

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB
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www.htc.org.nz

POHOKURA – Bulletin No. 225

April 2007

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

Web: www.htc.org.nz

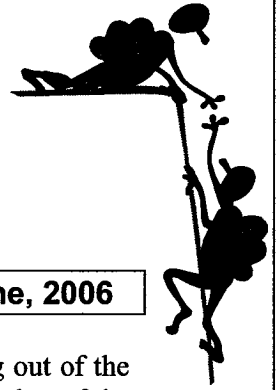
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TRIP REPORTS



#1956 Three Fingers Spur

18 June, 2006

We parked the truck near the end of Gull Flat Road. Most of us were a bit slow getting out of the truck as it was a clear but chilly morning. We started off across a deer paddock. One member of the team found out the hard way about the electric fence. For my own safety that person can't be named. We had not long started up the track when concerns about the wind were raised. As we started to climb out of the trees and on to higher ground the wind started to bring snow with it. So a decision was made to retreat back down.

Once everyone was back at the truck we decided to head over to Masters Shelter and have a nosy around there. The majority of us headed up Golden Crown ridge, hoping that there would be no more snow coming over the top of the mountains. But Ken, in his hunt for Fungi to photograph, decided to go for a walk along Mathews Stream. There was a fair bit of snow on the ground above 900 metres. We also found some amazing icicles hanging off a log. Luckily the wind and the snow had subsided, and we enjoyed a great tramp up to the top of Golden Crown ridge.

Thanks to everyone for another great day in the hills.

Party: Anne Blake, David Blake, Hilary Hebron, Bobby Couchman, Ken Nugent, Peter Brown, Jeff Robertson, Aaron and Stephanie

#1979 Tutira Christmas Social Trip

17 December, 2006

A full truck load of trampers were driven by Lex up to the Camping area at Lake Tutira for a social luncheon. The Hooper-Berrys, the Clibborns and the Gentrys had set up camp in their buses along with Alan and Christine in their tent the day before so they had secured the picnic tables under the shelter by the lake for our party. A number of private cars also arrived bearing more club members including Gail and her three children all under two years old. The first thing she did was hang out dozens of nappies to dry! After a quick morning tea we split into various different groups and partook in a range of activities. Alan took the A Party up the first part of the Table Mountain circuit, others walked around Waikopiro, and the remainder set up the lunch. Unfortunately the weather was cool and there was an unpleasant wind coming off the lake onto the tables. A clever team, under useful guidance from Robyn and me, rigged up large tarps around the lakeside of the shelter to protect the eating area and then we set up a fabulous feast of ham and salads in time for the walkers on their return. Actually everything was ready for them but lunch was delayed due to Mr Lyn's peas not being cooked on time!

Special guests were Jean-Luc, recovering from his very major paraglider accident, and his mother Rochelle from Quebec.

Rain was threatening but before it arrived Geoff had time to take several of the ladies out in his kayak, but the rain came, so we departed rather earlier than we had planned.

Total attendance was about 60.
R.L.

#1980

Porangahau to Blackhead Beach

7 January, 2007

We made the drop off point at Mr S R Hunter's cattle yards near the junction of Hunter and Blackhead roads after the usual minor confusions and with much advice from the cabin passengers. (We have previously gained access across farmland further along Blackhead Rd, but I suspect this land is owned by someone else).

Having drafted ourselves through the yards we negotiated a series of bull paddocks, to the evident irritation of at least one of the bulls, and eventually arrived at the wide estuary of the Porangahau River. The southerly being brisk there was no mucking about, at least until we reached a small stream which was just deep enough to wet the pants of those of less than a sensible height. The estuary runs for several kilometres behind a coastal strip and looked increasingly fishy as we approached the point at which it turns to enter the sea. The front runners appeared to be attempting to break the previous record (back at the truck 11am), but a halt was enforced. I wish it to be entirely clear that this was based on the time elapsed and had nothing at all to do with the need for me to cast a lure. Once on the beach we could see Blackhead Point at the northern end of a pretty desolate expanse of windswept sand but by lunchtime this was behind us and we were glad of a long break to dine, yarn and to inspect the ribs of the wreck in the dunes. At the point were flocks of terns, godwits and gulls with a few shags and a pair of variable oystercatchers with two chicks, all waiting for the tide to recede. The wind was dropping and a few blue patches appeared in the east, we progressed under the fragile mudstone cliffs, eventually meeting John, the sole remnant of the group of three who had started back to meet us from Blackhead Beach. We were told more than once of John's bravery (and the cowardice of his companions) in their travel along the shore at full tide, but it all looked pretty easy to us as we walked along the now exposed platform, strewn with mermaids' necklace seaweed. Some of us added weight to our packs with the rock tubes to be found along that strip of shore. Before long we sighted a seal and Liz. The former fled but the latter didn't, greeting us instead with word of a feast of plums at the truck, so making last kilometre all the easier.

Thanks to John for driving, Liz for plums and to a companionable party, on an easy but very pleasant walk. While the trip is not completely tide dependent it would be better to avoid the rocky shore immediately south of Blackhead beach at or near to full tide.

M.L.

