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Sub Committees: (Spokesperson underlined)

Environment:	<u>Shirley Bathgate</u> , Mike Lusk, Glenda Hooper, Tina Godbert
Truck:	<u>Geoff Clibborn</u> , David Heaps
Fixtures:	<u>Susan Lopdell</u> , Rodger Burn, Tina Godbert, Lex Smith, David Heaps, Glenda Hooper,
Huts:	<u>David Heaps</u> , Geoff Clibborn
Training:	<u>Andrew Taylor</u> , Gail Harvey, Andy Fowler, David Heaps, Peter Pryor
SAR:	<u>David Heaps</u> , Eddie Holmes, John Montgomerie
Meetings:	<u>Glenda Hooper</u> , Susan Lopdell, Lex Smith
Social:	<u>Mr Lyn Gentry</u> , Peter Berry, Gloria Abraham, Bob Carter, Graeme Hare
Scrap Book:	Jim Glass
Supper:	Jenny Lean
Album:	Shirley Bathgate
Library:	Liz Pindar (870 0145)
Gear Hire:	Climbing gear Ed Holmes (025 497 298)
Sales Rep:	Robyn Madden (844 9661)

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*).

President's Report 2002

I am pleased to report that the 67th year of The Heretaunga Tramping Club has been a busy and successful one. There has been a full programme of largely well supported trips to a wide variety of the country we all enjoy so much. Meetings have been well attended and have been enlivened by several excellent speakers and by other entertainment, both educational and otherwise. Innovations trialed this year have been the Golden Oldies Tramp, and the arranging of trips every weekend in January. Both were very successful and will be repeated.

In addition to the tramping the fund-raisers have been most successful, considerable effort has gone into hut maintenance, and we have enjoyed a number of social events. There has also been generous support for several club members who have needed a helping hand.

The Committee has been harmonious and willing and it has been a pleasure to work with them. Particular thanks to Gloria who does much of the real work, to Glenda, who with her wealth of experience reminds me gently about all the things I have forgotten, and to Dave who is in charge of the real tramping.

In the years to come, the hills we climb will remain as steep, the pain we feel as we climb them will be just as bad, and the satisfaction of being out with good friends will be just as great.
Mike Lusk

Club Captain's Report 2002

This year the club has wandered to the Ruahines, Pureora, Matemateonga, Whirinaki and Mount Ruapehu and Taranaki. The assaults on Ruapehu and Taranaki were unsuccessful due to bad weather.

Planned trips to the Tararuas and Kaimanawas were cancelled due to lack of numbers, but these were the only ones this year.

All others were well attended, with A parties having the usual small numbers due only to extreme fitness, tenacity and madness, while B parties and local trips had larger numbers due to common sense and wisdom.

Trip ideas for fixtures have been good although input still needs prompting before each Pohokura. Any thoughts for future trips are better than none so keep them coming.

Refresher courses for training will be looked into this coming year i.e. river crossings and above the bushline etc.

My thanks to Mike, Gloria and the rest of the committee for another successful year in the engine room, and to you the members who make tramping the enjoyable pastime that it is.

Happy and safe tramping for 2003.

Dave Heaps

Environmental Report 2002

It seems as though I have the same problems each year as far as Environmentalist issues are concerned. Which goes to show they are never completely dealt with or they are on the "we will think about these" items.

Boundary Stream – Large number of ferrets & stoats killed & all goats around Reserve shot. Kiwi released and closely monitored. There are seven pairs of Kokako in large aviaries. Also a new track formed for all age groups.

Land Issues – The continuing carve-up of our high country & pastoral land goes on & on. These areas sold to foreigners who have the cash which N.Z. people cannot afford. Letters to Min. of Lands, Min. of Conservation, Overseas investment Commission, PM, etc, etc. Govt. must provide more funding for the crown to buy out the lessees & the outstanding conservation landscape, also recreational values. Letters to FMC & R.F. & B. Prot. Soc.

Ferrets – Breeding and sales banned in NZ. These carry TB and destroy native birds.

Other Issues – Plans shelved re gondolas over the Greenstone and Caples Valleys. Ongoing Pinus contorta cutting and clearing from Makahu and Trial spurs.

Banning of Luxury lodges at Mt Cook for rich overseas tourists only. Letter to FMC re the same. Concern over huge increase in number of overseas tourists from 1.9 million to 2.8 million by 2008. The Tourist Department blinded by pure numbers.

The fragile ecosystem cannot cope with the thousands of pounding feet every year. We sell our scenery at bargain basement prices and tourists must take the brunt of payment so New Zealand people can visit their own country at a much-reduced price.

A Government budget of 349 million is to be spent by DOC over the next ten years on going maintenance of huts and tracks and let's hope it is spent wisely.

Japanese ownership of prime Southland farmlands brought for growing eucalyptus trees to be shipped for export. This brings the Tenure Review process in place if any more of this type of foreign land grabbing occurs. Along with the green party, FMC etc we will continue lobbying to prevent any more sales.

These above and many more issues are still to be ongoing until they are all resolved for the betterment of our land and our people.

S. Bathgate.

(Ed Apologies – missed Pam's report, put in extra sheet, sorry out of place)

Mini Reunion

The hair silvers, the eyes mist, the ears don't quite hear and the legs need a stick to prop them up. But the depth of friendships made over decades of tramping together was very evident recently when I was privileged to be a part of a mini HTC reunion. Tongues weren't old or tired as memories were shared, "first trips" recalled (vividly), photos poured over (with much hilarity) and the caring attitude fostered in the hills so long ago quite moving to watch as the almost 90 helped the almost 100 to bend stiff knees to sit. In this age of modern technology it seems amazing that Havelock North and Napier could be so far apart – 36 years since two members had met up! What a wonderful morning it was.

My thanks to Owen, Shirley and Barbara for transporting, to Randall Goldfinch for his much admired display of Kaweka Hut photos, and to Shirley for catering help.

Party: Joan Smith, Peter Lattey, Nancy Turner, Barbara Taylor, Shirley Bathgate, Owen Brown.

Apologies: Rosemary Greenwood, Jim Glass.

Pam Turner (pup of the party!).

Hut Report 2002

Our club huts are kept in good condition thanks to the efforts of club members on a regular basis.

Howletts had its roof painted in inclement weather by a small band of hardy souls at the end of autumn but needs another coat as some of the first one slipped off overnight. The ceiling and walls have also had a coat of paint recently. The dunny is to be relocated to its old hole as this is easier than digging a new one in the rock. These jobs will be completed by Christmas.

Waikamaka had its ceiling painted recently. The walls are next on the agenda along with the roof.

Kiwi saddle had its interior painted and a ladder installed to access the loft above the door. Thanks to Randall for fabricating and fitting it. The trees were cut back from around the hut to let more light in thus complying with DOC policy. Thanks to all who worked on this especially Peter Pryor who carried his chainsaw in. This hut also needs a new stove. This has been organised. Eddie repaired the door recently while doing other DOC work in the area.

Kaweka Hut has had the trees cut and will get another trim when the remedial work begins hopefully in Autumn in conjunction with DOC. Thanks to all who worked on this job as well.

New notices have been made regarding donations and rubbish policies and have been placed in all 4 huts along with cards (as a trial) with our postal address for people who wish to make donations or find out more about our club.

Dave Heaps.

Truck Report 2002

The truck has just clocked up 30,000km, and has been in for servicing. It is just out of warranty, which lasted for 3 years, or 100,000km, whichever came first. We have had no serious problems, other than the annoyance of a recent blowout. There have been a few little improvements and minor repairs done over the past year, and things are in good order.

Mattress covers have been removed, washed, repaired and replaced, and extra pillows have been donated. Thanks to the members who have helped with these items. Next job is to replace the old, rattling sliding side windows, and to track down and stop leaks at the front window.

We have had generally good numbers on trips over the past year, and fares have covered running costs. There should be no need to increase fares for the coming year, as long as good numbers continue.

Geoff Clibborn

TRIP REPORTS

Kaweka Forest Park – Manson

14-15 September 2002

7 A Party and 4 B Party folk left Pernell on Friday night bound for Lakes Carpark, off the Taihape Road, arriving at 7:45pm. The walk in by torch light was different as we encountered snow at the top of 4100 and from there right to Kiwi Saddle hut it snowed blizzard style (cool to say the least). Everyone was in their sacks by about 11pm, much to the amusement of a couple of blokes in residence who thought we were nuts.

