

## POHOKURA – Bulletin No 208

AUGUST 2001

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**Club Meetings:** are held every second Wednesday (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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**Party A: Manganui and Back ( the long way)**

Due to the ferocious storm devastating the country at the time we were traveling, the forestry had locked the roads, so we had to go the long way around to Murupara and Manganui and ended up starting a bit late. It had been raining steadily the whole way up there and there was a fair bit of excess water running about, but as soon as we arrived it started to back off and although we put on our parkas most of us soon took them off as it was rather muggy and not really raining anyway. Well we hadn't left the B party behind for more than a few minutes when Randall had his first bonk, or bonk! Thud! To be more accurate, when you're three inches higher than the rest of the party it pays to keep your eyes open for low trees lying across the track, fortunately we were able to warn him of all the other similar logs as we went around.

We soon left the podocarp forest behind and moved via a good benched track into Tawhari beech forest which was to be the feature of this trip for the next three days. As we headed down the Moerangi stream the track took a dive, both literally and figuratively and soon disappeared altogether, but eventually the stream bottomed out and we were able to make better time. When we reached the Moerangi hut junction we bypassed the hut and headed off downstream as we were behind time. The light and the mist, the stream and the bush all combined make this stream a place of exceeding loveliness and we even stopped for a full 30 seconds to observe the first of the 5 pairs of blue duck that we saw in this stream. When it got too dark to see we were once again allowed a short break and camped the night in the bush down by the stream. Don't let Andrew tell you the one about the chocolate biscuits as it left me in a weakened state for much of the rest of the trip.

Daylight saw the stream, which we had crossed many times the day before, running much lower and we were soon at Te Wairoa or Rogers hut. This is a wonderful old slab hut that has been resheathed and tidied up to make it weather and vermin proof but still retains the original interior. More part river part track work saw us at Mangakahika hut for lunch, where we met two young hunters who had spent the previous night out in shorts tee shirts and survival blankets, even though these were new they had delaminated in short order but on the other hand they were still alive. Up and over a saddle saw us in the upper reaches of a tributary of the Te Hoe and eventually onto a newly formed benched track. Imagine our surprise when coming around a corner we surprised a specimen of *Backhoeus ditchdiggim* sulking in the middle of a clearing, it appeared to be getting ready to fly out to dryer climes for the winter so we were very fortunate to spot this specimen. Just past this spot we found some absolutely perfect kiwi footprints in the mud on the track. At central Te Hoe hut we had a very social time with two other groups of trampers and after teaching Ed how to play the card game that he was teaching the others( scum ) we were taught a new game called stop the bus.

Morning light saw us once more upon the track climbing up a benched track blasted out of a rock face. This soon turned into a rather overgrown but very beautiful tramping track that led us high into goblin forest before becoming a benched track once more and drooping all of us except Sandy into upper Te Hoe hut for lunch. Sandy by this time had the pip with us and decided to go off on her own, but she was soon tracked down and dragged back into the fold. The afternoon saw us back into even more spectacular goblin forest with enormous quantities of moss growing on all the

trees and prince of Wales Feather Fern growing in abundance along with lots of other ferns and lots of mountain cabbage trees. The track sidled down into a steep sided gully that eventually bottomed out and by about 5 o'clock we were at upper Whirinaki hut where I went on strike and decided to put down roots for the night. We all had a wash with Tina and Sandy contributing to the scenic values of the area for two families that arrived a few minutes after us. Firewood was collected and lit, every one had tea and then Tina and Andy toasted marshmallow Easter eggs over the campfire (a sickly and messy perversion unlikely to become popular with those of us sporting beards). We looked at the stars and said goodnight to the parents of the three children left in our tender care ( they rather wisely camped outside ). We then went straight to sleep without any talking or giggling from the kids.

The sky at dawn was perfectly clear and as we had a couple of hours to make up we set off at a cracking pace for central Whirinaki. As the sun got higher we came around a corner and the argent light of the bush at dawn was transformed by the sunlight' with gold leaf and velvet greens; stunning. On down the river past central Whirinaki the race was on with Ed in front by a length closely followed by Sandy with the rest of us bringing up the rear. It was looking to be a record time when suddenly we came out into this beautiful sunlit clearing and were overcome with a sudden lethargy caring not whether we picked up the B party at all, let alone on time. Gluttony and golden slumber became the order of the day and it was only with extreme reluctance that the party was persuaded to continue at all. And did we suffer for it, despite Ed being relegated by an almost unanimous vote to the back of the party, we still moved along at a reasonable clip, although we did slow down at times to admire the magnificent podocarp forest and ferns, the flat track was fast but the soles of our feet started to delaminate under the pressure and by the time we reached the truck we were all a bit footsore.

I would like to point out at this point that it is an unsubstantiated rumor that I was navigating and we ended up back where we started from in the forestry, I did not have to ask Randall for a GPS reading and we did not travel down any bits of road more than twice or three times, OK..?!

Picked up the others and headed home, doing a bit of tree cutting and hole dodging en route, were attacked by a couple of homicidal maniacs who were in but obviously not driving there cars and got home safely.

You know, I had almost forgotten just how wonderful it is to go on a long hard tramp with such a great bunch of people, you see it at the tramping club meetings sometimes , someone from the past turns up and the friendship is there as if they had never been away. It's the best way of making really good friends and having a great time that I've ever come across. Thanks to Ed for sharing in the driving and to all who came along who made it such a memorable trip.

**PB**

Party: Peter Berry (leader), Eddie Holmes, Andrew Taylor, Andy Fowler, Tina Godbert, Randall Goldfinch & Sandy Claudatos.

### **B Party:**

With Cyclone Sose still making its presence felt, on Friday 13th April we set off at 6am from Pernel, all wondering with some trepidation, just what sort of weather we were going to encounter on our 4 day tramp in the Whirinaki forest. The forestry access roads were closed due to the

weather, so 2 extra hours were added to the trip by having to go round through Reporoa. We arrived at Minginui and the start of the track at 10am and headed off in light rain, with everyone hoping the worst of the cyclone had passed. The A party left us early on and we trudged up the first of many "long, high, hills" to 1000 metres. We then followed and criss-crossed the headwaters of the Moerangi stream until arriving at the Moerangi hut at 4.30. In parts, the track had been eroded away and some delicate sidling along the sides of banks was required. But the river was still relatively shallow despite the weather. The cyclone must have scared everyone else away because we had the hut to ourselves and spent a very pleasant night there.

