

P.O. BOX 14086 MAYFAIR, HASTINGS

"POHOKURA"

Bulletin No 204

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Club Meetings: These are held every second Wednesday (one before a tramp) at the Hastings Harrier Clubrooms in Sylvan Road, Hastings. Visitors are most welcome

50 c donation gratefully accepted each meeting towards hall hire. (place in the old boot)

Sixteen people arrived early at Pernell Orchard at 6 am for the annual Cairn trip to Kaweka J. Unfortunately Anne Cantrick, our illustrious club president was unable to lead the trip as her daughters wedding preparations took precedence. The truck made excellent progress with thanks to Christine Hardie at the wheel, arriving at Makahu Base at 7:45 am. The party then split at the car park with 5 heading up Trial Spur and the remainder toiling up the Makahu Spur. Initially the weather was mist with little wind, although there was general optimism that it may clear later in the day. However there was no change in with the mist by the time Dominie Bivouac was reached, at which raincoats were put on. An hour late, we emerged on to the tops by the triangle signpost and caught our first view as the mist broke showing a view of the Cairn 400m away to our left. In the preceding half-hour the weather cleared nicely to the left of the main range to reveal reasonable views out to Mt Ruapaheu and country in between. Lunch was held just below the trig in strong sunlight. For the trip back down various routes were taken namely Dons Spur and for an adventurous few, Pinnacle Spur from North Kaweka. Overall a successful trip especial for myself, considering I had my first views from Kaweka J in seven attempts. Stephen Anderson

Party: Paul Madden, Christine Hardie, Stephen Anderson and 13 others

Central Ruahine Range Trip 1743**27- 28 November 1999**

Sorry folks. Can't find the reports. Next time. ed

Down in the Deep Dark Underground Trip 1744**12 December 1999**

G String revisited was quite an interesting experience. As the only one of us that had been through before, it fell on me to lead, which I did, from the back of course. The newcomers to caving had a wonderful time exploring and finding the route through and admiring the many limestone formations. Then we came to the waterfall which was the scene of much strangled screaming, quickly followed by more cursing as we ended up wading waist deep. Then we got to the tricky bit and I'm ashamed to say that I and the rest of the party wandered around like lost sheep for the best part of half an hour looking for the way through. Up, down, around, under, nothing was of any avail, and I have to admit that at one stage I found myself back in the stream but completely turned around. By now the rest of the party were looking a bit worried, sort of like they might be considering a vote for a new navigator, not realising of course that I was only having them on. So I set off again with Beccy our other intrepid explorer and in no time at all we were through into a piece of tunnel that I remembered from last time and ten minutes later we were out in the open again walking up the road telling each other how unscared we had been and no doubt each of us privately vowing never ever to enter the realm of the underworld again.

Any way having got that out of the way we drove up to the airstrip track and set off down into the Waikoau, following the track down into beehive valley and eating our lunch by the big pool, watched by and watching a large eel. Now I in my wisdom was sure that we could get down the waterfall and gorge below this bit but I was wrong, but anyway that's enough said about our trip, suffice it to say that we eventually climbed out to have a look at blue lake and then the grunt back to Lake Opouahi where a vote of confidence was passed in the leader's ability to walk back up the road and get the truck. PB

The first trip of the year and a full truck left Napier on Saturday afternoon. A mixture of long term and newer members entertained each other through heavy rain on the Napier-Taupo Road and later a short toilet stop on the shores of the lake where someone had fun being locked into a cubicle. Driver Geoff and friends investigated a strange smell coming from the truck but nothing was discovered. (After the trip it was found to have come from a flattened/damaged back tyre but fortunately it didn't cause any trouble this trip).

The party arrived at the Mangatepopo road end just on dusk and everyone scattered to arrange somewhere to rest. Some looked through the damp tussock for tent spots and several people bunked down in the shelter. A number slept in the truck where they were apparently joined in the wee small hours by a club captain fleeing from snorers.

Sunday morning was dry but overcast and everyone was on the track by seven o'clock. It is an easy stroll past the Mangatepopo Hut following the stream up the valley. The landscape is an interesting record of volcanic activity with blackened rocks, pumice, compacted ash and debris. Plant life consists largely of tough grasses and tussocks with small lichens and other growths at ground level. After a short but steady climb we reached the track junction at South Crater and stopped for a snack. Here the merits of contaminated water were discussed - it seemed that water from the track had been in containers that had held turps and some of the delicate flavour remained. Geoff was later accused of poisoning the party but no-one seems to have suffered.

A couple of people were spotted climbing Ngauruhoe but no-one from HTC ventured up mostly because of time constraints. On to the edge of Red Crater to admire the blast fissures and sniff the sulphur. The overcast conditions remained with light cloud blowing in and out which made for good tramping conditions. Everyone agreed that full sunlight would have made a hot, dry trip.

Above Central Crater and after the Blue and Emerald Lakes below, the party split in two. Sue led a group on down past the lakes following the main track to Ketetahi. The rest followed John and Dave on an adventure to ascend Tongariro itself then strike out across the North Crater before climbing down to the same track as the first party. This was achieved without major incident. The group followed the well-marked trail to the top and had some lunch in the cloud at the summit of Tongariro. Then it was down one rocky slope and up another to investigate the impressive North Crater with its circular blast hole. The final approach to the crater was a bit of a rock scramble but everyone made it without difficulty.

At this stage people became aware of increasing numbers of other walkers on the skyline and it was obvious that there were many other parties in the area. Dave's group followed his bearing to rejoin the main track. The most exciting incident that followed was when John decided to do a low-flying exercise and ended up spreading some blood over the landscape. However he insisted that his gashes, grazes and lumps gained from hitting the scoria were not as bad as they looked and indeed, he was able to stride out as a good rate with everyone else. Not far above Ketetahi Hut the two parties were reunited and together they admired the view of Rotoaira when the cloud lifted and then continued down the extensive zigzag to the hut where another lunch was held. Here we also met Geoff who had driven the truck around and walked up to meet everyone.

The hut was swamped with other day trippers - it made us all realise what tramping on a Great Walk is like. Most folk seemed to have come from the Ketetahi round end and there were crowds of all shapes, sizes ages and many nationalities. As this didn't appeal to HTC members, it wasn't long before we all packed up and moved off down the last stretch. At this stage the track is wide and deep so there is no problem following the way. The springs are now fenced off and out of bounds at the request of the private owners. Interestingly it looks as though most people abide by this rule - there were no visible signs of anyone walking off to play in the water.