After a good hearty breakfast and a cold early start (7:15 approx) 11 pairs of boots crunched off in the crisp snow toward Kiwi Creek. At the junction a couple of comments were made about the snow and how cold Kiwi Creek would be, and 'maybe we could go up and over the high point to Kiwi Mouth.' This idea was dispelled on the grounds that the intended route would save 30 mins, and the people who made the suggestion were told to 'harden up'. So, down the steep hill we go (nutters) and the snow went right to the creek edge. We had a quick snack break and then, into it..... it was cccccold (this was real brass monkey territory which sent voices up a few octaves, and the number of crossings were many. Eddie slipped on a rock and put his hand out to stop the fall. On gaining upright status he found he'd dislocated his two middle fingers and promptly pull them straight again. At this stage there was not much pain as his hands may as well have been in the freezer. However, there were only 3 or 4 more crossings and the legs (in fact anything below the waist, which now seemed detached) were soon to have a reprieve at Kiwi Mouth Hut. The B team were so cold that they decided to keep going, and got straight into climbing the bottom section of Back Ridge. The A's had a sock ringing session and a bite to eat before climbing up onto the white of the Manson country. 11am saw us at Manson Hut for lunch and a quick look at the old Manson Hut for those who had not seen it before. Back up we went and then across the tussock towards Mount Manson, then on to Spion Kop with sometimes shin deep snow. Our pace was slowed by the conditions and a cold stiff wind was blowing the whole time on the tops. Finally we sidled the last high point off Spion Kop and found the track leading to the Ngaruroro river. Down, down the hill and a welcome sight as the little cable care came into view. We each collected enough deadfall for the nights fire then Monty went across the cable car in order to help Eddie and me wind the others one by one across. Then the reverse to wind Ed over last, along with the firewood.

Soon we had a raging fire going. Between the two of us Eddie and I had steak, eggs, dehy spud, peas, beans etc, and the others had their own delights. There was scarcely enough room for dessert but it was stuffed in anyway. Soon after this event it was time to divide the people into sleeping thingys. Monty and Randall refused to sleep in the tent and we were reminded of their age, status (of which there wasn't any) and crustiness...they would be sleeping on bunks in the hut... (wooses). That left 3 girls and 2 bunks, and Ed and me in a tent, so as Annie was the smallest (and the more worldly of the 3) she was informed that she would share the tent with us... she was promptly thrown in the far end with us in front so there was no backing out. It was quite cosy as we had ordered the others to relinquish their sleeping mats. Next morning 2 happily stretched out blokes and 1 crumpled and even shorter Annie awoke to join the others in the hut. We were away by about 8am on the long grind up to Back Ridge (again in snow). Upon reaching the junction and meeting up with Randall (who had shot off like a startled rabbit) we had an early half lunch at a sheltered sunny spot looking down on the bivvy. On and up we emerged from the bush quite wet from the snow melt off the trees. The B Party had written their time in the snow

for us so we knew we would probably not catch them. A final lunch stop was made in the open, just out of the bush above Sterns Saddle. Views were grand from here to Kaweka J and quite a few photos were taken. Down Makahu Spur to the truck where the B Party and a large number of HTC day trippers were waiting. Pam had her mobile cake shop there with cream and jam scones and a beauty cake. Thanks Pam, and thanks to the other party members for making this a memorable weekend. I might add that Ed had been complaining about how sore his fingers were and wincing every time he bumped them.... it turned out that he had broken both fingers at the knuckle. *DH*

A Team: John Montgomerie, Anne Cantrick, Eddie Holmes, Gail Harvey, Sandy Claudatos, Randall Goldfinch, Dave Heaps (leader).

Kaweka Forest Park –Back Ridge

14-15 September 2002

This trip was going to be a lot of firsts for the B party; first night tramp into Kiwi saddle in the dark, first time in new boots, first time with a new pack, first time passed Kiwi saddle, first time up along Back Ridge, first time up along the J, get the picture?

13 hardy souls left from Pernells at 6pm to travel to the Lakes car park, with the knowledge of snow on the way and with a light breeze away we went, with snow already on the ground around 1400 and with the last group arriving at Kiwi Saddle Hut at around 11 pm. Snow was in the air.

6.00am Saturday David (A party) was making the first signs of getting up and putting the hard word on the rest of the group, and at 7.30 both parties were ready to rumble down to Kiwi Mouth in clearing sky's and fresh snow on the ground.

On reaching the creek some people removed their long johns (but not I). We made dozens of crossing, until Ed said, this is the last one. Yeh right, 8 crossings later we arrived at the Back Ridge track at 9.45 and after a quick fuel up and blue legs away 4 hardy souls went.

We continued along Back Ridge in soft snow, sometimes on the track and off, with a cold breeze to keep us moving along, and on reaching the Bivvy at 3.30pm and the thought of another hour or so we decided to stay put. By this time the sun was just above the ridge line so we had a early tea 4.30pm and ready for sleeping arrangements in the Bivvy for 4, very cozy (2 males 2 females.)

I decided this was too early for bed and climbed up onto the ridge to a great view of Ruapehu and on returning found the party in bed, "move over" I said. The rose between two thorns, small talk kept us awake until 8pm and we finally settle down for the night.

In the morning a frost had hit the ground and people with boots outside paid the price, we were to rumble by 8.00 with clear sky's and great views of our travel path up along the J.

We made steady progress and made several stops for food and great views. On reaching the J at 12.15 we saw Jeff, Livia and Chris making their way along. What great timing.

We all sat down out of the cool wind blowing from the SW and enjoyed our lunch only to play silly buggers in the snow; great fun.

At 1.15 we left the tops with a cool wind going right through us, so downwards we went, stopping out of the wind and enjoyed the great views of HB and on arriving at the truck were met by the mobile truck shop; what a great surprise and very much appreciated, well done Pam and Shirley and to my party thank you for a great time, Sue Holmes first time past Kiwi Saddle Hut

and new boots, Lynette Blackburn- first time past Kiwi Saddle and new pack, Ken Nugent- first time with new binoculars and Peter Pryor ,first time along Back Ridge.
Many thanks to Geoff for driving. *PP*

Local Day Trip - Iron Whare

15 September 2002

There had been snow on the preceding Friday night so we were hopeful that even though we were doing a low level trip, we would be amongst it. And so we were, its first influence being on the way in to Makahu carpark, where Geoff had to contend with a pretty slippery hill just before the road levels off. Leaving Livia, Geoff and Christine to head for the J, we started off in full sun, no wind, with snow on the track, and in cooler gullies on the trees as well. A special feature of the early part of the track are the superb mountain cabbage trees. Pretty soon we were also seeing fascinating frost heave on the clay banks. Some of the thick whiskers of ice were 6cm high, and supporting quite large pebbles. The sunny clearing at Kaweka Flats Biv demanded a prolonged rest and while there we could look up and see the small orange spots that are Dominie Biv and its dunny, surrounded by snow. The surrounding kanuka scrub looked like good fernbird habitat, and soon one was responding to my whistle, and eventually I was able to have a brief look at it.

After a quick look across the deep valley towards Middle Hill Hut, we backtracked a little way and set off for the Whare, adding track markers as we went. Often the Whare is a bit cold and gloomy, but we saw it at its best, in dappled sunlight, with plenty of small birds in the beech canopy above. There we enjoyed a leisurely lunch, before cutting and marking our way back out, so that nobody should now have difficulty finding their way.

At Kaweka flats we could see figures descending the ridge below Dominie, so we didn't hang about, and were soon back at the truck, arriving at 4.15pm, and being the last of the parties out.

To cap off a very pleasant day, we were greeted by Pam and Shirley, operating the Mach Mobile Cafe. The fresh scones with jam and cream, the fruit cake and the hot drinks were excellent, and if there was one suggestion I could make, and I mean this in the nicest possible way, it is that the waitresses need to smarten themselves up a bit!

Thanks to Geoff for driving, and to Philip for the box of fruit, always very much appreciated.

ML

Party. Jude Feast from England, Chris Brown, Marion Nicholson, Robyn Madden, Garry Smith, Mike Bull, Alva McAdam, Mike Lusk

Ruahine Forest Park - Sunrise Hut

29 September 2002

Well, I would to have to be the world's worst leader so I am grateful to a few fellow trampers who, when they see I've been foolish enough to volunteer, put their names down for the same trip in order to help me out. Thanks guys, I do appreciate it.

We left Pernell at 6.30am and probably left the car park at approximately 8.40 am.

We knew the weather was not the best and that we probably would not be able to do our intended route to Armstrong Saddle and across to 66 and the Waipawa Saddle, so we took the more arduous "staircase" track to Sunrise Hut. We were sheltered from the poor weather all the way up. Everyone must have been very hungry because as soon as we reached the hut we all got stuck into morning tea meanwhile debating whether we should attempt option B, up to the top above Armstrong Saddle, and drop down the shingle slide to the Waipawa river. Several of us ventured out and found that the wind was so strong and cold that it took the breath away. It was also noted that the toilet door was extremely difficult to open against the wind. However, rather than getting bored most of the party decided to head for the shingle slide. Sandy, Geoff and I decided to head straight back from the hut to the carpark but we followed the others a short distance to see how they got on in the strong wind. We had a great laugh when we got onto the saddle as several of us were knocked of our feet in the strong wind. I got Sandy to take a photo of me leaning my full weight into the wind without falling over. As we were having such fun we just kept following the others and Sandy continued on with them. Geoff and I decided to return as on getting to the top we were walking in driving sleet and had lost our enthusiasm. Once we got opposite the shingle slide we waited to watch the other drop down and apparently they sent us a "Mexican Wave" but unfortunately we only saw them line up. Geoff and I had a very nice wander back down to the truck. Just before we got there it started pouring with rain so we had to get changed in the truck. We also had the rest of our tucker in the truck before shifting it down to the river, just in time to greet the rest of the team.

