

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB PO BOX 14086 MAYFAIR HASTINGS

POHUKURA – Bulletin No 214

September 2003

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Club Meetings: These are held every second Wednesday (before a tramp) at the Hastings Harrier Clubrooms in Sylvan Road, Hastings. Doors open 7:25pm, visitors are most welcome.

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

TRAINING BULLETIN – THE SKILLS OF TRAMPING

What are the differences between experienced trampers and novices? Why can experienced trampers and hunters walk all day, uphill and down, carrying a heavy pack and not finish up exhausted? Obviously part of it is physical fitness, but there are other tricks of the trade.



HINTS ON WALKING STYLE

- Aim to finish the day walking at the same speed as you started. If the party gets spread out, move the slower people closer to the front.
- **Keep the same rhythm** most of the time whether going uphill, downhill or on the flat. You can do this by taking shorter strides when going up steep grades and maintaining these when going down. You'll probably find that your arms swing rhythmically as you walk.
- Aim to **keep your breathing and heartbeat even**. If you start to puff when climbing, either take shorter strides or slow down. It is better to **keep going slowly** than to go faster and have to stop more often to get your breath back.
- Frequently **scan the track** in front of you to pick the easiest path. Make the best use of any footholds such as roots and depressions.
- Where possible, **place your feet flat** on the surface to spread your weight over your whole foot. If you spend a lot of time on your toes when going uphill, you put unnecessary strain on your calf muscles.
- When walking down **gentle, slippery slopes** lean forward slightly at the waist, bend your knees placing your weight on the **balls of the feet** rather than the heels. The larger surface area of the ball of the foot increases the friction, whereas if you step onto the smaller heel area first you can slip, especially if carrying a heavy pack.
- When travelling down **steep, slippery slopes**, turn side on to the slope, stepping down **sideways**. This method can also be used for climbing steep slippery slopes. If either foot slips turn in towards the slope and use your hands to arrest the fall. A **stick** in the uphill hand can also maintain balance.
- To save energy and avoid slips, **step over or go around** obstacles such as slippery logs or rocks.
- Consider **zig-zagging** rather than going straight up or down steep slopes.
- If there is a safe run-out, it may be better to run down short, slippery sections using **short quick steps**.
- **Have regular rest stops**. If you keep them short, say two to three minutes, you'll find it easier to get going again because your muscles won't have stiffened up.
- Regulate your temperature – wrap up or strip.
- **Drink** plenty and **eat** small amounts regularly.

(Taken from the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council Bushcraft Manual)

TRIP REPORTS

Kaimanawas Easter Trip

18 to 21 April 2003

A PARTY AT EASTER!

At the pre trip meeting we had two, by the next day we had three and at our peak we had four takers for the round of the Northern Kaimanawas. As Easter neared numbers dwindled and it was with relief that I awoke on Easter Friday to find we still had two. We drove in convoy with the B party and the Birding party in private cars. Rather Ali drove and I navigated with the seat reclined and my eyes closed.

We really enjoyed a satisfying round trip. Day one we walked in to Oamaru Hut with the other parties, rather a slog through Poronui Station. A beautifully kept Ranch but the approximately 10 kms, a lot of it on hard farm roads, was trying for those pining for the bush. We left Pam and Barbara at a messy Oamaru Hut. We imagined with glee Pam educating the young hunters in residence on hut etiquette and tidiness when they returned from their day's hunt. We wandered up the Kaipo to the swing bridge, 2 hours on a beautiful path beside a lovely river. Just upstream from the bridge is a delightful campsite which we settled into and had a fine fireside night.

Day two up the Kaipo to Cascade hut. Just after leaving camp we were whistled at and got a quick glimpse of a Sika deer. This is now only being maintained as a route rather than a track and although very adequately marked, the upstream third of it is very slow going with many windfalls and log jams to climb over and round. NOTE: On the map the track is shown as crossing the river 6 times above the swing bridge and then sticking entirely to the true right bank apparently well above the river for extended periods. This is NOT the case and in fact as we followed it up, the Kaipo river increasingly was the track, this is worth knowing if contemplating that leg after significant rain. Although a bit awkward at times it was only 6 hours to Cascade hut and we popped down the Tauranga Taupo to the historic and delightful Stanfields' Whare. We shared Cascade Hut with a young DOC worker and some rather smokey Hunters who kept us well entertained. All advised us against attempting the New Route over Maungaorangi:

"Totally Uncut" says the DOC worker.

"But isn't a lot of the bush quite open Beech forest?" asks Tina.

"Nah its all Jungle Pus out there, you ladies with your big packs won't stand a show" replies Taranaki Hunter (and Cascade regular).

Day three. Hmm a bit nervous now but more determined than before. The ladies set off wrapped in extra pink glow tape a gift from the hunters to protect us from their mates! Soon after leaving camp we saw a small deer bound off the track. From Cascade the track is in O.K. condition up to Waitupuritia saddle (2 ¼ hours). Lashings of pink tape showed us where the new route left the old and to be honest from the critical descriptions in the hut book of the state of the (\$30) private track down towards Boyds I think we had a far better route. It was uncut but it needs very little cutting. The route follows hunters' trails and animal tracks through mostly quite open beech forest and for the most part was a delight. We enjoyed the cruise pace necessitated by hunting for the next pink tape and were never lost for long. This route took us onto the open tops (45 mins from saddle) with views from Mt Edgcombe to Kawekas and further south, a few clouds hid Ruapehu but we could see Lake Taupo. No wind on top and we enjoyed our lunch on the second open top at 1.00. We hit the Oamaru river near the confluence with the Waitawhero stream at 4.30. 8 ½ hours after leaving Cascade. We found another campsite with prime riverside views at 5.00pm and gathered our firewood, well pleased with such a brilliant day and doubly so after the dire predictions.

