

P.O. BOX 14086 MAYFAIR, HASTINGS

"POHOKURA"

Bulletin No 206

DECEMBER 2000

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- ◆ Truck: Geoff Clibborn, David Heaps
- ◆ Fixtures: Chris Waldron, Susan Lopdell, Rodger Burn, Ali Hollington, John Montgomerie, David Heaps, Glenda Hooper, Gail Harvey
- ◆ Huts: David Heaps, Geoff Clibborn
- ◆ Training: Ali Hollington, Gail Harvey, David Heaps, Peter Pryor, Andrew Taylor
- ◆ SAR: David Heaps, Eddie Holmes, John Montgomerie
- ◆ Meetings: Peggy Gulliver, Glenda Hooper
- ◆ Social: Mr Lyn Gentry, Peter Berry, Gloria Abraham, Lex Smith
- ◆ Family Tramps: Glenda Hooper & Sue Holmes
- ◆ Scrap Book: Jim Glass
- ◆ Supper: Jenne Lean
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- ◆ Album: Shirley Bathgate
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- ◆ Gear Hire: Dorothy Dallimore (877 7778), Climbing gear Ed Holmes (844 6032)
- ◆ Sales Rep: Robyn Madden

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)

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am very proud to be a member of the HTC. You are a great group of supportive, generous and skilled people, all with a passion to explore and preserve our beloved back country regions. These qualities make us the strong club that we are.

Over recent years I have attended several meetings in other regions and although they were clubs of much larger membership, meeting attendance appeared not as high as ours. This year an average of 40 people have been present – thanks for this support and to Sandy for organising interesting speakers covering a variety of topics. We've had many globe trotting members and their tales are always received with great interest – and envy. We regularly host guests and this year we have welcomed 9 new members.

Our major project and outlay this year has been to replace the ailing stoves at 2 of our club huts – Howletts and Waikamaka. This work has recently been completed thanks to the tremendous efforts and dedication of our builders Eddie Holmes and Dave Heaps. I have watched these craftsmen with awe and resigned myself to being tea lady or rock bearer!

Now Geoff has just loved ensuring that the new truck has kept 'purring' along – almost as much as his passion for being behind the wheel!! Thanks to you and all the drivers for your commitment to ferrying us near and far – this year from Mt Richmond Forest Park to the Kaimai Ranges.

Peter and his fixtures team have worked hard to provide trips offering a variety of level and area. Participation in trips has also been varied.

Shirley's 'stirring' efforts have kept us well informed on conservation matters and Peggy's 'draconian' task of extracting trip reports has ensured our magazine of reading material, which Mike has collated and compiled.

My hearty thanks to all the committee for their support, especially Mike Lusk, Dave and Gloria. To those members standing down, Sandy, Peter, John and Mike, your input and contribution to the club has been highly valued. John has served for 7 years and Mike Malone has been our editor for 4 years.

Again, thanks to you, we are in good heart and cheer.

Anne Cantrick

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Well, another year is almost down the gurgler. Trips this year included the Richmond Ranges in the South Island to the Kaimais in the North and Kapiti, Ruahine, Kaweka and Pureora in between.

Trip attendance have been good in general throughout the year, with only 2 or 3 trips cancelled, maybe due to lack of interest or no leader.

If you are capable of being a leader but don't feel confident enough, then we will arrange for you to co-lead with others, to gain experience and confidence. Essentially, everyone in a team has something to contribute to the team's welfare. Therefore decisions should be made for the

team by the team and not left entirely up to the leader. So then leading is not about being the boss, but about being a guide.

As always we need people's continued input for trip ideas. It is always left to 3 or 5 people on the fixtures committee to collate ideas and this is not easy. If you do put ideas forward and they are not on the next list, it does not mean they have been thrown out. They may be put in future lists.

I'd like to thank Geoff Clibborn especially for all the driving he has done and all the little innovations and repairs to the truck to keep it the safe asset that it is.

Thanks also to this year's committee.

Anyway, that's enough drivel from me.

Go hard with your tramping for 2001 and enjoy our beautiful back country.

David Heaps

TRUCK COMMITTEE REPORT

The truck had now covered 15000km and is running extremely well. The extra power reduces travel times on longer trips, increased passenger comfort, and makes driving a pleasure.

The cost of diesel fuel has doubled in the last year, so that when road User Charges are included, the cost per kilometre is about 22 cents for those 2 items alone.

Added to this is the cost of depreciation, insurance, tyres, oil and filter changes, regular servicing, other minor maintenance items, and twice-yearly Certificate of Fitness checks at \$55 a time.

To cover the increased costs we need to actively promote trips and encourage as many people as possible to take part, if we are to avoid raising the truck fares.

Geoff Clibborn

HUT REPORT

This year the club has bought new stoves and sundry items for both Waikamaka and Howletts huts. Waikamaka had its stove flown in by Palmerston North DoC from Kawhata Base on the western side of the Ruahines, Eddie and myself did the work needed which was swapping old for new, bolting the new stove to the concrete hearth and installing a new flue kit.

Other jobs included blocking up rat holes, fixing the door sill, where some clot had cut out part of the sill so the floor could be swept out and the vermin let in. The craftsmen filled in the hole and put a wooden ramp against the sill to enable the floor to be swept out and the vermin kept out. Rat poison was also laid around the hut.

Jobs still to be done are: painting the roof and cleaning interior walls and ceiling with sugar soap.

Howlett's stove has also been replaced by myself and Eddie, with the help of other club members on a recent club trip. The hearth had to be made bigger so a new one was made flush with the floor. The stove had to be bolted down to this. The flue was extended 600mm above the roof apex, and the heat shield behind the stove had to be replaced, all of this was for compliance of council bylaws that now cover our club huts.

Jobs to be done on Howletts are: painting the little window over the loft, interior walls cleaned and astrolite sheets in the roof need replacing. These will be done soon.

Kiwi Saddle Hut needs the trees around it trimmed back, a new axe and broom,, interior walls and ceiling cleaned, a new dumpster hole dug and rat poison laid.

Kaweka Hut needs mattresses, the bunks repairing and a new axe and broom. But as it gets a thrashing from people we won't be hasty in doing these jobs.

Apart from that both Kiwi Saddle and Kaweka Huts are in good condition.

David Heaps

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

It has been an interesting year with many environmental issues.

The following submission were sent to politicians, timber millers, DoC and others regarding concerns around environment, flora/fauna and eco systems:

- ◆ Ferrets: the prohibition of keeping ferrets as pets.
- ◆ Sale of Pohukura block by timber mill manager. Eventually bought by member of Forest & Bird and put into National Heritage Fund.
- ◆ Usual concerns re sale of Crown Lands to foreigners (for luxury lodges etc).
- ◆ Progression Reports on our Mainland Island Project- Boundary Stream. Reduction of deer, Stoads, rats, feral cats etc. Notable increase of native birds etc. Thanks to Ken Hunt (DoC) and all assistants.
- ◆ Request to DoC to monitor increase of motor cycle tracks in area around Nomans Hut of Ruahine Ranges.
- ◆ Tributes paid to Helen Clarke, Sandra Lee, Minister of Lands etc. re end to most West Coast logging.
- ◆ To Mr McFarlane of DoC Wellington re input to ban excessive use of tourist helicopters over Darran/Pembroke Wilderness areas, Fiordland National Park. These are now banned for the winter when only a limited number of hunters & alpinists are taken in.
- ◆ Letters to all involved re proposed gondola system to be built over the fragile unique Caples & Greenstone Valleys which are in the Fiordland National Park.

My thanks to Glenda Hooper, Mike Lusk and Peter Berry without whose input and suggestions I could not have managed these submissions.

Shirley Bathgate



Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

A full truck load was greeted to a cool and damp morning as we travelled southwards to North Block Road. As we travelled along, the weather conditions started to change for the better with clearing skies. On reaching North Block Road comments from the truck cab, "we can see white stuff on Pete's hi-point" were comments from the Party B leader.

At approx. 7.50 all parties were ready to go upwards to the Sunrise in still but clearing conditions. No matter how many times I travel up the Sunrise Track, I believe this area is the most picturesque place in the North Island.

On arriving at the Sunrise, both parties were greeted by conditions you can only describe as bloody great. Party A set off to the summit with great views of MT Ruapehu and the shrouding ranges with a coating of fresh snow from some days before hand. We reached the drop off point from which party B would start their descent; we decided to have an early lunch before the climb to 66.