Thanks to Geoff for driving and Sandy for co-leading. CW

Party: Chris Waldron, Sandy Claudatos, Tina Godbert, Geoff Clibborn, Gail Harvey, Sue and Ed Holmes, Greg Munn, Andrew Taylor, Andy Fowler, Robin heath, Dave Mullinder.

Search and Rescue Exercise

12-13 October 2002

This year 6 of us attended a seminar held in Palmerston North. The 6 included Field Controllers, Advisers etc., and SAR Senior Sergeant Mike Wright. A variety of topics were covered, including the National SAR budget spending, Search dogs, first aid, hypothermia and Back Country Cuisine rat packs.

The Annual SAREX was held at the Kuripapango DOC base/Robsons Lodge. An RNZAF Iroquois was present to ferry teams in and out of the field.

Saturday morning was all go, organising teams and where they would be sent, according to the information received about the lost party. I was given the helm as Ops Manager, with Ed Holmes as Intelligence Manager, Guy Te Kahika as my 2IC and Chris Waldron as Information recorder, along with Mike Wright and Nigel Stillwell from the Police.

By Saturday evening we had the 4 lost increased to 7 but we had a fair idea where the first 4 were so we planned an early morning thrashing of that area. Sunday morning saw the first team in the area and 2 more poised to join them but the weather turned sour and snow started falling so we had to start pulling teams out. During this action, other teams on the ground had found the other 3 missing people and 1 other was sprung at the same time, having walked out and had been at base the whole time.

It was a good result, a good team to work with and it was good to see more of our club members getting a taste and maybe getting more involved in the future.

We had a photographer from the Air Force in attendance, mainly to promote the RNZAF, and Tony Gates was also taking some impressive photos.

I'm sure all of the new volunteers gained a lot from the experience and it was an enjoyable weekend all round. *Dave Heaps*

Waipatiki Beach & Reserve.

13 October 2002

The weather forecast for Sunday in the Ruahine Range sounded atrocious and, given the large numbers of children going tramping, we decided the beach was a nicer place to go. After a staggered start (some had only just staggered out of bed when others knocked on their doors) we all joined up at the Waipatiki Beach around 9.30 and walked northwards along the track above the beach in the sunshine. The track along here had been significantly upgraded since I had last done this walk and rapid progress was made.

There were a few fishermen and whitebaiters at the Aropaoanui River which we reached about 11.30. High tide was around noon but the river was easily cross with most of us not wetting our shorts. An early lunch was had on the other side of the river as black clouds in the distance indicated that the sunshine we were still enjoying would not last much longer. The guys cut their lunch hour short and continued north along the beach to inspected the damage which has closed the walkway north. They only got a short way before they could not proceed any further.

After lunch it was time to walk the road in the rain ,1½ hours of it (I had forgotten it took that long and a few of the kids were complaining) until we got to the top of the Waipatiki Scenic Reserve. This reserve keeps getting better with lots and lots of very healthy nikau palms making it quite unique in this part of Hawkes Bay. It takes about 30 minutes to walk through this reserve to the Waipatiki Road and the cars. Back at the cars we had some afternoon tea and then it was home James. *GH*

Party: Glenda Hooper, Peter & Natalie Berry, Russell, Rebekka, and Samuel Perry, Rebekka Friend, Robyn Madden & Emily??, Lynette, Matthew, Jeremy & Christine Blackburn, Denise McBride and Marion Nicholson.

Waikamaka Hut Working Bee

24 October 2002

Three of us set off up the riverbed on a cool morning, with many patches of Clematis shining white in the tree tops, and smaller patches of white Ourisias on the ground. New shoots on the Tutu were pushing up like giant asparagus, but fortunately we were not hungry. Much of the fine shingle has moved on downstream, so the going is knobbly, and a bit slow, but we were soon at the saddle in light drizzle and a strong norwester. By 11am we were comfortable in hut and after a leisurely lunch, we washed the ceiling, and applied the paint as heavier rain fell. This stopped before we left and we enjoyed the mainly downhill going, being back at the car by 6pm. A pleasing feature of the walk was the sight of many large and a few small native buttercups. An inventory of the paint and tools at the hut is now held in the club files. Thanks to Sue for driving.

ML

Party Sue Holmes, Christine Hardie, Mike Lusk

Mt Taranaki – Labour Weekend**25 to 27 October 2002**

Great plans had been hatched that this was going to be the “assault on the mountain” weekend. A small band of fearless mountaineers assembled on the Thursday night, plus one forgetful leader who at the last minute was reminded to phone Robyn in Palmy to organise picking her up. Having had a bite to eat on the road we rendezvoused with Robyn and headed for Stratford where we hoped to park up outside Glenda’s sisters house. Fortunately Dave had got directions from Glenda and could remember the house number, unfortunately they had changed the numbering and we had the old one. Oops, wrong house at 12pm = quick embarrassed U turn in the driveway. Spotted house further on lit up like Napier port and recognized it from the last visit. Sneaked in to say hello. Many thanks to Audrey & Robert for their hospitality.

Up the Plateau Road in the morning to views of low cloud, rain streaked windscreen and horizontal trees. In fact after we drove into the carpark at the top we had trouble finding the exit! Stopped for a team meeting when the heavens opened and the Huka falls fell on us. Some dampened spirits wanted to pull the plug and head for sunny Hawkes Bay, but an adventurous band forged out the truck door and battled to the steps of a nearby coffee shop, to be thwarted by a luxurious carpet on the floor. We spotted a public shelter nearby and fell into that. I conscientiously closed the door to keep the Tasman out only to find there was no door handle on the inside! Stuck inside a room with a poster proclaiming Taranaki gets 7000mm of rain a year and 80 days a year the winds greater than 90k’s – I believe it. Found a charcoal stump and wrote HELP on a bench to be held up at the window. Chrissy, our saviour, appeared to let us out. Rallying the troops we grabbed our packs and headed into the deluge towards Dawson Falls. A late smoko in Waingongoro Hut saw rain turn to showers and by lunch at Dawson Falls we were enjoying a spot of sunshine. The mountain was still hopelessly clagged in so we canned the plan to head up to Syme Hut on Fanthoms Peak instead the decision was made to return to the truck for that night and hope for a weather miracle for an assault the next day. A pleasant circuit was made back via Jacksons lookout and the Enchanted walk to the Mountain House. Some dark looks were thrown at the leader when it was pointed out that we had just done a 6 hour walk with a 4 day pack!

Headed round to the North Egmont road for the night. Awoke to mist, wind and rain. Oh dear, revolting weather and a revolting party who were even surer they wanted to escape Taranaki. The group compromised on an overnight trip, round a loop in the Pouakai range to the north of Mt Taranaki. Outside we were bemused to see some people with ice axe and crampons heading up – probably to the Taranaki Alpine Club hut for a cup of tea. We started from the Kaiauai carpark, where Dave found his new boots had irritated a tendon on his foot. He was relegated from his position as dominant male due to a bad limp. He battled on valiantly and we found some nice bush on the Kaiauai track. Kaiauai hut has been pulled down and a shelter built on the other side of the stream. As we headed up Henry Peak we met 2 muddy guys coming down who dropped the parties flagging spirits with “it’s a really horrible track”. We soon found out what they meant, the track was so eroded that as you slithered up the muddy, boot wide stream your head was level with the Leatherwood roots – but at least you were out of the wind! It continued like this down the other side of Henry Peak, but we speeded up a lot when we got onto

boardwalk by Maude Peak. After 6 hours we arrived at Pouakai Hut for a hot cupper before following some dodgy looking youths towards Holly Hut. We had misty views over the Sphagnum moss swamp before getting to the hut after 1½ hours. It was a busy hut and after finding bunk space as far as possible from the obnoxious, vodka drinking teenagers, we cooked up and watched the entertainment. In the morning we made quick progress down the Kokowai track back to the truck, about a 4 hr trip.

The truck rumbled us back to (not so) sunny Hawkes Bay and the party still had Monday to catch up with things at home. Many thanks to Dave for driving. Hopefully next time we'll be able to organise better weather and get to the top. *AF*

Party: Dave Heaps, Chris Waldron, Gail Harvey, Robyn Gulliver, Anne Cantrick, Andy Fowler.

Yeomans Track – Local Day Trip

27 October 2002

At the end of the club meeting the trip list showed only 2 people interested but a few phone calls brought the party up to 9 members.

There were a lot of black clouds and a beautiful rainbow when we got to the carpark. But they moved on and away and apart from the wind it was a pleasant walk to Ellis Hut. We enjoyed reading the history of the hut and the names and dates carved into the walls. The hut seems to be still in use and the ash in the fireplace smelt fresh.

To get out of the wind we had lunch in the Whitnell Lodge that used to be the forestry office. On our return trip light rain was falling and we also got a light shower of hail. The kowhai trees must have flowered early as there was none on the trees and only a few still on the ground. By the time we got back to the car park the rain had cleared and before we set off for home we had afternoon tea.