Day four. The Easter bunny came!!! He had made minor deliveries on Easter Sunday while concentrating on moving from pink tape to pink tape we had munched absent mindedly but this morning we found a whole mossy tree stump glittering with easter treasures and did them full justice! 2 ½ hours down through more lovely riverside beech forest with purple toadstools decorating the moss found us at Oamaru Hut, much tidier now and minus its pan of rotting livers outside. We had a chat to a group of four hunters just on their way in and we sighted two other camps in the Oamaru valley, a large camp in the Kaipo and a fly camp of three on Mt Maungaorangi. All in all enough to keep Tina's Fluorescent Pink Hat glued to her head. From the Mohaka where we had lunch it took us 2 ½ hours stomping back through Poronui to reach the car as we gazed rather longingly at the helicopters buzzing frequently overhead.

A lovely trip following beautiful rivers with lots of bird life, blue ducks etc and the bonus of a view from the tops. Thanks Ali for the steady stream of 'let the hunters know we are coming' conversation and great company. *TG*

Party: Tina Godbert and Ali Hollington

THE BIRDERS

Pam and I joined the party with the intention of staying 2 nights at Oamaru hut. Arriving at the car park, we were surprised to see 150 plus cars parked in the helicopter car park. We were in the public car park. Walked through the special opening in the Poronui Station stone wall and followed the poles. We herd fern birds calling in all the suitable habitat. Had lunch on a rise overlooking the Mohaka river. Continued to the Kaipo river which was low but the stones were slippery, crossed the Oamaru which was no problem. Continued on to Oamaru hut. The rest of the party carried on and we found ourselves bunks and settled in. Full of hunters and 3 fishermen. The hut is situated on a rise and has lovely views. After dark Pam spotted a light and it turned out to be a party that had lost the track and took 2 hours to get to the hut. Luckily the 3 fishermen had a light installed in the ceiling which they followed. During the night I got up and on opening the door heard a growl. A strange dog was on the verandah. Crept past and then crept back. In the morning it turned out she was part of the mislaid party. Her name was Lulu and was quite friendly.



Pam and I walked along the track which followed the Kaipo river to the swing bridge. Lovely beech forest. Back at the hut, 2 trampers had arrived and were soon sweeping the floor and generally tidying up. What a difference!

Next morning packed up and started on the way back. Stopped for lunch and around the corner came the rest of the party. On the way home stopped at a café for coffee, tea and eats. An enjoyable trip and something a bit different.

Party: Barbara Taylor and Pam Turner.

**Urewera National Park
ANZAC Weekend – Waikareiti – East meets West**

25-27 April 2003

We dropped the W to E team off then us E to W's abandoned the truck group near DOC headquarters at Aniwhaniwa. Sadly the "ideal campsite" has been closed off and we parked the truck skulkily in a car park. We heard later that DOC tried to move them on but had no chance of moving either driverless truck or formidable dames.

We got away about twelve and took the Ruapani Lakes route to Waikareiti. A drizzly, cold day where clothes tended to go on rather than off. We started looking for a campsite as we followed the track well above the lakes north shore. No inviting or practical sites were spotted, so we pushed on for Sandy Bay hut getting there just on dark and found a hidden clearing behind the hut amongst the magnificent dracophylum. John Berry found a den for his bivvy bag, the Blackburns secured a choice spot for their fly, Tina and Andy found a level bit and John Winters and Allan squeezed in. I put on everything in my pack, ate under the fly and crashed.

The next day dawned cool and clear. John Berry gulped down something cold and nasty and cantered off down the track to go twitching. We followed half an hour later with slightly warmer bellies. This route proved to be a very gentle way to get to the top of the range, the track slowly winding its way up past a couple of lagoons, through magnificent beech forest. We met the W E party who enthused greatly about the delights ahead and we weren't to be disappointed. The beech forest got lower, the moss an unbroken covering, carpeting the ground and up into the trees, hanging droopily from the branches. The low winter sun slanted through the greenery, magically sending mist up from the mossy branches. We all agreed it was the best goblin forest ever.

At Manuoha hut we dropped our packs and headed out to collect firewood and watch the sunset from the trig.



We expected the night to be cold at 1300m, but a very cosy hut and fire saw us sweltering the night away.

The next day we didn't rush and five hours cruise found us on time at the road end to find our driver Alan Petersen all ready for us. *AF & TG*

E to W Party: Alan McLeod, John Winters, Tina Godbert, Andy Fowler, Gail Harvey, Lynette Blackburn, Gerald Blackburn, John Berry.

W to E Party: Sue Lopdell, Sue Holmes, Dave Mullinder, Ali Hollington, Alan Peterson, Bobby Couchman, Anne Cantrick, Gary Smith.

The Dames: Pam Turner, Shirley Bathgate, Barbara Taylor.