The Ketetahi track is a long, steady descent first past steaming rock and earth of various colours and through Okahukura Bush which gradually becomes taller and thicker as the altitude drops. There are numerous resting seats and wooden bridges along the way. The number of vehicles at the road end attested to the popularity of the walk. It is not a difficult one in terms of terrain but the weather can never be taken lightly especially above the bushline.

After packing and snacking we travelled home via Taupo where the keen ones had a swim at the AC Baths and most of us went to the shops and lashed out on our favourite takeaways. Back in the bay it was still light and dry and hot. Christine Hardie

Party: Sue Lopdell, Dave Heaps (leaders), Geoff Clibborn (driver). John Montogmerie, Christine Hardie, Leonie Heaps, Robyn Madden, Jenny Lean, Judy McBride, Sandy Claudatos, Peggy Gulliver, Robyn Gulliver, Bobby Couchman, Gail Harvey, Manuela Margold, Rodger Burn, Lew Harrison, Gloria Abraham, Sally Hobson, Bob Carter, Barry Tucker.

Te Kooti's Lookout Trip 1746	23 January 2000
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You go down the Waitara road, through Waitere Station to the cable cage above the Mohaka, get out the truck and get very wet. Not perhaps the perfect trip for winter but on a hot summers day what more could we ask for. Low as the river was it was still waist deep but caused no problems and we were soon heading up the road through the pines. It was very hot and dry, we went up, then around the hillside then came to a small side road heading off to the right. You go to the end of it then just head on up the ridge, this proved to have a track of sorts going all the way up it, this track proved to be very steep and hot, but soon we were getting wonderful views out over the surrounding countryside. After the pine trees, the scrub was a welcome relief and after the scrub, the rather lovely bush as we neared the summit was very special indeed.

At the summit we climbed out onto some clay pans to admire the views out towards Taupo, got sand blasted and went back into the bush for lunch and a look around. Of particular interest were the two palisade posts that we had picked up off the ground twenty odd years ago, these were still leaning on the rock where we had put them and are still in excellent condition.

After lunch a smaller group of us set out to drop over the other side into the Te Hoe, but after seeing the cliffs all but Lyn and I turned back, it was steep, it was hairy, it needed great skill and intelligence to negotiate, we had no problems of course (he certainly has the hairy bit off pat anyway, Editor.) and soon arrived at the Te Hoe, which we proceeded to pack float down meeting up with the rest of the party not long after they had gotten back to the truck.

Thanks to Geoff for driving. Peter Berry

Southern Ruahines Trip 1748	6 February 2000
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A Party: Apiti Track and South Makaretu River.

A truck full plus Dave Cormacks car left Parnell at 6 am for Ngamoko Rd, picking up Dave Mulinder in the mist on the Takapau Plains at Snee Road (100 metres on from there we were in brilliant sunshine). The truck dumped the A party off in blustery conditions and 10 of us set off up the Apiti track with a steady climb away from the farmland on an old bulldozed track. On crossing a few exposed areas we

were almost bowled off our feet by the wind. In the bush it was a bit more sheltered and the track further in was fairly overgrown.

Eventually we sidled down a spur off the main track into the south branch of the Makaretu River which was a picturesque little valley. Lunch was to be at South Makaretu Hut just up a side stream but 2 of our navigators suffered a malfunction and we passed it by, stopping 30 minutes later on the riverbank for lunch.

A short jaunt downstream brought us to the junction with the north branch which the B party had gone up. They hadn't come down again so we left them a note telling them to "Hurry Up" and after a quick photo session (to prove that Karen had done an A trip) we headed down to Happy Daze and lay in the sun for 30 minutes or so then off to the truck further downstream. Some of us went by the river route meeting the B team on the way and stopped for a relaxing swim. After a final uphill out of the river we arrived at the truck.

Changing out of smelly wet gear was the go and then all giving Karen a hug and wishing her well (all the blokes that is) as she had come in Dave's car and it was the last time we would see her before she headed home to the UK.

An enjoyable day all round and thanks to Dave for taking his car. Dave Heaps

Party: Dave Heaps (Leader), Anne Cantrick, Karen Sargent, David Cormack, Ken Nugent, Sandy Claudatos, Sue Holmes, Dave Mulinder, Susan Fraser and Maryanne Blair,

B Party: Awatere Hut.

Having relieved ourselves of the A Party Peter drove the truck on to Pagets Road and then over the farmland on the left bank of the Makaretu River - a few circuits in the paddocks (closely followed by Judy in Dave's car) left some of the new comers a bit apprehensive of his driving skills, however, we soon got him on the straight and narrow and he finally found where the track continued on across the last gut.

We were out and off just after 9 - I decided not to go the way we went last time and instead we followed a bulldozed track through a group of pine trees until it ran out and we could find no easy way down to the river so we back tracked and went down the way we had last time anyhow (really I just wanted to check their fitness). Some walked up the river to Happy Daze Hut while the rest went overland. An hour or so later we rejoined and headed up the north branch of the Makaretu River. This branch was much easier travelling than the South Branch but just as pretty. The last of us got to Awatere Hut just after 12 (having been slowed down somewhat by Leos recalcitrant GPS machine - not a good valley for getting signals apparently. Awatere Hut has recently been painted and is in good condition.

After a good lunch hour it was time to return making a quick detour to Black Stag hut enroute. We seemed to travel faster on the way out and were back below Happy Daze Hut just after 3. A sign made from ragwood telling us to "Hurry Up" was a pretty good indicator that the A Party was ahead of us. We joined up with some of them who had been up to Happy Daze and walked (and swam) the last part of the river together.

Welcome to the new trampers on the tramp - I am sure you enjoyed it, like I did and hope to see you out again. Glenda Hooper

Party: Glenda Hooper (Leader), Judy McBride, Sally Hobson, Peter Berry, Mike Bull, Anthony Bull, Bobby Couchman, Sue Moys, Rodger Burn, Garry Smith, Sandie Gay, John Hawkes, Leo Brunton, Jenny Lean, Nelson Goldman and Barbara Carlson.

Rosvall's Track Trip 1749

19 March 2000

A Party:

This being the first day after daylight saving ended the 7 am start at Pernell Orchard was a real luxury. Five of us quickly became 4 of us due to the fact that one starter had negligible gear and I was not happy to take such a liability.

