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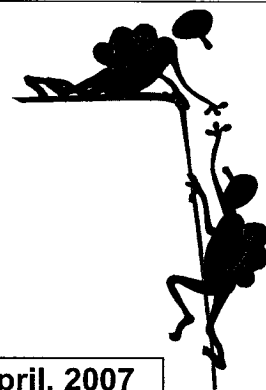
Club Meetings: These are held every second Wednesday (before a tramp) at the Hastings Harrier Clubrooms in Sylvan Road, Hastings. Doors open 7:25pm, visitors are most welcome. 50c donation gratefully accepted each meeting towards hall hire (*place in the old boot*).

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TRIP REPORTS

**#1990 Whanganui National Park – Bridge-to-Nowhere****6 – 9 April, 2007**

To say that I'd been sweet-talked in to organising and leading the HTC Easter 2007 tramp into the Whanganui National Park against my better judgement would be telling a porkie. In fact if I didn't need to checkout the callout list for my work, I would have said 'yes' straight away. There was a real tingle of excitement around even the thought of heading back into this real neat part of the country.

It really only felt like yesterday that I had lead the HTC Easter 1993 trip to the Bridge-to-Nowhere, not 14 years! And I had learnt a few more things about the river since then. I had learnt that the sweetest part of the river flowed between Whakahoro and the Mangapurua Landing hence my choice of starting our Jet boat trip from Whakahoro not Pipiriki. The down side of starting from Whakahoro was the cost of the Jet boat was twice as much. I trust that choice of starting point didn't put too much strain on people's budgets. Another reason for starting at Whakahoro was that there were other activity options available for those that may have wanted to try something different. As it turned out Geoff, Ann and Lynette did choose to do something different and canoed to the Mangapurua Landing, strolled a short way up the track to checkout the Bridge-to-Nowhere and back to the Landing. They then Jet boated back to Whakahoro.

This plan meant that we needed to get-a-way from Pernel's earlier than planned – 0800 instead of 1000 – and my thanks go to those who had to alter plans to meet that earlier departure time. We stopped at Taupo to swap drivers and again at Turangi for an early lunch at 1100. Cruised past a snow-less Tongariro National Park to be at Whakahoro at 1345. A flurry of activity for our three canoeists to repack their worldly possessions into watertight barrels, or in Geoff's case, into the bilges of his ride-on.

Interesting expressions on the faces of Anne and Lynette as they learnt all they needed to know about canoeing and rapids with Vees and snags and eddies and; just get in and go. So they did. 1500 they were away down the Returuke River with instructions to turn left when they met the Whanganui River. Pausing briefly to wave good bye, the rest of us clambered aboard this 6-wheel tractor thing and raced back up to the DoC Hut, across the paddock to a pre-determined location overlooking the Whanganui River – and the first rapid. We didn't really want them to tip out – but if they did, we didn't want to miss it!!! Well – they shot through the rapid like they'd been doing it for years. Good one. With the excitement all over, it was time to organise ourselves for the night and watch others come off the river and set up their own camp.

Saturday started when my alarm went off and the breakfast ballet began. We twirled and pirouetted around each other, sharing the Hut's three chairs in relays, dealt to our breakfasts and polished our teeth, repacked our kit, dressed up warm (for the Jet boat ride), paused for a photo then headed up to the Wade's Landing HQ for coffee at 0730.

Our Jet boat was a little late in arriving but not according to river time! In due course we were all loaded up, bodies in one boat, baggage in the other – we were off. We passed the Mangapapa Campsite to the waves of Anne, Lynette and Geoff and most others at the site. Waving seemed the thing to do on the river as every canoe, kayak, raft, and campsite that we passed prompted a flurry of waving from them and us. I was told later that someone on our Jet boat had counted 120 canoes on the river that morning. The river as expect was stunning. Bush down to the water's edge, still ripple-less stretches in front of the boat, mist wisping around lofty peaks and Blue Ducks looking bored with the

whole scene. We stopped at the Otumangu Landing where a little bit of river history was passed on, then zoomed on down stream.

Come 1000 we had arrived at the Mangapurua Landing and the start of our tramp back to Whakahoro. And chatting later, while we all enjoyed the Jet boat ride, most of us thought it was just long enough. A human chain was set up to get our packs off the boat up onto the Landing (and warm up a little) then it was off to the shelter up a wee way to get our coats and woollies off, repack, and head off north – first stop, the Bridge-to-Nowhere. Well – that plan didn't last long – each of the earlier settler's names were displayed on signs set outside what was probably their front gate and the first of many excursion off the track was taken to checkout whatever there was there to checkout. But in due course we arrived at the Bridge-to-Nowhere. This visit was my 4th.

I had supplied each tramper in our group with the DoC brochure on the valley and a couple of us had the Trust map as well. These little maps were in constant use as we ticked off the sights and signposts as we tramped up the valley popping off the track from time to time to check out another old farm site. Regan's botanical knowledge added to the interest as various plants left behind by the early farmers were located and discussed. We had lunch at Bennett's flat, marvelled as to how they actually drove cars around Battleship Bluff, cruised on passed Cody's at 1400 to be at Bettjeman's at 1530 – this looked like us for the night.

We camped in a circle around the toilet like wagons circled up against an attack from the Indians – or was the deployment around the loo more one of convenience? As DoC had warned, there were many old pine trees in the valley. Some still standing, others had fallen (or deliberately felled to reduce risk). A couple of trees at Bettjeman's (however they came down) had been chain-sawed into rounds that made perfect tables for our little stoves with longer logs making a perfect spot to seat our weary bodies. We had tramped a total of five hours today after all!

The weather since leaving Pernel's on Friday up until this time had been perfect – sunny and warm. The weather forecast that I had down loaded for the weekend suggested that if it was going to rain, Saturday night was to be the time. And with dark clouds amassing in the northwest – suddenly it got dark. Lucky us though – no rain. But we all had an early night. Sunday began like Saturday – at 0600 when my alarm went off. With no great need to be away early, a leisurely breakfast was enjoyed by all, tents down and away by 0830 on what turned out to be a cracker of a day. The Easter Bunny had been around too. Thank you Easter Bunny.

The lay of the valley is quite deceptive. At the river, the track is 80 meters above sea level heading slightly east of north. At Bettjemen's, the track is at 200m ASL and tending more to the east. By the time we reach Tester's we are heading east and almost south east through Johnson's to be at Slippery Creek only 80 meters higher than we were at Bettjemen's. It's all been a cruise 'til now. Without really knowing it (so you keep tramping at the same speed) the track climbs 300 plus meters over 5km and you arrive at the Mangapurua Trig a 'bit puffed'.

However, it wasn't a total sprint to the Trig as we had a good look around Tester's (the site of the first school) where remnants of the corral where the kids parked their horses (so we were told) were observed. And another wee while was spent looking around at Johnson's. But the Trig (and lunch) was calling – so we moved on.

Some of us climbed up to the Trig itself for a view of the bush that obscured the views out to Mt. Taranaki and Mt. Tongariro. But through the bush to the north, I was however, able to spot our next campsite down in the Kaiwhakauka Valley. And by taking a little side track to the south west on the way back down from the Trig, finally paid a visit to old explosives store that was carved into the hill a way back in the valley's hey day. There's a fair amount of flat land at the Trig (and water) and would be a good spot to camp. But that wasn't for us and after almost an hour for lunch we were all in line astern and off along the ridge a way before taking a turn to the north and down to Coote's for the night. We arrived at 1500 and subtracting time taken for lunch and a good look around at Tester's and Johnson's we had had another solid 5-hour day!