Kaweka Traverse — Lakes car park, Kiwi Saddle, J, Whetu, Venison tops, Hot Springs. Queen's Birthday Weekend	31 May – 2 June 2003
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A week of phone calls and the usual oscillating party numbers. After a high of five and a low of one, finally settled out at a nice round twosome. This trip was Andy's suggestion, a satisfying traverse of the length of the Kaweka range. Sadly he was exiled in Wales, wrestling with cheese throwing robots. Happily Ali was persuaded to take on his role as tent carrier.

"Bit far" said some doubters, "No worries", I said, "as long as its not really windy we'll be fine". Friday dawned – WINDY! Ken dropped us up to Lakes carpark at 6pm and we made our way to Kiwi Saddle. Pretty breezy above the tree line, we crawled a few narrow bits and linked arms on many others. Seriously considered camping in the Beechy bits and were even heard to say nice things about Contorta (for it's sheltering properties). We were very happy to get into Kiwi Saddle at 9 for an early bed. Felt less wussy when we heard later that it had been gusting record wind speeds up to 160 km/h on Kuripaponga.

Up 5.30 Saturday morning & left just before 7 at first light. Still pretty windy but the forecast was to eventually ease so after contemplating other options we decided to point our noses in the right direction and see what happened.

We had severe doubts at Kaiarahi as we looked up into scudding cloud on Mad Dog but pushed on saying "we can always come back". We were rewarded by the cloud clearing ahead of us as we stumbled up Mad Dog with arms linked river crossing style.

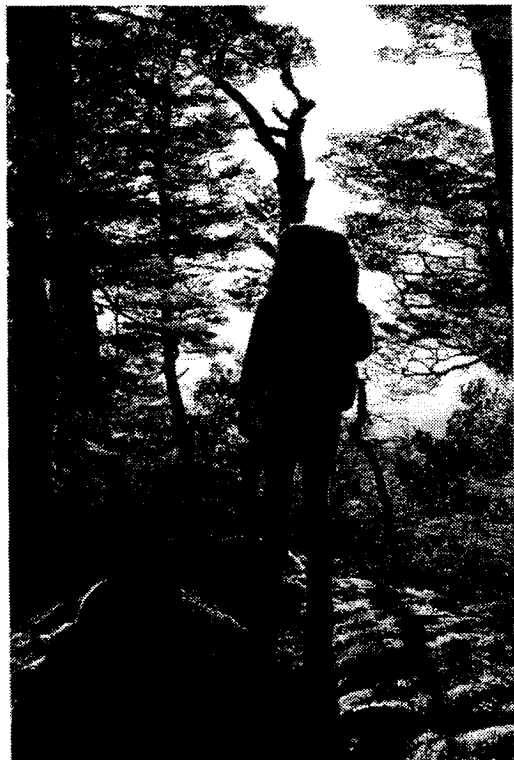
It took 4 hours to the J from Kiwi Saddle. We dropped off the edge seeking shelter for a quick lunch but found our fingers numbing after 20 mins so shoved it in and headed North. Fabulous views and the wind was a bit less extreme but it gives you some idea of the conditions that I didn't take a single photo on the tops!! We lingered a while at Whetu (three biscuits and a scroggin dip) hoping to rendezvous with the B party but we pushed on at 2.00. Passing the Ballards turn off we saw the 5 figures pop up from Camp Spur so we climbed on a rock and waved like windmills before heading off on the last leg.

We got to Venison Tops and "the Kelvinator" at 4.00pm. It was a beautiful evening and we lingered outside drinking in the view of the Kawekas turning pink. Very satisfying to view the days walk stretching into the distance.

We had the hut to ourselves and it had been dark for over an hour, we heated a basin of hot water for a strip wash and were about to perform when 4 burly figures appeared on the verandah, phew a near miss with embarrassment.

Sunday dawned fine and clear and not quite so windy! Awesome views of the Kawekas with tongues of orange mist in the valleys. We set off at 7.30 in golden early light, 2 hours to Mangaturutu, delightful track along beech clad ridge. The Mangaturutu Tops were wreathed in swirling mist which cleared on the otherside to reveal a brilliant view of the Urewera...rows and rows of misty blue hills looking ancient and forever like.

Another 2 hours took us down to the bridge across Makino River, 2 more hours to lunch spot where we zonked happily in the sun for an hour before crossing the river reluctantly wetting our dry boots. Although not a maintained track the going down the Makino is mostly excellent. At one stage it narrows to a gorge and can be bypassed by scrambling through the bush on the true left. Only the last 5th became tedious as Toetoe obliterated game trails and hunter's



tracks. The cuts on cuts were a tad exasperating and we were pleased to find a well marked track that leaves the Makino on the true left before the foot bridge cutting the corner to join the Hot Springs track.

It was 8 hours walking and we were glad to join the others who had bagged the prime camp spot for HTC.

We hot soaked and cold plunged repeatedly until hunger forced us out- then we did it again by the light of floating candles until the siren call of the sleeping bags became irresistible.

Monday: Woke for another quick dip after a perfect dry camping night and had a pleasant walk out. TG

Party: Tina Godbert and Ali Hollington.

Kaweka Range — Middle Hill, Ballards Hut, Makino Hut, Hot Springs.

Queen's Birthday Weekend

31 May – 2 June 2003

After leaving Hastings at 6am and picking up Sue from her gate, we started our walk to Ballard Hut, via Middle Hill at around 8am. We arrived at Middle Hill in time for morning tea.