We drove down to Mill Farm in Sue's Ute, drove along the farm track just past the baches and were ready to start tramping just before $\frac{1}{4}$ to nine. The track to the river only takes around 10 minutes and you hit the Tukituki River just downstream of the mouth of Morcocks Stream. The river was very low and in 60 minutes time we had reached the bottom of Rosvalls track, had a short break and were ready (as I would ever be) to start the ascent. The night before when Susan Lopdell had managed to talk me out of piking out of this trip (due to my lack of fitness) she said that No - It was nothing like the trip up to Howletts from Daphne. SHE LIED - it was - something that she admitted about a quarter of the way up the ridge. No matter how much I protested I was bullied and cajoled all the way up that jolly ridge and around $\frac{1}{4}$ past 12 we finally reached the junction with the track from Daphne to Tarn Bivvy. We had lunch just below this (in the shelter) We were able to get a good view of Howletts Hut from just below the ridge top (a better view than I have had on both my 2 trips to Howletts when poor visibility had obscured any distant view). After lunch the others thought that they might carry on to Tarn Bivvy, however, extremely strong winds on the ridge tops soon dissuaded them and we all started on the descent around 1 o'clock. This took about 90 minutes then after another 60 minutes back down the river we were back at the cars around 3.30 pm and home by 5.30 (Thanks Sue for driving).

And Was it Worth all the Pain??? The bush on the ridge was very pretty with a multitude of ferns and beech, the last of the alpine flowers, a few podocarps, mountain cedars and a number of small celery pines. Birdlife was also quite abundant and we were lucky enough to be joined by a bunch of whiteheads during one of our breaks. And it was good to be able to get a view of Howletts and Sawtooth. So, was it worth it? Yes - but it would have been nicer had I been a bit fitter.

Party: Glenda Hooper, Susan Lopdell, Sue Holmes, Bob Carter.

B Party:

Thanks to the farmer at Moorcock Base, we were able to cut some time off the trip to Daphne hut, the new track starting further along Kashmir Rd. The climb up the hill to the bush edge, through sparse regenerating Kanuka, is pretty steep, and good emotional preparation for the steeper, longer one up Daphne Spur. It was a rare experience to reach Daphne Hut with dry feet, and most of us had lunch in the riverbed, pleasant though it is in and around the hut.

The climb up the first and steepest part of the track was made easier by its dryness, but it is always tough, and one member of the team, not fully recovered from a viral infection, chose to return to Daphne. The rest of us finally reached the bush edge, where the day-trippers passed us on their descent, and moved on through the scanty leatherwood, dotted with the ancient trunks of long dead forest trees.

Howlett's Hut is always a welcome sight, even on such a calm clear day, and the 3 resident hunters had moved out, leaving large amounts of gear, including quantities of beer, which we didn't even think about. The day progressed to a wonderful evening, with the setting sun making a line of haze over the sea turn pink just as a nearly full moon rose. Most of us took our meals out to the helipad, and marvelled.

By nightfall, a light norwesterly was dropping the temperature, and most were soon in sleeping bags, trying to ignore Ross and Robyn, who were reliving some of the more intimate moments of their HTC courtship.

The B party had planned a leisurely start, but the hunters returned, though they declined to come into the hut. This politeness made us feel guilty, so interrupting yet another R and R massage, we followed the staunch souls of the A party, whom we could see in the distance, crossing a small saddle, and climbing the spur out. Back at Daphne, out of the wind, we dumped packs and walked as far up the river as we easily could, apart from the young lovers, who set off downstream, with a convenient sprained ankle.

After a relaxing lunch, we set off downstream, parting from Christine and Gary who went overland to pick up the truck and meet the A party. All the usual pools having been filled with shingle by a flood earlier in the summer, the wander down stream was pleasant indeed, and I guess that I will never have such an easy trip to Mill Rd again.

By the time we reached the road end, it was cold enough to drive us into the more intact of the 2 dilapidated huts, where Peggy shed toenails as we awaited the pickup. Thanks to Christine for driving and to a cheerful group. ML

Party. Leo Brunton, Deena Hansen, Sue Fraser, Peggy Gulliver, Ross and Robyn Berry, Gary Smith, Christine Hardie, Mike Lusk.

Kiwi Saddle Trip 1750

2 April 2000

A Party:

A keen party of seven and two part-timers left the lakes car park at 8.15 am for the climb to Kuripapango and along the tops to the club hut at Kiwi saddle, in windy but dry conditions.

The track to Kiwi saddle was busy with two groups travelling back to the lakes car park, one group from Napier Girls High School and the other from the Police Search and Rescue.

We arrived at Kiwi saddle around 10.20 am, a good steady pace, after a quick fuel up and checking of the gutters, we set off bushwards to see the two part-timers descending down towards the saddle. The track from the helipad only lasted 50m or so into the brush and we were on our own, after a bush bash for 20 or so minutes we came into a clearing bush area. We continued to follow the stream down until we hit the river at around 11.30 lunch time.

After lunch we continued travelling up stream for 300m or so and with wet feet we climbed out of the river. While travelling up the river one of the party fell while trying too keep feet dry. I thought this might be the end of our trip, but lucky all was OK. After leaving the river we climbed up into open natured trees with good access. We continued up to the main ridge line. After a short break and out with the compass we marked a route of travel along the ridge looking for open areas to climb upwards .

At this point we started running into our friend Pinus contorta. So after a time we scrambled our way to the top of the ridge line and were rewarded with views of the Rogue Ridge. As we continued our way

along the ridge, travel was difficult at times because of the contorta, but we forged our way around or through this barrier and on reaching the top it started to rain so on went the coats; 5 minutes later it stopped .

On reaching the top we joined the rogue to see the foot prints of party B and we continued our way downwards to see the truck and party B already waiting. We had made good time travelling down and by 4.30 we were at the truck. All in all a great days tramp with good spirits despite the bush bashing.

Thanks to Mike, Lewis, Jonathan, Geoff, Tony, Andrew and trip leader Peter.

B Party:

An enthusiastic party of 8 set off from the truck, parked in the Lakes Rd carpark at about 7.45 am bound for Rogue Ridge. Those who had been in that area previously, were amazed by the desolation of the surrounding area after the clear-felling of *Pinus radiata*. One bonus is that there are now splendid views of the twin Lakes from a number of vantage points.

We took our time walking Rogue Ridge – enjoying the panoramic views. The track is clear, except for P contorta, which has to be pushed through, about 2/3 of the way up. We saw some fresh deer sign but no sighting or sound of deer. After wondering how the weather would treat us, we reached the top about 10 am to a brisk wind but clear blue sky. Unfortunately, the view of Ruapehu was blocked by cloud, but we had good views of Hawke's Bay and Cape Kidnappers, while we had a snack. We walked along to the Tits and had a good look around and studied Cook's Horn which looks relatively insignificant from above.