No toilet to circle around at this site. And the old shed that Selwyn and I had been so pleased to see back in 1991 wasn't there any more either. So we camped every where. Still not a cloud in the sky as we set to the task of preparing our evening meals and once the sun went down (and before the moon came up) the stars were so bright your eyes hurt looking at them. After tea we all gathered around a campfire for a natter that was pleasantly interrupted by an Easter Egg hunt (there's still one out there too) before heading off to bed for the night.

My alarm clock has a thermometer in it. Waking before the thing went off, I noted the temperature was 7 degrees. Not remembering how to disable the alarm, I tucked the thing inside my sleeping bag so I could turn it off quickly when it beeped at six. When it eventually beeped and I had turned it off, I noted the temperature was 30 degrees. So I stayed there in my sleeping bag and had my breakfast. But the dawn looked too good to miss and I was soon up and out there to watch it all unfold – another cracker day was on its way.

Come 0800 we were on our way too. Most of the journey to Whakahoro is through bush that was not cleared back in settler days although there were still sites that were signposted with a settler's name. Part way down the valley we crossed a rather large washout that had created about 4-5 meter gap in the track. Lucky for us there was only a trickle flowing at the time we crossed it, as it would have been too dangerous to cross if things were otherwise. About 10 meters from where we crossed, the water went over the edge at the top of a 30 odd meter drop to the Kaiwhakauka River.

Bursting out of the bush and over the sty that marked the edge of the National Park, we continued the last leg of our journey on farmland. Pausing only to let 700 odd sheep pass by, we were all back at Whakahoro 10 minutes either side of 1230. Time for lunch and a shower and all cleaned up for the journey home. Geoff, Anne and Lynette were not too far behind us arriving at Whakahoro after their Jet boat ride and come 1415, we were on our way home. Stopping for fuel at Turangi and tea at Taupo we were all back at Pernel's at 2030.

I trust everyone enjoyed their time in the Whanganui National Park and a little taste of the unique history of the Mangapurua valley in particular. See you over there again one day soon.

Thanks to our two drivers Lex and Geoff.
MB

Tramping Party: Sue Lopdell, David Blake, Maureen Broad, Jeff Robertson, Gary Smith, Chris Waldron, Sue Taylor, Marion Nicholson, Lex Smith, Ken Nugent, Anne Smith, Regan Gentry, Brent Hickey, Peggy Gulliver, Biddy Livesey and me, Mike Bull.

THE BOATIES BIT

We three canoeists (Annie, Lynette and Geoff) were pleased to be able to leave Pernel in time for us to get on the river on Friday afternoon and so make our trip easier than a two-day rush. Thanks to all for the earlier start. On arrival at Whakaroro I unloaded my boat and gear while Anne and Lynette sorted out arrangements for their hired Canadian two-seater and packed gear into the supposedly "waterproof" barrels supplied. We trooped down to the Returuke River below the Whakahoro camp to our instruction session on stowing, paddling techniques, reading the river, and safety aspects, then hit the water about 3pm. The Returuke joins the main river about 200m downstream from our point of entry, and then we hit our first little rapid. Many of our kind-hearted fellow trampers were on the riverbank overlooking the rapid, no doubt expecting to see us capsize and swim, but we stayed right-way-up and dry, so there! The weather was perfect, and we enjoyed drifting with the current, developing our techniques and admiring the scenery for two hours before arriving at our first campsite, Mangapapa. Our landing here provided a bit of drama and entertainment for onlookers. The best landing spot required a sharp left turn just above a rapid, but although I managed this OK, Anne and Lynette were carried through the rapid and landed on the opposite bank. Their valiant efforts to paddle back upstream were fun to watch, but doomed to failure. Next they tried walking the riverbank back up, pulling the boat by rope, but rope was too short and footing too difficult. The chivalrous male in the party was having fun watching, while unloading his boat to get at some

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emergency ropes stowed handily at bottom of the cargo space. While all this was happening, a jet-boat driver, on the way upstream, saw the fun and offered the girls a tow. This resulted in a swamped Canadian, wet paddlers, and entry of water into one of their barrels, but they finally got ashore at the right place and it was all very entertaining! There were a number of other boaties already camped, but we found enough space for our two tents, so set up camp and cooked our meals, before bedding down for the night

Saturday dawned fine and clear with the promise of another lovely day. We breakfasted and packed up, to be at the river edge in time to wave to a jet boat full of HTC fellows rushing off downstream to start their walk back. The day on the river was leisurely, with beautiful scenery and reflections, some little rapids to provide challenges and lots of other boaties having fun. We stopped for lunch at Ohauora campsite and reached John Coull Hut 2.30pm. Resident ranger told us there were 80 campers outside the hut last night and full house of 25 inside. 100-plus campers equals 70-plus boats, all parked-up for the night on the river-bank below John Coull Hut. We three decided to make use of the hut and its cosy fire and gas cookers, save time and keep tents dry. Among the hut occupants that night was an Austrian family, Mum and Dad and kids aged 3, 6, and 8yrs. They started at Whakahoro with two Canadian canoes, abandoned one boat at Ohauora, carried on to John Coull with all five plus gear in one boat! They made radioed arrangements to bail out there, found the going too hard with little kids.

Sunday was another out of the box. We had an easy start with no camp to pack up, and were on the river before 8am and cruised the 9km to Mangawai-iti, a lovely bush campsite, although quite a climb up from the river. That was our morning tea stop, then on downstream, arriving Mangapurua Landing just before noon. There is very little space there to haul boats out, but there are quite a few iron stanchions driven into the bank to tie up the many boats while paddlers became walkers to see "The Bridge". We joined the walkers, and arrived in time to get the benefit of a historical explanation from the guide/driver of a jet boat tour group. After the crowd left we were able to wander about and take photos. I have spent a few years building bridges in Southland, and could appreciate the huge problems faced by the builders of this one in such a remote place, with so little mechanical gear to help, and such challenges from weather and terrain. Back to our boats, and across the river to the campsite to set up, still warm sunshine, plenty of time to relax. We were the only occupants when we arrived, but the site was well-filled with ten tents later on. It was hard to see the river from the dining shelter, because of vegetation growth, so Annie did her prunes with a camp-knife and cleared the view nicely for us.

After another good night we had a very relaxed Monday morning, with half the day to pack up and prepare for our pickup by jet boat at noon to take us back to base. Canoes are carried by jet boat when required by stowing them across the back of the boat, behind the passengers. We were under the impression that both of our boats were to be picked up and carried thus, so I had put my double-ended paddle in the bottom of the girls' Canadian canoe, because it fitted there so nicely. Our boat arrived exactly on time, and refuelled before leaving. The driver said we will take only one boat for now, collect the other later. We also had two trampers aboard who had done the reverse of HTC trip, so all was fine until halfway back to base when I remembered where my paddle was! (It is now home, thanks to staff of Wades Outdoors) Our jet boat arrival at Whakahoro was soon after the trampers' return, and the rest is in Mike's 'bit'. Thanks, Mike, for organizing such a great trip for us all. Are you able to give us the phone number of your Weather-Guru?

If anyone has had it in mind to do the river trip, but felt dubious of their abilities to handle the boating bit, be encouraged! The boats are easy to handle and very forgiving, the rapids are fun but not worrisome, the organisation is excellent, the scenery is magnificent, and the experience is memorable. Go to it!!

