

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB PO BOX 14086 MAYFAIR HASTINGS

POHUKURA – Bulletin No 216

April 2004

HTC Committee:

Club Patron:	Jim Glass	877 8748	
President:	Mike Lusk	877 8328	mrlusk@clear.net.nz
Vice President:	Glenda Hooper	877 4183	glenda_and_peter@clear.net.nz
Secretary:	Graeme Hare	844 8656	GRHMHARE@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer:	Lex Smith	877 4087	smithers@xtra.co.nz
Club Captain:	David Heaps	875 0088	
Editor:	Andy Fowler	835 0064	htc_nz@yahoo.co.uk
Committee:	Shirley Bathgate	877 8511	
	Geoff Clibborn	844 6039	
	Ann Cantrick	844 8149	
	Lynette Blackburn	870 8494	
	Tina Godbert	835 0064	
	Susan Lopdell	844 6697	
	Marion Nicholson	873 5935	

Sub Committees:

Environment:	Shirley Bathgate, Mike Lusk, Glenda Hooper, Tina Godbert
Truck:	Geoff Clibborn, Dave Heaps.
Fixtures:	Sue Lopdell, Roger Burn, Tina Godbert, Lex Smith, Dave Heaps, Glenda Hooper, Lynette Blackburn, Anne Cantrick.
Huts:	Dave Heaps, Geoff Clibborn, Randall Goldfinch.
Training:	Graham Thorp, Dave Heaps, Lynette Blackburn, Andy Fowler.
SAR:	Dave Heaps, John Montgomerie.
Meetings:	Glenda Hooper, Anne Cantrick, Lex Smith, Sue Lopdell.
Social:	Lynette Blackburn, Peter Berry, Mr Lyn Gentry, Graeme Hare,
Scrap Book:	Jim Glass
Supper:	Jenny Lean
Album:	Shirley Bathgate.
Library:	Liz Pindar, (870 0145)
Gear Hire:	Dave Heaps, climbing gear (875 0088); Glenda Hooper- gear registrar
Sales Rep:	Robyn Madden, (844 9661)

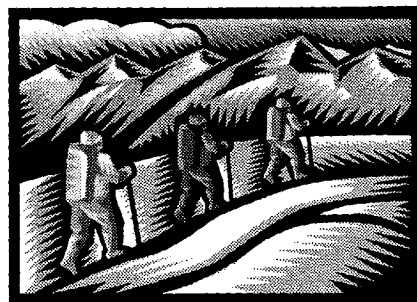
Club Meetings: These are held every second Wednesday (before a tramp) at the Hastings Harrier Clubrooms in Sylvan Road, Hastings. Doors open 7:25pm, visitors are most welcome.
50 c donation gratefully accepted each meeting towards hall hire (*place in the old boot*).

TRAINING BULLETIN – NAVIGATION

"Where the heck are we??"

The key to not getting lost is to always know where you are – easy. The trouble is most of us enjoy walking along in a bit of a day dream, or nattering with our mates, and then try to fit what's around us to some foggy memory, only to slowly discover that you're not quite where you thought you were.

Good navigators rely not only on the competent use of a map and compass but also on an ability to know where they are at all times. Observations, looking around for reference points and diligently tracking progress against a map are the main techniques to learn.



Observation. From your starting point look around and identify features to use as reference points. These may be the direction a stream is flowing, the sun, a mountain top or the lie of the valley floor. Identify your current location in relation to these points of reference e.g. the stream flows from left to right, mountain peak is to your left, the sun to your right and the main valley straight ahead. When you move away from your start point you can use these reference points and others as markers to orientate yourself as you travel. Keep taking note.

Moving through untracked bush. Gain experience moving through untracked bush by going into an unfamiliar area with someone who knows it well. As you travel your companion can point out the features they use to keep themselves orientated. You can identify ones which would give you extra help. Look back regularly so you know what the route looks like if you have to return that way. Pick out features both ahead and behind.

Map work. The easiest way to start learning route finding is to walk slowly along an easy track with a topographical map. By comparing the features of the surrounding countryside with what is shown on the map, you will start to develop the interpretive skills you need.

Compare:

- Distances between contour lines with the steepness of hills.
- Distances on the map with distances on the ground.
- Directions of slopes and streams.

Learn how long it takes you to cover a particular distance on this sort of track and estimate how far away prominent features are. Notice how much more there is around you than is shown on the map, but also if you examine the map closely how more there is to be gleaned from it. Learn to form a detailed picture of the country from looking at the map.

Use it to answer some of the following questions:

1. What is your current location – in some featureless areas you may need to carry the map in your hand and 'thumb' your progress as you travel. Each time you estimate having walked a hundred metres, move your thumb 2mm (1:50,000).
2. What is the general direction of your proposed route?
3. What is the country ahead like? Notice the steepness, vegetation, size and location of main features, ridges, and the direction streams are flowing.
4. How is the country you have just travelled through shown? How long has it taken to cover what distance?
5. Where do tracks go to and what direction do they take? Do they follow or go to natural features such as ridges, streams or lakes?
6. How far is it and how long will it take?

The skills of observing features and using a map are some of the most important to learn and require constant practice. (taken from the Mountain Safety Council *Bushcraft manual*).

TRIP REPORTS

Mt Pirongia & Karioi

21st to 23rd November, 2003

After a couple of minor incidents and a refuel, 6 intrepid trampers set off from Bay View at 7.30 pm for Mt Pirongia. Stopped in Taupo for a rest and a late feed. Headed down the Kinlock Rd to Whakamaru. Just north of the turnoff the steering seemed to acquire a suspicious vibration. This was confirmed from the back. Was it a flat tyre? We coasted gently down to the Whakamaru Service Station (closed at 10.15 of course) and as driver I got out and did the tyre tap job. The last I checked, the inside right rear tyre, was as flat as the proverbial pancake.

Under the excellent lighting of the forecourt, we had a treasure hunt for the jack and wrenches etc. Then got down to the serious business of getting the wheelnuts off. As usual they had been screwed on by superman. A good length of pipe, grunts and expletives fixed that. During the operation we were checked out by the local neighbour hood watch and the friendly Police.

After sorting it all out and with the flatty replaced by the spare we were off about an hour later. We decided it wouldn't be smart to carry on to Mt Pirongia with out fixing the flat tyre so parked out side the rose gardens in Te Awamutu a little after midnight. The toilet block opposite had disappeared so there was some discrete little mid-night wanders in the rose garden. Next morning we found the brand new loo around the corner. We enjoyed an early breakfast in the rose garden in full bloom in the company of fragrant Judy Garland's, Maggie Barry's and Peace etc. There was concern that one of the guys had piddled on Maggie Barry's bed after midnight, and it wasn't me.

We found the local tyre shop, the friendly tyreman came an hour earlier than opening time and sorted out the flat tyre.

With only six in the party we thought it was not a good idea for two to drive the truck around while only four headed for the top. A quick check of the map gave us a route up that was possible for everyone including the driver.

From Te Awamutu we headed west to Mt Pirongia arriving at the Corcoran Rd end. The weather was pretty windy and with low cloud it didn't look too flash. It was only light skiffy rain. So off we went, destination the summit, the hut and back to the bus. After going up some nice steps we got to the first look out at Ruapane with banshee winds and 360 degree views of the inside of the clouds. From then on the track was well defined but quite rugged. There were a few interesting rock climbs with fixed chains, a tricky little bit around the massive Tirohanga pinnacle with some impressive bluffs. Lots of lancewood, one patch of mum, dad and the kids, and nice Miro. Reached the tops about 12 and back onto boardwalks. There is now a steel look out structure to climb to admire the view, except it was a howling gale and we could only visualise the expansive views of the Waikato. By this time the rain was pouring down. Excellent timing, just as we had reached the summit.

We slogged on to the hut about half hour further on. It's a neat little hut, recently refurbished, with maori bunks for 8, an excellent lean-to and camp sites in the vicinity. We were very grateful for the shelter for our lunch. Then the long mostly down hill tramp back to the bus in the torrential rain. We all looked like drowned rats by the time we got back to the bus approx. 4.50 pm. Changed into dry gear and headed off to Raglan.

Nearly ran over a dimwit local who pulled out of a side-road in front of the bus. Got set up at the Motor camp and all headed to the showers. Peter and I were somewhat perplexed to see Sue come into the Men's block for a shower as well. Things were looking up after all. She realised her boo boo and shot out to find the ladies. Oh well never mind. Then two nubile young ladies came in and insisted on

using the showers opposite us. Well things were definitely improving. I ended up having a double shower, felt a lot better.

Then went off to Raglan to get a feed and find a TV for the World Cup final. We were rejected from the local burger bar, and when the food situation was looking a bit desperate, Peter came up with the brainwave of getting us into the Raglan Club (as he was an affiliated member). We all had a huge feed of chips, fish etc, and then retired to the lounge to watch the game with the locals. Christine had organised for the security gates at the Motor Camp to be extended to 12 midnight so we were able to return after the game. Well after full time there was a mad rush to get back to the Motor Camp before the extra time started so we could watch it in the TV room. I think overall there was relief to see the English win in such a dramatic way, and we don't have to face another 4 years of the Wallabies being the best rugby team in the World.