Then back along to the Kaweka Hut signpost. The P contorta is prolific and sturdy as you drop over the side for a few minutes walking – then you are in the open and it is truly a slippery slide downwards. Fortunately all the party remained on their feet more or less and we had no mishaps. It was slow progress downwards and then we were in the beautiful beech forest around Kaweka Hut just as the weather deteriorated. The hut was very clean and tidy but the mattresses did not look inviting – very scruffy and dirty. One had blue rat bait on it plus a scattering of rat droppings.

We ate lunch down at the river. The river bank is now very overgrown with lots of giant tutu. We enjoyed the walk back to the truck. There were plenty of birds of around. We arrived back about 3.30 p.m. Some of the party took the opportunity to walk along to the Lakes which is about a 20 min walk. The Lakes were very pretty with plenty of evidence of trout. We were back the truck about 4.30 p.m. with Party A arriving soon after.

We all had a very enjoyable day. Thank you to Philip Mardon for yet again supplying us with a box of fruit. Delicious tree ripened Cox's Orange which was enjoyed by all. Thank you to Geoff Clibborn for driving the truck. He had his unique tyre tester in action. RM.

Party: Susan Fraser, Bob Carter, Nelson Goldman, Ros Lusk, Gail Harvey, Ken Nugent, Gloria Abraham, Robyn Madden.

FIVE DAYS IN THE RANGES

Recently I spent three magic days in the Kawekas, and a day and a half in the Ruahines, travelling on my own. It was only the second time I have spent any time in the ranges on my own, and the first solo trip involving any serious travel. The trip may not have been a big one for real mountain men and women but aspects of it were challenging for me. I found I really enjoyed it and had one of the best week's holiday I've had in a while.

Day One in the Kawekas was spent travelling from Makahu car park via the Middle Hill track, up Ihaka Spur, along the tops to Whetu and down to Ballard Hut.

Day Two was a traverse of the main range from Ballard to Studholme Saddle Hut, dropping down to the hut before Studholme saddle.

Day Three was a walk down to the bivvy and a climb up to the saddle, up Mad Dog to the J and down Don's Spur.

Day One in the Ruahines included clambering over, through, and around about 20 tree obstructions on the ridge from the top of the Daphne track from the car park to the junction with the track down to Kashmir Farm.

A night alone in Howletts Hut was followed by a walk along Daphne Ridge, through the saddle and along the Ngamoko Range. The wind was uncomfortably strong at times but not as bad as the 19 March club trip. The day was crowned by the finding of my tent lost on that trip right where I had been blown over near to Longview Hut.

There were a number of magic or memorable moments such as climbing on to the top of the range via Ihaka Spur through mist and cloud and finding the sun shining above the range and to the west (the cloud was only clinging to the eastern face of the range); sitting eating a tasty dinner at dusk on the helipad at Ballards with the last of day's sun splashing the top of the range behind; and seeing what I thought was native falcon.

For what they're worth I'd like to share these observations:

I have found out:

- That solitude is quite different, and a lot more satisfying than loneliness.
- That cellphones definitely have a place in solo tramping expeditions.
- That having a hut to yourself is great, you can spread out as you please.
- That travelling by yourself means you can decide when, how long, and how often you stop.
- That you can get going when you want and keep going if you want to.
- Why most people come down from Kaweka J via Trials, rather than Don's Spur.
- That while Ballard and Studholme Saddle huts are the same design, they are leagues apart in terms of attractiveness and comfort.

Gavin Scoble

Family Tramps

Waikoau Area - 12th December 1999

Overcast weather and strong winds didn't deter us. We parked our cars at the airstrip and followed the ridge down then dropped off into a side gorge on the left. Here we clambered up, down and around the lime rocks until we arrived at the top of a waterfall which halted our progress. We retraced our steps and had lunch under an overhang while misty rain beyond. With the weather packing up we decided to head back to the cars and home.

Kapiti Island – 17th – 19th December 1999

The weekend before Christmas saw 5 families set off in the truck on Friday afternoon. We had an unscheduled stop in Onga Onga to buy enough fuel to get us to the next BP station. Then it was onward to Waikanae. Waikanae Christian Camp was our base for the next two nights. Full use was made of the facilities: flying fox, water slide, swimming pool, games room etc. Saturday was spent at the beach and lounging around. Two more families arrived in the afternoon, unfortunately so did the rain.

Next morning it was still drizzling but the sea was smooth so we clambered into our boat and set off for Kapiti. We were required to listen to a half hour talk on the history of the island then were free to view the island. Most headed for the high point, unfortunately we were walking through cloud all the way and reached the top in white out conditions. The weka were a delight on the track – they were stationed at every rest point and made sure they welcomed every new group of visitors. Weka certainly lived the ease life, getting a rich and varied diet from all the visitors, despite requests from DoC that they are not fed. Once back down at sea level the rain had eased and we were able to wander around and be entranced by the kaka, saddlebacks, flocks of kakariki, huge fat pigeons, tomtits, robins, tui, bellbirds etc, some people were even lucky enough to see stitchbirds.

The trip home should have included a fuel stop at Dannevirke but Peter forgot. This caused him a rather stressful trip until Hastings as he was sure he was going to run out. But we made it - with 400 ml of diesel to spare!

Gallen's Bush – 30th January 2000

With not a great deal of definite information about this area we set off. After negotiating our way through the back roads of Esk Forest we parked our cars above the Esk River. There just happened to be a cut track heading down through the bush from the carpark so down we headed, not always managing to stay on the track, but eventually reaching the river. It was a delightful spot with boulders to clamber over, a waterfall, a pool to swim in and a slippery rock to slide down. What more could a kid ask for. After a couple of hours here we headed up the hill to the cars and to check out where the real Gallen's Bush might be.

Kaweka Hut – 19th & 20th February 2000

On the 19 February 2000 the Berrys and the Holmes went to a car park close to Kaweka Hut. We were going to stay by a lake but it was raining so we pitched our tents on a track at the car park instead of by the lakes.

All the kids were playing making huts and gardens. Donna, Daniel and Claire made one hut and garden and Glen and me made a different one. Claire, Glen and me saw a robin. Claire named it Oley. Oley showed us a secret tunnel, at the end was a cave. Glen and me named it Oley Land. Then we had tea. Then we went to wash our hands and feet in the freezing river. Then we went to sleep in the tents.