Party: Brent Hickey, Marion Nicholson, Kerrie Johnstone, John Berry, Rodger Burn, Gary Smith, Dave and Anne Blake, Randall Goldfinch, Judy McBride, Barbara Taylor, Shirley Bathgate, Glenda Hooper, Susan Lopdell, Jenny Lean, Ros and Mike Lusk

#1981

Mystery Trip

13 – 14 January, 2007

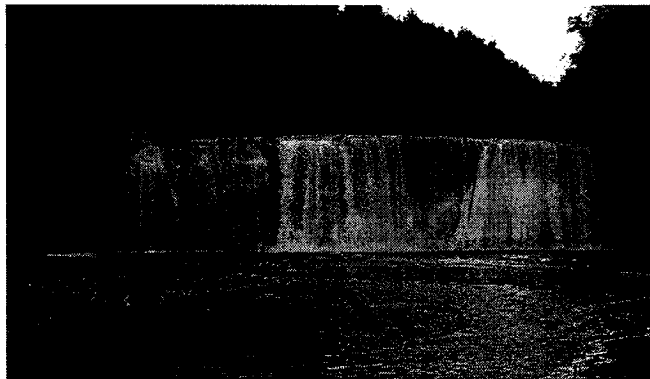
Ten puzzled trampers assembled at Pernel along with two MI5 agents, Glenda Hooper and Susan Lopdell, who had the knowledge as to where we were going for the weekend. Eyes were peeled in all directions at road signs - at last we hit the Taihape Road. We stopped for a short break at the Rangitikei River where some viewed the river and others the historic Springvale Bridge which spans the river alongside the road bridge. After this we carried on, eventually turning right at SH1.

I suggested we were off to the Chateau, but we did not have the social wherewithal! We turned off SH 49 between Waiouru and Ohakune for two lakes, these being Dry Lake and Rotokura. Both were dark, quiet and surrounded by bush and we spent an hour or so walking round them.

On to Ohakune, a very attractive township, then up the Mountain Road for 11km. The main group walked to Waitonga falls over a magnificent tourist track and on to Blythe Hut, whilst Barbara and I did part of the walk and enjoyed the red mistletoe that was in flower. We drove down the road to the 7 km mark to meet the rest of the party after they had walked the old Blythe track. The Blyth Track

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was constructed in the early 1900s and passes through alpine bogs as well as red beech, mountain beech and kaikawaka. Back in the truck, on through Raetihi and down the Parapara. The guessing game was heating up with questions about visiting Wanganui etc. but the intrepid leaders gave nothing away until we stopped to view the magnificent Raukawa Falls 30 km along the road. We were to stay at a YMCA camp near the falls beside the Mangawhero River. After tea most went up river to view the falls which looked even better from that angle and once back at camp two of the party had a swim in the river.



After a comfortable night spent by some in cabins and others in tents we were away by 8 am Sunday firstly to the Visitors Centre at Ohakune and the lovely Mangawhero Forest walk. On return we all had a slice of Sue Taylor's yummy carrot cake to celebrate her birthday. From there we travelled to the end of Marshall's Road to walk up the Ohakune Coach Road to the railway line – Main Trunk. Barbara and I followed and waved to the passengers on the electric train. We came back the same way. The main group went a little further along the tracks to the old Hapuawhenua Viaduct, some going through an old tunnel. The Ohakune Coach road, a cobble stone road, was completed in November 1906 to enable rail passengers travelling from Auckland to Wellington to cross the unrailed mountain section between Raurimu and Ohakune. This section required the construction of



the Raurimu spiral as well as 5 viaducts before the North - South rail route was completed in 1908. The Ohakune Coach Road was thus only used for 2 years and volunteers are now working to reclaim the road from the bush and turn it into a walkway.

After a huge ice-cream etc. at Ohakune we stopped at the Tangiwai Memorial – a sobering experience. Back to Hastings along Taihape Road, unfortunately both the Rangitikei and Ngaruroro Rivers were too dirty for our planned swim on the way home. .

Many thanks to Glenda and Susan for a great "Mystery" trip which was very well thought out and planned. Thanks also to Lex, a magnificent driver.
S.B.

Party: Glenda Hooper, Susan Lopdell, Marion Nicholson, Garry Smith, Barbara Taylor, Lex Smith, Greg Smith, Bobbie Couchman, Judy McBride, Sue Taylor, Lynette Blackburn, Shirley Bathgate.

#1982

Ohane Stream & Hot Spring

21 January, 2007

We started out with those who couldn't make it being replaced by others that could – and so ended up with 6 on the trip.

Headed up the Napier-Taupo Highway to a side road named Takere Rd which veers off to the left just before Tarawera. It is a shingle road winding along recently felled pine forest and goes right into the valley of Stoney Creek. The impressive stands of Kahikatea are very noticeable.

The first objective was to head up the creek without a paddle to find the hot spring. The instructions were pretty good but it would have been really easy to miss. Sue Taylor's sharp eyes spotted the rock snot running into the side of the creek. The hot water gurgles out of a crack in the rock which

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is almost too hot to keep your hand in, into a muddy leaf-filled mud bath. Ken got in to give it a clean out and succeeded in making it as soupy as a pig wallow. Sue was brave enough to get right in for her beauty treatment. Nice and warm and muddy, but yucky.

Then we headed further up the creek stumbling over rocks slimy with algae and bashing through cutty grass. We got to the right co-ordinates and scrambled up a steep spur to the main ridge. Then it was a doddle along the main ridge following an old track. There were some old tin-top markers about a foot above the ground (hammered in with a guy with very long arms or a pigmy with short arms). All the way along the top of the ridge we were very impressed with the size and quality of mighty old matai, beech and kahikatea trees. Plenty of deer sign and even heard one run off. Lots of kereru swooshing around.

We reached high point 891 which has an old trig in the cleared top. Good views all round. Could see bits of the Highway below. It was not windy so we had lunch and a good laze in the sun. Then headed down and further along to find a steep spur that would hopefully drop us out near the bus. The bush was a bit scrubby higher up, then we were back into bigger beech and quintinia, some of which were home to mistletoe plants. Down near the lower slopes we were once again in very nice kahikatea bush. A quick crash across the creek and up through the scrub we came out within 50m of the truck.

All agreed it was a very pleasant but quite challenging day tramp. Neat to be off track and find ones own way. Well worth doing again.

A.P.

The 5 in the tramping party were: Sue Taylor who kindly led the tramp at late notice and was the chief navigator, Ken Nugent, assistant navigator, Alan Petersen (driver/reporter), Hamish Hunt and Marion Nicholson. Brett Hickey came along to have an easy day in the bush and mind the bus.