GC

Canoeing Party: Geoff Clibborn, Anne Cantrick, and Lynette Blackburn.

#1991 Coromandel Capers**11 – 17 April, 2007**

At the end of a very enjoyable Wairarapa Womble in 2003 we said we would have to have another such trip. It took a while to set a date for the Coromandel Capers but it was worth waiting for.

Our party of ten left Taradale shortly after 7.30 Wednesday morning heading to Thames and the Kauaeranga Valley DOC camp for our first night. Next morning we set off for Pinnacle Hut up a very defined old track. It had many steps which had been carved into rock to assist the pack horses carrying supplies in the kauri logging days. This hut, the only one in the Coromandel, is DoC's largest, an eighty bunker. Thankfully it only had about 20 staying overnight. It is a bustling hut as many day-trippers come on a circuit or just to see the view from the top of the Pinnacles. When two overseas students came down from the Pinnacles and one had gashed his knee after a tumble, our "medics" swooped in to clean up his bloody, gravelly, messy, slashed knee. Subsequently Adrian, from Germany, with the chopped up knee and his friend Diogo, from Brazil, were flown out to Thames on the Westpac Rescue helicopter.

Our party returned to the valley floor by either the direct route or the Billy Goat Track in the morning so we had time to travel via Coromandel and Colville to Fletcher Bay and the DoC camp on the northern tip of the peninsular. We stayed two nights at this very pleasant camp, tramping the Coromandel Walkway track, exploring, kayaking and generally enjoying the area.

The next day we stopped at Driving Creek Railway to appreciate the efforts of Barry Brickell on our way to the 309 Highway and Hahei Beach Motor Camp. Adrian and Diogo were there too so they joined us for the next two days. As the most suitable tide to dig at Hot Water Beach was 10.10pm, that's when we went. The keen bathers were quickly in the hot pools while more sedate folk paddled up to their knees.

The road south on the eastern coast saw us call at Broken Hills, an old gold mining area, Opoutere (beach bird sanctuary), Whangamata, and overnight in the Wentworth Valley. Next morning we viewed the huge open cast Martha Mine at Waihi and old gold workings at Karangahake before joining the traffic south in the Waikato.

During the week we had rain on most days, ranging from a late afternoon shower to rainy days. As the trip progressed it was noticeable how each night more tents were erected and less people slept in the truck. I wonder why? The truck during our six-day jaunt clocked 1272 kms and our direct costs to cover transport and accommodation were \$160 each. It was a super trip made all the more enjoyable through the cooperation, thoughtfulness and contribution of everyone who came. My grateful thanks to Lex and Geoff for driving skilfully each day.

As we came home plans were started for the next trip.
GRH

Pam Turner, Geoff Clibborn, Anne Smith, Lex Smith, Marion Nicholson, Susan Lopdell, Anne Cantrick, Gloria Abraham, Helen Hare, Graeme Hare.

#1992 Training Weekend – Wakarara Camp**21 – 22 April, 2007**

After a quick recce at Camp Wakarara, we drove on up North Block Rd, dropping the navigation group at the Triplex Carpark and the rest in the Waipawa River. The former group navigated over to the latter and the groups swapped over in mid afternoon. In the riverbed we practiced fire lighting under the benign supervision of Randall while Mary went over river crossing, achieved without wetting our feet. Close by a bulldozer was shifting gravel to repair access to the farm bridge, so at times we had to concentrate hard to hear.

Dinner was enormous and prolonged with a first aid role play between courses the cause of much hilarity and possibly some learning. Lex was the patient and at the time of writing it appeared he might pull through.

The usual bladder difficulties had several of the men up at dawn so breakfast was another endurance event, but even so we were able to get the morning programme underway an hour early. Mary led off with a look at risk management, which is really a way of analysing and formalizing what used to be called trip planning. There was plenty to be learned by all.

We then went out into the field again where 4 shelters were constructed, all adequate especially considering we did not feel it justified to use living materials. A couple of points worth considering arose. The first is that a fly, which some of us carry as a routine on day trip, makes the whole process much easier. The other is that it is much more comfortable to spend a long night lying rather than sitting, so make your shelter large if possible.

We lunched in the sun at Triplex Hut, had a gentle walk around the Swamp Track and had the Camp cleaned up by 2.30pm.

Camp Wakarara is an excellent venue, and remarkably cheap. It was suggested that HTC might hire it for a tramping/ social weekend in January.

Thanks to Lynette and Sue for arranging the provisions, to Randall, Mary and Paul in their roles as tutors, Alan for driving, and to all the participants who were generous with their contributions both material and vocal, to the weekend. There were an abundance of laughs but I am sure all, no matter how experienced, would have come away with some new knowledge.
ML

Party: Alan Peterson (driver), Annelise Stewart, Maureen Broad, Jeff Robertson, Jean-Luc Vachon, Lynette Blackburn, Sue Taylor, Geoff Clibborn, Peter Brown, Dave McKenzie, Glenda Hooper, Randall Goldfinch, Graeme and Helen Hare, Christine Snookes, Lex Smith, Fumi Moriyama, Mike Lusk, Mary Gray (HTC and Mountain Safety), Paul Hodgkinson (Mountain Safety)

#1993 Gold Creek

Wed. 25 April, 2007

After a bit of chopping and changing we decided for an old favourite on ANZAC Day.

A 7.00am start from Pernel's saw us at Michael Hall's farm on Glenney Road at about 8.15am with prospects of a great day. On instructions from Mrs Hall most avoided the live electric fences and we were soon within the Ruahine Park boundaries.

The track was in perfect condition, dry underfoot and with evidence of recent work on it. Time was taken to botanise and study some interesting fungi and we reached the steep drop off to Gold Creek Hut at about 11.15am.

Rather than go down to the hut we opted for a lazy lunch stop in a sunny spot along the tops and eventually made our way back to the farm and, after smoko, got back to Hastings about 4.15pm and in daylight too.

RB

Party: Caroline Rees, Judy McBride, Marion Nicholson, Marg Musson, Keith Thomson, Brett Hickey and Rodger Burn.

#1994 Kapiti Island**4 – 6 May, 2007**

My encouragement/cajoling/threats to members not to be late at kick-off resulted in everyone turning up at Pernel in time for us to leave a little earlier than the 7.00pm deadline. We had a good run through to our overnight stop at Kimberley Reserve in the foothills to the SE of Levin. The grassy campsite was glistening with a heavy dew, and I have some good pics of tent-town going up in the dark. These include Pam muttering threats while untangling the knitting of the guy-ropes of her recently-lent tent!

We left at 7.00am next morning for the hour's run to Paraparaumu Beach, to breakfast there and prepare for our day on the island. We boarded the ferry on dry land, with the boat sitting on its big trailer behind a long-legged tractor, and then backed into the gentle surf for the 15min run to the island. Landing was by stern-ramp from the boat onto the steeply-sloping gravel beach, then to the visitor centre for the compulsory 45min "Intro to The Island" by the resident caretaker. After this session we were free to wander at will, although the temporary closure of one of the tracks meant that the circuit route was not available. Most of us went up to the trig at 521m for lunch and views. We saw a great variety of birds and plants and enjoyed the bush and the sunny day. Our return boat left at 3.00pm, then Alan took over driving duties while I teamed up with my Chatham Island friends, now living back home at Paekakariki, who had spent the day with us on the island. We all shopped and fed as necessary at Paraparaumu, then up to the DoC camp at Otaki Forks for the night. The rain started as we were putting up tents, and it showered all night.