Day 2- We left the hut at 7.50 with gray clouds but no rain, and after 3 hours and a "million and one" river crossings, arrived at Te Wairoa hut for lunch. This hut was a very welcome sight and the billy was brewed. But when we heard that Mangakahika hut (where we were planning to spend the night) was full, we hastily packed up and decided to tramp further than we had originally planned. On arriving at Mangakahika at 3.15, the pungent odour emanating from the interior of a very overheated hut gave us extra reason to press on. So, in intermittent rain, we tramped another hour and a half and Peter went on and found the perfect campsite for us right beside a stream. We pitched our tents and were in bed at 6.30pm. It was a particularly interesting tramp in that we saw at least 4 pairs of Blue duck. Rather hard to count though because it might have been the same pairs following us! They appear to be so comfortable in their surroundings and not in the least bit worried by us invading their territory. We also had the amazing sight of one of our party trying to put her head in the water first( or was she desperate for a drink?) when crossing a stream.

Day 3- After a night of very strong winds we were woken at 5am by a stag roaring very close to our camp-site. Then at 5.45am some members of the party decided the "longest night" had come to an end and their laughter woke all of us up. At 7.50am, on another gray day, we started tramping along a track similar to a "great walk" track. It had been bulldozed and gave us a chance to really appreciate the beauty of the bush we were in. We arrived at the Central Te Hoe junction and from there, the going became markedly slower. We started going up reasonably gently but after about an hour, the track vanished and we just went straight up!! How far can you go up before you reach the sky? It was never ending. We finally reached the "top" at 11.45 and had lunch. But--up we went again. 3 and a half hours of really hard climbing in total. Coming down the other side, we were on another wide, benched track and we arrived at Upper Te Hoe hut at 3pm. We continued to be amazed at the beauty of the bush but, although we heard a few birds, we didn't see as many as we had expected. The hut was empty so we claimed our bunks and settled in. The first visitor to arrive gave us a surprise. He had just seen the A party only a hour or so ahead of us. We felt quite proud of ourselves!

Peter and Leo manfully and tenaciously made a fire out of wet firewood and we had a lovely meal around the fire. Another 4 people arrived without tents but did we give up our bunks to them? No! (Well, Peter and Jonathon gave them their mattresses). The people slept on the porch and we rested our weary bodies in our well-earned bunks. Another long sleep, going to bed at 7pm. No one can say that trampers get tired through lack of sleep.

Day 4- Up at 6am and away at 7.10 on a beautiful, fine morning. We immediately started climbing, though the track was good and the gradient not too steep. The views were awesome with the mist and the blue sky, the bush, the moss and the trees. After 2 hours we met the Whirinaki stream but fortunately didn't have to cross it very often. The beauty of the place was staggering, though again the track is showing the effects of the weather with some difficult obstacles-well,

difficult for some of us! Again, although we heard and saw a variety of birds, there were not the numbers that we had expected. We arrived at the upper Whirinaki junction at 12.30 and had lunch beside the stream. Then we trudged for 2 and a half hours, out to the road end, passing the limestone caves on the way. We had only been at the road end for about 15 minutes when we heard the welcome sound of the truck coming to pick us up at about 4pm. We arrived back in Napier around 6.30pm.

Thanks to Peter for driving the truck such a long way, over some very "interesting " roads, and to Sue for organizing the trip. Also thanks to the rest of the B party for making the trip such a pleasant, stress-free experience.

Peggy Gulliver

Party: Sue Lopdell, Judy McBride, Susan Fraser, Peggy Gulliver, Leo Brunton, Gary Smith, Jonathon and Peter Prior.

<b>Kaweka - Kiwi Saddle</b>	<b>Trip 1777</b>	<b>28-29 April 2001</b>
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#### **Party A**

As there were only 3 members in the A party we blended in with the B party . Starting from the Lakes Carpark on Saturday afternoon we headed towards Kiwi Saddle Hut. It was a warm and beautiful day, one could see as far as the eye could see.

Randall had taken off ahead of everyone else carrying an aluminum stepladder. On arriving at the hut Anne and I found a chap with his sons who said they were leaving for Kiwi Mouth. I think the sight of Randall with his ladder stuck around his body frightened them off.

The night was spent discussing tramping gear, ideas and gadgets which was all very interesting and amusing at times.

Sunday 7 55 am the A team said a fond farewell and headed off down the Kiwi Mouth track, a 280 m descent followed by a climb of 300m. It was a splendid day with magnificent views. Shortly after entering the bush we found the marker for the track down to the saddle. At this stage I took a compass bearing onto a knob close to Cameron track, just to be on the safe side and it did come in handy. We then descended down the saddle 80 m below. Travelling through the beech forest and a n open scrub and tussock area, then up we went , 100m to the knob I had taken a bearing to, the Cameron track was about 50 m away. It took about 5 mins to find, Ken picked it up. The time was 10.05am. looking down the track on the left was a marker on a tree on the right above head height in a tree was a deer skull. I think this was put there to show where to turn off to go down the saddle, as Mike said coming down the Cameron track and crossing the saddle would be the quickest way to go to Kiwi Mouth Hut.

Heading up towards the Smith Russell track we had some magnificent views of the Ngaruroro river and country side below. Mike and Ken wanted to find Jack Camp so off they went while I admired the view below, they came back after finding it and we headed off. Stopped for lunch within view of Kiwi Saddle. We had plenty time so slowly tramped out. Having a pleasant lazy

break on a high rocky point the B party caught up with us so we joined them and arrived back at the truck at 3.15 pm.

Thank you Mike and Ken for making it such a pleasant day.

*Lewis Harrison*

### **Party B: Kiwi Saddle**

This was a combined working bee and tramp, and while it had been planned that the walk in would be after dark on Saturday, sanity prevailed. So we left Pernel Orchard at 1pm, with fresh apples, and with the late addition of Randall and a large stepladder. At Lakes Road carpark, we donned packs and boots and set out in pursuit Randall who had left, wearing the ladder, half of it protruding horizontally forward of his waist and the other half backward. It being a calm fine autumn afternoon the walk was a pleasure, and those of us who timed it right, i.e. the slowest ones, saw the sun drop behind Ruapehu as we began the descent to the hut. The arrival of the ladder-man had terrified the 3 people in residence and they had fled into the darkness, so the accommodation was ours. Once we had eaten, Geoff took note of the many suggestions made for the forthcoming "Ideas to Make your Tramping Easier" evening, before we settled for the night.