Reference – *Hot Springs of New Zealand*, Sally Jackson (Reed Publishing) ISBN 0790008149

#1983

Top Gorge Hut & Makaretu Stream

28 January, 2007

A Party – Top Gorge Hut

We left Pernel's at the usual early start time. It was pleasant travelling in the back of the truck, with only 4 bodies there was plenty of room to spread to and have a final morning snooze during the hour plus drive down to Kashmir Road end. Before setting off up the hill a few of us made good use of the flash new long drop, it had only just been installed the previous week. It is the cutting edge of long drop technology, a very clean (so far) fresh smelling round plastic unit with a chimney for a vent, indeed a pleasure to use.

It was a coolish morning as we set off and the clouds hung low in the valleys as we climbed up to Longview Hut. It was a lovely sight looking back towards the plains; we had our heads above the clouds but could see patches of the farmland below. We had the luxury of a prolonged morning tea at Longview Hut; the trip was not going to be particularly long or arduous so we could afford the delay. At this point we split into 2 parties.

We dropped down into the headwaters of the Pohangina River which we followed downstream for about 2 hours to reach Top Gorge Hut. It is a very picturesque river and it is because of this river that Sue was inspired to plant an alpine garden. I would call it a stream really, it was neither very deep nor wide. We had to sidle around three separate waterfalls, the first two we took the true right bank, the third waterfall we traversed on the true left bank. (The first waterfall consisted of a shoot of water over reasonably smooth rock, it would have made a good waterslide had it not been for the landing.) We crossed the river many times as we walked down stream to the hut, the water was

lovely and clear and free of algae so there were no problems with slipping over on slimy rocks. It is indeed a pretty place.

We found the hut easily enough, set back from the river on a small plateau. The orange paint stood out through the beech trees and the curve of the river at that point matched the map superbly. We carried the 2 bench seats out into the sun for lunch, which included a boil-up. It was a lovely sheltered spot and very hot in the sun so I decided to sit in the long grass in the shade of the hut. On sitting I thought I had sat in some blackberry only to discover it was a bed of small onga onga! Yowee – they sting a while!

After lunch we debated the best route to return by. The original plan was to climb up directly behind the hut to pick up the track on the ridge above. Ken did a quick recky and could find no sign of a track and the thought of bashing through a huge stand of leatherwood on a hot day was not appealing - a vote decided a return by the same route.

Sue had a dunk to cool off but the rest of us were not so hardy (in-fact downright wimps). It was a fairly gentle climb back up the river with a short sharp ascent from the head of the river back onto the ridge before descending down to the truck. Here Frederick pointed out the airstrip down on the foothills below from which he had flown as a passenger in a topdressing plane the previous week.

The day was enjoyed by all. We arrived back at he truck to find the other party had returned before us so it wasn't long before we were once again bouncing along the road, indeed a very pleasant way to travel after a days walk.

J.B.

Party: Jill Beaver, Sue Taylor, Murray Alderson, Ken Nugent & Frederick (Murray's French farm-hand)

B Party – Makaretu Stream

Four of us in the B group set off for Longview Hut on a damp Sunday morning. After the climb up the hill we stopped with the A party for a break in the hut. Then our intrepid group started off down through the scrub below the hut. This involved some adventurous scrambling through bushes, leatherwood and tussock. Eventually we found our way into the smaller (true left) of the two slips and made our way down the Makaretu stream. Gradually the going became easier as the river widened, and on the way down we spotted a deer with a faun in the valley ahead of us. By now it had come out sunny and warm, and we had lunch by the river before climbing up the track onto the ridge back to the truck. Thanks to Bobby and Marion for their good company on a great, adventurous trip.

Party: Marion Nicholson, Bobby Couchman, David and Anne Blake

#1984

Middle Stream

11 February, 2007

A Party

Twelve of us left Pernel at 6.00, driving to "North Block Road" and the Waipawa River where Dave and Murray were waiting. Eight o'clock saw us heading for Middle Stream, six in our party. We filled our water bottles from the river before ascending "Bomb-up Ridge" on a newly cut track. We left the track where it turns towards the saddle, going left we emerged onto a clearing and headed for the top - having a breather and putting raincoats on as a mist came down. The mist made the vegetation wet and marred our view of our intended destination. Walking through beech trees and crown fern we went too far south so had to bush bash north to the ridge and partial track - to "every

one's enjoyment"- good practice for compass and GPS usage! We descended a small ridge before heading northeast and losing the track again so decided to have an early lunch in a small clearing at 11.30. On gaining the high point the track was easier to follow, passing through manuka, beech and several clearings. Not knowing what was ahead of us we put "the pedal to the metal" through beech and crown fern, descending to farmland and hit Middle stream at 2.00pm for smoko. The kilometre downstream to the junction with the Waipawa river took 15 minutes, then two kilometres up the Waipawa on shingle flats and one kilometre through gorge where we met to our surprise, Andy, Hebe and Tina on a Sunday walk. The river widened for the last kilometre to the truck, at 4.30pm, where Geoff was waiting, but no 'B' party. KN

Party: Peter Brown, Jeff Oliver, Fumi Moriyama, Dave Mulinder, Murray Alderson, Ken Nugent

B Party

After leaving Perne's at 6.00am and arriving at the end of North Block Rd, alterations were hastily made to packs to waterproof contents as much as possible. Many of us had just realised that there were probable sections of pack floating involved in the trip down Middle Stream.

After walking appropriately 3 km, we arrived at the point where the track crossed Middle Stream. Following a brief stop, our group of 7 began to follow Middle Stream to the Waipawa River. Travel was slow, with time needed to pick our way through the boulders and stream pools. Due to the concern that we had regarding the slow progress we were making down the stream, we continued to push on, resting only briefly when necessary.

The first section which required a pack float was quite exciting. It involved shooting down a natural "hydroslide" into a pool, and then swimming like crazy to prevent ourselves from being dragged back into the pool by a back eddy. Only a short distance from this section we encountered the second pack float. This involved leaping off a small waterfall into a deep pool and then swimming to the other side.