Sunday morning should have seen us doing a range of short walks in the area, but in the rain only two hardy souls went walking, while the rest sensibly sheltered! There was no prospect of weather improvement, so we all set off homeward about 9.00am. Thanks to Alan for driving home, while I joined friends and family for a couple of days before catching a \$1 bus-ride from Porirua to Napier (see www.nakedbus.com)

GC

Our team of 19: Anne & David Blake, Peter Brown, Rodger Burn, Maureen Broad, Geoff Clibborn, Bobby Couchman, Graeme Hare, Sue Lopdell, Mike & Ros Lusk, Robyn Madden, Marion Nicholson, Ken Nugent, Alan Peterson, Liz Pindar, Joan Ruffell, Christine Snook, Sue Taylor, Pam Turner.

#1995 Ocean Beach**Wed. May 9, 2007**

On a lovely sunny day, 16 trampers met at Rodger's house at 8.15 and drove to Haupouri Station at Ocean Beach. We drove along the Haupouri farm track which led us to the beginning of the pest proof fence. It was here that we parked our cars. Juliet Hansen came to speak to us about the purpose of the fence and she also gave us a brief history of the station and her family's involvement in the development of Ocean Beach. We then set off up the hills following the fence as it led over the top of Haupouri and toward Cape Kidnappers and Clifton Station. We didn't go all the way to the end of the 9km fence but we were able to see where it led to before we turned back. It was a perfect time for mushrooms and Mike managed to gather a huge bag full. On the way back, many others followed suit. When we were about halfway back, we decided to drop down to the beach. Drop was a good word as I think we chose the steepest hill to clamber down. But everyone made it safely and we had a leisurely stroll back to the cars along the beach. We met up again with Shirley and Barbara who had had a pleasant day exploring the sand dunes.

Many thanks to the Hansen family for allowing us onto their property. Special thanks to Juliet for her time, and for giving us factual information concerning Ocean Beach development.

Party: Peggy Gulliver, Rodger Burn, Ros and Mike Lusk, Marion Nicholson, Jenny Pearce, Judy McBride, Bobby Couchman, Shirley Bathgate, Barbara Taylor, Murray Aitken, Hillary Philips, Graham and Helen Hare, Keith Thompson, Marj Musson.

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#1996 Middle Hill to Makino**20 May, 2007**

On Sunday a large group of us set off from Pernel's for the notorious '3 gorges' trip in the Kawekas. We arrived at Pink's Hut at about 8.30 and set off up the hill into a cold wind and overcast skies. On the way up several of us went to check out the Middle Hill Hut, and then it was off down the first steep hill to the stream at the bottom. From there we made our way up the next steep hill with a rest and lunch at the top. It was quite a long way down from there to the third and final stream, where it became evident that Dave McK was suffering from cramps and becoming somewhat exhausted. As it was now 4.00pm, and we still had the final large hill to get up, we were a bit worried we might not get out before it got dark. The decision was made to split the group in two, with the majority going on ahead, and Ken, Peter Brown and David staying behind with Dave. The first group made it up the hill, and Christine, Alan and Geoff kindly went ahead to pick up the truck and drive it back up the road to meet us. We arrived back at about 5.30, most of us very tired. Luckily, it wasn't long before the second group arrived back, right on dark at about 6.15. Unfortunately, we had to miss stopping at Pam Turner's place for afternoon tea, and got back into town at about 8.00pm. The 3 gorges trip definitely earned its reputation and it was quite a long, hard but scenic trip. Thanks to everyone who came.

AB

Party; Christine Snook, Alan Petersen, Geoff Oliver, Bobby Couchman, Marion Nicholson, Sue Taylor, Joan Ruffell, Randall Goldfinch, Ken Nugent, Peter Brown, Dave McKenzie

#1997 Kaweka Flats Bivvy**Wed. 23 May, 2007**

The day looked gloomy, but it was not actually raining. Five stalwarts set out for Kaweka Flats from Pernel's at 7am, unusually early for us. The nearer we got to the ranges, the more uncertain the skies looked, and yes, as we began walking, the rain decided to join us.

Undaunted we enjoyed the walk anyway. The rain brought out the rich green colours of the lichens and mosses on the rocks and trees and the deep reds on the totora tree trunks. The mountain cabbage trees were stunning and enjoying the weather. The breathtaking experience of the mountain tussock grass around the bivvy alone was well worth the tramp and of course five of us cramming into the bivvy for lunch was the highlight. The bivvy is in excellent condition. Newly painted, clean and tidy with all mod. cons.

Strangely, it was a pleasant experience to be out in the rain - we have forgotten how it feels here in Hawke's Bay.

BC

Bobby Couchman, Marion Nicholson, Peggy Gulliver, Murray Aitken, Marjory Musson.

#1998 Bay of Plenty Junket**2 - 4 June, 2007**

An early 6am start from Pernel's on Saturday morning with the first stop at Rainbow Mountain. Pouring with rain so gave tramping over it a miss and ducked into Arataki Honey a bit further up the road for a free cup of tea and rest stop. Next destination was Kawarau to get the permit to go into Tarawera Falls. By the time we got there the rain had broken to heavy showers. Everything was saturated. It was a nice walk up to the Falls. It's always a great sight to see the entire Tarawera River bursting out near the base of a massive rock face. Then we went up the tracks to check out the top end and viewed the slots where part of the river drops into the ground. Further on a good proportion of the river goes down a very big plug hole, a part also goes into a large pool which looks enticing for swimmers but there are signs warning about the danger of getting sucked in!

Pohokura

Back into the truck and the northern end of Lake Tarawera where the river begins. It was nice to see the lake views and camp area. There's a new laminated arch footbridge just a little bit down the river - an impressive structure. From it we could see lots of big trout. Mike Lusk would have broken into a froth. Then we noticed the "no fishing" signs. It's a breeding area!

Back through the pine forest to Kwarau to climb Edgecumbe. Checked our instructions very carefully. Uh-oh. Just near the main forestry road (McKee Rd) the big steel gates had been shut and locked. So we decided to hoof it around this road to the track up the mountain. But we went on and on. It started to rain and get a bit dark so we decided to get back to the truck and it fair belted down. Later, when I spoke to the lady who gave us the permit and instructions, she advised the gates don't normally get shut until 7.30pm. So that stuffed up that part of the trip. By now the thought of getting to the motor camp at Ohope was inviting but it wasn't where Alan remembered it. It is now way down the spit to the east. We got organised and then we all headed off to the Chartered Club to have a feed and watch the rugby, All Blacks v French.

On Sunday the sky was blue and no sign of rain. Drove to the western end of Ohope Beach where we got off the bus and tramped around the bluffs from Ohope Beach to Whakatane. The views were so fantastic, and the day brilliant, the sunlight glistening off the near flat sea, that no one was in a hurry. We just ambled along soaking it all in. We had spectacular views; White Island, Whale Island, Whakatane River Mouth and also got some history lessons on the way. After some snuck off for cappuccinos and lattes we were back on the truck to Maketu. We stopped at Maketu Beach for lunch where part of the Kaituna River gets to the sea. Unfortunately the public can't get out to the point. Alan and Ken noticed locals getting pipis so they went and got a 'bag'. Alan's first dig resulted in a very large crab latching onto his finger.