In the morning, I was woken by a very stupid little bird tweeting above my encampment, but rather than give it the painful death it richly deserved, I walked along to the first high point north of the saddle where I was able to sit, out of the chilly breeze, and watch the sky lighten behind Cook's horn, with a superb mix of pale blue and apricot. Anne was not far behind so we walked along towards Castle Camp, hoping that the painting would be finished by the time we got back. This had not happened, but breakfast was over, the tramping party had left, (apparently without any expressions of guilt), and hut was being rapidly emptied.

On the advice of Geoff it was decided to concentrate on putting coats on the ceiling and by the time the paint ran out the 3 coats were on, and the grey had become white. We enjoyed a leisurely lunch, watched Randall saddle up, and wandered off up the hill, finding Robyn and Sue waiting near the top, not at all interested in dropping the rest of the way to inspect our handiwork. The trampers had passed through the Cameron track junction, but we met them later, and proceeded easily down to the truck, arriving back in town in the late afternoon, after a productive and enjoyable weekend.

Thanks are due to Randall for bringing the ladder and for organising the women, both of which made the job much easier, to Geoff for professional advice, and for driving once again, and to Phillip for the apples.

ML

Party A : Ken Nugent, Mike Bull, Lewis Harrison

Party B (Painters) were: Geoff Clibborn, Sue Holmes, Susan Fraser, Anne Cantrick, Gloria Abraham, Bobbie Couchman, Randall Goldfinch, Mike Lusk. ML

<b>KAWEKA FROM MAKAHU</b>	<b>10 May</b>
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On arriving at Makahu car park, weather conditions for traveling along the tops was not looking good, plus a mutiny amongst the party, it was decided to plan an alternative tramp. We traveled back along the road for 20 min or so and entered the bush on a old DOC trapping line track around

Ngahere Hill which travels in a parallel line to Matauria Range track. After about 1/2 hour we stopped at a old bivouac site in a area of regenerating bush, we continued onwards out into open clay pans and our old friend contorta. We found the track from time to time and lost it just as quickly. We lunched around 12.30, looking for a point to drop over the side and down to the headwaters of the Donald and up the other side. On finding a spot we bush bashed our way downwards and soon found the stream; we stopped for a fuel up before climbing our way upwards (bush bashing) until we reached the main track on the Black Birch Range, and on reaching the road found no truck, so marched our way to the road junction. All in all a great area to tramp in many thanks to the following, ED Holmes, Gerald Blackburn, Lew Harrison, Sandy Claudatos, Jonathan and Peter Pryor.

### **B Party: Iron Whare**

Saturday nights weather forecast wasn't good so I was surprised that nearly everyone turned up at 6 am on the Sunday morning. We stopped at Taradale and picked up three from Napier and Eddie and Barbara from Puketapu. During the week I had been a little apprehensive about the possibility of snow and ice on the road over Black Birch Range however I needn't have worried as it had all gone and the road condition was good.

On arrival at Makahu Saddle car park we found it to be mild and with little wind but cloud was quite low down on the main range. Although we all donned raincoats when we set off most were soon off before too long and weren't really needed again. The D.O.C. sign near the carpark indicates it takes 1 hour to get to Kaweka Flats bivouac. Although we moved along at a good pace and it took nearer to 1.5 hours to get there.

Several weeks earlier I went in with a small group of family and friends to suss out exactly how to get to Iron Whare and we took about the same time. Anyway after a brief stop we continued along the middle hill track. After about half hour the track enters some open beech forest and just before it drops down into a steep gorge a marker on a tree indicates the place to head off east through the beech trees keeping the gorge edge not far away on our left. Having been there only three weeks earlier and having several old hands in the party who had been there in recent times, odd bits of track and markers here and there along the way no difficulty was had in finding the old Whare, which we reached around 11 am. Shortly before reaching the hut we sighted two Kaka high up in the beech trees and followed them for some time. One of the party thought he saw three, certainly most of us saw two on a number of occasions. This was in an area of lovely open beech forest with a scattering of Halls totara undergrowth. Lunch was a leisurely affair in a nice clearing near the hut with weather conditions very pleasant.

The return tramp back was uneventful except for a sighting of a Tui atop a dead tree alongside the track who gave us a delightful burst of song as we passed by underneath. We were all back at the truck by 3 pm had changed fed and watered and were away by 3.30 pm. Much to my surprise the "A" party were sitting on the grass waiting for us on the Lotkow Rd corner. The southerly change forecast to arrive around midday was just starting to make its presence felt as we left and by Puketitiri the first drops of rain started to fall. Before we got down to Patoka the cloud had come right down to road level which made driving a little more difficult and by Rissington it was raining and blowing hard from the south. Next day the snow level was right down again so

we certainly had luck on our side with the weather.

PM

Party: Gary Smith, Jim Hewes, Karl Eggers, Denise McBride, Roger Burn, Judy McBride, Barbara Taylor, Glenda Hooper, Fiona Green, visitors from W. Australia Carol Broderick & Ken Brownlie.  
Leader Philip Mardon.

<b>Middle Hill – Makino</b>
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<b>27/5/01</b>
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Leaving Pernel at 6.am with 19 aboard, we arrived at Pinks carpark at 8.10am approximately. The last section of the road to Pinks had been scoured out by recent rains and was as rough as sacks, and so very slow going. Twelve members of the A party set off for Middle Hill hut and reached it around 10am for smoko. The hut had been recently lined inside and painted the good old fashion Forestry Orange again outside and was clean and tidy.

Then it was off up Camp Spur heading for the top of the range. Just out of the bush we stopped for lunch and toggged up with coats, hats and gloves as there was snow above us and a cold wind blowing off it.

After a few jokes to keep face muscles functioning, we climbed up into the snow and onto the top of the range. A snowball fight ensued as we walked along until the snow ran out and we started descending again to the bushline. Once inside the bush and sheltered we could disrobe a bit a have a short stop. On again down the long ridge and the next stop was the track junction to Mangaturutu where we waited for the tailenders. Some Tui, Bellbird and Kaka were heard along with a Stag roaring nearby.

Makino hut at 3pm for smoko and no sooner had the last person got inside, the rain bucketed down outside. By the time we had eaten and were ready to move again, the rain had stopped.

Off again down the Spur, passing two hunters on the way to the Saddle on the Hot Springs road. The track on the clay pans was incredibly slippery, but we all arrived back at the truck with only Greg going A over K and getting a gash in his knee.

All in all, it was a good Sunday workout and I'm sure everyone enjoyed it as much as I did.  
Dave

Party A: Andy Fowler, Ali Hollington, John Montgomerie, Peter and Jonothan Pryor, Sandy Claudatos, Gerald Blackburn, Eddie Holmes, Greg Munn, Dave Heaps (L), Allan Peterson, Christine Snook.