In the morning some of us got up and had breakfast. Glen and me carried on with our hut. A little while later Donna, Claire and Daniel started. Then we started the tramp to Kaweka Hut. On the way there were 3 rivers. When Glen and me got to the hut I blew my whistle three times. At Kaweka Hut we met up with the Perry's who and tramped in the night before and had camped across the stream from the hut. We had

lunch and played in the stream and by the hut for about 3 hours then we started out. On the way down we met Dad (who had been helping with the MACPAC). When we got back to the car park we carried on with the huts. Then Claire stood on a root and had a big hole in her foot and had to get crutches (and 6 stitches). All in all though the weekend was mostly fun.

Natalie Berry (aged 8).

Families participating: Heather and Hamish Thurston, Daniel, Donna and Natalie Berry, Claire and Glen Holmes, Avril and Blair Turvey, Sarah and Katrina Berry, Samuel, Rebecca and Hannah Perry plus a friend, Erika and Conal Boland-Bristow, Jessica, Steven, Kimberly and Russell Dodd, Stuart and Robbie Berry plus Mums and Dads and grandparents - Barbara and Jim.

The Tree

The branches are like bendy arms
lifting heavy weights.

The trunk is like a tall sky scraper
bending
side to side
in the wind.

The bark is like a
gravel road

with skid marks on it.

The twigs are like fish fingers
getting eaten
by a woodpecker.

Roots are like birds claws
scratching in the dirt.

Lichen is like mushy custard
getting thrown around by a
baby.

Knots are like Mount Tongariro
with lava coming out.

Buds are like pointy witches noses
that make an evil noise
when she laughs.

The tree is like a huge man
with lots of hair.

Glen Holmes, aged 9

FIXTURE LIST

7 May: From Triplex Hut head into Waipawa Chalet via the Sunrise Track, back out to Triplex via the Waipawa River.

4 June: Makahu & Littles Clearing: Do the Ngahere Loop track then walk up to Black Birch bivvy and back.

2 July: Blowhard Bush

30 July: A local trip - any suggestions??

Families wishing to go on these trips should contact either Sue Holmes (8446032) or Glenda Hooper (8774183) by the Thursday prior to the trip to register their interest and get the trip details.



An extensive survey of gear hire items and usage indicated that the number of borrowers had decreased dramatically through the 1990's. 107 users in 1990 and 14 in 1999. The quality of some of the gear was sub-standard. This was discarded and items still useable but not issued for some time were sold off at auction. The gear currently available for hire is listed below.

Packs:	2x Little Beaus (60 l approx.)
Boots:	8x pair lg. size 7 – 9 approx.
Clothing:	1x Polar fleece trousers sm. 1x winter weigh polyporp top med. 1x Woollen jacket top lg.
Gaiters	2x long 1x short

Other gear 6x helmets, 1x tent, 1x gas cooker, 1x carrymat, 1x billy, 1x sleeping bag

CLUB NEWS

There could not have been a better event to mark the beginning of a new century than our January meeting with George Lowe. A capacity crowd of over 100 attended with initially little to sit on causing a minor panic as a Harrier club member had borrowed the seating! However, thanks to Peter Pryor with his trailer and Mayfair School, the problem was solved. George with slide support given by his wife Mary, gave an excellent address on the life of George Mallory and the rigours of early expeditions to climb Mt Everest in the 1920's and of his own experiences and involvement in the 1953 successful conquest by Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing. We really do appreciate the time George gives to his fellow HTC members when in NZ as he always has a very busy schedule.

Congratulations to the MacPac committee for organising another successful Kaweka Challenge and also to those club members who competed. Our involvement with this event is a major fundraiser so thanks to the many members who assisted at base and on checkpoints throughout the ranges. Its always a fun weekend with lots of tales to tell.

Hearty thanks again to Wayne Hatcher who negotiated for and organised the rubbish bag delivery in Havelock North which took place on 25 March in rather murky conditions. At least it was cool for those pounding the pavements – a great indicator as to one's level of fitness. Thanks to all those who volunteered their time and vehicles. These efforts usually raise \$3-400 for the club. Everyone really enjoyed the lunch that followed.

'Jenny' and 'Helen' skilfully fleeced members wallets to the sum of \$560 at the club auction. Didn't they do well? Thanks to John Berry and Lyn Gentry whose impersonations resulted in an evening of much hilarity and generosity. I'm sure the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter Service will be delighted with this donation.

Wow – these 1st few months seem to have been preoccupied with making money. However, we now have the rest of the year to get on with what we do best – tramping along with spending some of the funds of course. This year we are going to install new stoves into 2 of our club huts; Howletts and Waikamaka.

Some members have been getting on with celebrating life's milestones.

Congratulations to:



David Harrington and Debbie Thomas on their marriage.

Neil Mora and Rachel Corry on their engagement.

Bundles of joy and nappies have arrived. Julie and Barry Mercer have a daughter. No guessing who the proud grandma is – Pam Turner.

Birthdays: Pam Turner recently celebrated her 60th birthday and Barbara Taylor her 70th.

We welcome new members Sue Moys, Jonathan Pryor, David Forward, Regan Hermansen and Jim Hewes.

After a wet, wintry interlude in our Indian summer, its great to have the sun out again. Hopefully it will shine on over the Easter period for our forthcoming trip to the Mt Richmond Forest park

Happy and safe tramping.

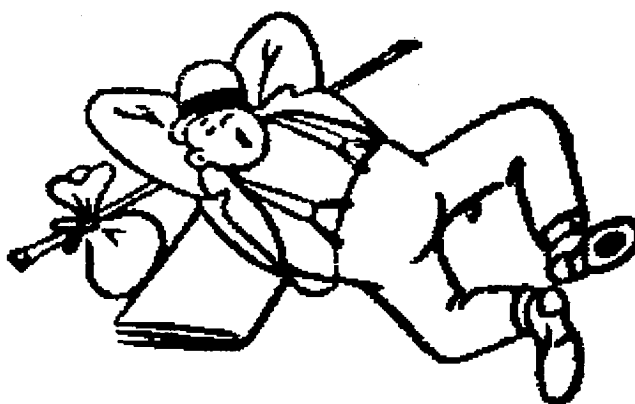
Anne

ENTERTAINMENT AND SPEAKERS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>SPEAKER</i>
10 May	Destination Vietnam	David Cormack
24 May	Coast to Coast	Neil Mora
7 June	Pending	Training Committee
21 June	Photo Competition	
5 July	Caring for your feet	David Greenhill (Podiatrist)
19 July	Trees or Timber	Scott Gulliver
2 August	Russia/Ukraine	Haden Lowry
16 August	Social Evening	