We then wended our way through back roads, Rangier Rd, Te Matai Rd, past Te Ranga Primary School (where Alan went to school), Orope Rd to Otanewainuku - the high 'mountain' south of Te Puke. We headed up and admired the large kahikatea, puketea and tawa - quite verdant bush. From the look-out platform at the top we had an interesting time working out all the distant ranges and mountains from the 360 degree vista. Christine stayed back at the bus and had a chat to the old farmer in his old trusty Landcruiser. What was impressive was that a group of farmers have decided to take turns at watching the carpark over weekends to prevent car burglars. They had been doing it for 7 months. The locals had also just released two kiwi and apparently one was just down the road.

By the time we left it was dark and headed through Tauranga's viaduct roads, after dropping Brent off to stay with his parents, and got to Sapphire Springs in Katikati. Alan has good memories of the place from when he lived in Katikati but would have to say it's a bit sad to see its rundown state. In the dark went for a swim in the hot pools. It was damp and cold and the water was just luke warm, not cold but not warm either. So you didn't know whether to stay in and just keep warm enough to stop freezing, or to get out in the freezing night air to get changed. The pipis made a nice entrée, small but sweet.

On Monday headed up to the road end, driver Alan didn't see the speed hump out of the camp which caused some body contortions and involuntary levitation in the back. Very sorry. From the end of Springs Rd, after feeding the hungry horses, we headed up the Tuahu Track - the old Maori foot highway between the Bay of Plenty and Waikato. Visited the very impressive Kauri tree here, there are also quite a few smaller kauri around. This is about the southern most extent of kauri in the Kaimais. Got to the top and it was getting cloudy and drizzly so unfortunately couldn't see much to the west down to the Matamata Plains. Alan bush bashed to a high rock and got better views. It was back into the truck for lunch at Sapphire Springs where Brent caught up with us, and then the long drive home.

AP

Party: Sue Lopdell, Geoff Clibborn, Lex Smith (part driver), Marion Nicholson, Maureen Broad, Brent Hickey, Christine Snook, Ken Nugent and Alan Petersen (leader, part driver, reporter).

#1999 Napier Hill Walk**Wed. 6 June, 2007**

On Wednesday 6th June, 10 trampers met at the base of Hospital Hill in Napier, ready to tackle the steps and pathways of Bluff Hill. The weather was fine but extremely windy. We managed to go up and down all the steps on the Battery Road side of the hill, arriving at Sturms Gully and the Bluff Hill lookout in time for lunch. The plan after lunch was to go up and down all the steps and pathways on the town side of the hill, through the Botanical gardens and back to Hospital Hill in time for Jennie to get back for her children. But when we got to the Milton Road steps and found that they were closed due to subsidence, forcing us to take a detour, we realised that we were running out of time and decided to take a shortcut back to the cars. However, it was a very challenging and most enjoyable day.

PG

Party: Peggy Gulliver, Rodger Burn, Jennie Pierce, Marion Nicholson, Judy McBride, Bobby Couchman, Marj Musson, Bob and Heather Carter, Jenny Lean

#2000 Maraetotara Stream / Mohi Bush**17 June, 2007**

The weather outlook for Sunday looked very bleak. 19 were scheduled to go and by Sunday morning this had whittled down to 10. The weather still looked pretty grim when we assembled at Pernel's. We picked up a straggler at Havelock North and headed up and up Maraetotara Rd. We arrived at McDermott's farm where Hilton was having some problems with too much water. We gladly utilised the implement shed to get changed. Hilton turned up and gave us a very interesting talk on the geology of the area - quite dramatic. He described watching a fence line moving out of line and the big sandstone boulders shifting in earthquakes on his farm just in the 20 or so years he has been there.

We headed up the road and down into a steep bushy gully to cross the Maraetotara Stream. It had a fair bit of water in it but managed to cross where it dives under boulders. At the start of the track there were some fat kereru sitting in a tree enjoying bouncing around in the wind. On the other side of the gully, on a plateau, we explored a rocky platform with sandstone slots. We then headed along the southern boundary to the gully where the Mangatawa Stream is situated. Saw the planting along the fenced off stream along with some big old Kahikatea. A really picturesque valley.

We then headed over a bluffy ridge to get around a deep gorge which had quite a lot of remnant bush. Back down in the more open valley we sidled along the stream through farmland and found a sheltered spot under some pine trees to have lunch where a heavy shower did its best to get us wet. After edging along the fence line and realised we were virtually at Kowhai Falls. We crossed the swollen stream on another little land bridge and explored both lots of falls. We mooched around while someone went to retrieve a camera case, then headed back over farmland down into a lower part of the Maraetotara Stream valley sidling along the tree-lined stream to get back to the central yards and a short cut back up to the farm buildings. Said hello to Hilton's pigs and back to the shed to change. While we were all geared up for really wet weather we didn't get that wet considering how gloomy the day was - just a few showers. It was decided that those who pulled out due to wet weather were a bunch of softies and they had missed out on a good day outdoors.

Due to the miserable conditions we didn't go to Mohi Bush and headed back to Pernel's. All agreed it was an interesting day out and worth doing. Thanks to Hilton and Wendy McDermott and their neighbours for allowing us access across their farms.

AP

Party: Marion Nicholson, Ken Nugent, Bobby Couchman, Glenda Hooper, Fumi Moriyama, Jim Glass, Roger and Chris Ralph (visitors), Christine Snook, and leader/driver Alan Petersen.

#2001 Oamaru Hut – Kaimanawa Forest Park**30 June – 1 July, 2007**

Our intention was to have a weekend in the Whirinaki area but the state of the road was a bit challenging for Mary's 4WD station-wagon so, on Mary's suggestion, we diverted the trip to Oamaru Hut in the Kaimanawas. We left the Te Iringa carpark on Clements Mill Road at 9.30am heading up the hill in drizzly rain. Due to our change of plans were lacking a map of the area but this state of affairs was soon remedied when we found a laminated map on the track about half an hour into the tramp! Onward and upward – the Te Iringa Hut site seemed to take an age to get to and, in the weather conditions, we would have appreciated the hut still being there. As it was, a very hasty lunch was had in the persistent rain further down the track.

Mary assured us that the track to Oamaru Hut was an 'all weather – dry foot track', this she lived to regret as, at the bottom of the hill, we had to cross a side stream which flowed into the Tiki Tiki stream, getting our feet very wet. Later, after crossing the Kaipo River via a swing bridge, the track became rather boggy and Mary had to endure further disparaging comments about her 'all weather – dry foot track'! Despite the rain we saw kaka, robin, blue duck and flocks of wax-eyes on the way in.

We arrived at the 12 bunk hut at 4.30pm wet and bedraggled but pleased that there were only four hunters in residence and that the fire was going. A pleasant evening was had comparing notes with the hunters.

Sunday dawned much dryer than Saturday and we were fortunate to see a falcon swoop down and seize its breakfast as we were setting off. The blue duck was still in residence on the Kaipo River and Jeff was pleased to be able to get some photos. By lunchtime the weather had deteriorated again and the afternoon was spent in the rain. After a quick change into dry gear it was back to Napier. Many thanks to Mary for transportation.