After becoming thoroughly wet, we were all suffering from the cold. But we pushed on to where we could change out of our cold wet clothing into dry clothing without the risk of another dunking as we knew we were close to the end of the gorge section. Once out of the gorge, we got into our dry clothing, drank, ate and began to warm back up. We then continued, reaching the Waipawa River around 3pm.

The travel from the point at which we entered the Waipawa River to the start of the gorge sections on the River was easy and quick going. Once we entered the gorge, our progress slowed down considerably. Again we were picking our way around boulders and pools to find the best route to follow.

We arrived back at the truck early evening, around 6pm.

A very picturesque trip with some challenging, fun sections. Definitely not a trip to do on a cold, wet day due to the pack floats and the amount of time spent in the stream and river.

Thanks Geoff for driving, Chris Waldron for co-leading, the "A" party for patiently waiting for our return, and to many members of the group for pushing themselves out of their comfort zone. L.B.

Party: Chris Waldron, Joan Ruffell, Chris Brown, Bobbie Couchman, Maureen Broad, Hilary Hebron, Lynette Blackburn.

#1985

Esk River

Wed. 28 February, 2007

The weather was overcast and grey but not actually raining. Six of set off for a day in the Esk River - leaving Marion's place for the airport, where we had arranged to meet Garry and his wife. Half an hour wasted here as we failed to connect, both waiting at different spots! Finally we set off for the Ellis Wallace Road (off the Napier-Taupo Road) which goes inland following the river and railway line for some 12 kms. This beautiful Esk valley is a joy in itself, winding its way through green farmland. Upon reaching our destination, at the end of the road, we proceeded down the river, which was running a little high from overnight rain. A peaceful relaxing wander - only the sound of gurgling water to disturb the quiet. We encountered lots of cattle, including a couple of bulls, which we gave a wide berth to. The river came up to our knees in places, but no slippery rocks to negotiate just shingle and pebbles and warm water. Lots of blackberry bushes along the banks from which Gary and Marion harvested large bagfuls of fruit for tea. Recipes of apple and blackberry crumble or pie were bandied about. Bobby and Hilary went on a little further than the others but soon rejoined the group and we waded our way back to the cars.

A nice relaxing walk collecting unusual stones and enjoying this lovely valley.

Hilary Hebron, Bobby Couchman, Marion Nicholson, Gary and Julie Smith, Rodger Burn.

#1986

Central Ruahine, "66" & Top Maropea

11 March, 2007

A Party - Route 66, Central Ruahine Range

On a perfect autumnal morning we arrived at the Triplex carpark and got ready in the strong smell of sheep poo. Headed up the well graded track to Sunrise Hut. I got there early to have a snooze but great gallumps kept coming into the back bedroom and waking me up. When everyone had arrived the intrepid Route 66 trampers headed off with those who were going to Top Maropea Hut. We said our goodbyes at the junction above Armstrong Saddle.

We had to go down into a little saddle before we went up to the high point. The tortured landscape in this area is a sight to marvel at. Especially the eastern scarps. The very active mountain erosion in this area is awesome to see. We sat on the 65 high point for lunch. Would you believe there was virtually no wind up there. We just lazed in the sun. Then sauntered on to the 66 high point enjoying the day to the max.

The route down to Waipawa Saddle goes down a steep scree slope. Yippee - I'm off. Mike Lusk got down to the little tarn first and had a little celebratory dance as he had found the \$2.00 glasses he had left behind two years ago. You would think they were expensive Raybans he was so elated. We loafed around the tarn for a while then headed over some tussock land and down to Waipawa Saddle, then wended our way down the gutty track through leatherwood. I gave the scree slope a go but there wasn't much scree. Then there was the rock hopping down the massively aggregated Waipawa River. It changes every time one is up there. No deep pools to swim in - they have all been filled up with gravel. Got out to find we had to slog along the farm road back to the truck.

It was one of those great days to be up on the tops. AP

The 5 in the tramping party were Mike Lusk (photographer/botanist), Christine Snook, Alan Petersen (driver/reporter), Fumi Moriyama, and Graeme Hare.

B Party Triplex carpark to Top Maropea Hut

It was a beautiful sunny day with some intermittent breezes to keep us from over-heating on our walk up to Sunrise Hut. On the way we met a young man and his leashed dog coming down the track, having spent the night up there. At the hut we had a leisurely morning tea and decided who was going where from there. We set off and found our first obstacle was fresh dog droppings covered in flies, on the track just behind the hut.

The sub-alpine flowers were magnificent, including edelweiss just above Armstrong Saddle. As 8 of us had never been to Top Maropea Hut we decided to descend to it for lunch while the others went their various ways. The track drops rapidly down a rocky ridge through stunted mountain cedars and dracophyllum. Once into the bush the track is overgrown and some windfalls slowed our passage.

The hut is a little 4 bunk one which is very clean, tidy and inviting, especially with its new mattresses. We enjoyed lunch sunbathing on the helipad before climbing back up and over the saddle to Sunrise Hut where we had a short break and snack before heading down to the truck. On the way we passed 2 mountain bikers and 2 unleashed dogs. We were at the truck by 4.20 and had a chat in the sun while we waited for the A party.

R.L.

Party: Jenny Lean, Marion Nicholson, Bobby Couchman, Peggy Gulliver, Judy McBride, Mike Bull, Chris Brown, Ros Lusk.

#1987	Poukawa Farm Walk	Wed. 14 March, 2007
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Six of us met at Lucy Scoular's family farm and were pointed in the right direction to walk up to the tower. We were also warned about how strong the wind would be up top – was not wrong about that.

The views on the way up and top were great - Tuki Tuki Valley, Mt Erin and Kahuranaki. We walked along the boundary fence until we thought we were at the end of the farm and came back down another track to have lunch in the implement shed. It was an early day both with the weather deteriorating it was good timing.

Thank you for the good company.