<i>Date</i>	<i>Hosts</i>	<i>Supper</i>
10/5	P Pryor, G Smith	Randall Goldfinch, Ros Lusk
24/5	J Glass, J Berry	J Lean, G Hooper
7/6	M Lusk, R Burn	S Bathgate, G Scoble
21/6	L Brunton, G Clibborn	D Dallimore, G Abraham
5/7	S Claudatos, P Turner	B Couchman, S Hobson
19/7	G Harvey, C Waldron	A Hollington, J McBride
2/8	P Mardon, P Berry	A Moffitt, L Pindar
16/8	L Harrison, S Lopdell	L Smith, M Malone

Please arrange own replacements if unavailable



progressive dinner

August 26

PLEASE VOLUNTEER YOUR HOME (OR SOMEONE ELSE'S) WE NEED 3

**Phone Lord Lyn
8750 542**

SOCIAL OF THE MONTH (YEAR)

WHEN: Weekend of July 14 - 16

WHERE: Whistle Hill Farm, Puketitiri

WHY: To attend the local "Operatic" show - "Oklahoma - Our Way" produced by Deborah Turner on the evening of Friday 14. The local talent has to be seen to be believed!!

Country style supper afterwards

EARLY BOOKINGS (WITH MONEY) IS ESSENTIAL

WHAT: Doss down at the farm throughout the weekend and come & go as you please

Sat/Sun: Make your own entertainment - possibilities include Balls Clearing (just opposite the farm), Mangatutunui Hot Tub, Farm walk (Picnic), Kaweka Forest Park, sit and watch the rain falling or perhaps even build a snowman??? - WHATEVER

BYO: Everything (some pots & Pans & servers available) Hot water is available (if the power is on)

ACCOMMODATION: 10 beds (plenty of floor space) 2 dog kennels (for any misbehaving male)

TRANSPORT: Club truck (provided we have the numbers) otherwise private cars.

Stayed tuned at the Wednesday night meetings for further details as they come to hand.

Kiwi legend tells of the 'high' life

BY JODY HOPKINSON

World-famous and Hawke's Bay legend, 76-year-old George Lowe, was among expedition members when Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing conquered Everest and was part of the first crossing of Antarctica, a 2300km journey which took three years to complete.

George was in the Bay last week to visit family and give a talk to the Heretaunga Tramping Club — "also known as the HTC", of which he was head in the 1940s.

His talk was about Everest, the Himalayan Trust and how his skills as a teacher allowed him to organise training for teachers in Nepal.

George was born in Napier and educated in Hastings. He taught at various schools in the area. He was sent to teacher's training college when he wasn't allowed to go to war — deemed unfit for service due to a childhood broken arm which left the limb permanently bent. He was therefore unable to stand to attention.

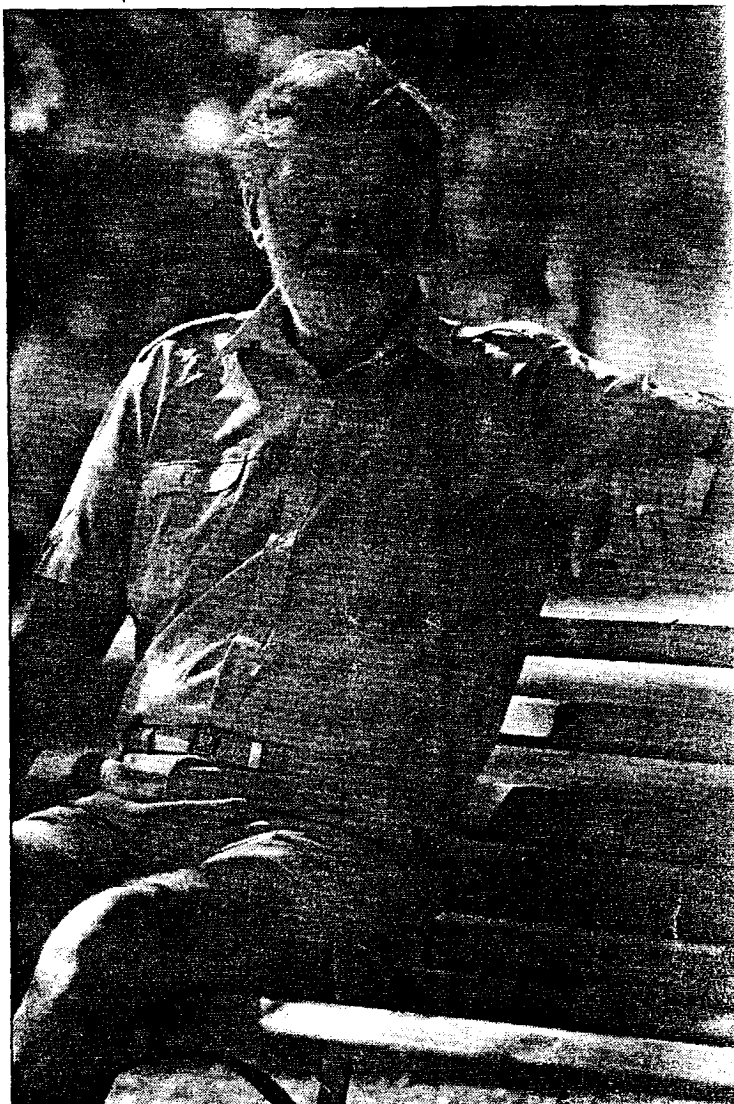
George helped negotiations between Chile and Argentina when the two countries were about to go to war over a border dispute.

He has worked alongside Hillary on the Himalayan Trust since its inception, visits Nepal nearly every second year and is chairman of the English branch of the trust.

All that and he wasn't even allowed to go to war.

George returned to Antarctica 2½ years ago, this time accompanying then Prime Minister Jim Bolger, or "Big Jim" as George calls him.

He says the two expeditions cannot really be compared, as Everest took three to four months compared with the three years it took to organise and complete the crossing of the South Pole.



GEORGE LOWE ... has worked alongside Sir Edmund Hillary and accompanied ex-prime minister Jim Bolger to Antarctica.

He describes Antarctica as an unforgiving place.

"The only life is on the edge of the continent and there is nothing in the middle. I love it. It is magnificent. You are travelling on ice 3000m high. We know less about Antarctica than we do the Moon. It's twice the size of Australia and far bigger than the USA.

George was around when the Antarctic Treaty was first being discussed.

"The treaty has been signed by 50 countries and guaran-

tees Antarctica is used solely for scientific purposes and never for military reasons," he said.

"When I went back some of it had melted. If the ice should melt, the majority of the world would be under water and only Africa would retain the same shape on a map."