The improvements made to Middle Hill Hut are impressive – the entrance has been changed to what was the back of the hut, making it roomier inside, and a large covered deck has been added making it a lovely spot to stop and enjoy our drink and chocolate cake. We reluctantly dragged ourselves away from that lovely sunny spot and carried on up onto the tops via Camp Spur.

The expected wind was felt with vengeance as we left the bush on the last section of Camp Spur leading up to Tops. We were concerned about how windy it would be right up on the Tops but as the Tops were reached, the wind was not as intense. Over in the far distance, we could see Tina and Ali making their way down to Tira Lodge. We carried on up to Whetu, and then around and down to Ballard Hut, arriving late in the afternoon.

Ballard Hut is a 4 bunk hut, very tidy, newly lined and with a very efficient wood burner in it and well worth a visit. Outside, a number of sites have also been prepared for some limited campsites. We were treated to some stunning views on the following morning as we climbed back up to the main ridge.



Mist snaked thru the Mohaka valley and the sun rising turned the hills to purple and blue hues. Images like that one of the reasons that I enjoy tramping.

After retracing our steps of the previous day to the Camp Spur junction, we continued along the top, heading down to Makino Hut. The beech forest along this ridge to Makino Hut contains some impressive sections of large trees. We reached Makino at Lunchtime and decided to carry on down to the Mangatainoka Hot Springs to meet up with the A Party.

After plunging down the ridge to the Mohaka River, we reached the Hot Springs around 3pm. We had set up camp, and were enjoying a soak in the pools when Tina and Ali joined us after making their way down the Makino River.

The following day was a relaxed walk out to the Gums and then back home.

Thanks John Berry for the driving.

Lynette Blackburn

Party: Sue Holmes, John Berry, John Winter, Jeremy Blackburn, and Lynette Blackburn

Central Ruahine Range

7 & 8 June 2003

It was a very mild winters afternoon as we left Pernel Orchard clad only in shorts and teeshirts. The weather to the ranges looked very dark as we picked Matthew up at Wakarara Rd, arriving at the carpark shortly after in strong wind and rain. However, the walk up was sheltered and we were soon discarding clothes. Everyone was at the hut by 6pm which was already occupied by six Masterton Tramping Club members. We were later joined by John Winters bringing our number to ten. It was a very windy night with the toilet door requiring brute strength to exit!

The morning sunrise was spectacular and we were lucky that the wind eased enough for us to set off after breakfast. John B, Kim and Ananda all decided to take the shingle slide down to the north arm of the Waipawa River, preferring that option to the climb. The rest of us were rewarded with clear skies and awesome views as far as Ruapehu with the wind dropping to a stiff breeze. Chrissie was sharp eyed and found an abandoned walking stick!

By midday we were at the Waipawa Saddle where we sheltered out of the wind for lunch. After a pleasant walk down the river we met the other party near the roadend. The girls had really enjoyed their first time experience down the shingle slide but unfortunately Kim had a huge bump on her head from a fall. She was still in good spirits and none the worse for it.

We were all back at the truck by 3pm. It was great to have three first timers along and all agreed it was a very enjoyable trip.

Thanks to everyone, especially John B for driving. SC

Party: John Berry, Randal Goldfinch, Sandy Claudatos (leader), Greg Munn, Chris Waldron, Matthew Hunt, Peter Brown, John Winters, Ananda and Kim.

Pureora Forest Park

21 & 22 June 2003

A full truck left Pernel at 5am, bound for Pureora Forest Park. A stop at Taupo for truck and human refuelling was had and the journey resumed, till we stopped at a carpark on the Northern flank of Mt Pureora.. 10 A party left the others and chugged up the Mount. Upon reaching open ground it was blowing and misty, so time at the trig was cut short and we hastily retreated down the other side on the Bog Inn track, which was very wet and boggy all the way to the hut. Here an early lunch was the go



and upon leaving a small quantity of coal went into 2 or 3 packs for the nights campfire. Then it was off across the swamp to get wet feet. Once in the bush, it was discovered that the track actually skirted this area and we needn't have swum at all. Oh well A party are tough.

Off again and up and over Weraroa Trig, where views were non existent and down, down, eventually arriving at our camps in the late afternoon. The BE party had been through and we all wondered if they'd make their camp by nightfall, as their prints were still warm. (Two of us were trackers). Tents were set up and everyone collected wood for the fire. Everything was sodden and it took a good hour to get the fire to take, then longer to keep going. Once going though it was beauty. Gerald and I split wood with his pocket knife and a sharp rock, this was centre piece of a ring that was nice and dry. Tina had brought a bottle of fresh cream, to put on the spongy puds we had each brought along. This on top of the big feed for the first course, was just about perfect. After sitting around the fire telling stories etc, sleep called.

Next morning it was porridge and cream (choice) and pack up and away by 8.30am. Trundling along we came across 3 blokes who were putting new markers on the trees and taking the old ones off. The bush here is nice with a lot off Tanekaha and big Rimu Matai etc, further towards Waihaha. We reached the B party camp and crossed the river and arrived at Waihaha hut, 45 minutes later. The hut is a flash new affair, totally impractical and a lot of space wasted, but a good place for a brief break and a snack. Walking briskly along the Waihaha river took us 2 1/2 hours with a stop to have a look at the rivers rock formations. Back at the truck by about 4.30pm and set sail by about 5.00pm. Thanks everyone for an enjoyable jaunt and Geoff for co driving.