It was a very nice walk and lovely bush with good company. *MN*

Party: Dave Mulinder and his 2 young friends Shannon Stafford-Hyde and Ashton Ferguson, Margaret Graham and family, Philip and Emily with friend Camien Simpson, Chris Brown, Marion Nicholson

Working Bee - Omarunui Landfill
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2 November 2002

Wayne's invaluable contacts in the Regional Council bore more fruit in the form of a request to make a second visit to the landfill, to pick up windblown debris. We had done the same hillside some years ago, and it had been untouched since. So 20 of us fronted up, even including some who had been on the first visit. The smell hadn't improved. Apart from the smell the first impression was of large boxthorn trees festooned with impaled plastic bags, like grotesque Christmas trees, but we were fortunately not required to tidy them. We also noticed bags flying high over us in the gusty wind, and the depressingly large amount of recyclable material we

gathered. We spread out and worked our way along the bank, filling bags and rolling them down to George and Wayne, who led charmed lives as the black missiles descended. From time to time items of interest appeared, including letters to an MP, bank statements, a number of wedding photos, presumably no longer cherished, and a portion of the centrefold of a certain magazine. The finder of the last has been back several times since but remains disappointed. At 2.30 pm, when we were all fed up, the welcome rain arrived, and a pile of 500 bags awaited burial. We earned \$4/bag, which makes this an excellent source of funds, especially if the rubbish bag delivery is no longer available. Further visits remain a possibility. Thanks to Wayne for co-ordinating the event, and to Lex and Glenda for arranging an excellent lunch. *ML*

Party: George Prebble, Wayne Hatcher, Glenda, Peter and Natalie Berry, Chris Waldron, Gerald Blackburn, Jim Glass, Susan Lopdell, Christine Hardie, Rodger Burn, Judy McBride, Chris Brown, Denise McBride, Marion Nicholson, Graeme Hare, Lew Harrison, Shirley Bathgate, Robyn Madden, Mike Lusk.

Cairn Trip

10 November 2002

El Nino delivered us yet another blustery day but there was a strong turnout for the trip to honour those early club members who were killed, or who died of wounds received, in WW 2. The day started with a little drama as Geoff, banging the tyres before we set off, discovered that one of the rear ones was flat, but it was soon changed and we set off only a bit late. The Makahu carpark is more open now the trees around it have been felled, and the lower slopes brown rather than green as the contorta there has also been cut. The serious wind began just below Dominie, but with some linking up we were soon assembled there, gathering strength for the more exposed track above. We pressed on into the increasing gale, with showers of blown grit stinging exposed skin, and as I looked ahead I could see small groups in bright clothing resting in sheltered spots, like so many spilled Smarties. The first bunch to attempt the crossing to the Cairn were forced to turn back, but after regrouping we linked arms and soon made the shelter of the Playground, where the Back Ridge Hut party awaited us. It seemed sensible to stay in the relative comfort of the Playground for the short service, after which we forced our way across to the Cairn. There the youngest in the party, Hannah Perry, placed Robyn's beautiful wreath.

Regrouping back at the Playground we ate lunch, and decided to drop into the headwaters of Don's Stream where we exchanged the discomfort of the gale for that of spaniards, only Jenny and Ros heading back via Dominie where Liz was waiting. Out of the wind we soon warmed up and enjoyed the sunshine as the clouds raced on above us, breaking up as they passed. Before long we were threading our way through the beech and out onto the wide track which led us back to the truck.

The conditions notwithstanding it was a most successful trip, and it was particularly good to see both younger people and older past members coming along.

Thanks to Geoff for driving, to Robyn for the wreath, and to Phillip for the welcome fruit.

Party: Geoff Clibborn (driver), Tina Godbert, Andy Fowler, Murray Tonks, Robyn Heath, Rachel Heywood and search dog Gin, Marion Nicholson, Gail Harvey, Lyn Blackburn, Graeme

Hare, John Berry, Wayne Gillies, Andrew Taylor, Greg Munn, Sue Holmes, Deborah Turner, Randall Goldfinch, Robyn Madden, Liz Pindar, Jenny Lean, Judy McBride, Susan Fraser, Lyn Gentry, Max and Tegan Neumegen, Russell, Joanne, Chris, Matthew, Rebecca, and Hannah Perry, Colin Tibbenham, Wayne Black. Ros and Mike Lusk. *ML*

Western Ruahines

23rd-24th November 2002

'A' Party

With Geoff at the wheel and numbering ten in all (some having pulled out!), we left Pernel at 6am. Stopped for pies and pudding supplies at Fielding. At the road-end, Gerald and Andy expertly caught and returned a large lamb to its mum, the lamb having apparently just jumped into Gerald's arms! The 5 of the A party started off at 10am in bright sunshine which was to last the whole day. After an hour or so we crossed Coal Creek and set off up the steep Knight's Track. It took 2 hours to reach Toka Trig and the ridge walk was lovely - recently cut and with the cedars and moss creating a magical, hobbit-like atmosphere. Views all the way across farmland to the west with Ruapehu and Ngaruahoe still well-covered with snow, as was the elusive Mount Taranaki, 'always clear when you're not on it!' (Andy, quote). As we neared the top there were patches of snow on the track and among the tussock and leatherwood, with a large slope of snow running down to the snow-covered tarn below the trig. The weather was perfect so we settled down for lunch in the hot sun and gentle breeze. Sunbathing and napping took up the next hour till we summoned the motivation to leave such an idyllic spot. At 2.30pm it was down another ridge through the leatherwood and even more magical mossy cedars on a rather overgrown track this time, reaching Leon Kinvig hut at 4.15. The Pohangina River proved an irresistible attraction so we all had a refreshing dip (Sue found the best swimming spot) before sprawling out on the sunny verandah of the hut, with the waterfall dropping musically down the opposite bank. (The 18-bed hut was built in 1963 and named after Leon Kinvig, a government deer-culler of the 1950s who died tragically from drowning.) Some serious firewood gathering followed. The hut book had many references to the smokiness of the fireplace, and since the weather was so balmy, Gerald soon had a cheery blaze going outside. We cooked in the hut billies and read edifying articles about 1080 and such from the hut magazines till bedtime.

We woke at 7am. Some had breakfast in bed - such hard work this tramping lark! We set off at 9.20 in light rain which continued off and on all day. The wreaths of mist draping the hillsides probably enhanced the view of what was mainly quite poor-looking bush. The track itself took us through a really enjoyable range of vegetation brightened here and there by starry white clematis. There was far more bird life than we'd seen and heard the previous day. Hut book entries had warned that a number of track times were not accurate. We found it took us 6 hours to the road-end compared with the 5 given on the sign at LK hut (and we weren't lazing around, honestly!) We also found that the track we walked was not always the same as the map, causing an anxious moment or two.

We were met by members of the B party 20 minutes from Ngamoko road-end and exchanged enthusiastic stories. It was a wonderful weekend in great company, with the stunning weather on the Saturday a totally unexpected bonus. *RH*

Party: Tina Godbert, Andy Fowler, Sue Holmes, Gerald Blackburn, Robin Heath

'B' Party

We left Hastings on a cloudy day with a slight drizzle, but we were hopeful that on the otherside of the range it would be fine and so it proved to be.

After dropping the A party off, five of us drove to the Rangiwahia hut car park. On the way we visited a pretty glow worm cave. A large sign warned of the dangerous slip along the track, to be attempted by experienced trampers only. As we considered ourselves such trampers we set out.

The scenery was stunning. Tongariro, Ngaruahoe and Egmont covered in snow on the skyline. Lots of wonderful trees along the way. The slip has deteriorated and was a bit hair raising and exciting to cross. After visiting the waterfall on the way we were soon at the hut. More a lodge than a hut. Plenty of room, gas rings, comfortable mattresses and a gas fire.

Geoff decided to spend the rest of the day around the hut while the rest of us went up to the Mangahua Trig behind the hut. It was such a beautiful day and was too good an opportunity to miss the wonderful views of the tops. Lots of patches of snow and not a breath of wind. Returning to the hut we watched a stunning sunset before settling down for the night.

Next morning we returned at a leisurely pace to the carpark under grey skies. We safely negotiated the slip at a different crossing, boarded the truck for Norsewood, stopped off to look at the windmill information centre and pressed on to the Norsewood Fair, where we had a great time spending our pocket money. (That Norsewood cheese is something else – yum). After a while we thought we had better go and look for the A party. Parking at the Ngamoko Road end a couple of us began walking to meet the "A's". By now it had begun to rain steadily. We soon saw them glowing and full of energy. They had obviously had a great time.

Thanks to Geoff our Driver and to companions who made the weekend a success. *CH*

Party: Bobby Couchman, Geoff Clibborn, Joan Ruffel, Christine Harding, Susan Frazer.

PRIVATE TRIPS

Heaphy Track	28 September – 6 October 2002
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Four member of the club flew to Nelson on the Saturday arriving in wet conditions. Did some 'sightseeing' in town, Katmandu had a sale on, need I say more

The Monday morning start of our tramp did not start until 1.20 pm due to somewhat delayed pickup of our transport, the Trekexpress.

A steady 5 hours climb through lovely bush took us to Perry Saddle Hut. The hut was full as a few people had not been able to get over the 3 fords the day before.

Tuesday morning we had a visit from a friendly weka. First time I had seen one. The Goulard Downs vegetation is lumpy with colours of copper and rusts; very open in places, with small patches of beach that are covered in moss and lichen.