Sunday morning we awakened to continuing rain, just not as heavy, and clouds almost to ground level. We couldn't even see the lower slopes of Karioi. We decided to call off the summit expedition and so after breakfast we had a look at the famous left-hand-break surfing beach and then Tiki-toured our way home via Otorohanga 'Kiwi House', Te Kuiti, and Bennydale. We had hoped to do some short walks in Pureora but it was still very wet. Spent some time in Taupo having a late lunch, the weather had cleared up, and then rolled on home.

Even though we had a few trying moments, and awful weather, the team still enjoyed themselves. The intrepid team comprised Christine Snook, Peter Brown, Sue Lopdell, Marion Nicholson, Jenny Lean and Alan Petersen (Scribe). Thanks to Christine for organising the trip.

Ruahine Crossing

7 December, 2003

Our drive down to the start of the track on Opawe Rd had a number of diversions. The first was to Marion's house to pick up the blankets for the truck which she had kindly washed. The other stops were for weak bladders and for trampers living down the line.

The further south we progressed the more bleak it became up in the ranges. There were some extremely strong gusts of wind through the Manawatu Gorge but luckily that's where they stayed and by the time we reached the track the clag on the tops was lifting and so were the trampers' spirits after being cramped in the truck for 3 hours.

We were a party of 20 comprising of some speedsters and some plodders. I suggested we break into two groups and 8 offered to go in an advance fast team. They set off at a clip for Opawe Hut which is visible and a mere 20 minutes over very muddy farmland away. The rest followed in their usual clop but we regrouped at the hut. Like all huts close to road ends this one is in a miserable state.

Leaving the hut we entered the forest and were immediately impressed by the enormous old Rata trees. There are lots of Tawa, Kamahi and Rimu trees and the tuis in them were very vocal. We passed one area filled solidly with young Rewa Rewa.

Progress was slow and steady as we were gaining altitude fast. After an hour we stopped on a grassy knoll for a drink and a breather and to appreciate the view. Pohangina Valley looks most attractive with its trees and river and in the distance we could see the bases of Ruapehu and Ngarahoe under cloud. It was a tranquil setting until Chrissie suddenly leapt up and began tearing off her lower clothing and slapping herself. She had sat on an ant trail and her antics had the blokes no longer interested in the view!

The track kindly levels out then climbs steeply twice more before we reached Mt Maharahara (1095m) and the leatherwood which offered us a sheltered spot for lunch. Mike had found some

unusual low growing green hooded orchids on the last steep climb and took some of us back to admire them.

From Maharahara to the next high point, Matanginui there is a solid corridor of leatherwood. It was exciting to find in one small area the leatherwood was flowering. The flower has a dark red centre and a golden crown. The saddle between the two high points has a stream running across it and in places the track was very, very boggy so progress was slow.

The track along the ridge down towards Kumeti Hut was very overgrown with Toetoe and other low growing plants. There is a short but steep drop off the ridge through regenerating bush and Ongaonga down to Kumeti Hut, another hut we all hoped we never would have to spend a night in. It was about a 20 minute walk down the willow infested Kumeti Stream out to the truck. The trip had taken us a leisurely 7 hours. I observed that the 8 "fast" ones had merged with the pack and some were infact among the last to reach the truck.

One member of the party had felt unwell on the trip and thanks to those who helped to carry her gear. Also a special thanks to Geoff Robbie who stepped in at short notice to drive the truck for us. Great to be with you again Geoff. *RL*

Team: Rodger Burn, Sue Lopdell, Marion Nicholson, Robyn Madden, Phillip Mardon, Melanie Lester, Judy McBride, Ken Nugent, Lex Smith, Ray Manning, Chris Waldron, Sue Holmes, Andy Fowler, Tina Godbert, Jill Beaver, Gail Harvey, Alan McGregor, Murray Alderson, Mike and Ros Lusk.

Truck party: Geoff Robbie, Glenda Hooper and Dave Mullinder.

Ohara Stream

11 January, 2004

Most members of HTC have crossed the Ohara many times as they travel towards the ranges beyond the Wakararas. The stream picks up water from the Ruahines, and from both sides of the Wakararas, the Poporangi carrying the water from the east, and the whole lot drains into the Ngaruroro at Whanawhana. Most had not, however, explored much of the Ohara itself, and during a summer fishing trip I decided it was time we visited the stretch upstream from the Mangleton Rd Bridge, where there is a small camping area.

The first kilometre or so doesn't hint at the much more attractive area beyond, as the river runs in a wide bed, with flat banks thick with weeds, large and small. There was not much water, and some of the rocks were pretty slippery with brown algae, but there was no hurry and we wandered along, eventually stopping under a small mudstone cliff where Peter found an intact fossil tusk shell, modern specimens of which can still be found living in mudflats. After a little more travel we reached the point where the river narrows and flows between high eroded banks, which support some tough natives and intermittent pine plantations. This was the area that had so surprised me the previous summer. Quite soon, (i.e. about 20m on), some of the party elected to stop, and settled under a large Totara on a grassy slope. The rest of us straggled on and small groups stopped as we went, leaving 5 who finally selected a shingle beach only a relatively short way up, at least by fishermen's standards, there spending a pleasant hour eating, yarning and, above a pool 50m upstream, watching a couple of fine rainbow trout feeding. (One of them tasted a Lusk fly a couple of weeks later.)

In the early afternoon we ambled back, interrupting the slumbers of 4 old fellows not far downstream. By the time we reached the Totara we had largely regrouped and not much further along, we gathered in Pam and Barbara who were treating their mending ankles to a good workout. A swim was in order and the most unfortunate fish in the whole river had to endure a grubby bunch of mis-shapen humans frolicking about in its meat and drink. By mid-afternoon we had found the truck, and were soon home.

This part of the Ohara is well worth a visit in summer. There are plenty of swimming holes and the gorgy area goes on for miles of easy travel. Once again we were driven safely by Geoff, and we dined on the fruits of Pernel Orchard. *ML*

Party: Barbara Taylor, Pam Turner, Bobby Couchman, Helen and Graeme Hare, Roger Burn, John Berry, Glenda, Peter, Donna and Natalie Berry, Sue, Claire and Glen Holmes, Robyn Madden, Ken Nugent, Marion Nicholson, Lex Smith, Lyn Gentry, Geoff Clibborn, Bruce Parsons, Ros and Mike Lusk

Rangaiika A Weekend on the beaches

17,18 January, 2004



Dave Heaps kindly got up at crack of dawn to drop us at Ocean Beach on Saturday morning. Well dressed in sunhats and long sleeves against the expected searing sun we set off to race the tide. It was a beautiful sunny day, pleasantly cool in the early morning with beautiful light on the water.

We made it to the point at the North end of Ocean beach in good time and scampered round almost dry shod.

Having been under pressure to race the tide we then enjoyed a lovely sense of relaxation. It was only mid-morning, we had entered the promised land and the whole day was ours to explore or relax as we chose.

The sun was beating down and we selected (I bullied the others into) a grassy campsite with sea view that caught a cool breeze off the sea. A hunting group was despatched into the briny and came back with a good feed of Paua and a sample crayfish for entrée, well caught Gerald, particularly as there was a slight swell running and underwater visibility was limited.

After lunch we explored the peninsular, enjoyed the cool dark Karaka grove and were impressed by the shiny middens glittering with paua shell amongst the white sand dunes.

We had an afternoon of swims, snoozes and sand castles before finishing the day with dinner over a driftwood fire and a torchlight fossic in the rockpools. We were thrilled just before sunset to see two figures appear from the North, Dave Heaps and Michelle Burden just in time for dinner.

Next morning a brisk easterly had lifted the swell and put a stop to further oceanic exploits. We climbed up over the hills to the north from flat rock cutting in behind Cape Kidnappers. We enjoyed the walk back along the Beach the Gannets and cliffs interesting as always.

Rangaiika is a hidden treasure, a real wonderland, so close and yet little visited. We did find a spring there at the Northern side of the peninsular that looked like it would run most of the time, the water tasted quite minerally but drinkable when boiled.

TG

Party: John Berry, Ken Nugent, Murray Alderson, Jim Hewes, Gerald, Lynette and Christine Blackburn (Chief Mermaid), Dave Heaps, Michelle Burden, Tina Godbert.

