the way back to the Ohara Stream. The second half of the track is very pretty with lots of good sized beech trees and a great variety of other trees including many picturesque young rimu, lancewoods, miro and coprosma. While there was not an astounding amount of bird life we did see a bush robin (which was attracted to Mike's bird caller), some tom tits and numerous fantail and we heard bellbirds and greywarbler. It didn't take long before we reached the pine trees just before the drop down to the Ohara and we followed the right hand track, skirting the trees until we got to the top of the bluffs above the Ohara. We then walked down valley to where the Ohara meets the tributary we had crossed in the morning and climbed down the spur between the 2 rivers, using the red beech trees for support, reaching the river at 2.45 PM. Forty minutes downstream in freezing cold water before our blocks of ice climbed out on the left bank to rejoin the farm track we had walked along in the morning. We got back to the cars, still not having been rained on, changed, had a cup of tea and were in the cars headed for town by 4 o'clock.

It had been a good day and while the weather hadn't been what you call tropical, it hadn't rained, it had been sunny for much of the day and it was a jolly sight better than what they had in town. Thanks a lot to Sue, Mike & Heather for providing transport.

GH.

Party: Sue Holmes, Mike Lusk, Al Moffitt, Melissa Wilson, Bev Haewera, Heather Dobson, Phillip Mardon & Glenda Hooper.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Thought I would send you a copy from an F.M.C. Bulletin re The Politics of Tramping or rather part of same for Pohokura.

Dramatic social changes have occurred/taken place over the past ten years and the instinctive reaction of many of us has been to develop a siegeliike mentality--- to concern ourselves only with our immediate living environment & live for today rather than tomorrow. In the tramping scene, pay our annual subscription, turn up for tramps & slip off home afterwards. Perhaps if a Club Committee Member become engrossed in the micro details of tramping whilst ignoring the macro changes affecting our tramping areas, it will indeed in the long run be our loss.

Less government means more responsibility on the private sector & this means lobbying in their interest, not ours. e.g. Tourism, over Conservation, The Round Table & Fletcher Challenge are listened to far more than a few thousand voters for preservation of our back country. Is this all affecting us as trampers? Yes----we see the evidence all around us. While we have our noses down, following the bootmarks of the person on front, there have been more than a few radical developments threatening the very future of tramping as we know it today.

Tramping is simply footwork to view the natural flora & fauna of the countryside. The Minister responsible for this natural heritage which we all so enjoy is an **advocate** of preservation on one hand & development on the other. This has in some places subsidised Green Task workers to chain-saw & burn Kanuka forest to be replaced by pines. While groups interested in restricting public access, only a vigorous campaign by Public Access N.Z. saved the day-----for the moment. We have the ugly spectre of the conservation estate being traded into Maori ownership as a cheap option to settle land claims.

Also the much quoted "three million tourists by the year 2000" anticipated with delight by the Tourism Board will profoundly change the experience of enjoying the public conservation estate. The Tourism Board's reaction has been to push for "full cost" recovery on state facilities, including tracks. Levies targeted at tourists only are opposed.

There are some very strong conservation advocates among the staff of D.O.C. who disagree with many of the Department's policies & are frustrated by the low priority given to D.C.C. funding. The best support we as a club can give them is to force the big matters out into the open & debate through the media & politicians.

Finally, all club members should make themselves aware of what is happening in the tramping arena around them. We want our children to enjoy tramping as we do & leave the hills, and leave the hills mountain etc. to enjoy as much as we do.

S. Bathgate.

Moehau,

29 Campbell St,

Havelock North

9-5-96.

Meetings: Dates and Duties

	Hosts	Supper
Aug 21	Roger Burn, Gloria Abraham	Philip Mardon, Al Moffit
Sept 4	Geoff Clibborn, David Heaps	Steven Nicoll, John Staff
Sept 18	Paul Smith, Elissa Cairns	Gale Harvey, Mike Lusk
Oct 2	Lord Lyn, Judy McBride	Ross Berry, Lady Lyn
Oct 16	James Chittenden, Leo Brunton	Jenny Lean, Owen Brown
Oct 30	Gavin Scoble, Debbie Thomas	Lou Harrison, Pam Turner
Nov 13	Ros Lusk, Jim Glass	David Harrington, Lisa Webber
Nov 27	Debra Turner, Paul Handyside	Garry Smith, Sandy Wiggins
Dec 11	Ann Cantrick, John Jones	Peter Berry, Mandy Leslie

Duty This Date

31 August

Dinner at the Heretaunga Club

\$15 per head

**Hosted by his Lordship
and
Madame President**

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 to the embarkation point..