B Party.

The frost was still on the ground when we left the truck at Pink's Hut, but it was a clear day, and by the time we had crossed the farmland to the boundary fence, there was a little warmth in the sun. This made the long steady walk to Middle Hill Hut a pleasant one for all but Gail, who, feeling unwell, returned to the truck. Her place as leader was taken by Lew "Two Sticks" Harrison,



who was trialing a pair of Leki Poles. These seemed to give him excessive vigour, but we were grateful that he maintained a restrained pace, allowing the younger ones to keep up.

We reached Middle Hill Hut in 2.25 hours, and sat in the sun eating Pernel pipfruit, and in the glow of the new fluorescent orange paint. The inside has been relined in natural wood panelling, also looking very smart. Resisting the temptation to spend the day there we backtracked the short distance to the top of the first descent. From there we could look west and see each of the gullies we needed to cross. Sue pointed out that each western slope grew tall Kanuka, and each eastern one grew lush Red Beech, but nobody was able to give an authoritative explanation for that. The first descent is a steep 100m and the ascent is the same, but we achieved it with ease thanks to frequent short breaks, so it was decided to deal with the second valley before lunch. This we did, then dining under the shelter of some very large Red Beech, being well rested for the third valley which is deeper, but out of which the ascent is a little more gentle.

During this time there was light rain and a brief hail, but we were well protected by the canopy and it was soon dry again. Just below Makino Spur the ascending track makes a sharp turn South, and here the marking is a little deficient. Soon we passed Makino Biv, crude but effective, with a low iron roof, and a black plastic floor, and in this area were holes in the ground, possibly the work of probing Kiwi, and under two separate beech trees, scattered fresh large splinters, for which we blamed Kaka. The track down to the road is easy, if a bit slippery, and on it we were joined by Peter and Jonathan Pryor, from the A party.

This is sometimes called 'The Geriatric Track' because if you are not geriatric before walking it you will be after, but with a little common sense it is perfectly manageable at the top end of the B party scale.

Thanks to Dave for driving, especially for not hitting the many potholes in the last few km too hard.

ML

Party: Gail Harvey, Lew Harrison, Ken Nugent, Sue Holmes, Geoff Clibborn, Susan Fraser, Ros and Mike Lusk.

<b>West/East Crossing – Central Ruahine</b>	<b><u>3/4 June</u></b>
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An early start at 5.am, saw us climbing aboard the truck at Pernell's. We mostly snoozed while Geoff Clibborn heroically stayed alert and drove us through intermittent morning mist 4 hours round via the Gorge to Kawhatau Base. There were tempting glimpses of the ranges well iced with snow. We loaded our packs with ice axes and crampons and heaved them onto our backs at 9.30am. We then tottered down the track to a long high cableway across the Kawhatau river. It was a spectacular ride enjoyed with silent grins by most but Ali split the morning air with a shrill scream of delight. Another group got away in front of us but Dave and Eddie explained that McKinnon was much further away than they would want to travel and had they thought of visiting delightful Arm Hut instead?

The climb out of Kawhatau onto the tops was a long grind with packs heavy with ironmongery. We eventually popped out of the bush to lunch with a view of snowy slopes ahead and distant folded green farmland below. We started along Hikurangi Range following the footprints of the other crew and let out a sigh of relief when they turned left to Crow Hut – they had taken the bait! A fine old skate was had on a frozen tarn after Andy had tap tapped with his stick. “If it bends it bears, if it cracks it breaks” called Ali as we grouped up for a photo and heard some ominous creaks! We scrunched on through thicker snow and intermittent cloud and views before dropping off the tops toward McKinnon. Fantastic views of 66 and Mokai Patea range and below McKinnon Hut perched picturesquely in deep snow just on the bush line.

Firstly a few domestics – some firewood gathering and a bit of window modification with improvised tools from the crack builders – Dave and Eddie. Ali dragged Gerald back up the ridge for a “bit of bogganing” on a bivy sack down the slopes – more squeals of delight! It was a cool night with a choice between a very smokey hut or a half open door and a chill breeze. Seven trampers into six bunks didn’t quite go and Peter valiantly volunteered for the mezzanine slot above the door and a stack of our poofier pads. A fine meal followed by Eddie’s cheese cake and some ‘mango dream’ set us up for a quick game of cards from our bunks and a very early retreat to the sleeping bags and blissful sleep.

Sunday morning brought a beautiful dawn with Ruapehu in view from the doorless loo. We hadn’t taken enough water in the night before and the tank tap was frozen solid. Gerald unscrewed the top of the plastic water tank – a tricky procedure as it turned out and broke the ice to fill our billies.

We had a fairly cruisy start away by about 9am as we expected a straight forward day of 6-7k’s. We grunted back up the steep slope to main Hikurangi Range in Eddie’s fine footsteps. The snow was beautiful with lovely ice formations but softer and softer the higher we went. Taking turns breaking the track and at times crawling and swimming, we inched our way over Hikurangi. Views glimpsed through the cloud added to the atmosphere. We lunched before heading up Mangaweka. As we set off again and started up Mangaweka, we saw a group of 4 descending. They had come Purity over Iron Peg – no obvious ice gear. They were Tararua trampers and hadn’t expected to see serious snow in the Ruahines! They were glad to have our footsteps to follow to McKinnon.

We were happy to step in theirs too. It sped us up for a while and we summited Mangaweka a couple of times – the second one confirmed by the remains of a trig. It was pretty misty by then and with the snow making it very slow going, a decision was taken to slide off the tops and head for Trig and Iron Peg creek. Out with this bivvy bag and whee ... off we went. We leaned toward Iron Peg but with a bit of guidance from our ‘bogganing chums,’ we arrived at the throat of a likely looking creek that Eddie thought he might have been up once upon a time. We bowled happily at first and with increasing reluctance as it steepened into some icy mini waterfalls. Eventually lesser mortals balked at the first serious waterfall. Gerald “the cat who walks alone” went down on reconnaissance while the main party partied on up a scrubby gully with a little climbing on loose rock to add to the afternoon’s entertainment. We emerged onto a ridge which although still steep was reassuringly covered in glorious plant life. People found themselves clinging to Spaniards as if they were long lost friends! Better still we were able to swing from beech tree to beech tree and slither through the leatherwood. We were happily reunited with the lone ranger in Iron Peg creek and beat a moonlit path to Waterfall Hut. My most vivid memory of

the weekend was the view up Rangī Creek. Snowy peaks both sides moon dead center and in the fore ground the lovely river and ice decorated tussock glinting. Happily we found the hut empty and Gerald did some serious axing and soon had the hut cozy with a fire. Another feast with meals swapped all round and billies scraped clean by Ali. Chocolate moose and butterscotch pud with fruit and a round of 'Blind Doggies Chance' before bed.