Middle Stream- Rangī – 3 Johns – Waipawa Saddle
--

25 January, 2004

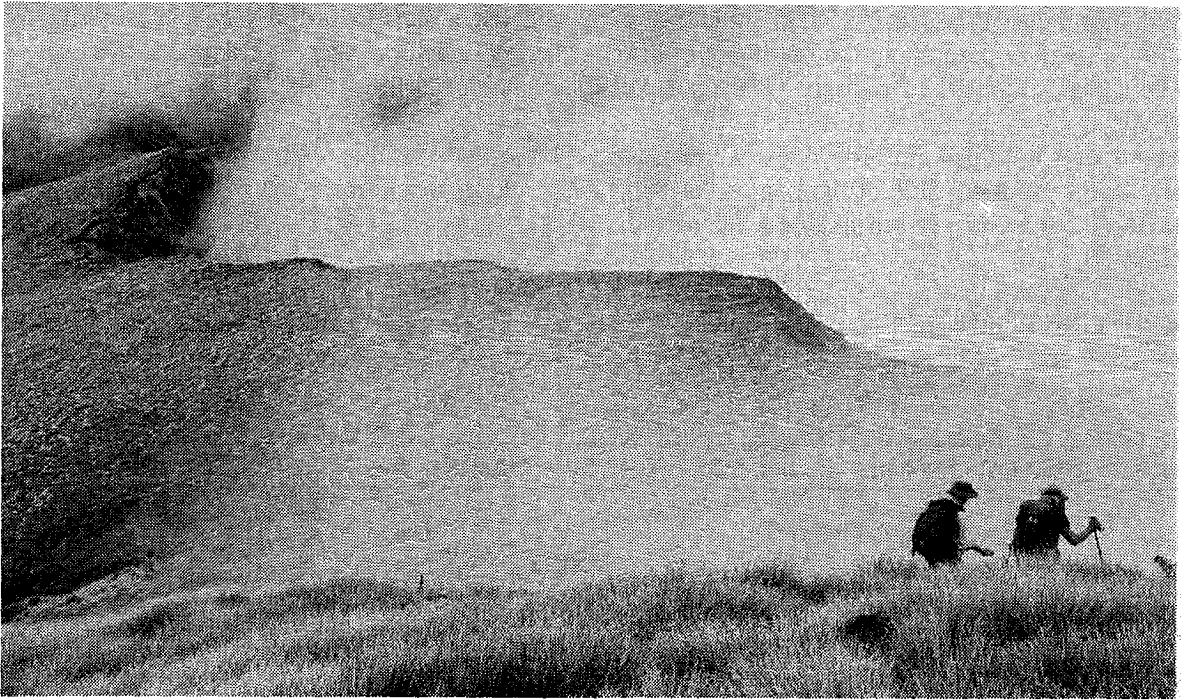
Party A

I had quite a bit of trouble finding someone who had done this trip before but came up trumps with Russell Perry. Russell assured me he had been up the spur from Middle Stream to the top near Rangī once and down it twice. All this was about 20 years ago and he was a bit hazy about exact conditions on the spur, but assured me it was a great trip!

Seven of us set off from the Waipawa River toward Middle Stream Hut in sauna like conditions. By the time we reached the hut 2 ½ hours later light cloud cover had lowered the temperature making ideal tramping conditions. We had a brief look at the hut (soon to be removed apparently) then ambled the 200 metres to the bottom of the spur. 11 o'clock saw us filling up water bottles and after a quick look at the map we followed Dave up the northerly side stream for a short way then headed into the bush.

For the next ½ hour or so we were the recipients of a good all round work out! Usually the arms are fairly redundant out tramping but this trip arms were put to good use as we hauled ourselves up a very steep, thickly vegetated hillside. Tie, Dave's dog had to be manhandled up some of the steeper parts! We eventually reached the actual ridge line and much to our relief there was a well defined animal trail. We passed through some really stunning patches of bush with large areas of moss covered rocks etc. Unfortunately, as usually seems to be the case, the stretches of easy going were interspersed with stretches of fairly heavy going and when we hit leatherwood – very heavy going.

We stopped for lunch at about 12.45 pm. After getting out Tina's GPS and consulting the map we decided that we would push on for another half hour and see how things looked then. Just as the half hour was up we broke through the leatherwood on to a very narrow ridge heading up into the mist. We were delighted to have a nice little track to follow most of the way to the tops through alpine meadows of spaniard, tussock, daisies etc. and were lucky enough to spot edelweiss in flower. We popped out of the clouds to find the Waikamaka side of the range beautifully clear with Rangiatea looming above and Rangī Saddle directly across the valley from us.



After a photo and nibble stop we headed around towards 3 Johns. A couple of us girls had been keen to check out these “3 Johns” but they were being very shy, hiding in the cloud - we had to make do with Gerald, Dave and Jeremy! (Another time perhaps!) The rest of the trip was straight forward, dropping into Waipawa Saddle and down the river to the truck, arriving not too long after the B group. Thanks to everyone for enduring a 9 ½ hour day, including 2 ½ hours of bush-bashing, with such good humour. Congratulations to Michelle for coping wonderfully with a very challenging first tramp.

Yes Russell, it was a great trip!

Sue

Michelle Burden, Gerald Blackburn, Jeremy Blackburn, Dave Heaps & Tie (the dog), Tina Godbert, Chris Waldron, Sue Holmes.

B Trip

A party of 9 set off up the Waipawa River at about 8 am. The river was well settled after very heavy rain during the week. The water was knee deep rather than the usual ankle depth of summer. The party studied the very sturdy concrete bridge fairly recently installed -with interest. We wondered what sort of water flow it would take to move the bridge?

The day developed hot and sunny for the long haul up the river. For some of the party, they were first time visitors to both Waipawa Forks Hut and Waikamaka Hut, so were very interested in the area. The walk through the alpine plants up to the Waipawa Saddle was fascinating as usual. The wonderful mixture of the alpine plants -the variation in the shape of the plants, the colours, the textures and the bonus of flowers. It was interesting to note how quickly flowers are able to set to seed in harsher conditions as some of us had been in the same area at the beginning of January. Small tutu plants were covered in shiny, deep purple berries.

The walk to the hut took the slower party 4 1/2 hours. So was good to be at the hut. The hut was very clean and tidy and the fresh paint work was admired by all. We also visited the bivvie hidden across the river.

After lunch the party dispersed to sleep, swim, and Blue duck spotting - unfortunately with no luck. Geoff put up the new notice and card holder -but alas no one had the cards -who has the cards? As the next club member going into Waikamaka Hut could please take them.

We left the Hut just before 2pm and were back at the truck about 4.30 pm. We were just putting the "Clibbornette" to good use, when the battered but triumphant A party returned.

Waikamaka is an interesting, beautiful destination -maybe we could go in on a Saturday afternoon and stay overnight so we have the luxury of time to explore and relax.

We had a great trip with excellent company.

RM

C. Brown, L. Blackburn, B. Couchman, A. Woodruff, M. Nicholson, G. Hare, G. Clibborn, M. Naylor, R. Madden

Okoeke Stream off the Napier – Taupo road
--

1 February, 2004

A Party.

The forecast was pretty grim, but there were few defections and so the truck was fairly tightly packed. Peter negotiated the rutted road across the flats as if Michael Schumacher was in close pursuit, and the passengers spent a good portion of that part of the journey as though in a kitchen whiz. On arrival at the car park we gazed across the frost flats: real old-fashioned badlands, with a scruffy covering of stunted *Dracophyllum*, the uniform brownness relieved only by the odd wildling pine. But it is always interesting to see how plants adapt to colonize even the most demanding environment. Soon a long trail of trampers was strung out along a well defined track, with only the occasional scramble to negotiate wide channels where water has cut deeply into the pumice. We regrouped beyond one such and, while searching in the streambed for orchids, I heard the deep groans of the resident Taniwha. My companions above me were sceptical, and while I agree the sounds they could hear probably were motorbikes, I know a Taniwha when I hear one.

At this point the party split, with the B Party heading back.

Eventually the track pushes through tightly packed small kanuka, and so on to a spur which drops down to the river. As it had been drizzling we crossed over to a welcome pumice cave where we ate our lunch in dryness, but surrounded by the debris left by previous occupants. The track skirts the toe of the spur, and passes the junction of two streams, before climbing up along the true right where a few superb bird orchids (*Orthoceras*) grew. There was a little indecision at the point where the track makes a final descent to the river but eventually all were assembled in the water bar Graeme who entertained us with his passage through an alternative off-track route, his progress down towards us being marked by wild thrashing in the undergrowth. There is a sort of a track along the true L bank, but the riverbed being less slippery than on the previous trip, we made a start in the water. But even with sticks and assistance progress was slow, and the track was not too difficult to negotiate. So not difficult was it that Graeme elected to find something a bit more challenging, and in the process almost discovered an alternative overland route to Opunake. But we reined him in and were eventually assembled above the falls.

Having bypassed them on the true right side a couple of years ago, we decided to have a look at the left, so Sue led us up a small steep gully, and towards the top of a ferny ridge. There is the need to cross above at least the first of two cliffs, and after a brief recce down into the tall kanuka between them we decided to move on to the beech forest beyond the second, where we descended onto a small plateau without difficulty, and from which we followed a track down to the streambed, about 100m below the falls. Crossing at that point we walked up and into the roar and strong wind generated by the water, which drops 30m into a large pool. Nobody was tempted to swim, and we didn't linger as there was a significant wind chill. The track down is still easy to follow, although not maintained and we probably did a few unnecessary (but easy) crossings near the bottom, taking about 90 min from

falls to road. Somewhat to our surprise and concern we did not meet the B Party whom we had expected to come up to meet us. Our concern turned to disgust when we arrived to find them comfortably ensconced in the truck, having bailed out before at the first crossing, only a few hundred metres upstream. The Clibbornette had NOT been fired up. But we had enjoyed a great day, and were soon in the truck with them. We were soon out again when a flat tyre was discovered. Changing tyres has been fairly frequent lately so the job was quickly done, and we made it home in good spirits and at a sensible hour. This is a really good summer trip, and it is a great pity that at least the track from the Taupo Rd to the falls is not being maintained.

Thanks to Peter for driving, and to an enthusiastic party. *ML*

Party. Marion Nicholson, Joan Ruffel, Neil Wainwright, Graeme Hare, Ken Nugent, Sue Holmes, Chris Brown, Ros and Mike Lusk.