We were going to stay the night at Saxon Hut but as it was 11.30am when we got there we decided to carry on the McKay Hut. There were only 6 other trampers when we arrived but it was a full hut by dark, the last ones arrived in very bleak conditions with high winds and very low cloud.

Wednesday was bright again and we got our first glimpse of the Heaphy river meeting the sea. It was an easy day of 3.5 hours to Lewis Hut. The bush was beautiful, open with lots of moss-covered logs, lovely little streams coming out of the bush with ferns and moss on the rocks.

The hut is situated on the bank where the Lewis river meets the Heaphy river. There were only 10 of us that night so we had a great time playing cards and games. In the evening and early morning we watched deer come out of the bush.

Thursday was another easy day going as far as the Heaphy Hut. The bush is much more dense with thick undergrowth and Nikau palms, at times the ground was bright yellow with Kowhai flowers and the tuis, bell birds and pigeons were in great numbers. We passed a colony of shags resting in trees over the river beside the track. For the first time we had to put on our raincoats just before the hut, and had showers on and off all afternoon. We went for a nature walk with Brent Hudson (DoC worker) and again in the evening to see the giant snails crawling in the grass and glow worms in a small cave.

Friday was bright and warm for the tramp out, a lot of people had told me this is the best day and it was lovely with the palms, the sand, the sea pounding in but to me the bush was the best. We spent the night at Karamea enjoying the hot shower and a cooked dinner

Rorry picked us up at midday for our return to Nelson on Saturday.

I had heard many times of the wonderful Heaphy Track and envied those who had walked it. To have tramped over a great track where thousands of the feet have tramped, to see the beautiful bush, rivers, birds, wildlife and enjoyed meeting others at the huts was all wonderful but it is your companions that make it a great trip so I thank Susan Fraser, Sasan Lopdell and Janine Bainbridge.

Marion Nicholson

Not exactly a Rembrandt- painting Howletts Hut

October 24- 26 2002

After speaking to the Heretaunga Tramping Club, what better place to retire to for a few days relaxation and study than Howletts Hut? The weather was gorgeous (although the forecast was not), and there was lots to do up there. I sweated in past Longview hut, arriving at Howletts just on dark. Although longer than the more common Tukituki route, the route past Otumore is not difficult in good conditions. For me, it was a very scenic sunset over the Oroua Valley, with the upper slopes of Te Hekenga- Taumetaomekura bathed in golden evening sunlight.

The next morning, the nearly full moon over Bullet Basin (directly opposite Howletts), looked equally beautiful during the sunrise. That was the last of the good weather. I began to empty some of the mouse droppings from the cupboard, and clean the hut (which was already pretty clean anyway). I then nicked up onto Tiraha with my skis (Randall said it took a fat hour to get there- ask him what that means), to hopefully catch a quick ski before the weather really packed in, and the snow softened terribly. Threatening weather came to nought when I was up there, in fact, I even had a burst of blue sky. Off Tiraha, it was an exciting ski over to Taumetaumekura, where I was forced to shelter from a vicious wind. A quick refuel, then I was carving wide turns into Bullet Basin, which was so named in the days of the deer cullers (one culler, in 1950, recorded seeing over 100 deer there in 1950). There was no one to admire my ski trails, probably the second set ever in the valley. (the late Ola Rian, of Norsewear, heli skied there during the early 1970's). I have cross country and telemark skied in the Ruahines at Rangi, Hikurangi, and Armstrong Saddle, and usually earlier in the season, but this was one place that I had longed to ski- right opposite and above Howletts Hut. Contrary to what everyone seems to believe, there is heaps more snow that you realise (you can see lots of it on Ohuinga from Hastings). I grabbed a long run of about 40 carving turns, right down to the flat bit of Bullet Basin- that is a vertical drop of about 200 metres, which I think would be equal to that of a short T bar on a skifield, and every bit as good. Hard work plodding back up though! I was back at Howletts before the rain, by lunchtime, where Randall had taken up residence.

He was there to express his artistic tendancies, although he confessed to being not exactly a Rembrandt. Since then, I have heard nothing but complements about the tidy look inside the hut. I'm sure that its tidy appearance will promote the payment of hut fees. So, after a quick clean where necessary, the two of us slapped on a lick of paint right around the inside of the hut, floor to ceiling. With the new pot belly stove pumping our coal driven heat, we were optimistic that the paint would dry. Its' smell was mildly offensive, but we were happy. The weather outside was miserable. The next day provided us with more miserable weather. Bacon, eggs, avocado, tomatoes, and bananas were on the breakfast menu. We ventured out into the miserable weather to gather some firewood, finding plenty of dead leatherwood just a little further away than anyone else ever goes. It was very cold. Randall departed, and I stayed on, somewhat optimistically thinking I would get a pleasant evening ski up in Bullet Basin if I was patient (I would have had to wait at least a week for good weather).

They say it is boring watching paint dry, but I managed to amuse myself for the day. I had food to eat, coal to burn, and study to do. Anyway, Howletts is wonderful place to be stuck in a storm. Occasionally, I would poke my head out the door, and occasionally, very occasionally, the wind and mist would relent. I never got that second ski in Bullet Basin, so the next day, I retreated at midday into a lashing nor-wester wind. *TG*
Tony Gates and Randall Goldfinch

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

THE REBUILDING OF THE CAIRN

18th-19th October 1952

Friday night saw Bob Woon, Derek Conway and Ken Thomas leave Hastings for Kuripapanga en route for the Memorial Cairn at Trig J.

After a comfortable night at the Swamp Cottage we left for the tops just as the sun was rising. The trip to the hut was accomplished at reasonable speed, and on arrival we had a boil up and then slowly climbed the ridge to the top. By this time the sun had risen and the temperature rose to great heights. So did we and the higher the hotter, or so it seemed. We passed through Studholme and had another boil up at the Surveyor's camp, then pushed on to the Trig. This was reached in the late afternoon and the camp was erected right at the trig and just a few yards from a well filled tarn.

The Cairn was then tackled. It was decided to start from scratch and so we dismantled the whole thing and rebuilt from ground level. Surprisingly enough the job was completed by the three of us in just under two hours and we turned in early and spent a very warm night despite that water left in the billy outside the tent was frozen in the morning.

Sunday was hot and clear and we left early and travelled slowly. Scorning the conventional route home we tried another which has not been used by club members for many years. After hearing what we had to say about it, it will be surprising if it is used for many more. It stank! We reached the road with hours of daylight to spare and set sail for home in high glee, feeling very pleased with ourselves.

However, Lady Luck decided that as we had had such a good time she would fix us. Accordingly she broke down our car on the way home. This happened outside a house with 'phone, however, and it was a simple matter to ring for help and also to partake of that generous hospitality which farm life in the backblocks seems to breed. Some time later help arrived and we were towed safely home.

Ken Thomas

---- 0000 ----

Bush Tucker

Robyn's Steam Pud a la Backcountry.

You will need to take:-

- 1) Cake /Muffin mix - choose one that uses one egg,
eg.Edmonds Muffin Mixes or Cupcake mixes
Richer cake mixes use more eggs.
- 2) Egg - according to recipe.
- 3) Oil or Butter -according to recipe
- 4) Dried fruit, or Nestle Rolos or small cake of chocolate to add to mixture.(optional)
- 5) Oven Bag 406mm x254mm x1 plus one tie.
- 6) Spoon
- 7)Middle size Billy

NB -If you take the packet of mix out of its carton remember to cut out the instructions or memorise them!

Pack all the ingredients into an ice-cream container which will double as your eating bowl and your mixing bowl. Wrap the egg in the oven bag.

Method -

- 1) Half fill the billy with water and bring to the boil.
- 2)Tip all ingredients into ice cream container plus the cold water as per instructions.
- 3)Mix to combine.
- 4)Pour mixture into the oven bag .Tie bag -leaving room for steam to escape from the bag.
- 5)Put bag into boiling water. **DO NOT ALLOW THE BILLY TO BOIL DRY.**
- 6) Time to cook -hard to estimate but at least 30 minutes. It will taste delicious cooked or nearly cooked after a hard day of tramping.
- 7) Consider taking along a packet of Instant Custard mix! Yum!
- 8) Don't forget to let a lucky person lick the bowl .

Mince and Noodles

Cost: about \$4 for the quantities below

Time: At home: 45 minutes (includes drying time) On tramp: 10 minutes

For: 1 or 2 people

Ingredients: 250 g mince, 1 onion, 1 clove garlic, salt, pepper, oregano & tomato sauce or savory tomatoes to taste. Pack separately some parmesan cheese and instant noodles.

At home: Fry the mince, garlic and onion with just a small amount of oil, mixing to break up lumps, until well browned - about 5 minutes. Add the seasonings, oregano and tomato and continue frying, stirring frequently, on low heat until most of the water has been boiled off and it is in danger of burning. Finish drying it out by spreading it out thinly on baking paper and drying in an oven at 50C for about 30 minutes - use the fan if you have one. Cool and bag - store in freezer till required.

On the tramp: Boil 3 cups of water and add the mince, simmer for 3 minutes then add the instant noodles and simmer another 2 minutes. Serve topped with the parmesan cheese.