George and his wife Mary now live in England.

He still goes on the occasional walk, including walking around Wairunga while in New Zealand.

TE KOOTI IN HAWKE'S BAY

With the centenary of his death less than a year away, the mystique of Te Kooti Rikirangi remains undiminished. Variouslly described as a fanatic, a visionary, a butcher, a prophet and the victim of injustice, he was a complex and unpredictable man.

He was a master of bushcraft. Te Kooti's ability to cover rugged terrain quickly, together with a watchfulness that allowed him to vacate a camp just as the militia were arriving, made him a creature of superstition. As a result he often plunged isolated communities into terror without necessarily being in the vicinity. Like the expert bushman he was he familiarised himself thoroughly with any new territory he entered. This allowed him to negotiate terrain that only a madman would attempt. The story still survives of a midnight ride down the cliffs of the upper Esk River following a treacherous fault line. It is known as Te Kooti's track to this day.

Te Kooti knew Heretaunga. It is on record that he managed one of the gangs draining the Turirau swamp for John Heslop. This was about 1864 when he was known as Hiroke. He still sent messages to Mr Heslop under that name after hostilities broke out.

The belief lingers to this day that Te Kooti was somehow involved in fanning the flames of the Hauhau movement in Hawke's Bay during the first half of 1866. His name has been linked with the Esk Valley confrontation at Herepoho and the Omarunui engagement in 1866. He has been blamed too for the Mohaka-Waikare confiscation of January 1867. None of these claims is accurate because he was in the Chatham Islands from March 1866.

Te Kooti had contact with the Hauhaus at the time of the Waeranga a Hika seige at Poverty Bay in November in 1865. This led to his arrest and transportation through Napier to the Chatham Islands. The fact that he didn't leave the Chathams until July 1868 makes it clear he had no involvement in the events leading up to the Omarunui engagement and cannot be blamed for the Mohaka-Waikare confiscation. The massacre at Matawhero in November 1868 and Te Kooti's involvement is well documented. So too are the activities of the Kahanhunu of Heretaunga who joined the Government forces at Makaretu to flush him out. It was there that Karauria Pupu, father of Airini Donnelly was killed on November 28 1868. The Mohaka massacre in April 1869, and the Opepe engagement two months later resulted in a massive Government drive to end Te Kooti's reign of terror.

The chiefs of Heretaunga were called on again. Two forces left for Taupo in September 1869 and joined the rout of Te Kooti at Te Porere the following month. Te Kooti escaped.

Te Porere should have seen an end to Te Kooti's effect on Hawke's Bay but it wasn't the case. Between July 1870 and August 1871 he went to ground and is known to have spent part of that time at least, near the junction of the Te Hoe Stream and the Mohaka River at Te Kooti's Lookout. From this base he made forays across the Mohaka into the Mangaharuru Ranges, establishing short term bases of convenience. One such base is Te Kooti's fortress, a huge rock monolith on Manganui Station. Charred pallisade poles were still standing there in the early 1940s.

The last reported raid in this vicinity was on January 18 1872. Te Kooti came onto Philip Dolbel's property at Mangaharuru and burnt down his woolshed. Isolated incidents of this nature kept the people of Hawke's Bay on edge. Some settlers moved their families to town for safety.

After Te Kooti's pardon in 1883 he took to the road promoting the Ringatu faith. In December 1885 he and his followers - around 200, camped at Te Haroto, then arrived at Petane where they stayed a few days, then left, crossing the Mohaka and passing the pa which had been a scene of some of his former atrocities. One year later another visit was viewed with caution by authorities as he and his followers passed through Napier, Clive, Middle Road to Patangata, Waipawa and Waipukurau, on their way to Porangahua for Christmas, returning north in early January. On January 12 in keeping with the Ringatu faith they observed their Sabbath. That same evening a sharp earthquake struck Napier. The following morning the legendary figure made his exit from Heretaunga.

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB

ARE YOU FIT ENOUGH TO TRAMP? Even the easiest of club trips require a reasonable degree of fitness, and from time to time tramps have been seriously delayed by unfit party members. While individuals may have varying degrees of basic fitness it is unlikely that a person who has a sedentary job, or who plays no sport, will manage an average B Party trip. The best preparation for tramping is tramping and there are hilly places in Napier and close to Hastings which make excellent training areas. For example, a walk from the cattle stop car park in Te Mata Park to the top of the peak, via the big redwoods, and back to the cattlestop via the road-side track with an 8 kg pack should take about 70 minutes. Further, this pace should be able to be maintained for 5 to 6 hours.

TRIP GRADINGS: **EASY:** 4-6 hours tramping - suitable for beginners.
 MEDIUM: 6 - 8 hours tramping - suitable for those with some experience.
 HARD: 7 hours + Tramping - experience & a high level of fitness necessary.

Unless otherwise specified an "A" trip would have a "HARD" grading and a "B" trip a "MEDIUM" grading.

GEAR LIST FOR DAY & WEEKEND TRAMPS		
	DAY TRIPS	WEEKEND TRIPS
<u>Wear/Carry</u>	<u>Carry</u>	<u>All items listed for day trip plus</u>
Pack & pack liner	Map & Compass	Sleeping bag
Boots & gaiters	High energy snacks	Sleeping mat
Socks	At least 1 litre water	Food for 3 additional meals
Parka & over trousers	Lunch	Cooker & Billy & matches
fast drying shorts	First aid kit	Extra snacks
Fleece or wool jumper	Torch, spare batteries & bulb	Toilet gear, small towel & toilet paper
Longjohns & singlet	Sunscreen	Additional warm clothes
Sunhat & warm hat	Emergency food	Plate, mug, knife, fork, spoons etc
Gloves/mittens & overmitts	Survival kit (whistle, cord, matches etc, pencil, paper)	
Whistle	Complete set of spare warm clothing	

Leave at truck: Complete set of clothing for the return trip.

TRIP LIST

Although the area for the trip is generally adhered to the suggested objectives may change for a number of reasons. For pre trip inquiries contact the leader or David Heaps 8750088

30 April: Guthrie Smith Outdoor Centre / Tutira Regional Park **\$10** **Map: V20**
 Training half-day using the ropes confidence course at the Outdoor education camp beside Lake Tutira, Tutira walkway or walks with in the Tutira Regional Park finishing off with a BBQ tea by the lake.
Leaders: The Training Committee **Driver: P Berry**

6 May: Joint Club Pinus Contorta Working Bee
 The Napier Tramping Club and the Heretaunga Tramping Club will be assisting our local DOC to eradicate this pest from one area of our Forest Parks.
Volunteers required for organizer and driver.