Kaimanawa – Waitangi Weekend

6 to 8 February, 2004

Party A

Twenty-four bodies packed into the Truck early on Friday morning to head up to the Kaimanawa Road end. After a brief stop at Taupo, we arrived at our destination and started up the track onto the Umukarikari Range to Waipakihi Hut at 9am. It was an overcast day, but we did have lovely views of Lake Taupo and the surrounding country. Lots of stops were enjoyed photographing fungi and the alpine flowers on the way to the Hut. Mid afternoon saw the majority of the group starting to drop down the ridge to the Hut. The Hut is in a great spot, beside the Waipakihi River, and with plenty of camping areas. During the rest of the afternoon many other parties arrived, including 2 other tramping clubs. The evening saw close to 40 people tenting and sleeping under flies.

At 8.30am the A party left the rest of the group, and climbed up the ridge behind the hut to Junction Tops. The climb was a steady 500m with mist swirling around us most of the way. We had glimpses of Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe over the cloud as we headed up. At the Junction we farewelled the 4 girls that were heading to the Kawekas, and carried on South along Middle Range towards Thunderbolt.

The route along the tops was great. Open tops, easy walking, with fantastic views across the Rangitiki to Makorako. We stopped for lunch on the high point Thunderbolt, and further enjoyed the views across to the Kawekas and south to Ruapehu, which was significantly closer by now. The ridge continued to roll out in front of us to the south, so after a quick lunch we pressed on. We reached the start of the track down to the Waipakihi River at around 5.30pm. The drop off was steep, and came out about 20 minutes upstream of the Urchin Track. After a quick wash/swim in the river, we carried on down to the Urchin Track hoping to meet up with the B Party. Many of the people we had camped with at Waipakihi Hut were camping at the Urchin Track Junction, but no B Party was in sight. After reading their note to say they had carried on further downstream, we decided to camp the night at the Junction, and catch up with them the following day. It had been a big day, with 10 hours of solid tramping. After tea and a short time socialising around the camp fire, everyone was looking forward to climbing into their sleeping bags.

We had an arranged meeting time of between 2-4pm on Sunday at the Waipakihi Road end, so a 7.30am start was in order. Fortunately, most things were packed away before the drizzle started, which soon turned into steady rain for the rest of the day. Waipakihi is a beautiful river. Crystal clear water, with no slime on the rocks, which made the crossings very easy. Surprisingly, there were no fish to be seen. There had obviously been a lot of water in the river recently, because of the slips and large logs in the riverbed. We met the B Party part way down the river and arrived at the Waipakihi Road end where Geoff had kindly moved the truck.

A very enjoyable weekend in some new country for most of us. I would definitely recommend this trip. Excellent variety of tramping country, with a lovely river, great open tops and views.

My thanks to Geoff for driving and making the trip at two road ends possible.

GB

Party: Christine Snook, Andy Fowler, Anne Cantrick, Michelle Burden, John Winter, John Montgomery, Eddie Holmes, Gerald Blackburn, Jeremy Blackburn, Sue Holmes, Lex Smith, Greg Smith.

B Party

A 5am start meant that Geoff delivered a pretty sleepy truckload at the road end, in cloudy conditions. The climb up through the wet bush soon woke us up, especially as there were numerous magnificent fungi to inspect amongst the mixed beech and totara. Eventually the tailenders caught up with the leaders at the bush edge, so we say and yarned a while before setting off along the very exposed but level range. Mist drifted about, but it gradually lifted, and soon we could look down into the valley where the Waipakiki Stream meanders along in its quest to become the Tongariro, and later there were tantalizing glimpses of the central mountains, but we saw only Pihanga in her entirety. The shattered rock of the range had been covered with pumice but strong winds had blown that pumice into the gullies, and we thought, even shifted the smaller fragments heavier rock so that the long axis of each tended to lie East-West giving a striped effect. In some of the pumice faces were embedded large carbonized logs. It must have been pretty uncomfortable up there during the formation of Taupo. For the second weekend in a row a Taniwha made its presence felt, this time in the form of distant loud booms. The sceptics' explanation that it was explosions from the Army Range further demonstrated the sad lack of spiritual awareness in HTC. In the easy going we were able to take the walk at a very comfortable pace and some of us did, admiring the Celmisias, harebells and gentians as we waited in vain for the cloud to lift. Waipakiki Hut is visible from high on the range, and we could soon see people milling about it. Eventually we assembled there to find a full hut and a tent town surrounding it-about 35 people in all. The pleasant pace of the day continued into a calm evening, and a welcome sleep.

Saturday dawned fine and after farewelling the Suffragettes and the A party we set off down the very attractive Waipakiki Stream, linking for the crossings and making steady progress towards the large flats before the Urchin Track leads to the Umukarikari Range. The impression we had formed on day 1 that access from the riverbed to the range track would have been fairly easy was confirmed from below, while debris 4ft up the riverside trees told us that such an exit could easily be needed. After a leisurely lunch we carried on, passing the Pukekohe TC setting up camp and leaving messages for the A party. Just before our proposed campsite we passed through a small gorge, where the true left side if the bed allowed easy passage. Sue's recommended campsite was a beauty, set under tall beech trees with a substantial fireplace and we were pleased to relax after a wonderful nine and a half hour day. Just downstream was a grassy flat with lots of deer sign and even a few field mushrooms. We toasted marshmallows in the failing light and wondered if the hogsbacks we had seen in the evening sky foretold rain.

As we breakfasted on Sunday morning rain did start, but gently at first so that we were able to pack up before the tents became wet. We headed off, sometimes crossing large grassy flats, some times the old track on the true left bank shown on Max's map and on the sharp bends shortcutting across small patches of bush. As we left one of these we surprised a wild deer, and after a savage battle it was overwhelmed and captured. Eventually it realized that it was beaten, so after compulsory hunter/gatherer photos, it was killed and eaten... That is at least what Pam believed, bless her gullible soul. The creature was in fact Bambi, and was quite content to be mothered by the team, remaining completely placid even after release. I was NOT allowed to take it round the corner and 'let it go'.

Eventually the A party overtook us and the decision-making. Their first crossing was across the deepest, swiftest part of the river in sight, exiting up a small cliff into a patch of evil forest filled with fallen logs and impenetrable undergrowth. We finally emerged at the top of another cliff below which a torrent, complete with pressure waves raged. Restraining Ed from jumping in was not easy, but we did finally revert to a B party crossing 30m upstream, saving many lives. The truck was not far on with Geoff, Pam and Barbara, and most important, the Clibbornette and Pam's biscuits. A food stop at Turangi confirmed that Burger King food is not fast, but we were still home in reasonable time after an excellent Waitangi weekend.

Thanks to Geoff for driving and for having the truck restored after the problems of the previous weekend, to Philip for fresh fruit, to Max for maps and marshmallows, to Sue for help with the planning. Leo Brunton's trip reports were most informative, and a special thanks to Pam for her biscuits and for being so innocent even at her age. ML

Party. Marion Nicholson, Judy McBride, Max Neumegen, Ros and Mike Lusk

Kaweka – Waikarekare Waterfalls

15 February, 2004

One carload and a small truck contingent set out for the Kawekas in another attempt to seek the two waterfalls seen from the Smith Russell track. Arrived at our destination about 50 metres past (Lumsden?) Road, setting out in overcast conditions.

Peter go forth in a NW direction ordered the captain, seek blue markers on trees – we did, lots of them on lots of pine trees but still we continued towards the NW disregarding tape of many colours till we arrived at the first waterfall 10 mins from the truck! Last time we struggled for a couple of hours through the debris of cut branches and got nowhere.

The track was very good and had pink tape marked the way to the bottom of the 23m high fall, where there was a good pool. Photos were taken in case certain persons wouldn't believe that we found route. Continued downstream, the papa rock proving very slippery & Sue being the shortest person managed to find all the deep holes. After a half hour we came to the second waterfall, about 14 metres high. Most of us returned but 3 explorers set out to find a way around the falls lead by Peter (strange his wife and ex flatmate wouldn't follow).

There is a slightly overgrown track that takes you too the bottom of this waterfall & along the stream to where the Kaweka Challenge competitors plunge across. By this time the rain had set in and all returned to the track very drenched. We had planned to drive down to Kuripaponga and swim/kayak the Ngaruroro River but the falling temperature put paid to that idea. After lunching in the back of the truck we set off for Pernel Orchard arriving about 1.45pm.

Despite the weather, we achieved our aim, thanks to Dave Coe from Pan Pac Forests whose directions to the waterfalls were spot on. This is a trip for a fine summer day, easy traveling in the stream and maybe could go all the way down to the bridge near the water gauge – an idea for the fixtures committee. SL.

Party: Sue Lopdell, Peter, Natalie & Donna Berry, Glenda Hooper, Sue, Glen & Claire Holmes, Jeremy Blackburn, Graeme & Helen Hare, Geoff Clibborn.

Kaweka Challenge**28/29 February, 2004**

The Theme of the Kaweka Challenge 2004 was definitely CHALLENGE! Not detered by the weather, about 360 keen competitors turned up. But the weather was the greatest challenge for the organisers. The Site Personnel gave the organisers at base very clear information about the conditions. For example -it was clearly not possible to send competitors over Kaweka J when we heard that the wind was about 100kph, visibility 20 metres, temperature 7deg and frozen sleet! Though the hardy trio at Studholme manned their site through out the day .And it rained and then the rivers started rising! The preparation that has gone into the Safety Plan was put into good use but the experience of this weekend will ensure that the Safety plan is re-examined and revised over the winter.