After lunch, we started our travel plans through the Leatherwood Belt without too much problem, and at approx. 1500 meters we hit soft snow conditions and views which where only getting better and better as we climbed towards our goal.

On reaching the first high point we stopped for photos and Ann to catch up and what a view, you could see for bloody miles We continued onwards to 66 with photos and Ann had her second wind by now. Snow conditions on the very top section can only be described as very icy and as we started to descend, out came the ice axes to cut steps. If we had not been carrying ice axes we would not have been able to travel downwards and so would have to return to Sunrise.

David and Ann both carried crampons, which in hindsight we all should have had, took the lead in front, and we slowly made our way down travelling about 300 meters in one hour until we reached the lower saddle. After a short break we continued our way down to the Waipawa saddle, at which David and I checked out the damaged section of track to Waikamaka From here we continued our way down the Waipawa River to join the North Branch lookout for signs of Party B. We found some footprints and continued travelling to be greeted by Chris and the truck party at the riverside. All in all a great tramp thanks to all: David Heaps, Anne Cantrick, Sandy Claudatos, Lew Harrison, Jonathan and Peter Pryor.

A small group of eight left Pernel on Friday evening and picked up Tina in Taupo and moved on to the Waihohonu Track carpark just off the Desert Road, arriving about 11pm.

The weather on Sat morning was about what the forecast said, mediocre (!) – a light shower started us off from the truck after 8am. Our driver Alan Petersen came with us, leaving Pam Turner to stay with the truck. The next trick was to get the truck to the other side of the mountain, to the Mangotepopo road end. This was achieved by David Heaps, who was returning home from holiday in Auckland in driving the truck to Mangatepopo road end for us, followed by Leonie in their car. This was much appreciated, thank you.

About half of the group went on to the new Waihohonu hut, the rest looked at the Ohinepango Springs, where cubic metres of water per second appear into a big pond which then feeds the stream- quite amazing to see. We all had an early lunch at the new Waihohonu hut and moved on north around the base of Mt Tongariro to Oturere Hut. I have never seen the alpine shrubs so colourful, the yellows and reds were especially just brilliant. I think we

arrived at the hut about 3.30pm and had planned to do some snow craft, but the nearest snow was just under the central crater. So we settled into the hut, and most went for a wander about up towards the main mountain and returned about 5pm, then most beginning then to prepare their meal. The gas heater had a sign saying it was not operating and after some time and fruitless attempts, we agreed with the sign and spent all night breathing 'dragons breath', it was so cold.

Two climbers from Auckland came in for the night, and some interesting conversations developed after dinner. One of them had a mini oven and cooked a perfect cake which was shared among the now 10 of us.

Next morning before day light I awoke to hear the wind roaring around the hut, but just on daylight I had a look out the door and most of Tongariro was clear, and by about 8 am, as we left, the day did not look too bad.

About 9.30 we were at the Emerald Lakes and still calm and clear skies, and by now snow everywhere, which was what we wanted, but despite being early, it was quite soft. I decided to head across the central crater and climbed up onto the wall, separating it from the South Crater. Just as we started the climb from the Crater, we got 'whited out'.

On getting to the top, a short side trip to the summit of Tongariro was contemplated but due to the weather I headed east to the Red Crater summit and then descended down the route into the South Crater (Tongariro). We had lunch on the way just when the clag lifted, and proceeded to the west end of the South Crater and had a stop.

Ice axe and crampon training was left as the snow was all so soft. Instead we stacked our packs up against a large rock and heaped snow on them (with 3 snow shovels), then dragged the packs out and shaped the inside, and then by the same method added a tunnel entrance and had a two person emergency shelter in about 20 minutes. Snowballs a metre in diameter were rolled, a snow person made and some tobogganing attempted.

We left at 3 pm to be back at the Mangatepopo road end at 4.30pm where we were welcomed by Pam Turner, who had tea coffee or soup ready and fruit cake, what a great surprise. Back to Taupo and a quick takeaway meal, and back to Pernel about 8pm. Thanks to everyone for a great trip.

John Montgomerie

Party: Peter and Jonathan Prior, Gregg Munn, Anne Cantrick, Alan Petersen, Andy Fowler, Tina Godbert, Pam Turner, John Montgomerie

Lawrence to Lotkow	Trip 1762	20 August 2000
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After the cancellation of a few people who did not want a day out tramping in the rain there were 7 of us remaining and we left Pernel at the very respectable hour of 7:30 AM on a drizzly-overcast morning. The weather forecast was for easterlies with rain and, as often happens with such conditions, it was considerably finer inland. We parked the cars at the top of the steep track down to Lawrence Hut and started walking around ¼ to 9. The track initially was well maintained and at one point Mike had spotted some miniature ground orchids. The easy going remained we got to the last stretch when one travels up the tributary of Cable Creek that flows down from the end of Lotkow Road. This stretch of the track is rather overgrown, mainly by cutty grass, and made travel a lot slower. However, we arrived at the end of Lotkow Road just on lunchtime and settled down on a clay clearing to devour our food.

Stomachs refuelled, we walked the two minutes out to where Lotkow Hut used to be (it was burned down several years ago) and found it to now be a lovely area where one could have lunch. A grassy clearing, Barbecue and picnic table and plenty of sunshine. After this it was time to head back and Mike and Denise went on ahead as Denise had a 4 o'clock appointment in Napier. The return trip seemed a lot faster and as we climbed up towards Cable Creek we found Mike returning for us (well Ros anyhow) having escorted Denise as far as the stream crossing. We were all back at the cars by 2:30 and had a cup of tea while we considered how to break into a ute that had left it lights on. The ute belonged to one of the people we had passed going the other way on the last stretch out. After awhile Bob showed us his rather dubious talents and had the door open and lights off. Sue then left a note in the ute for the owner who she knew from Puketapu. We were then on the road and headed for home having enjoyed a good days exercise and never having to put on a raincoat all day.

GH:

Party: Glenda Hooper, Sue Holmes, Mike & Ros Lusk, Denise McBride Ken Nugent and Bob Carter.

Waikamaka Track Working Bee	Trip 1763	10 Sep 2000
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The forecast for HB was for NW winds and 18 degrees, and while it was cool as we girded our loins and armed ourselves at the end of Nth Block Rd, it was sunny and pleasant walking up the river bed. We crossed the river a few times, and admired the pretty white flowers of Ourisias on our way to the first break below Waipawa Chalet.

The entrance of the track is marked with new large orange triangles, and there is a matching pair upstream on the true left bank where the track down from the Sunrise Track emerges, but the geography means, unfortunately, that one set is not visible from the other. The stream itself has cut deeply into the aggraded bed, and the track up the true left bank above the forks is largely gone, although travel remains mostly easy. There was swirling cloud about the top of 66, and intermittent cold rain started, soon followed by some hail and marked lowering of the temperature.

Two of the party elected to head back down, but the rest pressed on, most reaching the saddle where the temperature dropped even further with full exposure to the gale. Dave and Eddie, who had gone in the day before to install a new flue at the hut, met us there, and after driving a couple of waratahs at a dangerous point to the track down the west side, all dropped back off the saddle, and came down, trimming intruding shrubbery as they came. Even some Spaniards bit the dust (I wasn't lumping a pick in for nothing!). We lunched in the shelter of one of the small patches of beech, and those with vacuum flasks rejoiced in their foresight. It became gradually warmer as we lost height but some people were still in parkas when we arrived back at the truck, where we met those who had come down the Sunrise Track.

The weather notwithstanding, it was a good day, and the track is much clearer, but very scoured out in many places.

Thanks to Phillip for more of his apples, and to Geoff who not only drove with his usual care and competence but found my lost car keys which had somehow found their way into the keyhole without me being aware of it.

It had been 22 degrees in Hastings.

Mike Lusk

Party: Dave Heaps, Eddie Holmes, Bob Carter, Lex Smith, Anne Cantrick, Bobbie Couchman, Andrew Taylor, Chris Waldron, Ken Nugent, Greg Mumn, Jim Hewes, Peter Berry, Geoff Clibborn, Gail Harvey, Mike Lusk

Pureora Forest

Trip 1764

16/17 Sep 2000

Party A

A full truck left on Friday night bound for the DoC camping ground on Kakaho Road off SH 32, west of Lake Taupo. A keen frost coated the tents of those who camped, and about half slept in the truck. Four members had arrived in private cars and swelled the numbers to 26.