M.N.

Party: Rodger Burn, Judy McBride, Hilary Hebron, Jim Hewes, Marj Musson and Marion Nicholson.

#1988	Umukarikari Range	24-25 March, 2007
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Wonderful weather, wonderful scenery, wonderful trip. We could not ask for anything more. Five of us set off from Hastings at the ungodly hour of 5 a.m. On the way we collected Sue, Geoff and Hamish. Hamish had slept in and joined us in the back of the truck in a flurry of arms and legs. We had an uneventful journey to Turangi and, after a pit stop, continued along the Desert Road to the Kaimanawa Road which leads to the start of the Umukarikari Track. We set off at a little after 9.00am - at the same time as a father and son duo who were heading to the same Waipakihi Hut as we were, hoping to shoot some deer.

Pohokura

The path is steep and unrelenting up to the bush line but so green and lovely, full of knurled old totora and beech trees. Umbrella ferns were everywhere and there were lots of signs of healthy bush regeneration.

After a few stops for a "breather" we came on to the open tops for panoramic views of Mounts Tongariro, Ngauruhoe and Ruapaehu (from which we could see the path of the recent lahar) along with Lakes Rotoaira & Taupo and the town of Turangi. We walked along the tops with incredible views all around us. The occasional wisp of cloud would drape itself around Ngauruhoe like a necklace. The mountain herb and moss gardens were at their best with lovely patches of white gentians with their pale green throats standing out among the bright green moss. We dropped down to the hut at around 4.00pm.

The father and son were ahead of us but as most of us had tents and there was plenty of room in the hut. Four young French people arrived at around 6.00pm having slogged their way up the river. They complained bitterly about The Lonely Planet book which described the walk as easy.

Next morning we offered to take them back across the tops, giving them a lift along the road back to their car park once we reached the end. They agreed and we all set out back the way we had come. Not such stunning views today, but long misty vistas into the mountains were very satisfying. Halfway along Sue, Michelle and the father and son turned off along another ridge in order to drop down to the power station below. We arranged to drive their car and the truck around to meet them to save the long walk back along the road. The one scenario we did not contemplate was that the track would be so overgrown and impenetrable they would be forced to turn back. The main party happily returned to the carpark enjoying the tops and the bush, drove around to the power station and waited and waited, enjoying a pleasant snooze in the sunshine.

Meantime, the group of four raced along, unbeknown to us, trying to catch us up before we drove away. Sue and Michelle reckon their legs will never be able to recover. All turned out well because Graham, the father of the duo, and Sue volunteered to walk the road to tell us the situation and we drove back to pick them up. We had already deposited our French friends back at their car, so everyone was happy. Sue and Michelle managed a quick dip in the river before being collected.

We had another uneventful ride home. Lots of happy memories. It really was a great trip. Thanks to Alan and Christine for their planning.

Party: Sue Taylor, Bobby Couchman, Marion Nicholson, Alan and Christine Petersen, Geoff Oliver, Hamish Hunt, Michelle Burden.

#1989

Barlow's Hut Loop

Wed. 28 March, 2007

This trip was a bit special in a number of ways. It was the 2nd anniversary of the mid-week group and also Hilary's last outing with the HTC before returning to the UK.

We decided on a very early start (for us) of 6.00am to make the most of the daylight hours and arrived at the Yeoman's Mill Car Park at 8.00am. We were soon away up the river which was quite low and didn't cause any problems. A kilometre or so upstream we stopped to watch a falcon soaring overhead searching for prey, it was in about the same spot as we saw one last year.

We arrived at Barlow's at about 11.00am with light rain setting in and, after smoko, all decided that they wanted to continue up the spur and back via Parks Peak Ridge. We cleared the entrance to the track to identify DoC's track sign, the re-growth in the lower part was impressive, but after a while, little work was needed and the orange track markers were very visible.

Lower down there was not much evidence of wind damage but from about 900 metres upwards there are some bigger trees fallen across the track which need to be dealt to, preferably with a chainsaw.

April 07

This and a couple more track markers here and there would keep the track in good condition for other users.

About this time Julie was having a bit of trouble with a sore knee and I advised the other ladies to carry on back to the Mill Road car park (they knew the way) in order to get out before dark. Gary and I assisted Julie when necessary. Whilst not cold, the wind and rain were making things a bit unpleasant. We reached the Parks Peak Track junction at 4.15pm and noted that DoC have still not put a sign up at this point advising of the Barlow's track turnoff.

On the homeward lap down the track darkness overtook us but we were well equipped with spare food and dry clothing and both of us had Petzl head torches which are most impressive in the moonless dark forests with just the moreporks for company. We arrived back at Gary's car at 8.45pm and found a note from Judy there. (They had arrived back at 5.45pm). After a change of clothes and a couple of hot coffees we were soon under way and, when in cell phone range, I phoned Judy who phoned Glenda and my wife to let them know all was well.

These delays, whilst obviously not planned, do occur and stress the importance of having the right equipment in your packs and not compromising safety for weight.

Next time it would be nice to get out before dusk so perhaps this trip should be slotted in over the summer.

RB.

Party: Judy McBride, Joan Ruffell, Hilary Hebron, Gary and Julie Smith, Rodger Burn

HTC Bike Trips



Tuki Tuki Valley Road

Wed. 13 December, 2006

We set off on a nice sunny morning into a bit of a head wind. Along the Waimarama Road we noticed that Jim was no longer with us so a couple went back and found that he had a puncture, this was easily fixed by a tube change. It was Bob's birthday and we were all invited to his house in Tuki-Tuki Hills Road for Muffins and Scones etc and were quite reluctant to get back on the bikes after that. The good thing was that all the hills were behind us but we got a fair hammering from the wind along Lawn Road. Here the party went their own ways with some heading for Hastings and some for Havelock North. A great day was had by all.