ST

Mary Gray, Peter Brown, Jeff Robertson, Sue Taylor

#2002 Birthday Boys at Sunrise Hut**Wed. & Thur. 4-5 July, 2007**

Seven of us set out from Pernel's at 9am and drove in two vehicles to Triplex carpark. After a cuppa we began up the hill at 10.30am (this is not an error!) on a typical wintry day. With heads down, shouldering our overnight packs, which some of us had not had on for some time, we were able to study the fungi etc through the fogging spectacles and forehead perspiration. Nearing the top and looking forward to lunch, we met the day trippers Bobbie, Peggy and Judy. Having set off earlier, they had waited lunch but had become cold and, unable to start the gas heater, had set off back down. We exchanged pleasantries and headed for the hut and lunch. Gentleman Keith got the heater going, a complete story in itself, and, making the most of the daylight, we set off in various directions to explore the surrounds as there was almost no wind and the light on the snow capped peaks, magical. Birthday tea celebrations began at 4.30 with crackers, cheese and dips and finished at six with various cakes and sweets. Max taught us how to play President, Vice-president B--- and Mike along with 6yr old son Brayden from Palmerston North sat around the table and joined in the fun. Complete with balloons, party hats and the singing of Happy Birthday a good time was had by all. After a cosy sleep-in, we breakfasted and set off down in a light shower. After a cup of tea and finishing off the cake at Triplex we drove back to Hastings arriving 2.30pm.

JR

Day Party: Peggy Gulliver, Judy McBride, Bobbie Couchman.

Overnight Party: Rodger Burn, Randall Goldfinch, Graeme Hare, Jim Hewes, Max Neumegen, Keith Thomson, Joan Ruffell.

A Party – Waterfall Hut

Ken kindly drove us towards triplex, meeting Dave on the way. Our legs got a warm up push starting Dave's flat battery car before we all made it to the Waipawa River. The Ruahines were a glistening white rampart and looked very impressive.

Walking up the Waipawa required careful footwork as many of the rocks were ice covered. As we got higher and got above the snow line stones came rattling down the gullies off "66", giving us a bit of a wake up as we playing dodgems racing across the firing line. At the steep climb out of the river towards the saddle Ken and Dave donned waterproofs and tackled the dripping bush track, while Gerald, Anne and I took to the gully and carefully climbed the snowy slopes to rejoin the track. The snow was pretty deep in places and it was the exhausting game of carefully treading a few feet supported on the crust then whump – fall through up to your thighs. Anne took the lead and glided over the top of the snow like an elf while the hefalumps behind were breaking through and making a terrible mess.

We got to the saddle and wow what a beautiful day, little wind, wispy clouds and the snow had hardened up. Gerald, Anne and I decided to head over the tops to Waterfall, leaving Ken and Dave to continue to Waikamaka. We stopped on top of the Three Johns for lunch and noticed 2 packs on the snow at the top of the steep ridge down to the Waikamaka. Ken and Dave were evidently having trouble finding a safe way down and were regretting not taking ice axe and crampons. We called to them and hoped they would be OK.



It was lovely to be on the tops with great snow, views, aching legs and a pounding heart! We had originally planned to drop down to Rangi Saddle but the tops were magnetic so after looking at the map we stayed high and headed towards a ridge that dropped behind Waterfall Hut. It looked great on the map but when it hove into view Anne said "It's got a Hilary Step!!!" After closer inspection by Gerald we decided instead to head down the stream that meets the Rangi Saddle track. After a few scrapes and adventures climbing down iced up waterfalls we got down to the valley floor, not before time as dark was fast approaching. We collapsed into the hut after a 9 ½ hour day and had a great feast and fire before early bed.

The morning dawned with low cloud and snow flurries, before setting off we had a good scavenge for fire wood, nobody had been at the hut since the May! A beautiful walk up virgin snow to Rangi Saddle where a biting wind lashed us as we donned crampons to get down the icy slopes on the far side. Once at the stream the going was slowed by the very deep snow and once again we kept falling through as we walked over the leatherwood. At Waikamaka (3 ½ hours) we had a short smoko, relieved to find that Ken and Dave had made it. The trip over the Waipawa saddle was uneventful and with tired legs we headed down the Waipawa to the cars (3 hours).

Many thanks to Ken for driving, Gerald and Anne for a great trip, and to Tina and Hebe for letting me go on my first tramping trip for 2 ½ years!

AF

Party: Gerald Blackburn, Anne Cantrick, Andy Fowler

B Party – Waikamaka Hut

Leaving the car at eight o'clock, we headed up the Waipawa River. The day was perfect, not a cloud in the sky, no wind, a low clear river and the snow down to 900 metres. Some did the usual rock hopping, trying to keep their feet dry, with no luck.

Pohokura

It took one hour to Waipawa Chalet, from there on getting great views of the snow covered tops. Another two hours saw us at the Waipawa Saddle wading through knee deep snow. Taking advantage of the day, Anne, Gerald and Andy headed over the tops for Waterfall Hut. Dave and I, thinking we had a "cruisy" day strolled down the ridge toward Waikamaka but soon encountered ice. We used an iron standard to break the ice but only got 30 metres before it became too risky on that rocky ridge. Retiring to the saddle we boiled the billy, enjoyed the scenery and contemplated what to do. We decided to go around the slip to the north and descend a vegetation covered ridge to the Waikamaka Stream. This turned out to be okay, only taking an hour. The trees were covered in snow in snow and ice, with deer and hare sign around. Reaching Waikamaka Hut at three o'clock we cleaned up (rat mess everywhere), had a cup of soup, cup of tea and lit the fire before going for a walk downstream at five o'clock.

There was light snow overnight and Sunday was overcast with very little wind. Leaving the hut at ten o'clock, we were able to climb the rocky ridge to the saddle fairly easily, using our trusty standard. Dave and I lunched at the Waipawa Chalet at one o'clock, getting back to the car at two thirty.

This was a great tramp, with beautiful scenery, a bit of excitement, relaxation and good company.
KN

Party: Dave Mulinder, Ken Nugent

#2004 Golden Crown

29 July, 2007

Just four keen trampers set off for the Ruahine ranges at 6.00 AM. Marion kindly drove her ute to the car park at Master's Shelter. We set off from the car park in perfect weather at about 7.45am. Going up the Golden Crown ridge we stayed pretty well together, stopping frequently to admire the views. It is a steady climb. Once above the scrub, the bush is really beautiful. Lots of bog pine growing up to 3 meters high and mountain beach about the same height as well as some mountain totora.

We arrived at the junction on the main ridge about 10.30am and had another snack. Marion and Judy decided to have a short explore up there and then go back down along the Golden Crown ridge the same way we had come up. They suggested that Jeff and I could carry on and go via Three Fingers and down as per original A trip. So we exchanged our cell phone numbers and went our separate ways.

Jeff and I arrived at peak 1314 - we realized we had overshot the turnoff to Three Fingers. But it was beautiful up there and we had a look around. It was getting cloudy by now, but visibility was still good. We walked back and found a possible track in about the right place, so followed it. Then we came to a small clearing with a white peg in the ground and remarkably, a white marker on a tree. It looked like a track going where we wanted to go. We followed it for all of 7 meters and the track disappeared. This was a good time for some map and compass practice. As we walked along the ridge following the compass course there was the occasional white marker on a tree and sometimes we walked over a track. When we were close to the open space around the three fingers we stopped and had a look around. At that point we could see the ridge faintly through the clouds. Neither of us had ever been there before. On the map there would appear to be a number of possible spurs to go down. As we looked the weather closed in even more and very soon we could no longer see the ridge at all. At that point we phoned Marion to say we would be coming back along Golden Crown Ridge. Just after lunch it started raining. The trip down proved slippery.