All aboard just after 8am and up the road to the start of the trip at the Mt Pureora Trig Track, the A-team comprising of 13 people.

Pureora 'Hill' is a low angle "cone" with a clear area at the top for good views – we stopped for just that and photos and a snack before dropping down to Bog Inn hut for lunch. It was a nice sunny spot, the day being clear and fine. Bog Inn hut is very old, the walls made from milled vertical slabs and the frame is mostly from branches ripped into 2" (50 mm) timber still showing the outside profile of the branch cut from.

The track from here went across the bog (why it couldn't go around it is a leading question) and carried on to the south following a ridge and eventually to Weraroa Trig where views across to Lake Taupo were good, and then west down to the plateau and our campsite for the night at about 4.30pm.

Tents were pitched and a fire started in the stove ring fireplace created a friendly atmosphere. Most meals were over by 7.30 or so but due to wet wood the fire did not really come to full life until about 8 pm, so a few of us kept it company till around 9 pm.

Sunday dawned clear and cool and with enough embers left, David Heaps got the fire going again. Soon after our start for the day the track junction down the Waihora Stream turned off, which goes out to the Western Bay Road. Our route was south following a low ridge down to the Waihaha hut site. This part of the trip confirmed the reports I had heard (I had not been here before) that spoke of magnificent podocarps Rimu, Matai, Totara and Rata; one Rata was enormous. There were dozens of large trees, a pleasure to see (the tree sitters of the seventies may have saved them from the saw). Waihaha hut site was our lunch stop just after 12.30 and there we found some members of the truck party who had come up the Waihaha River Track, the same way we were to go out. From here we were mainly in the open and so some suffered with some sunburn by the time we were out. About midway out to the road the river has an unusual waterfall which goes over a V-shaped formation with unusual shaped scalloped edges and round pools above that were formed, I would think, by a smooth rock going round and round by the water current many years ago.

The weekend weather was fine so that made it a plus as it always does, and there was only one incident, Bob's boot let go at the front; a sock over the whole boot did the trick, but I think it ended up a 2 socks down trip for Bob!

A great trip in a new area for me and good company from the group.

John Montgomery

Party: Bob Carter, Ken Nugent, Sandy Claudatos, Gerald Blackburn, Chris Waldron, Alan Petersen, David Heaps, Tina Godbert, Andrew Fowler, Gail Harvey, Anne Cantrick, David Cormack, John Montgomery

Party B

The aim of the weekend was to view as much of the Park as we could. I had a merry band of followers with both extremes in the range of tramping fitness. After farewelling the other group on Sat 8.30am., we then wandered along the Totara Walk, viewed the largest recorded Totara Tree in NZ – the Poukani Totara, clambered up a twelve meter viewing platform at Bismarck Rd, visited the grand township of Bennydale as our car driver suddenly realised he was short on fuel! In the afternoon we ascended Mt Pureora (1165 metres), initially in podocarp forest of Kamahi, Quintinia and Hall's Totara to the open sedge and moss field at the summit. Very breezy at the top with grand views over the forest park.

We stayed at the Kakaho campsite Sat night where we were joined by a large group of young people, with a sound system, whose bass was heard till the early hours of Sunday morning. Prior to feeding ourselves we followed the Kakaho stream through dense rimu forest to a swimming hole, before climbing to a viewing platform, then looping back to the campsite.

Sunday am we travelled along to the Waihora Lagoon which is surrounded by tall Rimu and Kahikatea, one of the beautiful spots in the park. Unfortunately due to the high rainfall we could not walk around the lagoon. At 9.30am we stopped at the carpark on SH32 at the Waihaha Bridge. Due to the vast range of fitness levels, everyone walked some of the Waihaha Track. A group of 4 sped off, determined to reach the site of the Waihaha Hut (which burnt down in Feb this year) to meet the A party for lunch. Initially through scrub to the Hebes, Ericas, Pittosporums, Tanekaha, to the podocarps near the hut site.

On the return journey we stopped and viewed the Waihaha river coursing through limestone rapids and a very attractive small gorge where the river disappears underground.

Back at the truck everyone enjoyed Pam's hot drinks and baking. A superb weekend with great scenery, good company and good weather.

Sue Lopdell

Sue's Merry Band: Pam Turner, Robyn Madden, Shirley Bathgate, Judy McBride, Lex & Anne Smith, John Berry, Peggy Gulliver, Barbara Taylor, Susan Fraser, Geoff Clibborn, Sue Lopdell

Tangoia	Trip 1765	17 September 2000
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On a perfect day a group of us set out for Tangoia for a Sunday stroll. It was such a beautiful day that it seemed as if most of Hawkes Bay was out and about. Peter, Glenda and Sue brought their kids along and so with Otis the dog we were quite a family.

From Tangoia Beach we made our way along the cliff path to Sting Ray Beach where we stopped for lunch. The sun, sea and air made us lazy and most of us stayed here snoozing the afternoon away in the sun. However, three of us continued along the badly eroded track to reach McKay Beach where we walked to the far end enjoying the golden stretch of sand. Returning to the lazy group we sat for a while watching a blue heron. Then we made our way back to our cars.

What a great beautiful day.

NB Because the farmer was reluctant to let us cross his land to Red Island, we had changed our trip plans.

Party: Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, Peter, Daniel, Donna and Natalie Berrie, Sue Holmes, Claire and Glen Holmes, Chrisine Hardie, Alva Mcadam, *Bobby Couchman*

Tamaki West	Trip 1766	1 October 2000
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Five of us, plus Dash, set out on a day that was to bring us a little bit of everything. There was no-one among us with an HT license. So it was private cars that transported us from Hastings, where we left what looked like a good day, travelling south into the rain, but as we arrived at the road end, the day was fine, although mist clung to the top of the Ruahine Ranges.

We had 3 choices at the start of the trip, and we opted for the 4WD track over farmland, where we caught glimpses of the landscape below, before we descended into bush. The track was well worn by cattle, making it rather muddy in places. The track brought us out on the West Branch Tamaki River, where we headed upstream to Stanfield Hut. There was quite a bit of debris in the river, obviously left behind from recent high waters.

We stopped at the hut for morning tea, before setting off uphill, climbing 600 metres up a track that was overgrown in places, but provided us with small glimpses of the scenery below. As we hit the top amongst leatherwood as tall as us, we were greeted with strong north-westerlies and rain. For once we were grateful for the shelter that the leatherwood offered us. The views were blankets of white mist as the track along the top joined the 4WD track that can be reached from Takapari Road, off Pohangina Valley East Road. By now the wind and rain had truly set in, with temperatures dropping. On our 3km (approx) walk to Travers Hut (A frame), we passed pockets of snow, and got totally and absolutely saturated. The protection from the elements of the hut cheered everyone up, as we tucked into our lunches.

A change into warm clothing and extra layers, we headed outdoors again, this time descending close to 800 metres along a very wet, muddy track which at this time appeared to be a small stream. Part way down, we lost the track; we all pondered on our choices from here. Taking the option of the bush bashing downhill, we soon found ourselves back on the track and made a steady descent to the picnic area at the bottom.

There was no official leader for the trip, instead it was a team effort. We all enjoyed the day, although we all probably hit varying moments of despair.

Sally Hobson

The team: Chris Bennett, Bobby Couchman, Jim Hewes, , Greg Munn (+Dash), Sally Hobson

Rangitaiki Frost Flat Area	Trip 1767	15 October 2000
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There was a fabulous sunrise at 6am on Sunday morning for those early birds lucky enough to see it. So inspired was Sue Holmes by the Apricot colour over Cape Kidnappers as she drove over Puketap Hill that she left her boots in her truck! Luckily Glenda's two size bigger ones and an extra pair of thick socks did the trick. So we drove up the Taupo road for an hour and abit and got out somewhere and started walking up this rough track. After about a mile the track became submerged in thick gorse and then we bush bashed up Orangikino which took about two and a half hours from the road. We were in thickish bush all the time

except as we approached the top and it turned to low scrub. We decided on an early lunch as 11am and chose a nice sheltered spot with good views back over towards the Taupo road and the Rangitaiki Plains.