A team

Gerald, Lynette and Jeremy Blackburn, Tina Godbert, John Winter, Sue Holmes, Anne Cantrick, Peter Brown, Sandy Claudatos, Dave Heaps (leader - driver).

Parable of the Fairy of the Winter Solstice

Once upon a time the Trampers went past the Big Lake to the Forest of the Blue Crow. One half of them were going to do very heroic things like climb a very high mountain and walk a very long way in one day. The others were there to walk slowly up small hills and to marvel at the big trees and the mosses and the ferns, especially when they were not too puffed. These ones were called The B Party but they didn't mind at all because they just felt happy to be friends with the others, who were called THE A PARTY.

The truck went right past The B Party's road because it was important for THE A PARTY to get to their track. So the B Party waited patiently while THE A PARTY got out of the truck, and changed into their tramping clothing slowly and carefully, showing off their athletic bodies, all the while thinking about the high mountain so far off in the forest.

The B Party started a whole hour late but they didn't mind at all because they were so happy to have seen their friends safely on their way. So the B party plodded along admiring the big trees and the mosses and the ferns and all the other living things in the forest. They helped each other over the tricky places and shared each other's Jelly Babies. Even when it started to get dark and some of them fell over they didn't think "This is the fault of THE A PARTY". Even when they slid down a rope on a high cliff in the black night and struggled with their tents in the dark, their only worry was that THE A PARTY should be comfortable at THEIR camp site.

But in the first light of dawn next day, as they lay in their tents, The Fairy of the Winter Solstice came to the camp of the B Party and said, "Lo, not only shall I stop the days from getting any shorter, but I shall also make sure that when you all go to the great DOC hut in the sky, you shall all have bottom bunks with 2 mattresses each. Further, THE A PARTY shall make you cups of tea, sweep the floor, control the vermin, and empty your commodes for all eternity." The B Party, being very humble, didn't feel even the slightest glow of satisfaction, because they were all really nice people, so nice that they thought that THE A PARTY were really nice people too. And so they were.

ML

Parkes Peak, Ruahine Range

22 June 2003

The majority of active club members were off to the Pureora Forest for the weekend. Lucky things! A small group of us were only available for a Sunday walk and with such wonderful weather on the shortest day of the year five of us set off for Parkes Peak Hut. Four of the group are new to the club and had not been on any club tramps, except for Rose, who came with us to Middle Stream on our last outing. Lynley and Chris are from Waipukurau having just moved from Wellington where they belonged to a local tramping club. Sally has just arrived in Hawkes Bay to live and is waiting for her husband to join her from the UK. They are both keen outdoors people and I was quick to assure her that our club is the best in the area (*Good on ya Bobby, Ed*).

We met at Maraekakaho and were soon on our way. The climb to the tops was as steep as ever but not too slippery. The views were magnificent with no wind. A few riflemen were in the beech canopy and came to greet us. The track is quite overgrown with tussock grass and provided a small challenge. It did make for soft landings! Emerging at the top we had a grand view of Mt. Ruapehu sitting like a huge iced cake on the horizon.

Appropriate “oohs and aahs” from our new members made the climb worthwhile and we happily made our way through the goblin forest to the hut. Its shelter was not needed as we lay outside in the sun eating our well earned lunch.

After an hour or so we retraced our steps heading home. On the way down we could see the car, a child's toy in the paddock below. It looked as if there was someone standing by the vehicle. Since it didn't move we decided we were mistaken and continued happily on our way. Sentry Box was very clean and tidy. Such a shame DOC is planning to remove it.

We emerged from the bush, climbed the fence and, to our horror, saw that the car door was wide open – our hearts sank! Nothing was missing, not a thing. We must have rushed off and left the door open in our haste and eagerness to get into those hills. A great day. Everyone tired but happy. Bobby Couchman.

Party: Sally Helling, Rosalind Vance, Lynley and Chris Owen.

Opera In The Ranges (Puketitiri Pantopral Players) “CA-ROWS-AL” 27 June 2003

For a person who had not been to a Puketitiri Players show I did not know what to expect but presumed that the locals would put on an entertaining variety show using song and dance, solos and groups, musical items, a miscellaneous assortment of homegrown talent.

What did we get? Our audience of 100 people, including 30 trampers in a front of house block on Friday night, got a complete Rogers And Hammerstein production of “Carousel.” What a show it was. No second rate show from these pros. They swept us along into the lives of Billy Bigglelow, Julie and friends, all confident troupers singing and acting as if they did it every day. Deborah Turner was outstanding as musical director, producer, production secretary, stage manager, and when playing her keyboard she was the orchestra too. The leader of a very talented team. These farmers and farmers wives took us out of Puketitiri for the night to a great show. Thankfully another 100 people were able to see it on Saturday night.

I was also lucky enough to be able to join the 17 or so who bunked down at Pam's, truly spoilt by her hospitality. If sleeping bags could have been “turned down” they would have been. What a fun weekend. Thank you Pam and Eileen.

I wonder what the Puketitiri Players will do next year? I can't wait to find out.

Graeme Hare

Maungaharuru Range**3 August 2003**

As forecast, it was pretty miserable while we wound our way up the Pohokura Rd, stopping briefly near our destination to allow one of the team to take a second look at his breakfast, while a number of others wandered about pale of face. Heavy drops fell from the beech trees hanging over the parking area, and a misty rain wet those who sought to avoid the trees. Each of us donned layers of warm clothing topped with a parka, while Graeme had a cup of tea. The weta houses beside the track were, as usual, unoccupied, presumably because any weta, which does move in soon becomes fed up with being repeatedly peered at.