Party: Mr & Mrs Lyn Gentry, Marion Nicholson, Judy McBride, Peggy Gulliver, Bob Carter, Jim Hewes, Rodger Burn

Pukehaumoamo Area

Wed. 24 January, 2007

On Wednesday 24th January at 8 am, 8 young ladies and 2 gents met at the corner of Ohiti Road and Taihape Road prepared for a bike trip to Crownthorpe. We set off along the Taihape Road and turned left at Pukehamoamo School into Matapiro Road. This was a lovely part of the trip with the flat road and the pretty wildflowers growing along the roadside. 1.3 kilometres along Matapiro Road we turned right into Crownthorpe Settlement Road and the flat road became decidedly undulating. Beautiful views, though many views were observed while walking!! 13 kilometres along this road we needed to make a left turn to get to Crownthorpe School where we planned to stop for a snack. 3

riders managed to miss this turn and saw rather more of the undulations than they needed to. We gave them counselling when they finally turned up.

From the school, we biked along Crownthorpe Road in glorious weather (and a flat road again) with Rodger stating that he felt the environment was like "the last of the summer wine". We enjoyed biking past Matapiro Station in all its glory. When we got to the junction of Ohiti Road we turned right and biked the last 13 kilometres past many vineyards and a few more undulations! Back at our cars after biking nearly 50 km, we reflected on how lucky we were with the weather and how much stronger we were as bike riders. A great day and a lovely change from tramping.

Party: Peggy Gulliver, Rodger Burn, Judy McBride, Bobby Couchman, Raewyn Ricketts, Bob Carter, Marion Nicholson, Joan Ruffell, Hilary Hebron, Mrs Lyn Gentry.

Otago Rail Trail

3 – 6 February, 2007

Everyone arrived at Dunedin Railway Station, bikes were stored in the luggage van, and we departed on the scenic 2 hour train trip on the Taieri Gorge Excursion Train at 2.30pm. Arrived at Pukerangi, offloaded gear onto the waiting back up vehicle, and biked the first 13km to the Otago Youth Adventure Trust Sutton camp. (That 1st hill was a good warm up!)

Next morning its 8km along a tar sealed road to Middlemarch, where we entered the Rail Trail for the 62km cycle through to Ranfurly. Most of this stretch was a gentle uphill push. After passing through our first tunnel we met our backup team for a welcome lunch stop at Tiroiti. Past Daisybank and a quick dip in the river for some of the HTC team!! - then on to the refreshment stop – the Waipiata Hotel. We then did the last 8km to Ranfurly Camping ground. A splendid meal at 'Forreys Bar' finished a good day.

On day 2, after breakfast at Forreys, it's uphill, past Wedderburn to the highest point on the trail, then "whoosh", a downhill romp to Oterehura. Some made a side trip to visit a historic gold mine on the way. Our lunch stop was at the historic Hayes Engineering Factory, where we enjoyed an interesting conducted tour. Then it was 2 tunnels and the impressive Poolburn Viaduct and onto Omakau, cycling 53km that day. Accommodation and meals at the Omakau Hotel, with a few needing to stay at Offa.

Next morning, our last day and perfect weather was a bit of a climb to the top of Tiger Hill, then it's cruising down to Alexandra, our lunch stop, then to the end of the trail at Clyde – 40km. A bus trip back to Dunedin and soak up some more scenery.

We cycled a total of 180 km, witnessed the magic and beauty of Central Otago in perfect conditions, and enjoyed the company of a mixed group of people, made new friend and had wonderful fun.

Party: Dave Cormack, Jocelyn Hall, Marion Nicholson, Peggy Gulliver, Judy McBride, Bobby Couchman, Mrs & Mr Lyn Gentry

Sacred Hill Winery

21 March, 2007

Road works and bikes don't mix, so we decided to ride up the Dartmoor valley as far as the Sacred Hill winery instead of the planned trip. Perfect day for it, sunny with no wind. We sat under the trees at the winery, it's a pity they were closed. Could have used a nice coffee! Good morning out with easy riding.

Party: Rodger Burn, Jim Hewes, Peggy Gulliver, Marion Nicholson, Hannah (visitor), Judy McBride.

2007 Kaweka Challenge

Many thanks to the 38 HTC members who assisted in the running of the Kaweka Challenge on 24 – 25 February. This year 311 people participated in the challenge, the addition of the run – cycle – run duathlon proved popular with 34 competitors.

The weather on Friday night and Saturday caused some concern but a decision was made to run the weekend as programmed. This was much to the relief of Course 1 'Mens' winner George Christison who indicated the cooler weather helped him to beat the 2002 course record by 7 minutes and 21 seconds, finishing the 41 kms in 5hr 13 min. 29 sec. Course 6 (old course 5) was record breaking race by 'Junior Boy' Dougan Butler who ran the 13 km race in 1 hr 23 min. 42 sec. beating the 1998 record by 4 minutes and 19 seconds. Full result details are available on the web site: www.kawekachallenge.org.nz

CLUB NEWS:

Special General Meeting:

Associate Subscription:

The Associate Subscription rate, at \$10 per year, does not even cover the costs of producing and posting the three Pohokura associate members receive each year. The committee has recommended increasing the Associate Subscription rate to \$15 per year and there will be a Special General meeting on the 16 May 2007 at 7.30 PM to consider this recommendation. The usual meeting will commence immediately after the SGM. If the recommendation is passed the new rate will apply from 1 July 2007.

Speaking of Subs: The subs year ends on the 30 of June at which time the 2007/08 subs become due. Members paying by 31 August receive a \$5 discount on their subs so up till the 31 August the rates are:

ACTIVE - SENIOR - \$25 -

ACTIVE FAMILY - \$38 -

ACTIVE - JUNIOR - \$13 -

YOUNG FAMILY - \$25

ASSOCIATE - Yet to be confirmed

from the 1 September please add \$5 to the above amounts.

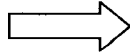
Your subs slip should have been attached to this Pohokura – if not please post to Box 14086, Mayfair, Hastings or give to Lex at a meeting.