From the top we could see the truck parked below on the Plains and we headed back there in a round about route via another knob to our left and a bit of virgin bush and over a saddle and down to a flat track back to the bus, arriving about 4pm. (The original route was to follow the stream back to the Taupo road but it was decided that there were not enough daylight hours for that).

I can't remember seeing much wild life but there was a little 5 meter circle of open gravel in the middle of thick bush that had lots of footprints and must have been the local deer's meeting place. We did see lots of lawyer, onga onga and lots of bright yellow gorse in bloom. Thanks to Pete and Sue for their navigational skills and to Sue for carrying all the emergency gear in her big pack that got frequently entwined in all the vines and a big Thank you for Peter Berry for his singing (and driving the truck).

Party: Gail Harvey, Bobby Couchman, Andrew Taylor, Wally (Andrews mate), Dave McCormack, Sue Holmes, Peter Prior, Johnathon Prior, Greg Mumm, Ali Hollington

Shortly after dropping the A party off on the side of SH 5 we passed Matea Road and took a left turn onto a 4 wheel drive track. We firstly drove through the blackened remains of a recent fire that had burnt an area of scrub land adjacent to the highway. After about 300 metres we were out of the fire area and into the monoa area. This is the northern part of the 7500 hectare Rangitaiki Conservation Area and is the flat area on the left where you hit the Rangitaiki plains as you head towards Taupo. The forest in this area was destroyed by one of the Taupo eruptions and heavy frosts in this area make for very slow regeneration so the vegetation is predominantly low tussock/monoa vegetation and, unfortunately, scattered *Pinus contorta*. What makes this country particularly good for tramping is that there is hardly a contour in sight.

We parked the truck about 4 kilometers from the Taupo Road and started off, initially following the track, and then headed due west cross country through the shrubs towards what was depicted as swamp land on the map. The variety of plant life in what from afar seemed like a brown landscape was amazing with lots of different hebes, lichens, tussock and monoa, all in various shades of white or green and all mainly less than knee high. Consequently the going was easy and within an hour or so the vegetation changed colour to green with ladder fern being very obvious and we soon were at the edge of quite a sizable lake. Ducks and Paradise Ducks were abundant and we also saw a pair of Canadian Geese sitting on a nest. There were quite a few maimai in the area so this obviously is well used during duck shooting.

From the lake we headed southwards towards the Rangitaiki River and had lunch on the way. We had hoped to follow the river back to the 4 wheel drive track but water erodes pumice country rapidly and small streams cut out impassable gorges to block our way along the river. Instead we back tracked a bit until we could cross and then sort of followed the river bank, which was quite high above the river, and trout spotted. At least one trout was spied.

Once back on the 4 wheel drive track we quickly returned to the truck, arriving about 3 o'clock where upon the men promptly hopped in the back and went to sleep. Marion & I explored around the truck some more until the A party turned up about an hour later.

GH

Party: Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, Marion Nicholson, Ken Nugent and Mike Malone.

Kaimai

Trip 1768

Labour weekend 20-23 October 2000

Party A

A group of six departed from Napier on the Thursday evening and after a brief stop at Taupo we arrived at the Goodwin Road Carpark about 11.30pm.

Anne and I took our full kit and with the others we started off at 7.30am and walked up to view the Wairere Falls. We farewelled the other four and headed up the track to the top of the falls, and from a platform one could look down the falls.

My original idea (which Anne may have regretted agreeing to!) was to pick up the old north-south track which has been disused for 12 years. I was given an indication from DoC as to where the track started and after 10 minutes of reconnaissance I found the old track markers and traced it down to the creek.

After picking up our packs we followed the track north. It was in good shape and a fast pace was possible. At the start of the main ridge, the first of the two unknown huts, Puketutu Hut (I had been given grid references by DoC), was found and a short stop enjoyed.

Not far past here the track became almost totally overgrown and in places non-existent, especially beyond the line of the Kaimai railway tunnel which is marked by a survey post on the ridge.

From about here we were entering the bogs which I had been told about. The range top up here is almost flat, about 3 km long and in places ½km wide. This was very slow going indeed. Some bogs were like porridge; Anne went into one and could hardly pull her leg out!

I had a grid reference for the second unknown hut up on these tops, but since it was starting to become dark, the land was flat and the track (such as it was) was not marked on the map, we could not easily identify the expected position of the hut, although before it got too dark we did explore a possible route that ran out.

From thereon I was looking out for a place to spend the night and got the only spot the size of my tent fly in the driest bog around. I went off and found 2 litres of water from small puddles that I had noticed on the track about 500 metres back, this was very brown coloured and had grit in it too, tasted ok with the soup, and with a cup of milo the colour did not show up! We were too b... to prepare a meal in the dark so had soup, milo and a pot of yoghurt each that I had carefully carried in, and just enough water for next morning.

During the still night you could hear trains thundering across the Waikato, then the noise would go for a minute or so and then appear on the coast side as it came out of the Kaimai tunnel.

Next day. We talked about going back to try to find the hut but knew we had a big day ahead of us so left the idea. The first creek we came to nearly got drained, what a good feeling having all the water we needed. We met a few people before the Thompson Track junction and had a chat to them. Lunch at Thomsons track crossing about midday, and then onwards past the Mt Eliza turnoff, on to Motutapere Hut, past Queen Victoria Head Rock, across the east west Tuahu Track and at 6.30pm arrived at Te Rere a Tukuhia Hut at exactly the same time as my brother Roger who came in just for the night from Tauranga from the Wharaewhara Road end. I had frozen steak for us which I had carried for 2 days, and Roger brought some more, and fresh potatoes, Christmas pudding and fresh cream, and some port! And ...next morning bacon and eggs too!

Anne and I left about 8am, and farewelled Roger going back to the city. The next 3km were tough going as I had been warned by DoC and took us about 4½hrs. Everything was overgrown, out in the open short vegetation but very clear in bush patches as little light gets in there to cause growth. Arriving at the Cashmores Clearing junction we went down through Cashmores clearing and down the Waitawheta Valley to Waitawheta Hut, but camped out by the river. We could have continued along the main ridge watershed to Mt Te Aroha but our legs were by now just about ripped to shreds by Lawyer, Waterfew and everything else (!) and so descended to Waitawheta.

Next morning, day four, we climbed up towards Mt Te Aroha and via the northeast of Crimson Thread Track and down to where the truck had been left by the B-Party.

It had been a pioneering trip and was tougher than I thought. Day one was 11km in 12 hrs, day two 10km in 10 ½ hrs, day three 11km in 8hrs, day four 8 km in 5 hrs. The weather had been fine and hot and sunny and our parkas did not see a drop of water.

The new north south track goes to the east side of the range and joins the eastern end of Cashmores Clearing and avoids the main range. The old track is considered to be ecologically sensitive in areas.

Thanks Anne for having the courage to join me; but we were both pleased we had gone that way in the end, and thanks Geoff for driving our select crew.

Party: Anne Cantrick, *John Montgomerie*

Party B

There is a story I would like to share with you about 4 people who ventured forth into the Kaimais over Labour Weekend. There was Short Wheelbase, Walk on Water, Unstabel One and Sure Foot. But before they started their epic journey, they accompanied Grandma and Grandpa to the Wairere Falls, where water was seen cascading down a 153 metre face.

From here, it would be another 3 ½ days before they would all see each other again.

The start of their journey, took them to the base of Mt Te Aroha, where the cheekiness and ingenuity of the four, saw four 15kg plus packs being carted to the top. Although they had turned down Grandma when she had begged the group to carry her pack and they had given her a little pep talk on the satisfaction she would get from carrying her pack for the whole walk, there was no feeling that the group had to live up to these standards. After all the saying of "do what I say and not what I do". This left them with the ability to stroll to the top, with the sun at their backs, in reasonably good fashion. And oh, the rewards from the top, with spectacular views across the country. They swung a 360 degrees from the trig, from the puffing White Island, the flat top of Mt Tarawera, to the snow capped Mt Ruapehu, out across the bog of the Hauraki Plains, the mountains of the Coromandel, Mt Maunganui, Tauranga.

From here they spied the path they would take, amongst the dense green bush which sat below them....