A good nights sleep ended with Ali lighting up stoves and getting our billies boiling to tempt us out of our pits. It was a frosty morning and we were glad to have dried our socks the night before. It was such a nice morning that Ali and Peter both took dips in the first half hour and the rest of us were lucky not to as we avoided the iced up rocks in the river bed.

The valley was a 'winter wonderland' as we followed Rangī Stream and shot up the right bank to Rangī Saddle and views back to Trig Creek and "Eddie's Potion" from the day before. Quick photo stop and a snack on the Saddle, then down the sunnyside to Waikamaka to lunch in the sun on the snowy front lawn. What a hut! Sure wish we'd had a fire place like that at McKinnon!

The walk up Waikamamka was lovely as well. Every bush or tree was decorated with icicles and icecastles on the streams edge. It was still nice enough to snack at the Waipawa Saddle and Peter especially reveled at the views looking back on his first serious snow trip. Down, down the Waipawa – we finally arrived back at the truck simultaneously with Debbie and Dave Harrington. Geoff had a fine array of refreshments for our delectation. The satisfaction of crossing the ranges was well worth the chewy bits of snow slog and we were very grateful to Geoff for doing the long drive round and making it possible and to Dave for teaching us.

Tina.

Party B+ Dave Heaps, Eddie Holmes, Peter Brown, Gerald Blackburn, Ali Hollington, Andy Fowler, Tina Godbert.

### Howletts Working Bee

23/24 June

The proposed club weekend at Robson's lodge was cancelled due to low numbers and an alternative outlet for energy was required. Eddie and Dave had been muttering about a roofing job at Howletts for some time so that's where we decided to go.

We met at 1.00 Saturday afternoon at Pernel and headed for Mill Road end. We set off fueled by Ali's muffins at 3.15pm. A roll of clear roofing material, light but bulky was carried in relays in many positions by the fittest and fastest and least hung over. Eddie set a cracking pace up the Tukituki and with only one stop for jet planes we arrived at the base of the hill on dusk. Shunning Daphne Hut for the lure of the high country and the chance of a calm morning for roofing we pushed on. Head torches were soon on lighting the slope just in front our noses where we had to haul our feet up to the next foothold. Ali and Eddie disappeared rapidly up the slope, the roofing roll that should have slowed them down must have been rocket propelled! Never fear, Howletts is near. Two hours puffing later we were at the hut to find the unexpected – 2 other parties were there, both from the Hutt Valley! 6 + 6 = full hut. Unperturbed, the gourmet team machine rolled into action. Biscuits and cheese followed by Eddie's homegrown steak, mushroom sauce, mashed tatties, veg and pasta. Then the piece de la resistance – Eddie's cheesecake and a chocolate mouse. Fully replete, the hoards found a snugly spot and hunkered down for the night. Luckily a howling

wind first thing in the morning prevented any early start. Ali obliged us all with a cup of tea in bed or bag and entertained us with a display of yoga while we stretched and yawned.

By this time one party of four had left leaving the way clear for more culinary endeavours. To fortify us for the work ahead the full champagne breakfast was served including bacon and eggs, beans, bread and steak again!

The builders set to repairing the clear plastic parts of the roof and wall while Tina, Andy and Ali replenished the wood supply. Morning smoko was a huge monster lamington followed by a lunch of crayfish sandwiches with fresh cray caught by Dave yesterday morning!

We then rolled down the hill and bobbed down the river just making enough space to finish off Ali's muffins at the truck.

Tina

Working and Eating party: Eddie, Dave, Gerald, Andy, Ali and Tina.

## Central Ruahines

7/8 July 2001

The final numbers for this trip diminished to six in the A party. The truck load of keen people arrived at the Triplex car park at 5.15 Saturday evening, with a departure time of 5.30 and on to great heights at sunrise at 7.30 pm for the A team. Already in residence were Gail and Mandy and two visitors from Wellington, meals were prepared and consumed and most to bunks by 9pm. By now snow was falling, so tomorrow may have some surprises, and it did!

An early start was planned, but put on hold pending the inclement weather- by now 200m visibility, snow and quite cold. I decided to go on to Armstrong Saddle and make a final assessment of the prospects, and, due to snow, just on zero degrees air temperature, still 200m visibility and the reality of 4-5 hours of this -switched to plan B and I decided to make something useful of the location so we went over to Top Maropea hut for a cold morning tea, and retraced our steps to Sunrise, for a breather where some of the B party were still- as they had come up from their overnight stop. And then the long boring plod down to Triplex carpark and the truck. I think we got away on the road about 4pm. The trip as planned was to go to Sunrise Saturday evening, and then on Armstrong Saddle, following north along the tops to Sparrowhawk Bivvy, thence down Sparrowhawk spur to the Makaroro River and on to Yeomans carpark.

Leader John Montgomerie, Graham Hare, Peter Brown, Barry Pacey,  
Christine Snooks and Allan Petersen

### **B Party: Triplex/Sunrise.**

The plan for the weekend had been to stay overnight at Triplex hut, then doing a day trip on Sunday from Yeoman's track, up to the ridge track and down to Barlow's Hut, coming back down the valley. We were able to check the river on the way in on Saturday, and while it was up a little and milky it was certainly crossable. So we elected to make the decision in the morning, according to how much rain there had been overnight. The walk in to Triplex is short enough to permit the transport of luxury food, and some carried more than just a full pack. But before the feasting could start we had to return to the truck to get mattresses, there being only 3 in Triplex. Perhaps because

of this extra exertion we were all in bed by 8.30 pm, dreaming of netballers' legs and polyprop underwear, which had been the main topics of conversation, in spite of the discovery of a new copy of a New Testament and Psalms on the windowsill. Most were awakened at 10.15pm by the arrival of 4 young men, without tramping gear, who stood outside in the rain, and eventually went away again. The meaning of the visit remains mysterious.

It having rained all night, we decided not to look at the Makororo, but instead to return the mattresses and other extras to the truck, which we were able to do dry, as the rain had stopped as we were eating breakfast. From there we wandered up to Sunrise Hut, being able to see out to the coast from the lower levels. Near the top we entered the clag, and found the A party in a rather crowded hut, together with another copy of the New Testament and Psalms. Following a leisurely lunch we all drifted back down, and were back at the carpark in mid afternoon. Just as we were about to leave a NZ Falcon made a brief appearance clutching something, possibly a silvereye, in one talon. At the Makororo Bridge we confirmed that the decision to change our plan had been a wise one, as the river was much deeper and brown.