Pam's Porridge

½ Cup Creamota
½ Cup Milk Powder
Sugar, Salt to taste
Dried Fruits as desired

Mix all above together. This is lightweight and easy to carry in a re-sealable plastic bag or aluminium container.

Arataki Honey is an excellent substitute for sugar (needs to be packed separately in a leak proof container!)

Method:

Place above mixture in a pan or billy and mix well with water hot or cold. Bring to the boil while stirring. May be simmered if a softer consistency is desired(I like it grainy so don't overcook it). Soak pan while packing up and it is then very easy to clean.

Experiment at home to get the consistency that you like best- Milkier, sweeter, more or less water etc.

Hubbards Fruit Medley delightfully fruitful Porridge (on supermarket shelves at \$4.95 for a large bag) saves adding your own fruit. Rolled oats makes a pleasant substitute for creamota but rolled oats requires longer cooking.

This hot sweet breakfast is very suitable in cold/wet conditions and sets you up well for an active day.

Tina's Tom Yum

A spicy noodle dish. The key ingredient is Tom Yum paste which is a flavouring for making spicy Thai soups. I use this in many ways and you can add a lot of ingredients or a few depending on whether it is an overnigher or if you have been carting your pack over hill and dale for days.

Tom Yum Paste (Chantals or Big Fresh)

Dried noodles

Coconut milk powder (any supermarket) can make it without this to make a spicy clear soup.

Onion, fresh or dried

Clove of garlic

Dried Galangal root, one small piece (related to ginger not essential but gives an interesting woody flavour,Chantals)

Lemon juice (not essential but really improves dish, cuts the richness of the coconut milk)

Kaffir lime leaf (gives great lime flavour can probably be bought dry at Chantals but if you like cooking Thai food really worth getting your own bush or raiding Tina's)

Green vege fresh or dried. I usually think it worth the weight to carry in a courgette or bit of broccoli but have used dried green beans.

Dried shrimps (most asian food stores) or other meat or fish.

Boil up sliced onion, garlic, galangal finely chopped, kaffir lime leaf and vege and shrimps in water with about a desert spoon of Tom Yum Paste to flavour enough for two people. When nearly cooked add the coconut powder (if you want it lump free dissolve in a little cold water first) and the noodles. For two people I would use about 1/3 a cup of powder but even a table spoon will make it taste good. Squeeze lemon in at the end. Use more water if you want it soupy and less if you want it a creamy sauce.

Andy's Couscous

For 2 people:

1 Cup Couscous

2 small dried sausages (new world has good selection)

dried beans and peas

dried mushrooms (we have a stock of field mushrooms we dried ourselves but you can get tasty porcine for the price of your best tramping leg at places like Vetro or Chantals and occasionally supermarkets)

sun dried tomato 2 or three sliced up.

¼ Cup pine nuts very good but pricey

teaspoon of chicken stock.

We carry this in with the couscous, chicken stock, pine nuts and sun dried tomatoes already mixed together.

Boil 2 cups of water add the veges and mushrooms and cook for 2 minutes then add the couscous mix and sausages (sliced up), turn heat down as low as possible and after a minute or two turn it off altogether. Leave with the lid on for about 5 minutes then eat. If you have them in the garden a couple of fresh basil leaves weigh nothing and are really good stirred in at the end.

The beauty of couscous is that it requires very little cooking so saves on fuel, infact just pouring boiling water over it and leaving to stand for ten minutes would make it quite edible.

GEOFF'S PACKET PASTA

Quick easy and delicious, good for the tired trumper to boil up and shovel in.

A packet of continental pasta. Recommended flavours: Alfredo, Creamy Bacon Carbonara, Sour Cream and Mushrooms.

Sliced Ham.

Just cook up the pasta according to packet instructions, It does not need margarine or milk, water only is fine but add milk powder if you like. When it is nearly cooked add your sliced ham. Towards the end stir a bit because it tries to stick to the pan.

That's it! You can also add dried vege if you wish. Don't believe the number of servings on the pack. A normal pack will be heaps for one person but a bit lean for two, the family packs are a good big meal for two.

As they say in the posh spots: ENJOY!

Book Reviews

By Tony Gates

NORTH ISLAND WEEKEND TRAMPS

By Shaun Barnett (2002), Craig Potton Publishing.

\$29.95. Paperback. 146 pages, approximately one photograph or map each page.

The author of this lovely book is well known for his writing and photography about tramping and the outdoors in New Zealand. He has had work published in several magazines, such as the FMC Bulletin, New Zealand Geographic, and New Zealand Wilderness (Shaun is currently the Editor of the latter). And his name appears in many hut log books which Heretaunga Tramping Club members will know. Now, with his third photograph and text book published by Craig Potton, we see more of the usual high standard. It is a very well laid out and presented book, suitable for you back pack as much as your coffee table or library. It has been written for the foreigner as much as the local person. Its companion volume for South Island weekend tramps (by Nick Groves) is due out sometime soon.

Although there is a plethora of route guide books already available for New Zealand, such as Lonely Planet, National Parks handbooks, and area guides, this book fills its self established niche brilliantly. Sure, it cannot hope to be totally comprehensive (that is, unless the author is going to write several more volumes of other tramps), rather, it offers a glimpse of many areas throughout the North Island. It is a pretty good glimpse, and certainly, if you have ever done any of the tramps listed, you should have a taste for more from this book. General, sometimes brief information, then 43 (mostly) overnight tramping trips are listed, presented with up to date hut, track, and bridge information, botany, historical and other interesting details, and excellent route guide information. Easy to follow maps and fact files, with an easy to read text, are provided for the sensibly laid out north to south (more or less) tramp selection. So the guide for each tramp takes up two or three pages. The author does advise using the more detailed topographic maps, and suggests other texts to consult, but I suggest that the information provided here would be quite satisfactory for, for example, someone wanting to visit Kiwi Saddle for the first time.

The best part of "Weekend tramps", which readers couldn't fail to be impressed with, is surely the photographs- some of which are absolutely stunningly taken and presented. Look at the very romantic cover photo for example, with typical New Zealand beauty, mystery, and interest. We would expect no less from the author and publisher anyway. They are the result of a passionate tramping photographer who carries his heavy equipment around with him, and is prepared to use it. All were taken by the author, a sure sign that he actually completed all of the tramps described. Note also the moody sunrise and sunset photos, the use of a wide angle lens, and slow shutter speeds on flowing water. Members might even recognize some of these from NZ Wilderness magazine, and should recognize some of their favourite tramping areas.

I know that it is a fine book, reasonably priced, destined to be purchased by many members, and more importantly, inspire us to get out and do some of the tramps. However, I couldn't help but feel the down side of such success- crowds. The Tongariro Crossing, Lake Waikaremoama, and Mt Holdsworth are all listed, already frequently crowded. I would be disappointed if some less crowded places described, such as Sawtooth Ridge, become that way.

The closest local trips in this book for Hawkes Bay trampers include; Cape Kidnappers, Te Puia Lodge, Kaweka J, Kiwi Saddle, and Sunrise Hut/ Te Atu Oparapara.

Natural New Zealand.

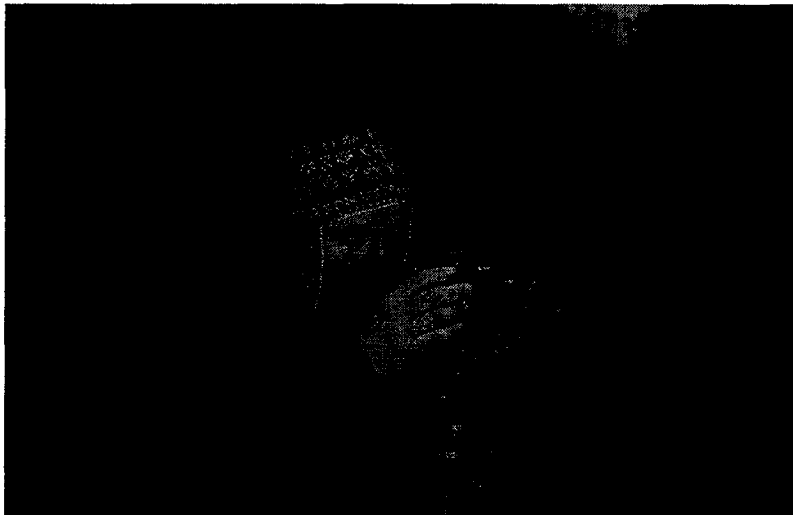
By Shaun Barnett (2001). Craig Potton Publishing. 72 pages. \$19.99. soft cover.

The author has created an attractive and inexpensive quality coffee table/ gift picture book of what he describes as a diverse and astonishing country. He takes the reader on a brief illustrated tour of many of New Zealand's wild and beautiful natural places, and shows some of our obvious (and not so obvious) native wildlife.