MEETINGS and SPEAKERS:

We finished off 2006 with an orienteering circuit in Te Mata Park. It was good fun and good map practice. Thanks Alan B for organizing it. Thanks too to Mary who gave us an informative talk on what MSC has to offer us and to Geoff with all his tips on Motor Caravanning.

During this period we also had a picture show by our enthusiastic photographers, Mike, Ken & Tina who showed us all the many little things that most of us miss as we hurry along the tracks – great stuff thanks.

For Mike, Ken & Tina



The Auk.



The Orchid.

We seldom meet, when out to walk,
Either the Orchid or the Auk.
The awkward Auk is only known
To dwellers in the Auk-tic zone,
While Orchids can be found in legions,
Within the equatorial regions.
So if by chance you travel on
The Lena or the Amazon,
Be certain of the tem-pera-ture
Or you will make mistakes I'm sure.

Source: Robert Williams Wood (1907)
"How to tell the Birds From the Flowers and Other Woodcuts"

Goodbye:

We have just recently farewell Brian and Hilary who after spending a year with us (during which Hilary attended at least 18 tramps!) are traveling NZ prior to returning to the UK. Hopefully we will see you both again sometimesomewhere.

The 23 Year Old Escort. – A Romantic Comedy.

Thirty three of the Club members attended the World Premier of this play while several others went on later nights. This play was written by our very own Peter Berry and was well received by the audiences.

Kaweka Shelter

DOC has sent us a number of plans for shelters to help us decide what the one at the old Kaweka Hut site should be like. Geoff is currently looking at these plans for us.

Department of Conservation News

Kaweka and Ruahine Tracks

Over 105kms of back country tracks have been cut this summer.

Kaweka Forest Park tracks include Mangaturutu, Mackintosh and Comet Huts, Tira Lodge and the Lakes carpark.

Ruahine tracks include Hinerua, Dead Dog, Gold Creek and Herricks huts, and long overdue is the Wharite track.

Tracks in the Lotkow/Lawrence areas damaged by the winter snows have not been cleared. They are passable but additional time should be allowed to walk around fallen trees.

There are three notably overgrown tracks in the Ruahine which are planned for cutting in the 07/08 summer. They are from Shutes Hut to Koau Stream, Daphne Hut to Howletts and Daphne Hut to Sparrowhawk Biv.

Kaweka Forest Park Access

The private bridge across the Makahu Stream at the beginning of Makahu Road into "The Gums" camping area remains closed and vehicles will need to use the concrete based ford for access. Caution is required as the crossing cannot be used when the river is high.

Ruahine Forest Park

The Animal Health Board is undertaking an aerial 1080 possum control operation in the North Eastern Ruahine Forest Park between 1 May – 30 June 2007. Further information is available on the doc website www.doc.govt.nz or contact Stephen Cave, Biosecurity Officer HB Vector Control, Animal Health Board ph (06) 833 8056.

Access through Pan Pac Forests

Due to logging operations Charlie Brown Road, behind Robsons Lodge, is closed to walkers and vehicles for the next two years. Please comply with this requirement.

April 07

Coming Meetings:

Date	Topic / Speaker	Comments	Hosts	Supper Help
16 May	David Blake and also Special General Meeting re Associate Members subs.	On experiences when working for DOC in the South Island	Alan Petersen Anne Blake	Shirley Bathgate Selwyn Hawthorne
30 May	Tamsin Ward/Smith	Hear about the Cape Kidnappers "Island" project.	Bobby Couchman David Blake	Chris Brown Garry Smith
13 Jun	Rodger Burn	His trip to Iceland. Dress warmly.	Judy McBride Geoff Clibborn	Hamish Hunt Marjoleine Turel
27 Jun	Photo Competition	Get those champion photos organised.	Greg Munn Joan Ruffell	Jon Munn Brent Hickey
11 Jul	Garth Eyles	On Pekapeka and other local swamps.	John Berry Ken Nugent	Ros Lusk Maureen Broad
25 Jul	Jean Luc	Hang gliding in NZ and tramping experiences in Banff, Canada.	Robyn Madden Lew Harrison	Jeff Robertson Marion Nicholson
8 Aug	TBA speaker from tramping gear shop	An update on the latest tramping gear	John Montgomerie Mike Lusk	Graham Thorp Greg Munn
22 Aug	Nicky Douglas	DOC. A talk by the new Hawke's Bay manager	Marion Nicholson Owen Brown	Max Neumegen Mary Gray
4 Sep	Social night	A chance for an extra natter with your tramping friends.	Pam Turner Raewyn Ricketts	Garry Smith Jean Luc Vachan

Duties of those on Supper and Host:

HOSTS: Greet visitors and fill in visitor's 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>Carry</u>	<u>WEEKEND TRIPS</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.

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:

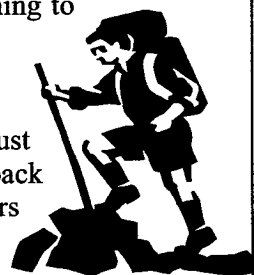
Susan Lopdell 844 6697

Jim Glass 877 8748

Glenda Hooper 877 4183

Cancellations: If you can not make a trip please contact the leader BEFOREHAND so as to avoid unnecessary delays for the rest of the party.

Club Meetings: These are held every second Wednesday (the one before a tramp) at the Hastings Harrier Clubrooms in Sylvan Road, Hastings. Doors open 7.25 PM, visitors are welcome.



TRIP LIST
April – September 2007

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 organiser or Susan Lopdell 844 6697

21-22 April (1.5 day): Kaweka Range – Wakarara- Training \$10

Map U22

This will be based at Wakarara Camp and will include a BBQ Saturday night. Sunday activities to include map and compass course, firelighting skills, first aid, bush survival and river crossing skills. All members should attend no matter how experienced you may be.

Organizer: Training Committee

Driver: Alan Petersen

25 April

Poutaki Hut Gwavas Forest.