The next 3 ½ days took them over a varied landscape, with the tracks requiring varying amounts of skill. These ranged from clambering over fallen trees, which Short Wheelbase had difficulty with at times, to negotiating pools of water and boggy patches. Despite the numerous patches of water logged areas, Walk on Water managed to keep both feet dry and mud free (there were a few close calls mind you). There were streams to cross, which you could either do by rock hopping or decide to take the plunge. Here is the distinct difference

between Unbalanced One and the others, especially Sure Foot. There was also the skill of negotiating clay banks and slippery rocks. Walk on Water although renown for their ability to dodge puddles had more of a problem staying upright in places and was known for their undignified 3 point landings. This was normally followed by raucous laughter. So even if you didn't see the wonderful acrobatics, you knew by the distinct cackle what had happened. One classic time, was when Walk on Water, in a fluid motion threw their pack on, only to find that in the same action found themselves seated upon Mother Earth.

Unbalanced One got had a bit of a set back on day two as they casually walked into a fallen tree, which was perched at head height. It was all Walk on Water's fault though, because they were so focused on skipping all the mud puddles and was advising Unbalanced One of the best places, that Unbalanced One didn't think of looking up. And there was very little sympathy from the rest of the group.

The foursome spent their nights at Waitewheta, Waitengaue and Dalys Huts in reasonable comfort. Becoming familiar with the local inhabitants is all part of the great outdoors, but in this particular instance, provided some amusement. Short Wheelbase and Unbalanced One would have sworn on night one that the place was getting broken into. There was this running and then slam at the doorway, not once, not twice, but at least half a dozen times. It was the local possie trying to break in. Then when everything had quietened down, tiny footprints were heard galloping along what sounded like floorboards. The imagination went wild as the Short Wheelbase and Unbalanced One thought of a kingsize possie running from one end of the hut to the other. This did not disturb Walk on Water as gentle purring was heard from the other end of the hut. The good news was that they all lived to see another day.

But night 2 proved to be even more exciting. When it was time to doss down, Sure Foot thought they would do a bit of stirring, and certainly managed to rile the troops. Conscious of many open holes in the hut, and the prospect of sleeping with scavenging possums, food bags were duly hung from the rafters. But before all was quite, out comes an unexpected guest. More vermin, this time a rat. The screams could be heard afar. So, plan B was to relocate the food bags so that they dangled above the sleeping beauties, and that if a rat or possie should venture forth, then a severe beating they would receive (more to the point though, I think they would have died of fright from the screaming). The group was comforted though, as Short Wheel-base had positioned at the end of the bunk a rather large stick which was intended to cut short any adventuring vermin before they got as far as the food bags.

Their ventures took them through groves of Kauri, Nikau, Rimu and Gorse. They were blessed with kereru and fantails frolicking in the open air about them, cuckoos doing the wild thing in the trees (or leading up to it at least). They stood on top of the Ananui Falls (just a mere 106 metre drop), from which two large spawning trout were heard clambering upstream. They stumbled upon some goats of which they decided to herd, but after 30 seconds gave up on the idea.

It was discovered, that despite what the WestpacTrust ad stipulates, that what goes up, doesn't come down, the four were unanimous in deciding that this was incorrect, and that every hill had a downside.

There were the tough days, where by 1.30pm they were sunning themselves on the decking of the hut, reading trashy magazines and trying to do crosswords. In fact they are still wondering what is an 8 letter word for insect ending with the letter 'L'.

The 3 ½ days were thoroughly enjoyed by the group. Short Wheel-base, Walk on Water, Unbalanced One and Sure Foot would like to leave you with one thought –

“It doesn't matter that they days were not long, or tough, or how many scratches you got on your legs, but it is all about the company you kept, the fun you had and the sight, sounds and smells that you experienced while leisurely wandering around a piece of back country that matters.”

Sally Hobson

Party: Sue Lopdell, Geoff Clibborn, Christine Hardie, Sally Hobson,

Waipawa River to Howletts Hut Trip 1769

28/29 October 2000

Party A

A punctual departure from Pernel at 6am saw all six of us leaving the truck at North Block Road end bang on 7.30am making for a good early start.

Our walk upstream was enjoyable and warm, but upon reaching Waipawa Saddle, it was very windy and cool. From there it was straight up and on to the ridge leading to Rangiateatua. The first part of the ridge was dense tussock interwoven with Spaniard and as there was no real route it was a bit of a mission getting through it. Further along it became easier with just rock and sub-alpine type fauna growing. Patches of snow were still in basins and sheltered areas. Ali took advantage of this and the rest of us copped it with a few snowballs.

Rangi to Paemutu involved a bit of clambering around a rock spire in the middle of the sharp shaly ridge, then a short sharp grunt up onto Paemutu. We had frequent stops to admire the views and fuel up and still managed a reasonable pace.

Upon reaching the saddle below Ohuinga where we were to camp we chewed over the idea of going on the Howletts for the night. After a few minutes of psychiatric evaluation and agreeing that we were in fact all mad, 6 nutters set off at 3.30pm.

It was a long grunt up onto Ohuinga, and once on top we could see Sawtooth ridge before us, and an “oh sh..” was heard from within the ranks when Tiraha was sighted on the distant skyline. A couple of hours later and some more clambering on the rock ‘teeth’ found 6 fairly stuffed people on top of Tiraha. Another hour and, now 6 completely knackered humanoids arrived on Howletts doorstep. We were all really hungry apart from Grant, who at each stop during the day had hauled a great log of salami out of his pack and chomped on it and was now feeling sick.

By getting to Howletts that night, we could use the next day to work on preparations for the new pot belly stove installation, so there was a method in my madness.

Awaking to a beautiful sunrise the A team had a leisurely breakfast, then got to work. Anne, Ali, Mike, Grant (alias The Milky Bar kid- when he was younger on Tele) went and quarried loads of rock, while Eddie and I cut a large hole in the floor, to make provision for a new hearth. By the time we were done, the others had a huge pile of rock on the floor next to the hole. Next thing was to mix concrete, so Mike and Ali did that, while Annie made coffee and Grand slept, cause he said he had the bot coming on (which he unwittingly gave to some of us as we found out a few days later- ‘sniff cough’-), and Ed and I placed the concrete and

added the rocks as filling in the middle. The concrete ran out, and the job had to be left until we could get some more shingle and cement flown in, along with some extra parts for the flue, that we discovered were needed after pulling the old one apart.

After lunch we packed up and left at around 1.30pm and met the Sunday day trippers in the TukiTuki opposite the track to Hinuera Hut, at around 4.30pm. A quick swim and a short jaunt to the truck and off home with the day trippers.

Thanks team for an awesome weekend all up and a great effort at the hut and thanks to Geoff for driving. .

David Heaps

The 'A-team': Anne Cantrick, Mike Hawthorne, Eddie Holmes, Ali Hollington, Grant Whitehead, David Heaps

Party B

The initial objective of the trip was to link up with the "B" party coming from Smith Stream Hut. While there was little hope of doing this because the "B" party didn't start it was decided to have a day out, enjoy the exercise, scenery and company of fellow trappers and head up to Hinerua Hut for lunch.

The party left Pernel Orchard at 7 am on a beautiful fine morning arriving at the end of Mill Road by 8.30am. The access off the road was negotiated by heading in a northerly direction, down an old four-wheel drive track to the river. We followed the river upstream until we arrived at the bottom of the Footes Mistake track after about half an hour's walking.

The sign at the bottom of the hill pointed up a steep bank to the beginning of the spur. This was scrambled up, no track being in evidence and then we navigated our way up over the open paddocks to the bush line and then onto the main ridge. (We later found that if we had progressed past the sign we would have found a track going up the hill onto the start of the spur). There is no clear track over the paddocks and it was only when we started walking through the bush that an overgrown track became apparent. Once onto the main ridge there was a gradual climb up the spur and along the ridge.

It was 12.30 when we reached an intersection which told us that it was two hours back down the track to the Tuki Tuki River and 30 minutes to the hut. All credit to the speed of our party. We arrived at the hut in 10 minutes, glad to be sitting down for lunch and enjoying the scenery.

At 1.45 we started down, enjoying the views as we went, arriving back down at the river at 4.15 pm. Three of the ladies decided to have a swim and while one made the full plunge the other two were a little more tentative.

The "A" party arrived from Howletts Hut via Daphne Spur and met us on the river at about 4.45pm and then we all continued back to the truck.

One of the observations made was that while Ruahine means "two women" in Maori we assume that Hinerua also can be interpreted the same way. Obviously the person, presumably a man, who named the two areas was reasonably narrow focussed.