Thanks to Philip for apples and pears, to Geoff for driving and to a companionable group. ML  
Party: Geoff Clibborn, Karl Eggers, Jim Hewes, Bobbie Couchman, Joan  
Ruffell, Randall Goldfinch, Kay and Brett Burgess, Ros and Mike Lusk.

<b>Northern Ruahine</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> August</b>
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Twenty-three of us set out for the Ruahines on the Sunday morning. The day looked fine apart from a slight drift of cloud around the tops. Leaving Pernell at 6.30am, we squashed into the truck. Several new people including some tough youngsters were with us.

An uneventful journey to the end of Gull Flat Road where ten of us were dropped off to climb Three Fingers. This was supposed to be Party B. Old hands assured us we were in for a lot of 'bush bashing,' but after crossing the paddock, we were pleasantly surprised to find a freshly cut track to the tops. We passed an obvious campsite by a stream about halfway up so this would explain the track.

Emerging from the shelter of the bush, we had full winter gear on against a bone chilling N.W. wind whipping across the open tussock.

The mosses and grasses up there are very beautiful at this time of year, stretching like a patchwork quilt as far as the eye could see. No snow! A bit of a disappointment especially for the young lad Christopher who was anxious to snowball his Dad.

We became a little disorientated at this stage but with the aid of compass and map we found our way on to the main Ridge and progressed along to the junction of Crown Ridge where we met the C Party. This party, which included most of our first time trampers, had come up from Masters Shelter, had had their lunch and were preparing to go down again when we came along. A Party had come up to Crown Ridge with the C Party and continued on to Aranga Hut, planning to come down via Jumped Up Spur.

Parties B and C returned together down to Masters Shelter, taking our time and enjoying the superb views and lush bush. The weather was now beautiful and sunny with no wind.

At the truck we had a wait of well over 2 hours for the A Party which consisted of five people. They had a tough time coming down Jumped Up Spur, having to bush bash and crawl on hands and knees for a third of the way. However, they were all fit, if a bit exhausted. We were back in Hastings by 7.20pm. Thanks to all concerned. A great day!

Bobby

**Party A, B and C:** Peter Brown, Greg Munn, Christine Snook, Allan Petersen, Sandie Claudatos, Dave Heaps, Bobby Couchman, Fiona Green, Christopher, Carol McIntye, Marion Nicholson, Judy McBride, Gloria Abraham, Graeme Hare, David McDonald, Ian McDonald, Christine McDonald, Ken Nugent, Sue Holmes, Lew Harrison, Michael Perry, Chris Perry, Peter Pryor.

<b>Private Trip Report</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>
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A story of diminishing ambitions. The planned weekend trip to Northern Tararuas was cancelled due to low numbers and no one to drive the truck.

An alternative proposal to go up the J and down to MacIntosh was scuttled by a southerly blast full of rain. Plan C was adopted by those with itchy feet determined to get out come hell or highwater. Well luckily we didn't find the former but we certainly saw a little of the latter as we reluctantly left the comfort of Gerald's waggon to walk in some thoroughly wet weather up to Mangatainoka Hot Springs. It was poetry week and a bit of doggerel brewed as rain down and hoods up made conversation difficult:

*The world outside my raincoat  
Looks rather wet and driech  
The view from under my raincoat  
Shows the paths turned into a creek*

*Raindrops falling on my hood  
Go pitter pat  
My muddy boots striding  
Go splash splat*

*We're heading for the hotsprings  
They say they're nice and warm  
In search of creature comfort  
That's where we are drawn*

*The world inside my raincoat  
Is nice and warm and dry  
Well moist and steamy really  
I'd hate to tell a lie*

*The world outside my raincoat*

*The rain's still pouring down  
But I'd rather be wet in the bush with friends  
Than bored and dry in the town.*

We had a good long soak in the hot springs while our packs sheltered under Eddie's gallantly erected fly. A couple of cold dips in the Mohaka provided a thrilling contrast to the perfectly hot water.

Eventually, after eating all except the pink sticky buns and ½ a kilo of scroggin (for emergencies), we reluctantly emerged and dashed back to the Gums and shelter in Gerald's waggon. We soon steamed that up with a thermos of milo and some output from Curly the dog. Well satisfied with our walk despite the weather, we headed back to town.

**Tina:** Party: Gerald, Sandy, Eddie, Andy, Tina

#### **FAMILY TRAMPS:**

Only two tramps were had during this period. The first was to Blowhard Bush on a gloriously sunny day. We walked the outter loop track and had a long and leisurely lunch on the hillside beside Lowry Lodge. The second tramp was up into Te Mata Park - leaving the car park and walking up to the Peak before descending down the ridge to the Redwoods and back to the cars.

Families participating were: Emily & Phillip Lowe, Natalie, Jessica & Olivia Alborn, Claire & Glen Holmes, Katrina Berry, Avril & Blair Turvey, Samuel, Rebekka & Hannah Perry, Daniel, Donna & Natalie Berry & Stuart Berry plus Mums & Dads & Grandma Barbara.