There is short an introductory essay that covers natural and man made history, featuring human impacts on natural New Zealand (both negative and positive), as well as recreational interest. The book's photographs commence at New Zealand's highest peak, and follow roughly by area, south to north. They finish near our most northern point. This bulk of the book is one, two or three well annotated photographs per page, some of which may be recognized as previously published. Most, though not all, of the photographs, were taken by the author. They are all, as expected, excellent, with plenty of sunsets/ sunrises, moody, overcast skies, and sunny days. There are also some of those difficult to take river and forest interior scenes. My favourite photographs are probably the ones that I think I can never take myself, like wildlife photographs. Kiwi, gecko, tuatara, dolphin, and similar creatures feature here.

Although their coverage isn't designed to be comprehensive, the photographs do cover a very wide variety of subject material, many of which appears to be untouched wilderness. There are a few shots of people, huts, and the like. There is a fairly strong emphasis on mountains and forests, but also things like Rototua's hot pools and Otago's Moeraki boulders. The tantalizing as much as interesting photographs will certainly leave you looking out for more work by the author.

Despite competition from other books, this one feels like it will be on our shelves for some time to come. Congratulations Shaun. You've done another excellent job, and shown readers more natural areas of New Zealand than most of us will ever see



Shaun Barnett at work in the Ruahines, September 2000.

Shaun Barnett is a 33-year old writer, editor, and photographer living in Wellington. He's currently the editor of NZ Wilderness magazine, and enjoys writing about the outdoors, conservation and travel. While mainly a trumper, he does enjoy some climbing, sea kayaking and ski-touring - as long as he can take his camera.

CLUB NEWS

Congratulations: Pam Turner is a Gran two more times over with the births of Flynn Mercer and Samara Eggers. Congratulations to the proud parents; Julie & Barry Mercer and Kathy and Darrell Eggers.

New Member: Welcome to Christine Snookes who is now officially a Club Member.

Coming Meetings:

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER/COMMENTS	HOSTS	SUPPER HELP
16 Jan 15	Informal night	Catch up on the holiday going ons	Ken Nugent Bob Carter	Robyn Madden, Peter Berry
30 Jan 29 Jan	Coming Trips /Great Walks	Slides & prints of coming trips plus Mike Bull on his recent trips	Chris Waldron Gloria Abraham	Christine Hardie Mike Bull
13 Feb 12	Annie Part 2	Anne Cantrick will give a further installment of her OE	Lyn Gentry Owen Brown	Denise McBride Lynette Blackburn
27 Feb 26	Club Auction	Donate to the Rescue Helicopter See below.	Pam Turner Marion Nicholson	Joan Ruffell Ken Nugent
13 Mar 12	Underwater World	Quentin Bennett is to show slides taken while diving	Liz Pindar Glenda Hooper	Dave Cormack Robyn Heath
27 Mar 26	Guest Spot	Still being organised but will be an outside speaker.	Jim Glass Shirley Bathgate	Peter Pryor Sandy Claudatos
10 Apr 9	Social Night	Have a prolonged cup of tea and get organised for the next 2 trips	Jim Hewes Marjoleine Turel	Susan Fraser Anne Cantrick
24 Apr 23	UK or Europe	Our wandering treasurer will show aspects of his last years trip	Tina Godbert Andy Fowler	Greg Munn Susan Lopdell
8 May 7	Climbing	Hopefully use the Karamu School climbing wall - Watch this space!	Robyn Madden Alan Peterson	Christine Snooke Randall Goldfinch

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.

CLUB AUCTION

The Club Auction has become an annual event and is great fun. All money made from this event is forwarded to the Lowe Walker Rescue Helicopter - a service that the club has used on at least 2 occasions in the not too distant past. So please bring along items of reasonable condition, produce etc and leave the old toilet seats and other junk at home. To this end we ask that unsold items are taken home by the person who brought them.

MISSING POHOKURAS

There is said to be a second complete set of Pohokuras (the other is in the club library). We are keen to locate the missing set. Anyone who can help please contact Mike Lusk or any other committee member.



From The Chair – Gentle Reminders

- Please make an effort to be on time for meetings.
- Please make trip reports brief, relevant and interesting. eg details of times etc can wait for Pohokura.
- Please pass on spare photos to Shirley for the club albums, preferably with date, location and names on the back.



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- 80 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 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

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

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



Although the area for the trip is general adhered to, the suggested objectives may change for a number of reasons. For pre trip enquiries contact the leader or Dave heaps 875 0088



27 Dec - 1st Jan 2002: Mt Hikurangi

In line with the Year of the Mountain theme, a chance to climb Mt Hikurangi and tramp in the Raukumara Forest Park. Inland from Ruatoria and across cross Pahiroa Station, , climb Hikurangi and return to stay at Hut. Options to follow river up to Oronui and Mangatera Huts and return. If interested put name on Club noticeboard. (Medium)

5 January 2003 Beach trip from Tangoio

Leave from Tangoio Beach road and head northwards along the coast. Visit Flat Rock and Stingray Bay and carry on along a cliff face to Taits Beach , a 1 1/2 kilometre beach of sand. From here carry on to Waipatiki Beach and if time and the body is willing press on to Aropaoanui Beach and walk up the road to the Waipatiki Scenic Reserve then walk down the reserve to Waipatiki Road. (Easy grading)

Organizer: Mike Lusk 8778328

Driver: Geoff Clibborn

12 January Rabbit Gully Extension.

Last year we went up Rabbit Gully from the coast up to where the farm track crosses it. This time we will enter at the farm track and carry on upwards to explore some more. (Easy grading)

Organizer: Dave Heaps 8750088

19 January: Whirinaki Forest Park \$10

Map: V18

A&B: An opportunity to do the circuit taking in Upper Whirinaki and Central Whirinaki via Tamamu Stream. Alternatively follow the Whirinaki River to the cave and up and along a good benched track to Plateau Road. (Medium grading)

Organiser: Susan Lopdell 8446697

Driver: Peter Berry

26 January: Kaweka Forest Park

\$10

Map U20

A: In from the bridge at Jack Nicholas' on Makahu Road. Up the Makahu River to Makahu Base via Pinnacle Stream with the option of exiting the river to either go out via Iron Whare or quarry.

B: Try and locate the old track to Makahu Saddle. Start from the woolshed (Whittles), cross Gorge Stream and on to Makahu Saddle - the track is south of the road to Makahu.

Organisers: A: Gerald Blackburn 8772340 B: Graeme Hare 8448656 Driver: G Clibborn

1/2 February: Upper Tukituki River Ruahine Forest Park \$10 Map U22

A: In from Mill Road up the Tukituki River to Daphne Hut and up Daphne spur to Howletts hut for the night. An early start on Sunday across Sawtooth Ridge, Black Ridge and out via Rosvalls Track.

B: Saturday walk into Howletts Hut with the A party. On Sunday go across the tops to Taumataua high point, across to high point 1271 and then down the spur to Daphne Hut and out via the Tukituki River.

Organisers: A: Andy Fowler 8350064 B: Ros Lusk 8778328 Driver: Geoff Clibborn

Local Day Trip Sunday 2 Feb: Khyber Pass. - this is the stretch of river that is immediately down stream of the above Tukituki Route to Daphne. It passes through rural land from which numerous small waterfalls cascade. (Easy grading)

6 (Waitangi Day) - 9 February: Wairarapa Womble \$35
 Depart 8 AM on Thursday to Mt Bruce Wildlife Centre, Pioneer Museum, Featherston Fell Engine Museum, Rimutaka Summit walk and on to the Kaitoki Regional Reserve for the night. Friday: Rimutaka Incline Walk, Cross Creek and then Lake Ferry for night. Saturday explore Palliser Bay area and Sunday the Castlepoint area then home arriving approximately 5.30 PM.
 Organizer & Driver Geoff Clibborn 8446039

16 February: Waikoau Gorge \$10 Map: V19
A: Caving party to explore the many limestone caves in this area.
B: From the Airstrip, drop down into the picturesque Waikoau River with its strip of bush and limestone escarpments. Follow the river down to Blue Lake and climb out, over farm land to Lake Opouahi.
 Organisers A: Volunteer wanted B: Judy McBride 8769756 Driver: Geoff Clibborn

22-23 February KAWEKA CHALLENGE
 Come and support a major Club fundraiser and have some fun manning (or womanning) check points over the course. Please give you names to Robyn Madden (8449661) or Andrew Taylor 025 505183

2 March Upper Waipawa River Ruahine Forest Park \$10 Map: U22
A: In from Triplex carpark to Sunrise Hut and on to Armstrong Saddle. From there go along to Sparrowhawk Bivvy and out to Yeomans via the Makaroro River.
B: Drive to Yeomans Mill and walk along to Craigs Hut before cutting down to the Makaroro River at the junction of Gold Creek. Walk on up the beautiful Gold Creek to Gold Creek hut for lunch. After lunch is a 20 minute climb up onto the ridge track which you descend back down to the Makaroro River, then carry on down river to the truck.
 Organisers: A; Tina Godbert 8350064 B: Glenda Hooper 8774183 Driver: Dave Heaps

15&16 March Tararua Forest Park \$25
A&B: The upper Ruamahanga Valley and Roaring Stag Lodge is easily accessed from behind Eketahuna. there is good forest, river, and tussock tops tramping there, and the chance to look into the Tararua heartland. Scope for everyone.
 Organiser: Tony Gates. Driver: Geoff Clibborn
Local Day Trip 16 March: Coppermine Creek area.
 Either go up to Wharite Peak and enjoy the views or else be lazy and take a low level loop track - your choice. (Easy grading)

29&30 March (1½day) Kaweka Hut \$10 U20
A: Leave from the Macintosh Carpark and go across to Kaweka Hut for the night. Sunday go up Rogue Ridge before descending the spur to the Tutaekuri River to climb out up a spur on the other side just before Kiwi Saddle Hut. Return via the track to Lakes Rd carpark.
B: Go to Kaweka Hut, to join with the A party, from the Lakes Road carpark. Sunday ascend onto the main range via Kairahi and then down to Mackintosh Hut and out to the Mackintosh carpark via the 3 wire bridge.
 Organisers: A: Tina Godbert 8350064 B: Volunteers required Driver: Geoff Clibborn
Local Day Trip 30 March: Kaweka Hut. (Easy grading)

13 April: Weber Area - Dannevirke Area

\$10

A: Come and enjoy these caves 30 km SE of Dannevirke. Good torches and hard hats required. Permission from landowner is required.