Thanks to Geoff Clibborn for not only driving us up to our destination and back but also for joining us on the trip. Thank you also to those people who came on the trip and whose company I enjoyed.

David Cormack

Party: Jenny Lean, Margaret and Phillip Lowe, Bob and Mandy Carter, Ken Nugent, Gail Harvey, David Cormack, Jocelyn Hall, Marjolein Turel, Sandy Claudatos and Geoff Clibborn.

The Cairn Trip	Trip 1770	12 November 2000
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We left Hastings for our annual pilgrimage to Kaweka J under grey skies, and in the expectation that the snow which had fallen earlier in the week would still be there.

As we approached the Makahu road end, we could see plenty as far as the cloud would let us. But expert opinion was that we might get above it. So we started up Makahu spur hopefully, soon encountering the first small patches of ice sheltered spots. By the time we had reached Dominie Bivvv the cloud was thinner and the snow thicker, and before long we were walking on knee-deep drifts, occasionally breaking through. The rocky areas on the ridge were thickly encrusted with ice, some of which was starting to melt and fall, as we reached the sunshine.

About this stage most in the party realised that they had forgotten sunscreen or sunglasses or both, and while those with the former were generous, it is a bit difficult to get more than one person behind a pair of sunglasses.

The basin which leads to the Cairn was deep in snow, so that we feared to lose the President, but she could always be located by her laughter. The first view west demanded a shout of amazement-across the ranges to Ruapehu glistening white in clear skies, and with the cone of Ngaruhoe white only on the southern side. Our timing was almost perfect, so we downed packs and held the short service in warm sunshine but with the plaque invisible under a thick layer of sculpted ice. All around us on the ridge were small mounds ice, each hiding a tussock, and looking like so many cauliflowers sprouting on the bare shingle. Phillip Lowe, grandson of our late Patron, Arch Lowe, laid the wreath, and in the calm conditions the moment's silence was total. As tradition requires, each of us placed a new rock on the Cairn.

To the east a cloud blanket concealed the Bay, but we hardly noticed that as we ate lunch and prepared to snowslide on the slope leading down to the spring on the west flank of the ridge. Finding a place free of lumps of ice, it was all on. The run was about 75m and the long trudge back to the top was enlivened by the spectacle of crazy people descending out of control. Peter quickly tired of solo runs and with his subtle charms soon had each of the ladies in turn on his plastic sheet. Then, not content with rolling about with one hysterical women at a time, tried with two. Had his bag been bigger, it is certain that he would eventually have been in a snowy scrum with all seven at once.

The cloud seemed to sense the moment when we were all exhausted, and wisps began to flow in, making for some final spectacular views as Ruapehu was swallowed up. Nobody was keen to struggle through thick snow on an alternative route down, so we retraced our steps, and could soon see the truck, reaching it in mid afternoon. I couldn't help hoping that each of the HTC people we had remembered on the trip had been, in their time, on top of the range on such a perfect day.

On the trip home there was a brief stop to check the fire lit the day before at Pam's farm, and Peter took the opportunity to exhort some of his bees to greater effort, but soon we were back

to the real world. Thanks to Robyn for making the wreath, to Peter for driving, and to Glenda for letting him.

Mike Lusk

Party: Anne Cantrick (leader), Gloria and Graham Abraham, Bobbie Couchman, Peter Pryor, Peter Berry, Sue Holmes, Judy McBride, Margaret Lowe, Philip Lowe, Jenny Lean, Mike Lusk

FMC BUSHCRAFT AND RIVER CROSSING COURSE	10-12 November 2000
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On Friday night after work three of us left at 7pm to head up to The Forest & Bird Lodge at Whakapapa, stopping in Taupo for homemade Pie and Brownie (thanks to Tina), arriving at the Lodge at 10pm with a greeting for everyone, 20 in total (16 of us doing the course, two guides Ray and John and two cooks), then shortly after, heading off for the night.

Up bright and early Saturday morning, 7am for breakfast, then into the theory of the rivercrossing for today's course, going through 'river safety approach', and conditions etc, with a leaflet for us to go through; very interesting. Then we packed our lunches and headed off at around 10.30 am to a river off the Desert Road. The river was lower than originally thought, and ended up being an excellent training area. We split up into four groups of 4 and went about assessing the river and area around, and where the most appropriate spots to cross were, overall quite a varied response, but all possible with the technique we learnt. Then we discussed all the thoughts and got wetsuits on and put it to the test. We also learnt positioning of your group, from strongest-weakest, height, etc, a very strong linking technique when done properly, with groups from 2-14 people recommended, and it worked really well. We then went on to packfloating, in our groups, but as we felt more confident we went alone, forward, backwards, head first, feet first, sideways, etc and even through rapids. It was great fun, and quite challenging. Finishing up around 3.00pm, then heading back after a hold up with a traffic accident on the Desert Road, then back for tea, and social evening discussing the day, other issues and questions.

Sunday morning was another breakfast at 7am, then into the Bushcraft and Navigation theory in the Lodge, getting our bearings and putting the basics back to the test. Then off to find 2 Grid References up the hill behind the Lodge, again splitting into small groups. The results were pleasing, with all of us ending up in roughly the same area. That took up the morning, then back for lunch, clean-up and headed off home at 1.30pm Sunday afternoon, with a swim stop in Taupo down at the River and Hot Water Stream, a perfect end to a great weekend.

We hope that most of you will come and enjoy our River Crossing Training Trip in February, so we can pass on the skills we learnt.

Gail Harvey, Tina Godbert, Andrew Taylor

HTC CULTURAL EVENT

27 August 2000

In an effort to introduce some cultural integrity in to HTC, Deborah Turner invited us to her production "Oklahoma Our Way", held in the Puketitiri Hall in Mid July, and Pam made the

offer even more attractive by offering accommodation in her newly refurbished house opposite Balls' Clearing. So about 20 of us made our various ways to the Hall, and occupied several of the front rows. We were full of anticipation, having heard reports of the success of the previous 2 shows, and we were not disappointed, being wonderfully entertained. The casting, which was largely of farm folk slightly self-consciously playing farm folk, was a great success, and it was obvious that the players were enjoying the event just as much as were the audience. Deborah, producer, director and sole musician, and who looked splendid in tails, must have been very proud. We supped after the show with the cast, and vowed to be there next year.

Pam had saved the double bed for the nicest couple, and after a chat by the fire, and the eviction of about 10 interlopers from the said double bed we all found a place to rest. In contrast to the usual haste leaving a hut, the morning was, for most, a time of sloth and prolonged eating, while watching Tuis and Silver-eyes feeding on apples and nectar close to the kitchen window. A few manic souls did walk in the bush at dawn), no doubt irritating a large number of slumbering birds. Pam took us for a short tour of the farm, and having had a long association with the property was an informative guide, though her bare feet on a cold morning were a bit of a distraction for the rest of us.

In all ways a most successful event. Our congratulations to Deborah, and our thanks to Pam.
Mike Lusk

FAMILY TRAMPS

August - December 2000

We have not had a very successful few months for family tramps having struck bad weather on most of the scheduled trips. We did manage to sneak in trips to Ahuriri Estuary and along the beach at Clifton on 'off' weekends. Some families also attended a few day trips with the club and the working bee at Pam's Puketitiri residence. Hopefully the weather is kinder to us over the summer and we can get more families along.

FIXTURE LIST – FAMILY TRIPS

9 / 10 Dec: Join the Club at Kaweka Hut for the Xmas Bash.

17 Dec: Lake Tutira – possibly camp on Saturday night. Bring your kayaks etc.

14 Jan: Makahu & Littles Clearing – Do the Ngahere Loop Track then walk up to black Birch Bivvi and back. Some may wish to walk through to Lotkow.

11 Feb: From Triplex Hut to Waipawa Chalet via Sunrise Track, then back to Triplex via the Waipawa River.

11 Mar: Clifton Beach / Cape Kidnappers – walk along the beach from Clifton towards Cape Kidnappers exploring the gullies or, if we can arrange transport, a trip to Cape Kidnappers. Low tide 1.30pm.

8 Apr: Blowhard Bush

On arriving home from work at around 6 pm Monday, a phone call from Graham Thorp suggested I might like to pack my pack. This news amazed me as it had been about 2 years since our last search and a lot longer since I have been allowed in the field.