#### **CLUB NEWS**

#### **Opera in the Ranges 13/7/01.**

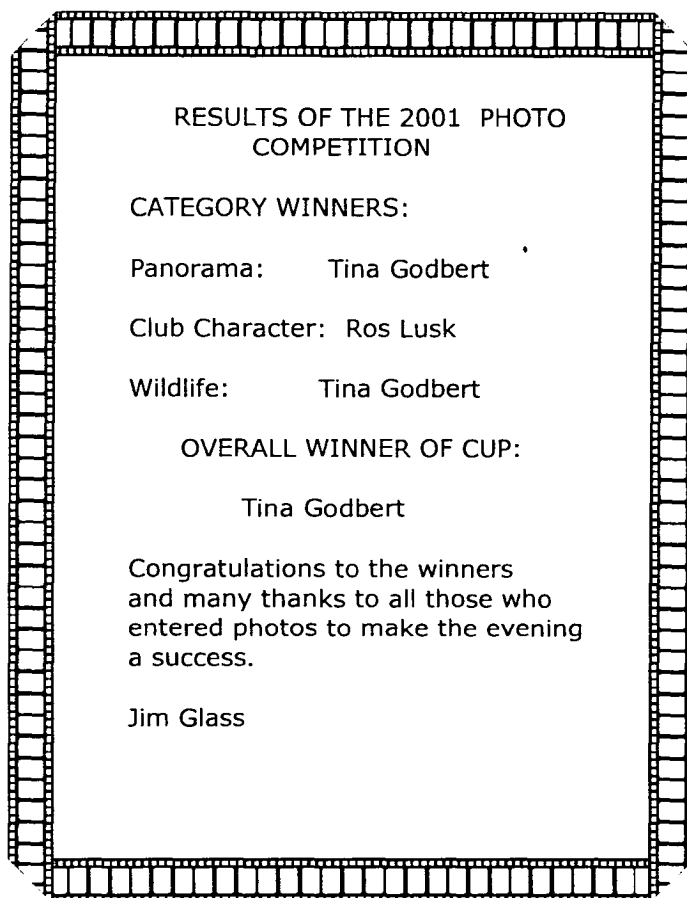
Over 20 club members made the trip to Puketitiri anticipating another entertaining performance from 'The Pantopra Players', Deborah Turner's group of talented locals. We assembled early at the hall, claimed several of the front rows, and were soon enjoying songs from many favourite shows, cleverly linked by a reporter and two policemen, and with a commentary, sometimes ad libbed, by an unlikely pair of bar patrons. As we watched we could imagine the frantic costume changing going on out the back, and particularly impressive was Deborah's sudden transition from accompanist to singer. The chance too for the audience to mingle with the players, is an added bonus, so all were on a high, (not only those who had tried the mulled wine), when we arrived at Pam's.

At about midnight each had secured a place to sleep, and the house was quiet until about 8 am. Those who did not walk early in the bush missed the wonderful concert of birdsong at the Clearing end of Ramage's Track, but after a languid breakfast Pam took us to inspect the trees we planted last year, and to check bait stations and traps in bush on the farm. The traps were at the base of a tree lucerne hosting many mistletoe plants, which seemed to prefer an exotic to the tasty natives nearby. To justify eating again we walked through to Balls Clearing, visiting the colony of cave

wetas in the shed behind the toilets on the way back to share another highlight of the occasion- Pam's vegetable soup.

Deborah has the next show in her mind, and there will no doubt be another good HTC attendance. Warm congratulations to Deborah, and grateful thanks to Pam for accommodating us.

ML



### **PROGRESSIVE DINNER:**

This was held earlier in the month and was as usual, a most enjoyable night. The theme was formal, so out came the Heretaunga Tramping Club in their most elegant attire. The winner of the best dressed was Tina's raven headed flatmate "Andrea" who came dressed in a scimpy pink dress - and what shapely legs she had. Many thanks to Sandie, Tina & Andy and Eddie & Sue for making their houses available for this event, thanks also to Peter for driving the truck and to Lyn for his organizational skills.



## **OBITUARY:**

### **Athol John Mace**

A little man with a giant's heart, his warmth and sincerity leaves everlasting memories.

We will remember Athol for his cheerfulness, his warmth and his kind humility. His love of life and endless energy. How, when teasing and jokes abounded, Athol would be in the thick of it, but always ready to support and encourage the 'victim' and to keep practical jokes within acceptable boundaries. Athol's unswerving love of the back country, his expertise as a hunter, his leadership in the 1960's as H.T.C. club captain. Athol maintained his interest in club activities, attending meetings when possible from across the Tasman. His concern was genuine when Pohokura did not find him when his address changed.

In 1998 when we both faced crises, as we shared the farm kitchen table, gorging mushrooms til they ran out the corners of our mouths, and his rabbit stew bubbled on the stove, I will remember Athol's courage, his determination and hope. To Mary and his extended family, we offer deep and heartfelt sympathy.

Pam Turner

## **NEW MEMBERS:**

We welcome the following new Members to the Club:

Peter Brown

Marion Nicholson

Karl Eggers

Fiona Green - may you have many enjoyable tramps with the Heretaunga Tramping Club.

## **SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2001-2002:**

These subs are now due to the Treasurer (Box 14086, Mayfair, Hastings)

The rates from 1 September 2001 are:

**ACTIVE - SENIOR - \$30 -**

**ACTIVE FAMILY - \$43 -**

**ACTIVE - JUNIOR - \$18 -**

**YOUNG FAMILY - \$30 -**

**ASSOCIATE - \$15 -**

(If you pay before 1 September deduct \$5 from the above amounts)

## An Invitation

### Summer 2002 - An Oldies Whirinaki Trip.

This trip is to leave from the Okahu Road end and will visit Rogers & Skips Hut. The tracks are well benched with 2 - 4 hours walk per day. Blue duck, mistletoe and rata to view along with the magnificent bush.

Contact the organizer, Susan Lopdell (8446697) if you are interested

# DUTIES

DATE	HOSTS		SUPPER	
12/9	Leo Brunton	David Cormack	Gerald Blackburn	Gavin Scoble
26/9	Geoff Clibborn	Robyn Madden	Jim Hewes	Chris Waldron
10/10	Marjoleine Turel	Mandy Leslie	Sandy Claudatos	Allan Peterson
24/10	Andy Fowler	Bobby Couchman	Peggy Gulliver	Phillip Mardon
7/11(AGM)	Shirley Bathgate	Jim Glass	Garry Smith	Ken Nugent
21/11	Lyn Gentry	Glenda Hooper	Susan Lopdell	Susan Fraser
5/12	Alison Hollington	Gail Harvey	Andrew Taylor	Denise McBride
9/1	John Montgomerie	Bob Carter	Alistair Moffitt	John Berry

### **Duties of those on Supper and Host:**

#### **HOSTS:**

Greet visitors and fill in visitors book. Sweep floors and check that heaters and lights are off at the end of the meeting.

#### **SUPPER:**

Put zip on, cups etc out, wash dishes and leave kitchen clean and tidy at end of evening and generally help Jenny.

# AGM

The Heretaunga Tramping Club AGM is to be held on Wednesday 7 November immediately after the general meeting which starts at 7.30 pm at the Hastings Harrier Club Hall, Sylvan Road, Hastings.

## MEETINGS

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER/COMMENTS
12 Sep	Coming trips slide evening	If you have good shot of any of the areas listed in the trip list contact Glenda Hooper (8774183) who will coordinate this evening.
26 Sep	DOC	A person from the Department of Conservation will update us on Hawkes Bay conservation issues.
10 Oct	Training -	
24 Oct	Slides & Photos	A chance for members to show their snaps taken on recent trips
7 Nov	AGM	The AGM follows the normal fortnightly meeting.
21 Nov	Woodturner	John & Peter will demonstrate wood turner - a chance for you to have a go
5 Dec	Car Rally	The rally will proceed the meeting. The first cars will start off around 7.15 PM.
19 Dec	Christmas BBQ	Arrive at 6.30 PM for a barbeque tea in the area beside Club rooms. Meeting to follow.
16 Jan	Social Night	A chance to catch up with what happened over the holidays.