At Bell Rock we huddled in the freezing clag, and I half expected a re-run of the Great Maungaharuru Mutiny of '97. But Sunday's group were made of sterner stuff (and the wind was not as severe) so we pressed on, stopping from time to time to add more layers as the south-easterly wind whisked the showers over the ridge. The building at Taraponui gave us brief shelter and a last chance to turn back, but all were keen to continue. A little further on we walked over long grass which had been forced by the wind into twisted cones, each of which then been stuck into that form by repeated frosts. The slope looked like a well-moussed spiky hairdo.

Morale was getting a bit low as we reached Atuateatua, so we stopped for lunch in the lee of a large rock. But our misery was made less as we realised that it wasn't snowing, a tsunami didn't appear to be imminent, and we had not suffered a communal outbreak of explosive diarrhoea. As our spirits lifted a small patch of blue sky allowed, for a moment, a watery sun to shine.

Close to our lunch site was the fence which indicates the point to turn west and as we did that the mist dispersed, allowing us to see down to the saddle between the main ridge and the lower hills which run through to the Titikura summit. There, we knew, Geoff would be waiting. From the saddle the view included the historic Galbraith Hut and beyond it glimpses of the Mohaka and the rugged country further west. One last grunt took us around a great cliff at the foot of which are the debris of an ancient slip. Patches of natives grow amongst huge boulders, and there were wonderful light effects as sunlight flashed on wet leaves. Soon we had dropped down to a farm track marked with cabbage trees, and along this we walked in good heart as we watched the traffic snaking across the valley and over the Mohaka bridge. Losing the track close to home didn't matter much as we had only to proceed south to meet the road. But by great good luck we picked up the track again and arrived with dignity intact. There we warmly greeted by our chauffeur, with his wonderful gas-fired, up market thermette, aptly dubbed by Graeme, 'The Clibbornette'. So we changed, drank hot tea as the cars flashed by, and still in daylight boarded the truck. Inside, led by John with mouth organ, and by Graeme, we sang ourselves home, arriving soon after dark. It was good to have along with us 3 visitors who seemed to enjoy the day, heaven knows why. It can't have been the singing!

We began walking soon after 8am, and arrived at the truck at 4.30pm so it is a reasonable day's work. But I don't think it is the 29km that seems to be club lore. Looking at the maps I reckon it to be no more than 20km. At one stage the temperature was 6deg and in the wind it would have been considerably less. But nobody froze and such a day emphasises the value of lumping about all the gear which is so often not used. Thanks to Geoff, not only for the driving but also for the ingenious and efficient water heater, to the farmers who granted us permission to cross their land, and to 15 cheerful companions. ML

Party. Ken Nugent, Marion Nicholson, Bobbie Couchman, Sue Holmes, Graeme Hare, Christine Snookes, Alan Peterson, Peggy Gulliver, Jill Beaver, John Berry, Marcel and Bruce Paton, Alice Lorenz, Ros and Mike Lusk.

Ruahine Crossing - Plan E**16,17 August 2003**

It had rained most of the week and the forecast was atrocious so we canned the crossing. We racked our brains (ironically as it turned out) for a trip that would not involve river crossings or too much time on exposed tops.

A last minute decision led us to the East (rain shadowed?) side of the Ruahine. Despite the weather living up to the forecast we wrestled a trip out of the weekend. We left Geoff at 9.00 at Ngamoko Road end after a hot starter from the Clibbornette. Surrounded by rainbows we strode up the Apiti track. A squall of hail at the turn off into the valley leading to Makaretu Hut decided us against the long route to Makaretu via the tops. A pleasant hour through varied bush down the river found us at the hut by 1.00. We whiled away the afternoon laying in a monster load of firewood, playing cards and eating fit to bust in front of the open fire. Gerald impressed us with his 4 large tarakihi fillets, his full sized frying pan and his appetite. We wondered if he paid attention to the sensible pack contents demonstration at the last club meeting?

Sunday, Well rested after an ample nights sleep we looked hopefully up towards the route to Longview via the tops but we saw curtains of rain being swept at speed down the valley so turned again to the river. We followed the slightly fuller river down stream to Hapi-daze Hut and out to Snee road end. The river although up a little gave no trouble and in between the squalls patches of blue sky raced past, bright sun glistened through the wet ferns and lit up the rain. From Makaretu to the road bridge took 4 hours with at least 45 minutes of that spent alternately sunning ourselves and sheltering from the rain under the Hapi-Daze verandah. Eddie had made contact with Geoff and we were pleased to meet him and the wonder of hot water for a quick cuppa before even more snoozing on the way home. TG

The "We're Wet but We're Doing It Party": Gerald Blackburn, Eddie Holmes, Matthew Hart, Sandy Claudatos, Peter Brown, Andy Fowler and Tina Godbert.