We found Marion and Judy at the shelter eating more snacks and having changed out of their wet gear. Many thanks to Marion for providing the transport and thanks to all for being good companions. We had a great day.

MG

Party: Mary Gray, Marion Nicholson, Judy McBride, Jeff Robertson.

August 2007

#2005 Waimarama Beach

Wed. 1 August, 2007

We met at the southern end car park at 9.50am and noted the tide was too high to go south to Cray Bay. So on to plan "B" driving to the north end of Waimarama Beach & walking towards Ocean Beach. First wake up was crossing the first small stream. We couldn't believe how cold the water was as we had taken our boots off to keep them dry (are we getting soft?).

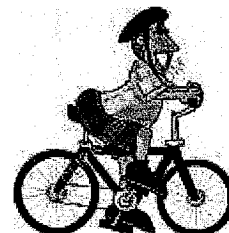
It was very pleasant walking along the beach with mostly sunny skies. We saw our first seal tucked up under a low bank, a few photos were taken. Further along noted how much the hill sides are slowly slipping into the sea. Not just cliff face but hectares of land some 100 to 200 meters up the hill sliding down when it gets sodden with rain.

About noon we found a sheltered spot to have lunch. On the return journey we came across another baby seal in the sand dunes which made its way back to the sea before we passed. Evidently there are large numbers of seals at Bare Island. After returning to the cars it was decided to go back to the southern end as it was now 1 1/2 hours after low tide. For future reference we wanted to see if we could make our way south. The tide was low enough to rock hop to the first beach & to scramble up the next outcrop of rocks to look around to the next bay. It was agreed that to do the walk south when the tides are lower on another day.

BC

Beach walkers: Rodger Burn, Marion Nicholson, Peggy Gulliver, Judy McBride, Bobby Couchman, Keith Thomson, Alasdair Shaw, Barbara Taylor, Marjorie Mussen & Heather & Bob Carter.

HTC Bike Trips



Bike trip to Maraekakaho

Wed. 18 April, 2007

On a very windy Wednesday 6 of us met at Gulliver's place on Highway 50 at 9am for a ride to Maraekakaho and beyond. For once the men outnumbered the ladies by 4 to 2, but it was Judy who did most of the hard work into the head wind while certain others slip streamed!!! Once we got to the monument on the corner, we turned and cycled past Maraekakaho School and on to Morton Estate Winery where we had morning tea. Lovely to see Marion and Gloria, who drove out to spend time with us. We sat on Morton's patio which overlooked the Ngaruroro River with Crownthorpe in the distance--a beautiful vista and very relaxing. From there, we retraced our tracks and veered off to Kembelfield Winery. What a beautiful place and we were made so welcome. I had to drag some cyclists away! Then it was off home with a gorgeous tail wind. We flew. A lovely day and pleasing to know that we can cope with head winds.

Cyclists- Peggy Gulliver, Judy McBride, Rodger Burn, Jim Hewes, Bob Carter, Bruce Allen.

Maraetotora Road Bike Ride

Wed. 16 May, 2007

We all met at the Trading Post by Lake Lopez on the Waimarama Road at 9.00am where we had permission to leave our vehicles. It was another great Hawke's Bay day as we set off along and up Maraetotora Road soaking up the scenery which was all new for Jennie only recently arrived in Hawke's Bay. After a few more up hills we reached the turn off point for Mohi Bush which was an ascent of 300 metres from the Waimarama Road junction.

The return trip was mainly downhill and "Oh" the pleasure of it. We stopped at the Maraetotora Gorge lookout for lunch and just soaked up the sun and scenery. We arrived back at the Trading Post quite refreshed about 1.00pm and enjoyed a cup of tea before returning home. Another great trip and no punctures!
RB.

Party: Marion Nicholson, Bobby Couchman, Raewyn Ricketts, Jennie Pierce, Peggy Gulliver, Mr& Mrs Lyn Gentry, Jim Hewes, Bruce Allen, Alistair Shaw & Rodger Burn

Tour of the Bay 50km Bike Trip

Wed. 25th July, 200

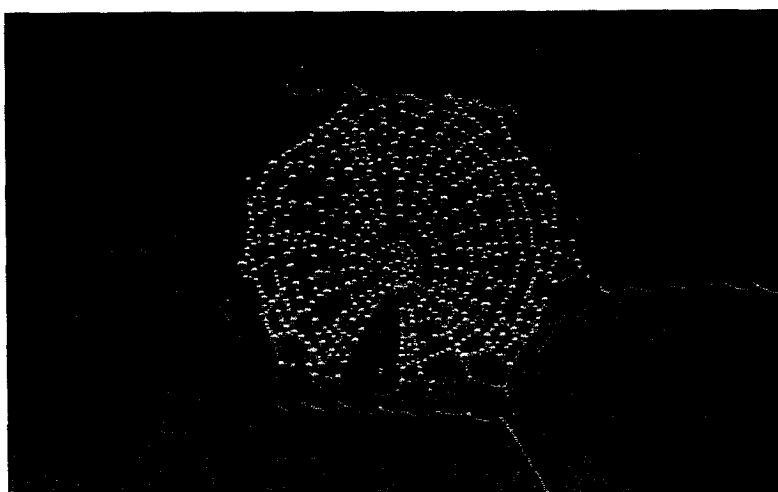
Our group of a dozen bright eyed and bushy tailed cyclists left Peggy Gulliver's house on Highway 50 just before 9.00am and made our way to Valley Road, into a slight head wind, where we turned onto to Raukawa Road. After negotiating a couple of hills we stopped at the Raukawa Hall for a very welcome and well deserved morning tea break. W then turned of Valley Road and thankfully turned into a tail wind as we pedalled our way over a few more hills. Some good Samaritan cyclists tried to assist a lamb back into its paddock – but without success. A bit further along the raid there was another stop ... relief for some! One of our members, Kay Ward, was working in front of her property, so we stopped for a chat. After regrouping we made our way along to Bridge Pa then finally to Peggy's – thanks to Peggy for the use of her property as a base.
JW

Cyclists: Peggy Gulliver, Judy McBride, Marion Nicholson, Jim Hewes, Rodger Burn, Alistair Johnson, Lyn and Lyn Gentry, Bob Carter, Bobby Couchman, Joan Ruffell, Christine Hardy (home from Asia)

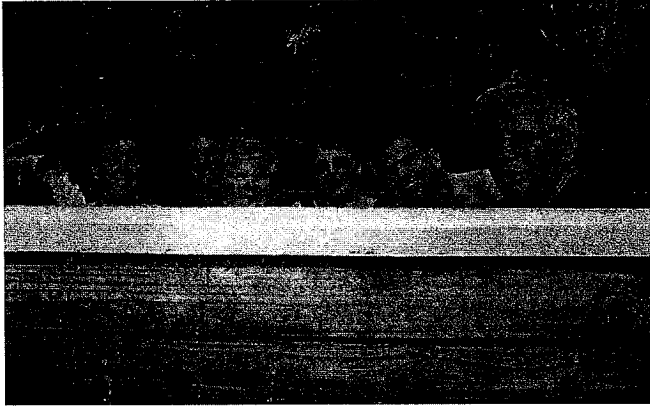
2007 Photo Competition

Overall Winner
&
1st Pictorial Section

Mike Lusk
"Cobweb"



August 2007



1st Club Characters

Christine Snook
"Te Puia group"

1st Flora & Fauna

Mike Lusk
"Seagulls"