The KC Committee would like to thank all who helped to make the weekend a success, for your quick thinking and adaptability. The course changes were managed very well and problems dealt with as needed. Such as busing the competitors out of Makahu! We were rewarded by the thanks of competitors at the finish line - the elation of completing the Challenge. At base this year, Martin Crundwell offered to help in any capacity. He was the fellow who unfortunately dislocated his shoulder in the 2003 event. He commented that as a competitor, he had no idea of the organization and number of people required to run the KC.

We had a few changes this year. The Red Cross Emergency Relief Team provided the First Aid support at Base - an enthusiastic team. Fortunately they had very little to do. Across the road at Base, Pan Pac have created a large carparking space which reduced the "traffic congestion ". The Cameron foot bridge had recently been damaged in flooding requiring some alterations to the starting of each course. Terrific wind gusts caused very rapid dropping of the big tents at base on Saturday night before they became airborne!

Thank-you for attending the thorough debrief -all comments have been documented and will be used to rewrite the Instruction Manual and Safety plan. On behalf of the committee, Robyn Madden

Gorge Stream**14 March, 2004****Central Ruahines****28 March, 2004**

A lack of numbers for a full weekend trip meant that it got curtailed to a Sunday outing. The truck rolled out of Pernel at 6.30am and arrived at the Ngamoko road end minutes later (so it seemed to me). We headed off into a very cold sou'wester up the Apiti track, first through farmland then climbing into the bush. The plan was to head off the Apiti track along an old track that would take us to Birch Whare. Dave found some promising blazes on trees and the party dutifully headed off into the jungle puss. We were however pulled up short when we popped out onto a bald ridge, wrong ridge, darn, back we went. Dave searched further along the Apiti track and spotted some white markers with orange splodges. We were off. It was good fun sniffing out the next marker as the track wasn't very well defined. We admired the totara and big rimu and after a while lost the markers while plunging off the ridge in a NW direction. The deer were roaring as we bush bashed down to a log choaked stream which we scrambled down to join the Mangatewainui river.

We searched for orange markers indicating where the track towards Cattle Creek headed up out of the creek. Finding instead a 4 wheel drive track plastered in PRIVATE KEEP OUT signs heading in the right direction we followed this and then scoured the bush for the Whare. We found an old demolished hut and assumed that had been it. Ate our lunch in the drizzle and headed north up the river to do a circular route to rejoin the Apiti track. It hailed on us as we clambered up the ridge out of the river. This well marked track looks to be used fairly frequently by local hunters rather than the Apiti track.

On the return leg Gerald, Ally and I headed up a hillock giving great views of central Hawkes Bay and then found an alternative route back to the truck. Thanks to Dave for driving and for afterwards finding out that Birch Whare is still standing about 200 meters past our ruin.

Party: Andy Fowler, Gerald and Jeremy Blackburn, Alison Hollington, Anne Cantrick, John Winters, Dave Heaps.

Mt Erin to Havelock

28 March, 2004

Problems with access off Kaponga Road meant that the scheduled trip had to be changed a little, however the two other farms gave us permission. We met at the Rose & Shamrock carpark and 3 cars drove to the Middle Road/Mutiny Road corner where we started the tramp around 9 AM.

The first part was to walk to the top of Mount Erin and this was done by climbing up a valley in the vicinity of the vehicle track to the top, using the track in the latter stages. The time to reach the top was somewhat longer than competitors in the Triple Peaks race had taken the previous day (and they had ran all the way from the centre of Havelock Nth), but reach it we did. The day was fine and clear at this stage and the views over the bay and along the hills were wonderful and we took time out to enjoy them.

Refreshed, we headed down hill, steeply at first, following the Triple Peaks route down to the Tukituki River opposite Rochford Road. Most of this is along farm tracks so we descended quickly and then followed the river downstream a bit before stopping for a nice long lunch about 12:30. Natalie and Lizzie had a swim during lunch but the rest of us just relaxed (read sleep in Peter's case).

After lunch we had a couple of river crossings – most of us not getting our shorts wet and within the hour we were up on Matangi Road. From half way along Matangi Road we went back onto farmland again and walked along tracks that took us to the extension of Tauroa Road, again following the Triple Peaks trail. No one felt the need to walk up to the Peak so by 4 o'clock we were at the end of Tauroa Road where we had left Peter's car.

A lovely day enjoyed by all.

GH

Party: Peter Berry, Allie Broad, Natalie Berry, Lizzie Rawnsley, Jim Glass, Rodger Burn, Garry Smith, Lyn & Lyn Gentry, Bobby Couchman, Marion Nicholson, Sue Holmes, Judy McBride and Glenda Hooper

Tongariro National Park

9 to 12 April, 2004

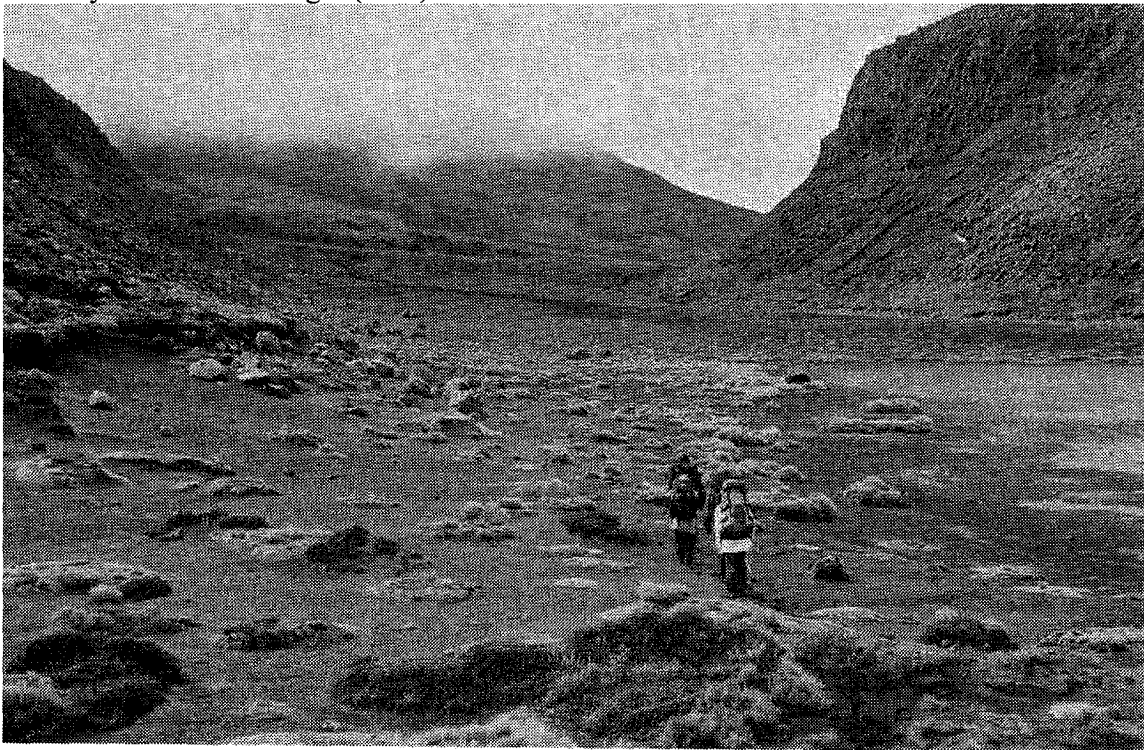
A Party

It started with a Thursday night getaway then sardines in the back of the truck through a very wet night, 12 really is a tight squeeze. And the little one said, "Roll over", and we all rolled over and the B party fell out at Whakapapa.

We then headed round to the Ohakune mountain road to start our clockwise circuit, leaving the truck just shy of the ski centre and reluctantly dragged ourselves out into the cold wind and wet. John Berry was feeling a bit under the weather with a cold but decided to head off with us and see how it went. The seven of us were soon in better spirits climbing down between two spectacular waterfalls on a rocky spur. Mangaturuturu hut was soon reached (1½ hrs) for morning smoko, the hut had been impressively hand carried in by the Wanganui tramping club in the 50's. Up past Lake Surprise and fantastic views of rocky ridges with amazing waterfalls delighted us along the way. It drizzled on and off all the way to Whakapapaiti Hut (5hrs) where we deposited a wayward Frenchman who'd got a bit lost and tucked John Berry into his sleeping bag.

The skies cleared and we got beautiful views of a pink shining Ruapehu. The hut was packed, but we all got a mattress, and the body heat staved off the hard frost that coated the veranda. John didn't feel well enough to continue the next morning so we reluctantly left him at the hut to entertain the tourists and headed to the Bruce road (1hr 10). There we split into two's and stuck our thumbs out, Michelle and I caught the first lift in a very smart Mercedes, driven by a Japanese family of 4 from Wellington, we looked gingerly at the white leather seats and the Michelle squeezed in next to one of the sons wearing white trousers, we felt rather guilty after trying unsuccessfully to cleanly extricate our muddy boots.

We all met up at Whakapapa for hot pies and bought our Great walk hut ticket. Escaping the flesh pots we headed for Tama lakes (1½ hrs), deciding in the sunshine that it would be worth the adventure to head off track and go round Upper Tama lake and down towards Waihohonu hut. This proved to be a fascinating route, that was much more interesting than the straight through motorway and only took an hour longer (4 hrs).