B: Walk along a short distance to the quarry and wander the Makairo Track through regenerating bush on the Puketoi Range.

Organisers & drivers required.

18-21 April: (EASTER) Kaimanawa Forest Park \$20

Map U19

Lots of possibilities in this area - circuit of Oamaru, Boyds, Mt Makarako, Cascade, Clements Road or Oamaru, Boyds, Cascade and Kaipo.

Organisers & drivers required. Dave Heaps??

25-27 April (ANZAC) Urewera National Park \$25 Maps: W18 & W17

A&B: From the northern side Lake Waikaremoana climb up the ridge to Manuoha Hut for the night. On Sunday follow poled route to Sandy Bay and out via the Ruapani Lakes to the DOC headquarters. (Medium grading)

Truck Party: Plenty of scope for a truck party to base themselves at the truck and do short trips. Organisers: A: Andy Fowler 8350064 B: & driver required.

Local Day trip 27 April: Cattle Hill, Taihape Road.

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:

Dave Heaps 875 0088

Jim Glass 877 8748

Glenda Hooper 877 4183

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.

HTC Members Contact List December 2002

NAME	PHONE	ADDRESS
LIFE MEMBERS		
Alan Berry	877 7223	12 Woodford Heights, Havelock North
George Lowe		Cl- R W Lowe, 76 Poraiti Rd R.D. 5, Napier
Jackie Smith	876 8249	1009E Heretaunga Street, Hastings
Jim Glass	877 8748	13 Tanner Street, Havelock North
Liz Pindar	870 0145	Station Road, R.D.2, Hastings
Pam Turner	876 8995	414W Lyndon Road, Hastings
ACTIVE MEMBERS		
Alan & Christine Petersen/Snook	835 1082	18 Seapoint Rd, Napier
Alva Mcadam	843 9135	62 Harold Holt Ave, Napier
Andrew Taylor	878 6349	208 Knights St, Hastings
Anne Cantrick	844 8149	35C Church Road, Taradale
Barbara Taylor	875 0532	12 Kuku Street, Te Awanga
Barry Pacey	870 0081	7 Allen Lane, Clive
Bob Carter	879 5609	Tuki Tuki Hills Rd, R.D. 2, Hastings
Bobby Couchman	878 2503	702 Massey St, Hastings
Chris Brown	878 8096	115 Conway St, Hastings
Chris Waldron	875 0034	11 Pipi Street, Te Awanga
Christine Hardie	844 9590	51A Church Road, Taradale
David & Debbie Harrington	025 325726	PO Box 1031, Napier
David & Jocelyn Cormack/Hall	877 5903	23 Selwyn Rd, Havelock North
David & Leonie Heaps	875 0088	160 Clifton Rd, Te Awanga
Deanna Hanson	06 858 8491	273 Racecourse Road, R.D. 4, Waipukurau
Deborah Turner	839 8877	Glenmore, R.D. 4, Napier
Denise McBride	877 2176	2 Keith Sands Grove, Havelock North
Eddie Holmes	025 497298	PO Box 7495, Taradale
Gail Harvey	873 3609	817 Clive Street, Hastings
Garry Smith	844 9931	131 Avondale Rd, Napier
Gavin & Ben Scoble	844 4350	47 Rotowhenua Rd, RD 2, Napier
Geoff Clibborn	844 6039	30 Kent Tce, Taradale
Geoff Robinson	878 7863	605A Grays Road, Hastings
Gerald & Lynette Blackburn	877 2340	PO Box 534, Hastings
Gloria & Graham Abraham	875 1152	Flat 7 10 Clifton Rd, Te Awanga
Graeme & Helen Hare	844 8656	45B Cumberland Rise, Taradale, Napier
Graham & Marilyn Thorp	845 2274	28 Hetley Cres., Taradale
Greg Munn	877 3993	17 Emerald Hill, Havelock North
Jenny Lean	876 9722	236 Warwick Road, Hastings
Jim Hewes	877 6784	44 Durham Drive, Havelock North.
Joan Ruffell	876 0531	409 Southampton St E, Hastings
John Montgomerie	877 7358	11 Gardiner Place, Havelock North
John & Karen Berry	877 6205	46 Arataki Road, Havelock North
Judy McBride	876 9756	101 Kenilworth Road, Hastings
Karl Eggers	879 4288	16 Plymouth Rd, Flaxmere, Hastings
Ken Nugent	876 5395	404 Lumsden Road, Hastings
Leo Brunton	844 7228	13 Howard Road, Taradale
Lew Harrison	877 1454	14 B Duart Rd, Havelock North

Pohokura

Lex Smith	877 4087	1 Reeve Drive, Havelock North
Lyn & Lyn Gentry	875 0542	319 Parkhill Road, RD, Hastings
Marion Nicholson	873 5935	902 Hardinge Rd, Hastings
Marjoleine Turel	875 1180	3 Tirimoana Place, Te Awanga
Michael Hawthorne		Box 4063, Marewa, Napier
Mike Bull	843 6052	51 Liverpool Crescent, Tamatea
Mike & Roslyn Lusk	877 8328	158 Te Mata Peak Rd, Havelock North
Murray & Robyn Tonks/Heath	835 5228	21 Thompson Rd, Napier
Nigel Read	835 1993	8 Lambton Road, Napier
Owen Brown	835 3908	22 Nelson Cres., Napier
Peggy Gulliver	879 7763	2264 Highway 50, R.D. 5, Hastings
Peter Brown	876 8561	115 Lumsden Road, Hastings
Peter Pryor	876 5666	242 Mayfair Ave, Hastings
Peter&Glenda Berry/Hooper	877 4183	316 Te Aute Road, R.D.2, Hastings
Philip Mardon	876 8558	24 Evenden Rd, Hastings
Randall Goldfinch	845 0942	4 Tukes Place, Napier.
Robyn Madden	844 9661	65 Osier Rd, Napier
Rodger Burn	877 6322	69 Te Mata Rd, Havelock North
Sandy Claudatos	835 2073	24 Lighthouse Rd, Napier
Shirley Bathgate	877 8511	29 Campbell Street, Havelock North
Susan Fraser	874 3874	1222 Taihape Road, RD 9, Hastings
Susan Holmes	844 6032	Puketapu Road, R.D.3, Napier
Susan Lopdell	844 6697	55 Waterhouse Street, Taradale
Susan Moyes	876 5932	813 Jervois St, Hastings
Ted Sapsford	876 0405	804A Clive St, Hastings
Thelma Tasman Smith	877 7599	Breadalbane Avenue, Havelock North
Tina & Andy Godbert/Fowler	835 0064	16 Selwyn Rd, Napier
Tony Gates		54 Springdale Grove, Palmerston North
Wayne&Chris Hatcher	877 6776	14 Franklin Terrace, Havelock North
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS		
Alastair Moffitt	844 3693	41 O'Dowd Road, Taradale
Eileen Turner	876 8995	414W Lyndon Road, Hastings
George Prebble	878 6024	711 Maitland Crescent, Hastings
Graham & Margaret Griffiths	877 8406	18 Mangarau Crescent, Havelock North
Ian & Pat Berry	877 8772	Arataki Road, Havelock North
Joan Smith		Masonic Village, Devonshire Pl, Taradale
Julie Mercer	878 3246	16 Amanda Place, Hastings
Kathy Turner/Eggers	834 3931	43 Vigor Brown St, Napier
Kay Ward	879 5903	452 Raukawa Rd, RD4, Hastings
Keith Thomson		13 Hikanui Drive, Havelock North
Kerry Popplewell		9 Orari St, Ngaio, Wellington
Len Hodgson		P.O. Box 2402, Stortford Lodge
Paul Smith	876 2803	298 Turamoe RD, RD11, Hastings
Peter Lattey	877 7920	34 Campbell Street, Havelock North
Robyn Berry	877 4436	27 Hikanui Drive, Havelock North
Rosemary Greenwood		45 Chambers Street, Havelock North
Roy Frost		8 Cedar Rd, Te Awanga
Russell & Annette Berry	07 366 6115	Waiotapu, R.D.3, Rotorua