Three hunters from up north had been flown in with "Heliska" on Sunday noon to Otutu Island Hut which is in the Mt Meany area near Ngamatea Station. Kevin Steger, the younger of the three headed straight out for a hunt and did not return to the hut that night. The following morning his 2 companions headed out to look for him, one taking the upper reaches of the water shed and the other the lower, not far below the hut. The lower of the 2 fired a rifle shot and it was replied to by the missing person. After meeting back at the hut his 2 mates ascertained that, of the 2 of them, he was nearer the top, but had not moved.

Around 1pm that Monday one of the hunters headed down into the creek marking a trail with pink tape and calling as he went. Finally there came a reply "I'm up here". "Well come down here" called the hunter Dave. The voice seemed to fade as if walking away and was not heard again. We could only assume that as he approached the water, the noise overpowered that of Dave and it also appears that he was just upstream of a junction but in fact in the furthest of the 2 streams.

With this Dave raced back to the hut and phoned the Police. Hunters usually get the benefit of the doubt with regard to urgency of response so it was decided that I would fly from Napier with Keith Frankum and Craig Skeet in the Lowe Corporation rescue chopper direct for Otutu Island Hut. So 6.30am Tuesday 10 bods met at Napier Police Station and departed for the hills. On reaching the hut we set about interviewing Dave and then whilst Keith did some spotting from the chopper I worked out our approach and tasked the teams who were by now at Kuripapango. The chopper then flew the 3 teams one by one into their search areas with the last team placing a VHF repeater on Mt Manson, which enabled us to carry handheld radios. This is a huge advantage over the HF sets with their 20m aerials. Team 2 was placed at Otutu DoC Hut and team 3 on Otutu tops. The third team comprising of 4 people started from our hut and Mt Meany.

By midday nothing relevant had been found so the decision was made to scale up the search the following morning and a Iroquois helicopter was requested from RNZAF. At around 3.30pm one of the 2 men teams had followed an old pack track down into the upper reaches of one of Manson Creek's tributaries and after searching upstream for some time proceeded back down as tasked and eventually boot prints were picked up. While the team were following the occasional sign down stream the weather was deteriorating at a rapid rate. The pair had entered a gorge section and sign was virtually non existent, but perseverance paid off and a boot indentation was seen in the sandy bed of a pool. Time now was around 6.30pm and as the two were only carrying minimum day packs the issue became their well being as they had come up against obstacles that slowed progress (ie waterfalls). The Iroquois was due at 5.30pm at Kuripapango but never arrived until 6.30pm. We required winch extraction for our 2 man team and because Manson Creek was our area of highest probability the chopper was tasked to fly up the Ngararoro River, west into Manson Creek searching en route and eventually pick up Keith and Luke. At approx 200m downstream from Keith's location the crew spotted some orange and with some difficulty relocated it and winched the Medic down to investigate. The chopper then flew up and uplifted Luke and Keith and lowered Luke to assist the medic with the stretcher.

The other teams were comfortable in Otutu Hut and listening in to the chopper and medic on the radio. The pilot was heard to say: "please hurry, time is of the essence". It was now 8.30pm, dark and the fuel level light was flashing. After several more minutes hovering the

three were winched aboard a winch of 220ft which is close to maximum. With that they flew low and fast down the river dumping the machine on the ground at Kuripapago without their normal fluffing around. Here the patient was made more comfortable and some gas pumped into the machine and they were airborne again, flying at road level in thick fog following the Taihape Road to Hastings. Some 10km down the road after a very close shave with pine trees the chopper was parked on the side of the road without communication. Not knowing for sure whether they had ever been on the main road a crewman was dispatched on foot back along the road looking for help. Some considerable time later Rob Wallace one of our radio crew happened past on his way home and fortunately had communication. Help was arranged, the stretcher with patient loaded into some one's van and met the ambulance halfway to Hastings.

Ken Steger is an incredibly lucky man. Only moments from dropping into a coma when found, a body temperature so low it would not register on the digital thermometer, no blood available for a test. After about 2 hours in hospital his body temperature rose to 35 degrees, the point where the body starts to shiver. In addition to advanced hypothermia his injuries were: fractured lumbar vertebrae, punctured lung, damaged kidney and broken ribs. It was a 3 weeks ICU stay flat on his back in Hastings Hospital before he was sent to a hospital closer to home.

.As Wednesday dawned it was snowing heavily and the likelihood of a ride out from the huts for the search teams was very slim. However at around noon the Airforce boys cranked up the old girl on the side of the road and still in thick fog and snow headed back to Robson Lodge only a few feet off the road with a police vehicle driving in front with lights flashing and stopping oncoming traffic and another tailing the chopper. Eventually a hole appeared in the fog and the chopper flew up and away. We advised the crew by radio that their best chance was to fly up the Tararua River, then up Rocky Creek following the bushline to the hut. Some time later we heard that familiar sound and then the sight of the grey green shape in the murk slowly creeping over the snow covered tussock to pick us up. Dropping us at Kuripapango, returning this time up the river to get the other from Otutu Hut, arriving back in Napier at around 4pm.

As for our searchers; it was an amazing search due to the quality and skills of these guys. Not one word was said about how to go about the tasks, it just happened with everybody knowing what was expected of them. If I'm ever in need I hope it will be these guys looking for me. Thanks to all involved, my job as controller was made as easy as it possibly could have. A pleasure to train and work with these guys.

Ed Holmes

Those in the field were: Mike Hawthorne, David Heaps, Peter Berry, Ed Holmes, Guy Tekahika, Luke Shadbolt, Graig Skeet, Keith Frankum. Supported by Graham Thorp and John Lovatt from Napier and Dave Dunn (Hastings Radio Bases)

RESULTS 2000
PHOTO COMPETITION

PICTORIAL
WILDLIFE
CHARACTER

Denise McBride - Overall Winner
Chris Waldron
Allison Moffitt

Many thanks to all those who entered to make this evening a success - Jim Glass

ENTERTAINMENT

Jan 17	Social Evening
Jan 31	Navigation exercise Frimley Park 7pm
Feb 14	Indian Himalayas - Ray Kirby
Feb 28	Kaweka Challenge Yarns
Mar 14	Club Auction
Mar 28	Adventures of Charly Janes
April 11	Around the World Trip - John Montgomery
April 25	Social Evening

HOST AND SUPPER ROSTER

	HOST	SUPPER
3/1	R Lusk, P Pryor	R Goldfinch, J Lean
17/1	J Glass, P Berry	S Bathgate, J McBride
13/1	R Burn, L Brunton	L Pindar, A Moffit
14/2	C Waldron, G Harvey	P Turner, G Clibborn
28/2	M Lusk, S Lopdell	R Madden, L Harrison
14/3	B Couchman, J Berry	L Smith, G Abraham
28/3	P Gulliver, B Carter	T Godbert, A Mcadam
11/4	A Taylor, E Homes	J Hewes, J Montgomerie

LEADERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

This Club often can not find enough members who are prepared to lead tramps and we would like to find out how we can get more members helping the Club in this way. Please answer the following to assist us with this.

NAME: _____

Firstly: are you aware that there is a Club form to assist leaders plan a tramp?

Yes / No

Which of the following is your current situation regarding trip leadership?
(Please tick)

- A. Currently leading trips and are happy to do so (Please fill out section 1 if you are in this category) ≤
- B. Don't like leading tramps but do so to help out. (Please fill out section 1 if you are in this category) ≤
- C. Don't feel experienced enough to lead now but will do at some stage (Please fill out section 2 if you are in this category) ≤
- D. Would lead but don't want to commit myself to a date 4 month away. (Please fill out section 1 if you are in this category so we can create a register of such people) ≤
- E. Will lead but only to specific areas that I know well - (Please fill out section 1 if you are in this category and specify these areas at No. 4) ≤
- F. Never intend to lead a tramp. (You may still want to fill out section 2) ≤

SECTION 1 - To be completed by people who will lead now.

1. Approximately how many trips per year are you prepared to lead

_____ 2. Please tick all the types of trips you prefer to lead.

A Party Trips ≤

B Party Trips ≤

Day Trips: ≤

Extra Day Trips ≤

Weekend Trips: ≤

Long Weekend Trips: ≤

Trips on tracks: ≤

River Trips: ≤

Alpine Type trips: ≤

Bush bashing/ navigational trips: ≤

Other (Please Specify) _____ ≤

3. If there is particular time of year that you are able to lead please indicate here -

4. If there are areas where you prefer to lead please indicate below.

SECTION 2. To be completed by people who will lead sometime in the future or any current leader who would like further training or anyone who wishes to further their self development..