PRIVATE TRIPS

Middle Stream

1 June 2002

By the first Sunday of June it had become pretty obvious that The Queen was once again not planning to invite us to her birthday party, so 11 disappointed commoners set out to visit Middle Stream Hut. For some it was the first sighting of the new bridge leading to the beginning of the track across the Waipawa. It will be interesting to see what the Waipawa does with it. The track now passes along the west side of a deer fence, and not across the farmland, but once past the farm it links up with the old and rather boggy one through the scrub and down to the first stream. Sarah and Natalie leaped into the mud, and loved it, but the rest of us did our best to skirt around the swampiest areas. In the bush close to the crossing Peter led a search for an old school desk which he alleged had been there before, but it was not to be found. There was, however, an old flip-lid rubbish tin, which could well be handy if one were setting up house in the vicinity.

A short climb leads over to Middle Stream and after following the true L bank a while on one of those tracks which gets wetter as one ascends, we dropped into the cold and slippery stream. Robyn had her little Fox Terrier Meg with her, and eventually needed to carry her on some of the crossings. After dropping Meg in a couple of times, and probably much to Meg's relief, Robyn sprained her ankle, and elected to go no further. Phillip stayed with her, sheltering behind Robyn's fly. The hut was not far away, so the rest of us pressed on, soon passing a great log spanning the streambed. The log had large rocks resting on it, testimony to the amount of shingle that had been swept downstream, as the bed was at least five feet below the log.

The hut itself was cold and at the time not very inviting, but we ate a quick lunch on the grass and wondered how much help Robyn would need on the way out. As it turned out, not much, once her pack was lightened and the resultant space filled with Meg, who seemed to approve of the new method of transport. Soon we were back at the cars and far too dirty to go to any stupid party anyway.

ML.

The Team: Graeme Hare, Glenda, Peter, Donna and Natalie Berry, Sarah Parsons, Sue Lopdell, Philip Mardon (with apples and pears), Robyn Madden, Meg, Ros and Mike Lusk

In Memory of Muriel Lowe (nee Shaw) 1916-2003



Muriel Shaw was a keen tramper and a stalwart of the Tararua Tramping Club and Heretaunga Tramping Club in the 1930s and 1940s. The days of wooden-frame canvas packs. The Ruahines, Kidnappers, Ruapehu, and all over the South Island.

Some names from those years out of her photo album; Bill Niven, Doc Bathgate, her brother Walter Shaw, Kirk Johnson, Dave Williams, Norman Elder, George Lowe. Over the war years with 'the boys' away it fell mostly to the women to keep the tracks open and the huts maintained.

She was one of the working party who packed in and built the Kiwi Saddle hut in 1947. In 1995 the HTC gave Muriel her first helicopter flight to attend the opening of the new Kiwi hut. She had a full and adventurous life but that recognition for past efforts was a wonderful gift.

Muriel married Sandy Lowe in 1952. As a couple they ran successful orchards, built a yacht and cruised with their two young sons for four years.

After a long and full life Muriel passed at Mary Doyle on 11 June 2003.



FOR SALE
BLANK GREETING CARDS, By Leatherwood Lenz.

Leatherwood Lenz has produced a number of blank cards, each with a quality colour digital image of a tramping scene. (Well, there is one black and white). These are designed for Christmas, birthday, and general use, to show people the enjoyment and scenery of tramping. A variety of tramping themes and areas throughout the Ruahines and Tararuas are presented. New cards can be customized to your request.

Cards are \$2.50 each, or \$20.00 for ten.

For details, contact leatherwood@pcconnect.co.nz
Tony Gates, 025 246 1901, 06 357 7439 (H).

CLUB NEWS:

- ❖ **Welcome to new members - John Winters and Max Neumegen.**
- ❖ **Howlets has a lovely new veranda – thanks Eddie and DOC.**



- ❖ **Plus half a tonne of coal was donated by Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club and flown in by DOC.**

Coming Meetings:

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER/COMMENTS	HOSTS	SUPPER HELP
10 Sep	Stewart Island	Photos and talk by Alan Petersen	Chris Waldron, Andrew Taylor	Eddie Holmes, Bob Carter
24 Sep or 8 Oct	FMC/Tony Gates	We hope to organise a visit from a FMC representative on one night while on the other Tony will show slides from the Sth North Island	Peter Berry Sue Holmes	Greg Munn Max Neumegen
8 Oct	See 24 Sep		Lyn Blackburn Geoff Clibborn	John Montgomerie
22 Oct	Social	Have an elongated cup of tea and finalize plans for the long weekend trip.	Owen Brown Marion Nicholson	Alan Petersen Liz Pindar
5 Nov or 3 Dec	HBRC / Chathams	One night the HB Regional Council will discuss the recreational opportunities on Council owned land give an update on the Pekapeka Swamp. On the other night Geoff Clibborn will talk about his sojourn on the Chathams.	Susan Fraser Glenda Hooper	Graham Thorp Randall Goldfinch
19 Nov	AGM	The AGM will follow the usual fortnightly meeting so will start about 8	Shirley Bathgate Jim Glass	Robyn Heath Anne Cantrick
3 Dec	See 5 Nov		Andy Fowler Tina Godbert	Chris Brown Lew Harrison
17 Dec	Xmas Festivities	Still to be finalised – any requests?	Gail Harvey Bobby Couchman	John Berry Lyn Gentry
14 Jan	Social	Relax and catch up after the break	Jim Hewes Denise McBride	John Montgomerie Joan Ruffle

Duties of those on Supper and Host:

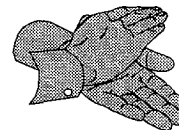
HOSTS: Greet visitors and fill in visitors book. Sweep floors and check that heaters and lights are off at the end of the meeting.