Easter Sunday the next day and the excited "kids" followed the Easter bunny on an egg hunt. Chocolate lipped we headed off to admire Ohinepango springs. We were really benefiting from Ruapehu's rain shadow, bright blue skies on the NE side with threatening clouds all around. The panting trampers were soon stripping as we crossed the rightly named Rangipo desert. This was a spectacular day, the lahar scoured gash of the Whangaehu river being particularly memorable. A relatively short day (5hrs) gained us a lot of height and the chilly, snowy delights of Rangipo hut. We entertained ourselves through the rest of the afternoon and went to bed early.

We set out at 6.30am into strong winds and spindrift, thinking we had a long day ahead of us, 9 hours according to the track times! After a bit of battle through the wind we dropped into the impressive Wahianoa gorge and found the going fairly quick as the path descended to Mangaehuehu hut (3½ hrs). A short lunch was gobbled and we were off again, closing on the B party. We were doing well but were feeling the strain of the pace. It was a very welcome sight to see the club truck at the carpark and the B party and it was only 1pm! Lex had very efficiently got a lift up the road to pickup the truck from where we'd left it 4 days before. We'd done it; we'd been round the mountain. Lex drove a concerned truck to Whakapapa where we were relieved to find a much improved John Berry, although he hadn't seen any sun since Friday!

Lex then drove us smoothly back to Hawkes Bay. Many thanks to John and Lex for driving, to the easter Bunny for eggs and the rest of the party for making it such fun. AF

Party: Andy Fowler, Tina Godbert, Gerald and Jeremy Blackburn, Sue Holmes, Michelle Burden and John Berry.

B Party

Thursday – 6.00pm departure Pernel followed by Napier pick up arriving Taupo 9.00pm for a bite to eat at Sub-way. 11.00pm at National Park campsite and all bedded down in truck for the night.

Friday – 6.30am drive up to Whakapapa Village DoC shelter for breakfast and change into tramping gear. Northshore TC there as well with two parties. 8.00am at DoC HQ for hut passes weather etc. Staff negative about weather to the point of saying don't go! However got under way 8.20am into misty rainy conditions with little visibility. Climbed up to Tama saddle; due to conditions didn't visit Upper Tama Lake but passed lower lake and pressed on to Waihohonu Hut for lunch arriving about 2.00pm. Weather then cleared up so visited the old hut which is now a historic place and set up as a museum – really neat. On returning to new hut two senior members of the party missed the turn and were miss mothered for a spell. Further time spent wandering around and up behind the hut – great views of Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe. Full hut. Dinner and bed about 7.00pm.

Saturday – Awoke to frosty morning and fine day. Breakfast and away 8.30am. Lynnette back to fill in hut book. Off track to Ohinepango Springs – very impressive water flow. The volcanic plateau we walked over was like a lunar landscape with numerous up and downs. 30 min lunch stop about 12.15pm after crossing the Tukino ski field road. Lahar Hazard area (400m) was impressive and quite a challenge to negotiate quickly. Rangipo Hut 2.30pm. 15 in hut with arrival of party of five (D of E school group) just on dusk. Only enough wood for 1 stoke of fire. Dinner and bed about 7.00pm. Very windy night but light frost by morning.

Sunday – School group up at 6.00am the rest not able to sleep 6.45am. Easter eggs / breakfast / packed / hut swept and on track by 8.00am. Beautiful morning but cold wind soon saw us don coats. Clear conditions for the first 3 hours during which time we crossed the awesome Waihianoa Gorge but not without some difficulty due to the very strong winds on top. The weather conditions then deteriorated with sleet and rain which saw us press on to the Mangaehuehu Hut arriving 1.00pm for lunch in comfort around the fire. Wet miserable conditions for the remainder of the afternoon saw us sit around and talk as the hut filled up. The usual gourmet BCF meal but bed a little later at 8.00pm.

Monday – with A team ETA at road end about 3.30pm we departed 9.30am in wet misty conditions which deteriorated into rain from time to time. In bush most of time with a lot of new board walks. Large alpine tarn (Rotokawa) and impressive Waitonga Falls. Out to Ohakune road at 12.15pm. Over the 4 days we had some great views of both Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe and experienced some impressive volcanic landscapes.

With driver John out of the picture Lex flagged down a vehicle and got a lift up the road to get the truck. Back down to the track end and the B party only changed and packed up when A team arrived about 12.45pm. They changed / packed up and we got away at 1.15pm for the Chateau to pick up John. Fuel / snack in Turangi and home by about 6.00pm. A most enjoyable weekend of fellowship and tramping. LS

Party: Lex Smith, Gary Smith, Sue Lopdell, Lynnette Blackburn, Marion Nicholson, Bobby Couchman.

PRIVATE TRIPS

Girls Trip

Kaimanawa – Kaweka Crossing (Kaimanawa Rd End, Waipakihi Hut, Junction Top, Te More, Te Wetenga, Mangamingi, Mangamaire, (the “old” route), Boyd Lodge, Te Pukeohikarua, Vension Tops, Whetu, Makino, Hot Springs) – 7 days

6-12th February 2004

We were fortunate to be able to begin our tramp with the club, as the first day followed the same route as the planned A party trip for the Waitangi Weekend. This was a bonus as we were able to utilize transport to the Kaimanawa Road end, and had our first night's meal kindly provided for us at Waipakihi Hut.



Our route was the same as the A party up to Junction Top, and it was there that we went our separate ways. “There’s where you are heading for your first Day” Ann said to me as she pointed our Makorako in the far distance. It was very obvious it was going to be tough. And it was. We had chosen to follow the old track that drops down into the Rangitikei River, and then up to Te More, over the Island Range and Te Wetenga, north of Makorako. We were concerned that the track might not be easily found as it hasn’t been maintained for many years now, and that significant navigation skills would be required on the tops should visibility be poor. The track down to the Rangitikei was easily navigated, and after spending some time scouting around for the start of the track up the ridge to the tops it was successfully located. This section of the track was very overgrown, but at your feet, remnants of the track were visible most of the time. The weather Gods were kind to us, and we had no problems with visibility on the tops, with us finally reaching Te Wetenga at 5pm. After a brief side trip where Sandy and Tina climbed up to the top of Makorako, we set off again, finally making camp at the Mangamaire River, opposite the Mangamingi Saddle 8.30pm. It had been a rewarding and tiring 12-hour day.

The 3rd day began with wet weather, and continued that way for the rest of the morning. We climbed up onto the Pauerawera ridge and located the track leading down to the Mangamingi River on the far right of the ridge at the top of the beech. The track down to the Mangamingi was clearly marked, and we soon reached the river. In better weather, the Tussock covered Mangamingi Valley would be delightful, but as it was cold and wet we were focused on reaching our next destination and were reluctant to stop. We reached Boyd Lodge early in the afternoon, and decided to spend the 3rd night there. The afternoon fined up, and time was spent warming up in the sun and drying out the sodden

gear and tent fly. Tina and Chrissy ventured up Boyd Rock which proved to be a very worthwhile side trip, with great views of the surrounding countryside.

The 4th day saw us setting off for Tussock Hut, walking down the magical Harkness Valley. Huge hebe bushes in full flower flanked the track, along with tussock that felt soft and silky against your legs as you pushed through it. After lunch in the sun, hair washing and bathing at Harkness Hut, we set off all wholesome again, heading up to Te Pukeohikarua Hut where we stayed for the night. Great scenic views were enjoyed all the way, with one sighting of a native falcon (who was not pleased to see us).

Venison Tops Hut was reached on day 5 in claggy weather, and strong winds. It was very pleasant walking through the plateau area with good views of the Kawekas. At that stage we were beginning to feel like we were in our own backyard again! We arrived early afternoon and then spent some time exploring the tops and identifying the landmarks from our knowledge of the Kawekas.

We were away from the hut at 7.30am heading up to Whetu. The bush area that you drop into before heading up the ridge to Whetu was stunning and we were well protected from the wind that was roaring overhead. Once out in the open, the strong wind was at our backs, and it almost seemed to assist us up the ridge. We arrived at the highest point we were going to reach in the Kawekas at 10am, and celebrated with a sip of Whiskey and a Krispie Biscuit!

We continued on to Makino Hut, where a deer whistled at us as we entered the clearing around the hut. Surprising the only one we had heard the entire trip! After lunch we headed off down the ridge to the Makino / Mohaka River Junction and continued up to the Hot Springs, where we were met by our Partners who provided a very extravagant final meal (complete with ice-cream). The last night was under tent flies, with pouring rain and pesky mossies all night.

The trip had numerous highlights, and provided a great sense of satisfaction by following the less travelled route via Makorako. All of the huts on the route were well maintained and looked after by the public. The variety of country is stunning, from the alpine landscape of the Umukarikari Range, the untouched bush in the Rangatikei Valley, to the silky tussock in the Harkness Valley. There was a true sense of solitude, with us only passing 4 hunters on the way up to Boyd Lodge, and a mother and daughter on the track at Harkness. Great company, with many funny incidences happening, that can't be relayed in a trip report! Definitely one of the great tramps that we have available in our own backyard which we would highly recommend. *LB*.