13 & 14 May Western Ruahine Range. **\$15** **Map U22**
Party A: In from Renfrew Road and climb to Rangiwahia Hut across to the Whanahuia Range and down to Triangle Hut, Irongate Hut up the ridge to GR 14071, along to Pohangina Saddle and out to Kashmir Road.
Party B: In from Renfrew Road and climb to Rangiwahia Hut across to the Whanahuia Range and down to Triangle Hut, for the night. Sunday, along to Irongate Hut and out to the road end via Hermitage Hut.
Leaders: A: Eddie Holmes 8446032 B: Susan Lopdell : 8446697 **Drivers: E Holmes & ?**

27 & 28 May: Kapiti Island Trip **\$55 + accomodation** **Map R26**
 The trip to Kapiti Island leaves Paraparaumu Beach at 9 o'clock on the Saturday so will probably have to travel down on the Friday night. The party will walk the Manawatu Gorge Track from West to East on the Sunday.
Leader: Volunteer required **Driver: G Clibborn**
Local Day Trip 28 May: Manawatu Gorge Track and Klein Track **Map T24**
 This is an easy trip that crosses the Manawatu Gorge high above the road through a narrow band of lush bush. We will travel from East to West and join with the Kapiti Island party for lunch.
Leader: Glenda Hooper 8774183

3-5 June Queens Birthday: Kaimanawa Forest Park. **\$20** **Maps T19&U19**
A Party: Start at the Kiko Road end (off the Desert Road) and tramp into Cascade Hut for the night. From Cascade continue on to Boyds Hut for the second night. The final day to walk out to Poronui via Oamaru Hut.
B Party: Tramp from the Kiko Road end to Ngapuketurua to camp nearby at a lovely campsite by the stream. Travel from here south through to Waipakihi Hut on the second day, staying the night at the hut. On the final day go out to Kaimanawa Road via the track along the Umukarikari Range.
Volunteers required for leaders and driver.

11 June: Yeomans Mill and on Central Ruahine Range: \$10 Map:U22&U21
Party A: Travel up the Gold Creek ridge track and on to Patiki. Travel along the tops for awhile then head back down to the Makaroro River via the Sparrowhawk Range. Return down river.
Party B: From Yeomans Mill go up the track past Craigs Hut and on to Parkes Peak Hut.
Note: An EASY trip doing Yeoman's Track is available provided a viable party can be formed.
Volunteers required for leaders and driver.

24&25 June: Middle Hill and on Northern Kaweka Range. \$10 Map:U20
Party A: In to Middle Hill from Pinks Hut then on to Whetu, Tira Lodge and Mangatarutu for the night. Return route is via Makino Bivvy and down to road.
Party B: In to Middle Hill then up to Ballards Hut via Camp Spur staying the night at the hut. Return back to the Hot Springs Road either via Ihaka Spur or Makino.
Leaders: A: Volunteer required B: Leo Brunton 8447228 Driver: volunteer required
Local Day Trip 25 June: Blowhard Bush & the Lizard, Napier - Taihape Road - (EASY grade) **Map:U20**
Leader: Volunteer required

9 July: Ruahine Hut & on ... Northern Ruahine Range. \$10 Map: U21
Combined Parties: Drive in to Broom Hut (and up the hill if possible) and go to Ruahine Hut. Walk the track to the Waitutu Stream then travel downstream to the 35 m waterfall. Climb out onto the 4 wheel drive track and return.
Leader: David Harrington 8449059 Driver G Clibborn

22&23 July: (Travel Friday night to Holdsworth) Mt Holdsworth Tararua Forest Park \$20 Map: S26
Party A: Travel from Holdsworth up to Jumbo and on to shingle knob (old aeroplane crash site) and return.
Party B: Tramp from the Holdsworth Camp ground up to the new Powell Hut for the night. Ascend Mt Holdsworth either that afternoon or the next morning before returning back to the car park.
Note: Those wanting to do EASY grade trips can camp at the truck and do day trips from there.
Leaders: A: David Harrington 8449059 B: Geoff Clibborn 8446039 Driver: G Clibborn
Local Day Trip 23 July: West Tamaki Area: Visit Stanfield Hut and the Rokaiwhana Stream. Leader: ? Map: U23

6 August: Sunrise Hut and on Central Ruahine Range . \$10 Map:U22
Party A: Up the track from Triplex Hut to Sunrise Hut then on to Armstrong Saddle, round 66 and on to the Waipawa Saddle. Return to the road down the Waipawa River.
Party B: As for the A party until Armstrong Saddle then cut down into the north branch of the Waipawa River via shingle slide and return to road down the river.
Leaders: A Peter Pryor 8765666 B: Chris Waldron 8750034 Driver: Volunteer required
Note: An EASY trip to Sunrise Hut and back is available provided a viable party can be formed.

19&20 August Ruapehu Snowcraft trip \$? Maps: S20 & T20
If snow conditions are good travel to Mt Ruapehu to climb up to the crater or walk on the lower tracks staying at one of the Ski Lodges for the nights. Come and upskill - a very popular instructive and social weekend.
Leaders: Driver: G Clibborn
Local Day Trip 20 Aug: Lawrence Hut to LOTKOW Map: U20
Over the swingbridge from Lawrence Hut and up to where Lotkow hut was & back. **Leader: Glenda Hooper 8774183**

3 Sept: Mountain Bike Yeomans Track Wakarara area \$10 Map: U21
A chance to utilize some other muscles and to have a social trip. .. **Leader: A Peter Pryor 8765666**

16&17 Sept: Pureora Forest Park (West of Lake Taupo) \$20 Map: T18
Party A: A crossing of the Forest Park from east to West **Party B:** Two day trips from the truck. (See next Pohokura)

OVERDUE TRAMPERS

Although returning parties plan to be out of the bush before dark, safety considerations must come first. This may mean that parties are late returning to transport. 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 might worry about them is informed of 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. All newcomers should ensure that their own emergency number is noted in the party list that the leader leaves in town. For all inquiries about overdue trampers please ring one of the following:

Eddie Holmes 8446032

Jim Glass 8778748

Glenda Hooper 8774183

Cancellations: If you can not make a trip please contact the leader BEFOREHAND so as to avoid unnecessary delays for the rest of the party.

Club Meetings: These are held every second Wednesday (the one before a tramp) at the Hastings Harrier Clubrooms in Sylvan Road, Hastings. Doors open 7.25 PM, visitors are welcome.