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 19 November

Come and have your say.





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)	Tent/Fly if required
Whistle	Complete set of spare warm clothing	

Leave at truck/car: Complete set of clothing for the return trip and a mug with something to flavour hot water from the Clibbornette.

TRIP LIST April – September 2003



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

13&14 Sep Southern Ruahine Range \$10 Map: U23

Party A: Leave from Tamaki West Road end, ascend the Holmes Ridge track. Drop down to Stanfield Hut then cross over the saddle to Cattle Creek Hut and carry on to Mid Pohangina Hut for the night. On Sunday return to Cattle Creek Hut then head north east to follow the track to the Apiti Track junction, then out to the Ngamoko Road end.

Party B: Leave from the Ngamoko Road end and head off along the Apiti Track to do the Cattle Creek to Ngamoko Road section of the A Party trip in reverse. Spend the night at Cattle Creek Hut. Sunday return to the saddle above Stanfield Hut then climb up to Takapari and follow the main range to A Frame Hut. Descend down to carpark from here.

Party C: Leave from Tamaki West Road and follow A Party to Cattle Creek Hut to spend the night with the B Party. Sunday either return by same route or go with the B Party.

Organisers: A: Andy Fowler 835 0064 B: Susan Lopdell 844 6697 Driver:

Local Day Trip 14 Sep: Traverse through farmland from Mt Erin to Te Mata Peak. A very popular trip last time. Organiser: Mike Lusk 8778328

28 Sep Boyds Bush \$10 Map: U20

Along Taihape road, park alongside Taruarau River and ascend ridge up to Hogget. Return via track to Timahanga Station and walk short distance back to vehicle.

Organisers:

4&5 Oct Kaweka Circuits \$10 Map: U20

Party A: From Makahu carpark ascend ridge to Kaweka J, down Back Ridge and stay Sat night at Rocks Ahead Hut. Sunday up to Tira Lodge, and traverse main range via Whetu, Nth Kaweka and Trial Spur to carpark.

Party B: From Makahu carpark ascend ridge to Kaweka J, down Mad Dog Hill to Studholme Hut for the night. Sunday, up onto the tops, descend MacIntosh Spur, cross Donald River and return via Matauria Ridge.

Organisers: A: Tina Godbert 835 0064 B: Lex Smith 877 4087 Driver:

12 Oct Manawatu Gorge \$10 Map:

Wonder through the Manawatu and Klein tracks with views of the river and some interesting bush.

Organiser: Glenda Hooper Driver:

24 to 27 Oct Labour Weekend - Whakatane River/Waimana Valley \$25 Maps: W18 & 17

Drive up Thursday night and camp. Friday drive to Matatua carpark and the start of the Whakatane River track – an area the club rarely visits. Tracks weave through picturesque and forested hill country in the heart of Tuhoe country with many huts and good bridges.

Organisers: A: David Heaps 875 0088 B: Susan lopdell 844 6697 Driver: David Heaps

Local Day Trip 26 Oct: Yeoman's Track – Wander in from Highway 50 and walk along Yeoman's Track to Ellis Hut – kowhai should be in flower at this time of year.

Organiser:

Tararua Option: Tony Gates has offered to lead a trip – please call him if interested. 06 357 7439

9 Nov Cairn Trip

Map: U20

Annual pilgrimage to the memorial cairn on top of Kaweka J, where a brief service is held to remember old club members. Plenty of choices for return route to carpark (adventure guaranteed).

Organiser: Mike Lusk 877 8328

22&23 Nov Mt Pirongia

\$25

Leave Friday night and camp somewhere on route. Over the weekend visit Pirongia Forest Park and the Hills above Raglan.

Organiser & driver: Alan Petersen 021 176 5059

Local Day Trip 23 Nov: Mt Tauhara

Drive towards Taupo and ascend Mt Tauhara. Perhaps hot swim at De Bretts.

Organiser:

7 December Ruahine Crossing

\$15

Map: T23

From Western side of Ruahines, Walk into Opawe Hut, Ascending to Maharahara and Matonginui trigs and descend to Kumeti Hut and carpark

Organiser: Ros Lusk 8778328

Driver: Geoff Clibborn 8446039

20-21st December Christmas Social Weekend

Option 1- Waimarama Beach or

Option 2- Waipatiki Beach

Opportunity for people to come out for the day or stay overnight, walk, swim, BBQ and socialise.

Organiser:

Driver:

3rd Jan 2004 Anaru Falls.

\$10

Drive into Willow Flat Rd and walk along Anaru Stream to view Falls and Magnificent stand of Kaihikateas. If river is low, pleasant amble back up stream to falls.

Organiser:

Driver:

10th Jan 2004 Ohara Stream.

\$10

Drive to Mangleton Rd area and wander up Ohara Stream to a very picturesque Gorge- ideal family trip and good fishing.

Organiser: Mike Lusk 8778328

Driver:

17&18 Jan 2004 Rangaiika Beach

\$10

Walk along Ocean Beach and around Whakapau Bluff to Rangaiika Beach to camp. Sunday wander along coast and climb up to gannet colony at the Cape and return to Clifton Beach

Organiser & Driver: John Berry 877 6205

Local Day Trip 18 Jan: Come out and walk out to the cape to meet the weekenders.

Organiser:

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

<p>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.</p>