Lynette Blackburn, Tina Godbert, Chrissy Waldron, Sandy Claudatos

From The Archives
by Tony Gates

Geoff Wilson, who always signed as GBW, was a real Tararua legend. He specialised in off track tramping, map making (like Norman Elder), and keeping good dairy notes of his trips. Norman Elder should require little introduction to members of the Heretaunga Tramping Club, as it was he who founded the club in 1935, and remained a stalwart till his death in the 1970's. Not long after this trip was done, one William Howlett passed away. He was the one who made the numerous camps mentioned here, and it was he who built the first Howletts Hut. By 1935, this hut had long since fallen into disrepair. A few years after this trip, Howletts Hut was rebuilt, by the Ruahine and Heretaunga Tramping Clubs.

Piripiri- Tiraha- Kereru, 25- 30 December 1935. By Norman Elder.

Tararua Trampler February 1936

25/ 12/ 35. Geoff Wilson, Max Riske, and myself shouldered our packs at the Pohangina Bridge at about 10 AM on Christmas morning. From the Piripiri caves, we struck up to the left, along an old tramline, and reached the slab whare at the foot of the main slope at noon. A cut track leads up onto Waingapuna from perhaps a mile north of this. Camped on track.

26/ 12/ 35. A little before the western knob this noble thoroughfare dwindles to a narrow and scratchy cut through a seemingly interminable scrub belt. The weather was thick, but the route easy to follow to Waingapuna (1 ¾ hours from camp) and Toka (2 hours further), Otumore (3 ½ hours further), where the divide comes up from a low eastern ridge behind Norsewood (some maps wrongly showed Toka as on the divide). Camped in the saddle north of Otumore.

27/ 12/ 35. For some distance beyond this saddle, the divide is a low and inconspicuous ridge (dropping into bush at one point), which skirts a bold buttress from Taumatao mekura. There were traces of numerous camps, apparently on the main route in from Norsewood, but the actual route was not definitely established. Beyond this, the range attains a greater height, all peaks above 5411' lying in the block of country between the Oroua and Waipawa Rivers. We reached the Tiraha tarn in 3 ¾ hours from the saddle, and after a swim, a meal, and the ascent of Tiraha (5470'), Taumetao mekura (5520'), and Te Hekenga o te Rakau (5562') (the latter by its southern flank), we were ready to set off again. Deer tracks are increasingly well defined north of this, and by well graded sidlings, avoid a lot of ups and downs. The Sawtooth Ridge took a bit of scrambling at one or two places, but we reached the junction of Hawkes Bay Range

(Ohuinga) (5330') in 1 ½ hours. We camped beyond it, in the tussock saddle at the head of the Kawhatau.

28/ 12/ 35. Weather doubtful, but improved later. We crossed the Broken Ridge, which, like the ridges north and south of it, lies athwart the divide, and is connected to Rangi o te atua (5589') (2 ½ hours from camp) by a lower pinnacled ridge. We lunched at the saddle (4380') at the head of the Waipawa. A stiff climb brought us onto Trig LXV1 (5510') (Trig 66, or Te atu oparapara). That was, say, 2 hours from Rangi, and ½ hours more to the remains of Hamish Armstrong's plane. We spent a comfortable night at the Shuteye Shack (3900'), which is at present in first class order, with three new sacking bunks and about half a dozen kerosene drums for rain water.

29/ 12/ 35..A high wind arose during the night, and the return to the main ridge along the exposed shuteye ridge was rather a scramble. A couple of scrub sidles took us to the Maropea (3 ¾ hours), after which, the going was better to Te Atu Mahuru (2 hours) (Colenso country) and Tupari (1 ¾ hours). This was the last of the 5000' peaks. The range now flattens out a lot into broad, boggy plateaux. After two hours steady traveling from Tupari, we turned the head of the Makarora Valley, and camped in an old site near a muddy tarn (near Piopio). Deer were frequent and very tame on this stretch.

30/ 12/ 35. Wet and cold. Intended to reach Big Hill, and possibly cross the Ngarauroro to the Herautanga TC New Year camp in the Kaweka. But under the conditions, to follow the convolutions of the northern Ruahine Range was out of the question. Difficult to find a direct way out, however. At noon, we had seen no spur, and lost no height. (at Three Fingers, and well before reaching No Mans, this is really Lester Masters country). A sort of track finally led off and into the Gull Stream- very precipitous. Regained the head of the spur, which led down a shingle face into sheep country near boundary whare of Poperangi Station, and from thence to the road.

For additional information, see "Tararua Tramper" September 1933 and June 1935.

THE ORIGINS OF THE KAWEKA CHALLENGE

By Ted Sapsford

The Kaweka Challenge was conceived on the occasion of the wedding of Barbara and Brian Crawford's daughter Jill, 1st of July 1989, but the real reason behind it preceded the wedding by just over 3 years.

In May 1987 the outdoor equipment manufacturing company 'Macpac' wrote to the NZOF stating that they were prepared to sponsor an orienteering mountain marathon under the auspices of the NZOF somewhere in New Zealand every year.

Negotiations for this sponsorship commenced April 1986. I represented the HBOC, John Mote and John Rix represented the NZ World Orienteering Championship Squad (WOC Squad) and Colin Tait the Secretary of the NZOF acted for the NZOF. One of the main guarantees that Macpac required was continuity of the event if sponsorship was granted and we had to provide them with reasonable prospects of that continuity. At May 1987 the proposed programme of future mountain marathons was:

1988 – Ruahine – HBOC & HTC

1989 – Craigieburn - W O C Squad

1990 – Tongariro – W O C Squad

1991 - Waiorou – W O C Squad

Between 1983 and 1986 there had been five orienteering mountain marathons held in New Zealand, it certainly looked like the potential was there for an annual event.

The Hawkes Bay event was held in 1988 and the Craigieburn one in early 1989.

Now we get to Jill's wedding.

Colin Tait had come from Auckland for the occasion and we were sitting together at the reception. Early on in the evening I asked him how far the WOC squad had got with their preparations for the Tongariro MM. While speaking I recall filling my glass with some choice wine. Colin looked at me for a second and quietly announced that the WOC Squad had cancelled the Tongariro and Waiorou events. I also recall that my glass of wine was emptied in one motion without the due appreciation that the vintage deserved. To say the least and to say it politely I was extremely brassed off. After all the time and work involved in obtaining the original Macpac sponsorship I was not prepared to see it die.

During the evening tramping in the Kaweka's came into the conversation and from that discussion I got the nucleus of an idea. At that stage of my life I did a lot of tramping and had a good personal knowledge the main Kaweka range. When Colin lived in Hawkes Bay he had accompanied me through the ranges on several occasions so also had a basic knowledge of the geography of the area.

As the evening progressed the initial germ of an idea rapidly took a tangible form helped considerably with that extremely productive Crawford wine.

The Tait's were staying with us and when we got home the first action was to toss a Kaweka map on the floor and check the feasibility of my thoughts. To both Colin and myself it looked practical. In the cool sober light of the next day it still looked reasonable. A lot of homework had to be done but the idea seemed more than possible.

It had become obvious to me while setting up the Ruahine Mountain Marathon that a traditional orienteering event does not have the appeal to the average endurance runner as much as a simpler but tough fell running type event. This was the style of event I was visualising for the Kaweka Ranges.

This initial idea was of a three course fell running event with competitors running in pairs. The Kuripapango Lakes Carpark to be the starting point for all courses.

Course 1 Up The Rogue to the main Kaweka Range, continuing along to Ihaka Spur then descending to an overnight camp at Middle Hill Hut.

Course 2 Up The Rogue to the main Kaweka Range, continuing along to Makahu Spur then descending to an overnight camp at Makahu Saddle.

Both courses 1 and 2 to follow the foothill tracks back to the finish at the Lakes Carpark on the second day.

Course 3 Organise two different one day courses of approximately 12 kilometres, starting and finishing at the Lakes Carpark each day.

The following Monday, July the 3rd, I took the bull by the horns and phoned Bruce McIntyre the Managing Director of macpac. He confirmed that the mountain marathon sponsorship was history and that he was no happier about it than I was. I then gave him the outline of a possible fell type race in the Kaweka ranges which if initially successful could well become an annual event. If macpac were prepared to sponsor this race they would get naming rights. No promises but send me a map was his reply.

A map from my shop stock was immediately cannibalised and the possible 3 courses marked onto it and into the mail the same day. About a week later I phoned Bruce who gave me a provisional okay pending my getting approval from the clubs and putting in a formal proposal to him. I did some number crunching and it seemed a viable proposition financially I then enlisted the assistance of Brian Crawford who independently checked my calculations and confirmed it was well worth a go.

Brian and I fronted up to a Hawkes Bay Orienteering Club committee meeting on 17th of July and I put forward the proposition of a fell running event over the Kaweka ranges and was backed up by Brian on the financial side. I was authorised by the Committee to fire ahead as necessary and have an event in place for February 1990.

The year before we had held the Ruahine Mountain Marathon and I was Course Controller for that event which made it so much easier to start again. The logistics involved in the Kaweka event were peanuts compared to those of the Ruahine. If we could reform the same organisation and tap the same skills the event should be relatively easy to organise.

The actual event organisation being carried out by the HBOC orienteers.. The Heretaunga Tramping Club providing people for intermediate control check points through the ranges and supplying search and rescue personnel. Last but not least the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps supplying radio communications. I approached these last two organisations within days of the HBOC meeting and they both came aboard.

I was then able to go back to macpac with a full game plan and the right mixture of people and skills to make it work. Bruce McIntyre accepted our proposal and agreed to sponsor 'The Macpac Kaweka Challenge', the 1990 event to be a trial run.