1. What concerns do you have regarding you leading a trip - Please tick any that apply

Safety issues	≤	Writing Trip Reports	≤
Speaking at the Club meeting	≤	Navigational Skills	≤
Knowledge of the route	≤	Risk management	≤
Other (Please specify)	≤	<hr/>	

2. Would a mentor system (where you have someone, not necessarily going on the tramp, who you can contact to assist you with the planning of the tramp and give you a guide to what the tramp is likely to be like) make you more likely to lead a tramp? Yes / No

3. Would you be more likely to lead a tramp if there was a co-leader who could share the responsibilities of leadership with you? Yes / No

Thankyou for your time. Please list any other comments you have on trip leadership in the space below.

If you have not complete this questionnaire please do so as soon as possible and return to:

Glenda Hooper
14 Lucknow Road
Havelock North

CLUBNEWS

Well, the new millenium certainly didn't bring with it a more leisurely pace. Here is the "Silly Season" upon us again – meetings, reports, deadlines, functions, shopping.. Definitely time to go bush!

- ❖ A highlight of recent months would have to be the "R"rage and Repast: with everything appearing from Rambo to the prize winning Randy Ram (Pam). Thanks to Lord Lyn and his helpers for their organizing and to the generosity of Dorothy, Clive & Karen, Phillip and Sharon for accommodating the "Rabble".
- ❖ Four members attended the FMC 'Above the Bushline' and 'River Crossing' Courses. Next year they will run training days to upskill members. We encourage full participation from all new and active members.
- ❖ We welcome 3 members onto the committee: Marjoleine, Ali and Gail and it is great to have Chris rejoining the team. Marjoleine is our new editor, so please assist her by getting reports in promptly and ensuring they are titled, with participants and scribe identified
- ❖ Jim Glass is relinquishing the apron strings and retiring after many years service as "tealady". Jenny Lean has agreed to take over purchasing the supper goodies.
- ❖ After a long period of inactivity the SAR team were involved in a search recently in the Otutu area.
- ❖ Welcome to new members: Greg Munn and Ken Nugent
- ❖ **Reminder: Subs are due now** and, with the newly passed Remit at the AGM, they will be due again in July 2001 and thereafter each July to coincide with the FMC affiliation fees.
- ❖ I hear Christine is soon to depart for Sabah (Malaysia) where she has a teaching position. Best of luck Christine. We will miss you – but it is not too far away so it won't be long before the holiday-seekers are calling.
- ❖ Pam 's a grandmother again! Congratulation to Kathy on the arrival of a see son – Korban Lewis on the 21 November.
- ❖ Shirley recently celebrated her birthday; 75 years young! Congratulations.

Have a restful and joyous Christmas Season and
Happy tramping *Anne Cantrick*

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

FEBRUARY 24-25
(tentatively)

CANOE TRIP

Down Tuki Tuki River starting from Patangata,
Overnight camp

FEBRUARY 9-10

WAIMARAMA Inactive Beach Weekend
join us for and hour/day/evening/weekend

MAY (-ish)
peninsula)

SLIPPER ISLAND (off Coromandel

Doing nothing and fishing 4-6 days

FEBRUARY-NOVEMBER
days
(somewhere between)

MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS Cruising 3-5

Contact: John Berry, Lyn Gentry, Lex Smith

HERERAUNGA 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, while 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 hrsours tramping - suitable for beginners.

MEDIUM: 6-8 hours tramping - suitable for those with some experience.

HARD: 7 hrs+ 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
Wear/Carry	Carry	<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/car: 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 enquiries contact the leader or David Heaps 875 0888

10 Dec: Kaweka Hut Xmas Bash **\$10** **Map: U20**
 Leave LATE Saturday to have a relaxing, social time at our oldest Club Hut. Stay there over night and there are a number of options for a Sunday wander. (EASY grade options available)
Leader: Social Committee. **Driver:**

7 Jan 2001: Te Iringa Kaweka Range **\$10** **Map: U20**
 Start the tramp from the top of the Gentle Annie on the Taihape Road and climb up to Te Iringa. From there follow the spur down to the Ngaruroro River - float, or walk down the river to the Water Gauge at Kuripapanga.
Leader: **Driver: P Berry**

20&21 January: Beach Trip
 This trip will explore the coast line between Kairakau and Porangahau Beaches.
Leader: Mike Bull

4 February: Training river crossing and compass work - Te Puia area **\$10**
Map:U19+20
 For both experienced and new members to gain new skills and confidence in river crossing techniques and navigation.
Training committee: Tina Godbert **Driver: Geoff Clibborn**

17 – 18 February: Kaweka Challenge
 The Club annual fund raiser where members man check points along the Kaweka Range. Please we need your support for this event. Give your name to Robyn Madden if you can help.

4 March: Kashmir Road - Central Ruahines **\$10** **Map: U22**
Party A: From Moorcock Saddle climb up to Longview Hut, along ridge track to Rocky Knob, dropping down into the North Branch of the Makaretu River and returning overland to truck.
Party B: A circuit from Moorcock Saddle to Longview Hut, descending into Upper reaches of the Makaretu River, and down to Awatere Hut and overland back to truck. A scenic trip.
Leader Party A:... **Party B: Rodger Burn** **Driver:**

17-18 March: Kaweka **\$10** **Map U21**
Party A: Packfloating on the Taruarau River. From Taihape Road, follow the Taruarau River down to the bridge on Timahanga Station, stopping to camp at established campsite Sat night. A wonderful packfloating experience. Medium grade.
Party B: Drive to Komata Hut and follow track down to Taruarau River and up to Shutes Hut for the night. Sunday follow the river upstream to the bridge to meet party A.
Leader Party A: Mike Lusk **Party B: Geoff Clibborn** **Driver: Geoff Clibborn**
Local Day Trip: to be advised

1 April: Kaweka - Lotkow Road **\$10** **Map U20**
Party A: From Lotkow Road follow Jap Creek down to the Donald River/Cable Creek Jct. Wander up Cable Creek, up side stream to spot height 850, along to Don Juan and back to Lotkow Hut.
Party B: A circuit down Iron Spike Ridge, up Cable Creek back to Lotkow road end.

Leader Party A:... Clibborn	Party B: Geoff Clibborn	Driver: Geoff
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13- 17 April Easter Trip: Whirinaki – starting at Minginui \$20

Map:V18

Party A: Leave Minginui carpark, climbing up ridge track dropping down into and following Moerangi Stream to Te Wairoa for the night. Saturday to central Te Hoe Hut via Mangakahika Hut. Sunday climb up ridge or along Te Hoe River to Upper Te Hoe, Upper Whirinaki Hut and Central Whirinaki for the night. Follow Whirinaki River back to the Minginui carpark.

Party B: From Minginui climb up and over to Moerangi Hut, Fri night. Saturday wander along the Moerangi Stream and lunching at The Wairoa Hut, stopping for night at Mangakahika Hut. Sunday Upper Te Hoe via Central Te Hoe. Monday out to Plateau Rd carpark.

Leader Party A: Peter Berry

Party B: Sue Lopdell

Driver: Geoff Clibborn

Co-leader: Peggy Gulliver

Local Day trip: Anaura Falls in the Mohaka Forest and Lake Tutira

\$10

29 April: Kaweka – Kiwi Saddle

\$10

Map:U20

Leaving Lakes Car park Sat night up to Kiwi Saddle Hut for the night. Down to Kiwi Mouth following track to spot height 1238, across to join Cameron Track and back via Smith Russell Track. Options available for all levels of fitness.

Leader Party A:

Party B:

Driver:

12-13 May: Tararua- Mt Holdsworth area \$20

Map:S26

Party A: Holdsworth road end to Powell Hut that evening. Holdsworth – Isabelle to Waiahine Hut – Akaporangi Anderson Memorial Hut for the night. Junction Know Waitewaiwa Hut. Arapito Creek – Otaki Forks

Party B: From Holdsworth to Powell Hut, to Jumbo hut, down to Atiwhakatu Track

Leader Party A: John Montgomerie

Party B: Geoff Clibborn

Driver: Geoff Clibborn

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.