## 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
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: Complete set of clothing for the return trip.		

## HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB TRIP LIST

The trips listed below are designed to cater for people of average fitness. 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

<b>Sep 15 &amp; 16. Kaweka Range</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>Map U20</b>
<b>Party A:</b> Climb to the tops from Makahu Saddle then northwards to Tira Lodge and down to Rocks Ahead for the night. Sunday climb up Back Ridge and out to Makahu over the J.		
<b>Party B:</b> From Makahu Saddle climb up to North Kaweka and then along to Ballards for the night. Sunday come out via Dicks Spur and Kaweka Flats.		
<b>Leaders:</b> A: Andy Fowler 8350064 & Dave Heaps 8750088 required	<b>B:</b> required	<b>Driver:</b>
<b>Local Day Trip: 16 Sep.</b> Kuripapango Hill (4100)		<b>Map U20</b>

<b>Sep 30. Te Iringa Area - Kaweka Range</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>Map U20</b>
Trip is to go up to Te Iringa then on to the Hoggett and out to Timahanga Station. This is a lovely bush area with good views out to the tussock lands and a good place to practice navigational skills.		
<b>Leader:</b> required	<b>Driver:</b> required	

<b>Oct 14. Waikaou Gorge / Caving</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>Map V19</b>
<b>Gorge Party:</b> Drop into the river off the Pohokura Road, north of Lake Tutira. Trip to a limestone Gorge with huge boulders and very scenic country. Follow the Waikaou River downstream to the Blue Lake then climb up the farmland to Lake Opouahi.		
<b>Caving Party:</b> There are a number of caves and limestone outcrops to explore in the area around BellBird Bush		
<b>Leaders:</b> Required	<b>Driver:</b> Required	

<b>Oct 19 - 22 Labour Weekend: Lake Colenso - Ruahine Range</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>Map U21</b>
Drive to the western side of the Ruahine Range to the Mokai Road end (25 km east of Taihape) - Refer page 38 of Kathy Omblers book on tramps in the Ruahine Range. NB Permission required from Mokai Station		
<b>Party A:</b> will do a ropund trip from this road end taking in Iron Bark Hut, Ohutu Range, Ruahine Corner and Otukota Hut and Lake Colenso		
<b>Party B:</b> Tramp through bushed areas on tracks from the carpark to Iron Bark Hut, Colenso Hut (and Lake Colenso), unknown campsite, Okotoka Hut and out via the Mokai Patea Range.		
<b>Leader:</b> A: required	<b>B:</b> Susan Lopdell 8446697	<b>Driver:</b> required

<b>28 Oct. Central Ruahine Range</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>Map U22</b>
<b>Party A:</b> Drive to Mill Farm then tramp up the Tukituki River and Rosvalls Track to Tarn Bivvy. Continue up Black Ridge to the tops then down ridge via high point 1489 to Hinerua Hut. Out via Footes Mistake to Tukituki River and truck.		
<b>Party B:</b> Also tramp up Rosvall Track but once on the Black Ridge will descend downwards to Daphne Hut. Back out to the truck via the Tukituki River.		
<b>Leaders:</b> A Party required	<b>B Party:</b> Mike Lusk 8778328	<b>Driver:</b> required

<b>11 Nov. Cairn Trip</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>Map U20</b>
Our annual cairn trip, leaving from Makahu Saddle and ascending either Trial or Makahu Spur to the Cairn on Kaweka J, the highest point in the range. A service is held to remember past members The return route will depend on the party and the conditions.		
<b>Leader:</b> The Club President	<b>Driver:</b> required	

**24&25 Nov. Whirinaki Forest Park****\$15****Map: V18**

Follow Pukahunui Stream to the track junction, climbing up to 1193 m to Upper Te Hoe Hut. Opportunity to explore Te Hoe Gorge and view misletoe sites around the hut.

**Party A:** Sunday; return to track junction and follow the Whirinaki River down to Upper Whirinaki Hut and then out to Plateau Rd.

**Party B:** Sunday: Return out by reverse route. A possibility of a quick look at the newly cleared track into the Waipunga Forest in the afternoon. (Ref May FMC Bulletin )

**Leaders: A:** Dave Heaps 8750088

**B:** Susan Lopdell 8446697

**Driver:** required

**25 Nov: Local Day Trip.** Tramp up Mt Tauhara with a chance of a hot swim at De Bretts afterwards

**9 Dec. Gorge Stream Area -****\$10****Map V20**

**Party A:** Te Kowhai, Don Juan, Gorge stream, Te Kowhai.

**Party B:** From Te Kowhai travel through Pine Forest then take the side track to Taipo . Then bush bash down to , Gorge stream - follow the stream back to Te Kowhai. - Be prepared to get wet!!! Ref to "HB for the Happy Wanderer" for further details

**Leaders: A:** Required

**B:** required

**Driver:** required

**13 Jan 2002 : Rangiteiki Frost Flats & Okoeke Stream****\$10****Maps U19& V19**

**Party A:** Leave the truck in the headwaters of the Okoeke Stream in the Rangiteiki Conservation Area. Travel down the Okoeke Stream to where it crosses the Napier Taupo Road - a magnificent waterfall to descend.

**Party B:** Explore the Rangiteiki frost flats then travel back towards Napier to the Okoeke Stream bridge. A return tramp up the Okoeke Stream to the waterfall.

**Leaders: A:** Peter Berry 8774183

**B:** required

**Driver:** required

**26 & 27 Jan : Central Ruahine Range****\$10****Maps U22 & U21**

**Party A:** Leave from Yeomans Mill and go up the Makaroro River to Colenso Spur. Up spur to Te Autua Mahuru and camp on tops or thereabouts. Sunday, down Totoro Spur and then either down Makaroro River or up to Parks Peak and back out down ridge.

**Party B:** From Yeomans, cross the Makaroro River and climb up the ridge to Palrs Peak hut and down to Upper Makaroro Hut for the night. Sunday head back out down the Makaroro River.

**Leaders: A:** required

**B:** required

**Driver:** required

**Local Day Trip 27 Jan: Return trip to Barlows Hut** from Yeomans via the Makaroro River

**23 & 24 February KAWEKA CHALLENGE**

The Clubs annual fund-raiser where members man check points along the Kaweka Range.

**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:

**Ross Berry 8774436**

**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.