Book Review

by Tony Gates.

John Pascoe. Author, historian, mountaineer, photographer. By Chris Maclean (2003) Craig Potton Publishing, in association with The Whitcombe Press. 313 pages, hard cover (1.5 KG!), \$59.95.

There appear to be more new books than usual in the shops now. And for people with tramping and mountaineering ideals, there are many for you. Here are some comments about one of the best New Zealand mountaineering books of the year, if not the decade. It is a biography that is guaranteed to please. A copy will add great value to your own general knowledge, to your bookshelf or coffee table. Well known Wellington tramper and historian Chris Maclean (who attained legendary status in the tramping world with his definitive "Tararua" book, as well as his award winning "Kapiti" book) has produced another classic. He developed one chapter from "Tararua" that was entitled "Not fit for dog tucker" (a somewhat abstract descriptions of Pascoe's physique), followed some of John Pascoe's routes in the Southern Alps, and studied intensively to produce this book. He consulted widely. It is a fine piece of work.

John Pascoe was from the era of greats that some older Heretaunga members will know, such as Norman Elder, David Bathgate, Ian Powell, and Mavis Davidson. Indeed, it is highly likely that Ian Powell climbed with John Pascoe during the 1930's. All of the above wrote about and photographed their exploits, especially in the Southern Alps (and occasionally, the mountains of the North Island), but John Pascoe became probably the best known of them. Chris Maclean considers John Pascoe to have been an ordinary New Zealander who did extraordinary things. For his efforts, John Pascoe recorded a vital slice of New Zealand social history of the twentieth century, much of which involved mountains. He has in turn had his life recorded. He is remembered as the title suggests- a multi talented individual. Yes, he climbed mountains never before climbed (including ten virgin summits during one extraordinary day in 1934), and yes, he wrote about those trips in his many books, but he did much more. In true Chris Maclean style, this book details the life of an inspirational New Zealander. Ten richly illustrated chapters cover John Pascoe's life. Many photographs printed are by John Pascoe himself (and luckily, many of him- you tend to do that when you make the first ascent of a great mountain), and many photographs were by Chris Maclean. There are many Pascoe quotes, illustrations, maps, and cartoons.

Like Norman Elder, John Pascoe loved researching about mountains. He was known for his knowledge, and his willing sharing in information- another attribute of many Heretaunga members. As an example, he obtained during the late 1940's some British military aerial photographs of the Himalayas. He immediately recognised the value of a photograph of the highest piece of rock and ice on the planet, so provided copies to Ed Hillary and George Lowe prior to their historic climb of May 1953.



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 Tararua 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 - Alan McGregor, Michelle Burden & Ray Manning**
- ❖ **Can you help with the Kaweka Challenge?**
Three or four new committee members required as HTC representatives. Meet monthly with members of the Orienteering Club to arrange our club's major fundraiser. A lot of fun/enjoyment mixing with competitors, sponsors and outdoor enthusiasts.
- ❖ **Latest from the Club Huts**
Kiwi Hut has had a new Waggoner Stove. A wood shed has been built on the side too. These items and materials supplied and flown in by DOC. The installation and erection has been done by Dave Heaps at no cost to DOC or the club. Thank You Dave. Thank you DOC.
Kiwi Hut still needs to be painted, a door replaced, and new guttering.
- ❖ **The Annual Club Auction on 24 March raised \$253.50 towards our Bronze Corporate Sponsorship of the Lowe Walker Rescue Helicopter.**
- ❖ **There's a new drive to encourage new members. A club web site is under construction and other initiatives are planned.**

Coming Meetings:

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER/COMMENTS	Hosts	Supper Help
5 May	Something Fishy	The Manager of the Seahorse Farm at Awatoto will talk to us about seahorses and other marine creatures.	Judy McBride Ken Nugent	Christine Snook Bobby Couchman
19 May	Footsteps of Colenso	Peter Van Essen, from Massey, has followed the great Ruahine explorer's footsteps of over 150 years ago, and will tell you all about those amazing journeys.	Shirley Bathgate, John Berry	Peter Brown, Chris Brown
2 Jun	Sing-a-long	No Puketitiri Opera this year so we are going to make our own music this year – with help from Peter and Deborah.	Peter Berry Sue Holmes	Owen Brown, Rodger Burn
16 Jun	Antarctica	Richard Reaney will speak to us about his time in Antarctica.	Anne Cantrick, Sandy Claudatos	Roslyn Lusk, Susan Lopdell
30 Jun	Photo Competition	The annual competition – Bring along your best print or slide for the following categories: Flora and Fauna, Scenic, Club Character(s).	Glenda Hooper, Gerald Blackburn	Tina Godbert, Andy Fowler
14 Jul	DOC Update	Pat Sheridan from DOC wants our feedback tramping experiences and he will update progress on the back country facilities.	Randall Goldfinch, Lynette Blackburn	Peggy Gulliver, Lew Harrison
28 Jul	Coming Trips	The Fixtures committee will promote the coming trips.	Bobby Couchman, Lyn Gentry	Eddie Holmes, Jim Hewes
11 Aug	Tasmania	Mike & Ros will talk about their recent trip to Tasmania.	Robyn Madden, Philip Mardon	Judy McBride, John Montgomerie
25 Aug	Ssssh	A mystery speaker who will be very entertaining.	Jim Glass, Pam Turner	Glenda Hooper, Ray Manning

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.



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>WEEKEND TRIPS</u>
	<u>Carry</u>	All items listed for day trip plus
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 May – September 2004



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

8/9 May

Kawekas \$10 Map U20

A: Walk into Kiwi Saddle Friday night. Saturday down to Kiwi Mouth, up Back Ridge, Sterns Saddle to Back Ridge Hut for night. Sunday onto main Kaweka Range and out via Mad Dog Hill, Kaiarahi and Rogue Ridge. (Fit Party).

B: Saturday, walk into Kiwi Saddle Hut for the night and on Sunday return via Castle Camp, Rogue Ridge to car park.

C: MacIntosh – Kaweka loop, spending night at MacIntosh Hut and coming out via 3 wire bridge.

Organisers: A:Tina Godbert 8350064 B: Lynette Blackburn 8772340 C:
Driver:

Local Trip: Kuripapanga Hill and return

23 May

Northern Ruahines \$10 Map U21

A: In private 4WD vehicles enter Big Hill Station (permission needed) and tramp to Nomans Hut via Diannes Hut and Tararau Bivy.

B: From Nomans Hut along range to Ohawai and follow ridge to spot heights 1126, 1075 to Dead Dog Hut, return to road.

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

5-7 June (Queens Birthday)Kawekas

\$10 Map U20

A: From the Taihape Rd climb onto Tahununui Range to Otutu Hut via Mt Meany, Hogget. From Otutu to Manson Hut, stopping to look at Old Manson Hut. Sunday return to Kiwi Saddle and follow Smith Russell Track out to Truck.

B: Up Smith Russell Track towards Kiwi Saddle, dropping down to Cameron Hut for night. Across Ngaruroro River (bridge) up to Te Iringa, Mt Cameron to the Hogget and out to the road via Tahununui Range.

Organisers: A:Dave Heaps 8750088 B:
Driver:

Local Day Trip: Te Iringa / Mt Cameron

20 June Northern Kawekas \$10 Map U21

A: Middle Hill Hut. Whetu, down Ridge to Makino Hut and out via Makino Bivy.

B: Middle Hill Hut, across and out via Makino Bivy to roadend.

Organisers: A: Anne Cantrick 8448149

B: Robyn Madden 8449661

Driver:

3-4 July Ruahines \$20 Map

A: Kawhatau Base onto Mokai Patea Range, to Rongotea, Wakelings or Maropea Forks for the night. Sunday onto main Rauhine Range and out via Colenso or Sparrowhawk Spur.

B: Kawhatau Base onto Mokai Patea Range, staying at Crow Hut for Saturday Night. Sunday up to MacKinnon and return to Kawhatau Base. Drive around to pick up A party.

Organisers: A: Andy Fowler and Tina Godbert 8350064

B: Peter Berry 8774183

Driver:

Local Day Trip: Triplex – Sunrise Hut – Armstrong Saddle

17/18 July Morere Area \$20 Map

Drive up on Saturday afternoon and stop off for some caving near Nuhaka & drive to Morere Hot Springs for some relaxation. Sunday walk the Nga Rakau iti Track (6 hours) or one of the numerous shorter tracks & return to Napier.

Organisers: Susan Lopdell 8446697

Driver: Peter Berry

31 July – 1 Aug Kawekas \$10 Map U21

A: Makahu carpark climb onto the main Kaweka Range to Middle Hill Hut via Whetu and Camp Spur. Sunday back along Kaweka Flats to Truck.

B: Climb up onto main Kaweka Range down Mad Dog Hill to Studholme Hut for the night. Sunday down MacIntosh Spur and back via Matauria Ridge.

Organisers: A: John Berry 8776205

B:

Driver:

Local Day Trip: Te Puia Hut and return

15 August Ruahines \$10 Map

A: From Coppermine Hut, follow track up to spot height 1015 along to Ross Peak & down to start of track GR 567057 and out to Loveday Rd

B: Walk into Coppermine Hut & climb up to Wharite Peak & return or option of the Billy Goat Track Circuit.

Organisers: A: Sue Holmes 8446032

B: Glenda Hooper 8774183

Driver:

1

•

•

•

1