Beginners should make sure that anyone who may worry about them knows this. Leaders will try to get a message through to one of the 'overdue' contacts if return seems likely to be later than 10 pm. In case of concern, all newcomers should ensure that their own emergency contact number is noted in the party list the trip leader leaves in town. For all enquiries about overdue trampers please ring one of the following:

Ross Berry 877 4436

Jim Glass 877 8748

Glenda Hooper 877 4183

FAMILY TRAMPS

Maraetotara Area: 28 April 1996

A brilliantly fine autumn day saw five families out on the Maraetotara family tramp, arriving at the Maraetotara Gorge Scenic reserve around 11 AM, with more Dad's than Mums for a change. After climbing up and down the huge boulder at the carpark numerous times we went down to the river, crossed the natural bridge and climbed the other side admiring the lush bush (thanks to 1080 poisoning) and limestone formations. We then ventured out onto the neighbouring farmland where there is a large patch of crisscrossing limestone crevices which can disappear and who contingent of family tramp youngsters who subsequently turned into ferocious trolls and the like. After spending a considerable time here we went back to the cars to have a glorious lunch in the sun.

After lunch we visited Mohi Bush, the bush here was in much better condition than last time we visited, thanks again to 1080. Tui & Kereru were evident as well as the usual smaller native birds. We circumnavigated the area with a leisurely stop at the look out point, returning back to the cars around 3.30 and headed home after a wonderful day.

Triplex Area 3 June 1996

A small group of us ventured out on the Monday of Queen's Birthday to the Triplex area. It was fine and sunny with no wind although it was still very cold. We had lunch at Triplex Hut and afterwards we tramped up the zig zag, stopping to play in the "moa" holes on the way. In places clumps of snow were scattered around, sufficient to make the kids' mittens cold and wet as they experimented with it. After a stop at Triplex Saddle half the party carried on upwards to come down the staircase while the rest went back down the way they had come.

On the way down we passed Russell, Christopher & Samuel Perry, somewhat late starters for the family tramp. It was well after 3 when we got back to Triplex Hut and, as it was quickly cooling down, we went back to the cars and soon left for home.

Ahuriri Estuary. 22 July 1996

After three weeks of rain we decided a venue close to home was in order for the overcast Sunday that dawned. After some discussion the Ahuriri Estuary walkway was decided upon and we met there at 11 AM. After some delay we started off on a clockwise circuit, diverting from the flooded track when necessary. Most had their lunch on the old embankment bridge after which we completed the circuit at times in weak sunshine. Back at the cars a cold wind was evident so we went to the Botanical Gardens to eat some more food and more exercise. After this we went up to the new abode of Josie & Greg's and were served up scones (without the cream this time) for afternoon tea.

Families participating during this period were: Toni Hooper (her first tramp), Edan & Ben Lennan, Hannah, Rebekka, Samuel, Christopher, Matthew & Rachel Perry, Conal & Erika Bristow, Natalie, Donna & Daniel Berry, Claire & Glen Holmes, Avril & Blair Turvey, Tammy & Libby Boaler, Amy Fisher, Sam & Kate Elliott, Heather & Hamish Thurston plus Mums & Dads.

FIXTURES LIST:

18 Aug: Te Mata Park. - Park at the top, walk down to the Redwoods and out to the main gates.
15 Sep: Mangakuri Beach - A fossic in the tidal pools, a beach walk and the Elsthorpe S.R.
27&28 Oct: An overnight stay in William Hartree Lodge and the Makahu area the following day.
10 Nov: Boundary Stream. - Trips into this reserve from the Pohokura Road access.
8 Dec: Blowhard Bush. Lots of limestone formations & bush walks.

High Summer In The Hills

I stand crucified by the heat,
Arms spread to catch the fleeting breeze.
But a gentle cooling of a raging fire,
This shade beneath the trees.

Back into the open, sweat begins to run,
Rocks and claypan reflect the sun.
Below, far below, the river winds, I feast my eyes.
Around, below, above, the bushclad ridges reaching to the skies.

Heat and sweat in my eyes and Brain, I forge ahead and stumble.
And hear off in the distance, Thunders distant rumble.
White mountains built on black foundations greet upward glances,
As between the peaks the storm advances.

But still the heat and sun beat all around,
The cloud a promise of relief which hasn't yet been found.
Then the valley floor, the cold deep river,
Sucks away this heat and so cold it makes me shiver.

Refreshed and renewed we set off fast, then start to creep,
The heat insinuates it self, we start to fall asleep.
The crackle of lightening, the boom of thunder,
Resounds through the valley, nature's loudest wonder.

Splat, a drop of rain kicks up dust,
Another, large enough to melt a man's dry crust.
It pours, the cooling shower lifts our blues,
We perk right up and admire the views.

The white of the rapids, the river's green,
Around each corner a different view is seen.
Ah the river, the bush, the rocks, the cloud,
The thunder's rumble, the rain a cooling shroud.

Peter Berry.

FIXTURES LIST

- **August 24 - 25: Ruapehu - Tongariro** Maps T19 & T20 \$20

Driver required.