Organizer. Rodger Burn Tel 8776322.

5-6 May Either Kapiti Island or Leon Kinvig (Ruahine Range)

Kapiti Island: Kapiti Island and a short walk into the Tararua Ranges from the Otaki Forks carpark.

Leon Kinvig: Leave from Ngamoko Road and walk into Leon Kinvig Hut via the Apiti Track. The return trip will be via Birch Whare.

Organizer: Graeme Hare 8448656

Drivers: Geoff Clibborn & Alan Petersen

6 May – Local Day Trip: Lakes Rd – Old Kaweka Hut Site – Mackintosh Circuit.

9 May (Wednesday)

Ocean Beach Walk

Organizer. Peggy Gulliver 8797763.

16 May (Wednesday)

Maraetotora Rd Bike Ride (38 km return)

Organizer. Rodger Burn Tel 8776322.

20 May Northern Kaweka Range Middle Hill/ Makino \$15

Map U20

Leave from Pinks Hut on the Makahu Road & walk into Middle Hill Hut, then traverse 7 km over to the Makino Track crossing 3 tributaries of the Mangatutunui Stream on the way. Wander back to the truck via the Makino Track.

Organizer: Anne Blake 8353284

Driver David Blake

23 May (Wednesday)

Kaweka Flats and surrounding areas.

Organizer. Judy McBride 8769756.

2-4 June (Queens Birthday Weekend) Bay of Plenty \$40 (TBC)

Day 1, Sat 2nd June:

Napier to Rotorua. Climb Rainbow Mountain on the way. Then onto Mt Edgecumbe/Mt Putauaki. Drive to Tarawera Falls to view, and then drive to north end of Lake Tarawera for a look see. Drive to Ohope and spend the night at the beachside Motor Camp. Tent sites \$15/person, or you can live it up by staying in a cabin.

Day 2, Sunday 3rd June;

Ohope Beach to Whakatane coastal walkway. Route goes over hill to Otarawairere Bay, then over another hill along ridge top to Kohi Point and down into Whakatane.

Travel along coast to Little Waihi Beach for a beach walk to Okurei Point, Maketu (subject to tide and access).

Then travel up Rangiuru Rd and Te Matai Rd around to Otanewainuku, a prominent hill south of Te Puke. Expansive views from the top. Some massive rimu trees in the area. 2-3 hrs. Then on to Katikati to spend the night at Sapphire Springs. Take your togs and have a hot swim. Tent sites \$15/person. Once again you can live it up by staying in a cabin.

Day 3, Monday 4th June;

Tramp up Tuahu Track (old Maori route and bridle track) to knobbly bits on top of the Kaimai Ranges to overlook Hauraki Plains and Katikati. Walk back down to hug the big Kauri. Return home via Kaimai Rd and Putaruru.

Program is subject to weather and progress made each day.

Organiser: Alan Peterson 021 1765058 / 8351082

Driver: Lex Smith

Local Day Trip: Gold Creek Hut via the Flounder Organiser:

6 June (Wednesday)

Walk Napier Hill areas with points of interest with Coffee stop somewhere.

Organizer. Peggy Gulliver 8797763

13 June (Wednesday)

Middle Hill Camp David area Bike Ride

Organizer. Judy McBride 8769756

**17 June Maraeatotara Stream / Mohi Bush \$10
Map V22**

Kotare Farms-Kowhai Falls Walk. Hilton McDermott will give a short talk on the walk and the Maraeatotara Tree Trust. The walk will take about 4hrs.

Route goes through a gorge then onto farmland with interesting limestone formations. Down through a pleasant valley to Mangatawa Stream to Kowhai Falls. Then back up Maraeatotara Stream through interesting farmland back up to the woolshed. For the more adventurous there could also be a side trip as a bush bash down a gorge. Nice little waterfalls. This walk will then be followed by a walk through Mohi Bush.

Organiser: Alan Peterson 021 1765058 / 8351082

Driver: Alan Peterson

20 & 21 June (Wednesday & Thursday)

Birthday Boys overnight trip to Sunrise Hut. Bring all the luxuries.
Organizer. Jim Hewes 8776784

30 June – 1 July Whirinaki \$30
Map V18

River Rd carpark, through to Central Whirinaki Hut for the night and out via the Caves to Plateau Rd.

Alternative route via the Mangamate River.

Organiser: Sue Lopdell 8446697

Driver:

Local Day Trip: Stanfield Hut Organiser:

4 July (Wednesday)

Explore Ahuriri Estuary circuit returning via Bay View
Organizer. Judy McBride 8769756

14 – 15 July Ruahines \$15
Map U22

A: From Triplex up Waipawa River to Waikamaka, Rangi Saddle and Waterfall Hut. Then to Rangiateatua and out via Three Johns.

B: From Triplex up Waipawa River and to Waikamaka and into Waterfall Hut. Return via same route.

Organiser: A: Ken Nugent 8765395 B:

Driver: Geoff Clibborn

Local Day Trip: Waipawa River Organiser:

18 July (Wednesday)

Recent developments in Blowhard Bush Area
Organizer. Rodger Burn Tel 8776322.

25 July (Wednesday)

Tour of the Bays Cycle circuit leaving from Fernhill
Organizer. Jim Hewes 8776784

29 July Ruahines \$15
Map U21

A: In from Kereru, Mangleton Rd end, Masters Shelter, Golden Crown onto main ridge. Drop down 3 Fingers Spur following it out to Gull Flat Rd.

B: Gull Flat Rd, 3 Fingers Spur, across to and down Bob's Spur.

Organiser: A: B:

Driver:

1 August (Wednesday)

Up Sentry Box Spur and maybe along ridge to Parks Peak Hut.
Organizer. Marion Nicholson 8735935

4 – 5 August SAR Modular Training Ruatukiri

SAR Training Weekend with the Wairoa Search and Rescue Group. This is an "off" "Tramping Weekend.