Party A: Summit Mt Ruapehu.

Leader: John Montgomerie Ph 877 7358

Party A: Chateau to Tama Lakes and camping out for the night. Sunday to Pukekaikio and out to Mangatepopo.

Leader: David Harington Ph 843 0290

Party C: Chateau to Mangatepopo Hut for the night. Sunday to South Crater and out to roadend.

Leader required.:

Local Day Trip: Te Waka. Private cars.

Contact: Lady Lyn Gentry Ph 877 0542

- **September 8: Kawekas** Map U20 \$10

Driver: Geoff Clibborn Ph 844 6039

Party A: From Lawrence Rd, up onto MacIntosh Plateau and through Kaweka Hut to Lakes Rd carpark.

Leader: Mike Bull Ph 843 6052

Party B: From Lawrence Rd, up onto MacIntosh Plateau to Kaweka Hut out by the track from MacIntosh Hut and over the 3 wire bridge.

Leader: Chris Waldron Ph 875 0034

- **Sept 21 - 22: Northern Kawekas** Map U20 \$10

Driver: Required

Te Puia Hot Springs. A combination of a social trip or as hard as you like, as there are various options for coming out on Sunday.

Leader: Mandy Leslie Ph 876 6752

Local day trip: Various options in same area.

Contact: Glenda Hooper Ph 877 4183

- **Sept 28 - 29 Annual Search and Rescue Exercise.**

Our annual SAR for everyone on the serachlist plus anyone who is interested. Details later.

Contact: Eddie Holmes

- **Oct 6: Ruahines** \$10

Driver : Eddie Holmes ph 844 6032

Party A: Up to Longview Hut, down to Top Gorge Hut, up onto Ngmoko range and out via Otumore.

Leader: Eddie holmes ph 844 6032

Party B: Up to Longview Hut and down to Awatere hut, following stream and out to Moorcock Saddle.

Leader: Rodger Burn: Ph 877 6322

- **Oct 19 - 20: Ruahines** \$10

Driver: Craig Shaw

Party A: Into Kumeti Hut to Mt Maharahara and Kiritaki Hut for night. Out via Raparapa Stream to Loveday Rd.

Leader required

Party B: Into Kumeti Hut to Kiritaki Hut for night. Sunday follow Oruakiritaki Stream out out to Fairbrother Rd.

Local Day Trip: Boundary Stream Area

- **Oct 25 - 28: Labour Weekend. Tararua \$20**

Driver required

Party A: Putera Rd to Dundas Hut to Arete Bivy to Tarn Ridge and out via Holdsworth Hut.

Leader: David Harrington Ph 843 0290

Party B: From Putera Rd through to Roaring Stag Hut to Cow Creek to Mitre Flats and Atiwhalcatui and out to Holdsworth Lodge.

Leader: Christine Hardie Ph 844 8148

Party C: Truck Party.

- **Nov 3: Okoeke Stream \$10**

Driver required

Beautiful waterfall - day trip to a lovely bush area off the Taupo Rd, possibility circuit to Kaimatangi trig.

Leader required

- **Nov 16 - 17: Kaweka Map U20 \$10**

Driver: Philip Mardon

Party A: Into Kiwi Saddle Friday night. Sat night Buck Ridge Hut via Kiwi Mouth Hut and back Ridge. Sunday up onto Kaweka J for Cairn service.

Leader: David Cormack Ph 877 5903

Party B: Into Kiwi Saddle or Kaweka Hut Friday night. Sat up to Castle Camp and into Studholme Hut for the night.

Sunday up to Kaweka J for Cairn service.

Leader: Susan Lopdell Ph 844 6697

Party C: Sunday up to Kaweka J from Makahu Base for the clubs annual service. Traditional trip to join up with other parties at cairn

Leader: Glenda Hooper Ph 877 4183

- **Nov 23 - 24: Kapiti Island**

Details to follow.

- **Dec 1: Awawhenua Stream Map U20 \$20**

Driver required.

Up Makahu and Awawhenua Stream, climb up and over ridge and back via Makaku River.

Leader: David Harrington

- **Dec 14 - 15: Ruahines \$1**

Driver: Christine Hardie

Party A: From Ngamoko Rd to Leon Kinvig Hut to Ngamoko Hut. Out via Apiti Saddle returning to Ngamoko roadend.

Local Day Trip: Gold Creek. Private Cars.

- **Jan 12: Coonoor Caves - Makairo Bush \$10**

Driver required

Leader Paul smith

Visit Coonoor caves for 2 - 4 hrs and/or Makairo Bush walk.

- **Jan 25 - 26: Howletts - Working Bee \$10**

Driver: Craig Shaw

From Moorcock base into Daphne Hut and up Daphne Spur to our club hut. Option of whether to go down river or overland to the truck.

Leader: Leo Brunton

Local Day Trip: Khyber Pass. Private cars