1st Digital

Mary Gray
"Lonely Loo"

HTC in Action

John Montgomerie
"In Howletts Hut"



Department of Conservation Whirinaki Forest Park - Track and Hut Update - July 2007

Whirinaki Track	Open and negotiable. Central Whirinaki to Upper Whirinaki via Taumutu Stream. (Use this track). The track is open and negotiable. Central Whirinaki to Upper Whirinaki via Caves. This track has not been cleared. Maintained as a marked route. (High level of experience necessary).
Upper Whirinaki to Upper Te Hoe Hut	Extreme care as track has not been cleared.
Upper Te Hoe River Track to Central Te Hoe	Do not use.
Central Te Hoe to Bullring Clearing	Extreme care – this track has not been cleared
Pukahunui Road	4WD vehicles is advisable but at the moment 2WD vehicles are able to access this road. Not well signposted. Use map. Pukahunui Track is open but has not been cleared of snow damage.
Mangakahika, Rogers (Te Wairoa).	Extreme care as track has not been cleared.
Rogers to Okahu Road end	Open and negotiable
Rogers to River Road end (via Moerangi)	Open and negotiable. Cell phone coverage from Moerangi.
Mangamate Track	Open and negotiable.

CLUB & EXEC. NEWS:

NEW MEMBER:

We welcome David McKenzie to the Club. Dave has been coming out tramping with us for a year or so now and has now officially joined us.

MEETINGS and SPEAKERS:

We have made good use of Club members as speakers over the last 4 months. Alan spoke on his tramping experiences in the Kahurangi National Park (before it was a National Park), Rodger spoke on his trip to Iceland and David B told us of his time he spent working for DOC in the south of the South Island. On two occasions, the scheduled speaker was unable so Alan co-opted firstly himself and then Shirley to speak on the highs and lows of their tramping years. I have received positive comments on all these talks so thanks very much all of you.

Also during this period we had Tamsin Ward Smith give a very interesting and informative talk on the pest proof fence at the Cape and recently we had the guys from Kiwi Outdoors show us the latest in tramping gear – again a very interesting evening.

GET WELL WISHES:

Our thoughts and best wishes are with Kathy Eggers (Turner) who been very unwell lately and also to Darryl, Korban, Sumara, Carlee and Nanna Pam whose lives have been turned upside down because of it. Get well soon Kathy.

NEW BOOKS:

The Club has recently purchased “Ngamatea the Land and the People” by Helen Riseborough for the library and “NZ Alpine Flora and Fauna” for the truck.

August 2007

HAZOMOBILE:

Don't forget that we have one of our major Club fundraisers coming up again this November on the 17th & 18th. A great way of helping out the environment and the Club.

AGM:

The Clubs Annual General Meeting will be held at the Hastings Harrier Club rooms on Wednesday 14 November commencing immediately after the normal fortnightly meeting. As usual all positions are open for nominations and it would be great to have some more new faces on the committee.

FIRST AID COURSE:

Graham Thorpe and John Montgomery are arranging a first aid course to be held in the next 3 months. It will be an opportunity to renew first aid certificates. Members with first aid are required for the Kaweka Challenge. If you are interested please register with Graeme Hare 8448656.

TRIP REPORTS at MEETINGS

Should be CONCISE and PREPARED. Maximum time for day trips 5min and for longer trips 10min. Please talk to your photos and show no more than 10 for a day trip and 15 for a longer trip. The president will ring a bell when you have 1 minute left. Consider a talk in the second half of the meeting for extra-long adventures.

Coming Meetings:

Date	Speaker/Topic	Comments	Hosts	Supper Help
19 Sep	Jean Luc Vachon on Tramping experiences in Banff, Canada.	Maybe a bear story. Or a moose on the loose.	Alan Petersen, John Berry	Anne Cantrick, Anne Blake
3 Oct	MC, Mike Lusk, First Aid Scenario	Learn something by watching role plays. Mike needs a test dummy for a team to fix.	Ken Nugent, Judy McBride	Chris Waldron, Bobby Couchman
17 Oct	Social night	The chance for last minute Labour weekend arrangements	Lew Harrison, Ros Lusk	Dave Heaps, Christine Snook
31 Oct	Garth Eyles, On Pekapeka and other swampy places	Learn more about HBRC restoration projects	Lynette Blackburn, Liz Pindar	Rodger Burn, David Blake
14 Nov	AGM plus visitors from Auckland Tramping club	Talk to trampers from Auckland who are down exploring our neck of the woods for the week. See their bus Big Blue.	Mike Lusk , Ray Manning	Geoff Robinson, Geoff Clibborn
28 Nov	Sir Rodney Gallen on Waikaremoana. To be confirmed.	A highly recommended speaker by Shirley.	Owen Brown , Robyn Madden	Jean-Luc Vachan, Gerald Blackburn
12 Dec	Poetry night MC: Peter Berry	Time for some culture! Max 3 short or one longer. Original if possible or something you have found that will be entertaining	Peggy Gulliver , Randall Goldfinch	Helen Hare , Jon Munn
9 Jan 2008	Social night, Holiday time	Catch up on holiday stories	Philip Mardon, Peter Brown	Joan Ruffell , Jim Hewes

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.

WANGANUI TRAMPING CLUB



50th ANNIVERSARY of the Opening of MANGATURUTURU HUT

22 – 24th March 2008 (EASTER)

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY 22nd – TRIP INTO THE HUT

SUNDAY 23rd - CELEBRATORY DINNER

Replies of interest to:

Russell Donaldson

6 Stafford St.

Wanganui, 4501

Phone: Ah 06 3442275; Mob 027 5149183

E-mail: russelld@clear.net.nz

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.

GEAR LIST FOR DAY & WEEKEND TRAMPS

<u>Wear/Carry</u>	DAY TRIPS	WEEKEND TRIPS
	<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 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.

TRIP LIST AUGUST 2007



Although the area for the trip is generally adhered to the suggested objectives may change for a number of reasons. For pre trip inquiries contact the Organiser or Susan Lopdell 8446697.

25 – 26 August Tongariro National Park \$25Map: National Park Map

Weekend in Tongariro National Park. Plenty of options.

Organiser:

Driver: Geoff Clibborn

Local Day Trip: Manawatu Gorge Organiser:

29 August

Lake Opouahi inspect Predator fence and up to Thomas Bush.

Organizer. Jim Hewes 8776784

W

8 - 9 September (1.5 day trip) Morere/Mahia Peninsular \$25

1.5 day trip to complete walks available in the Morere/Mahia area. An area that the club does not go to often that offers a variety of tracks. Many options possible.

Organiser: Sue Lopdell 8446697

Driver: Geoff Clibborn

12 September

Repeat of Mr Lyn's popular trip from Hauomoana Bridge, then up Tuki Tuki River and overland via Moore Rd to Tuki Tuki Valley Rd and through Private land (providing permission given) to Te Awanga.

Organizer. Lyn Gentry 8750542

W

19 September

Bike ride open to suggestions!

W

22 – 23 September Ruahines \$15 Map U22

A: Howletts, Sawtooth, Tarn Biv, Rosvalls Track.

B: Cashmere Rd via Howletts, out via Morecock Saddle.

Organiser: A:

B:

Driver:

Local Day Trip: Longview Organiser:

26 September

Up Yeomans track to Ellis Hut.

Organizer: TBA.

W

7 Oct

Waikamaka Hut – Working Bee

(No Charge)

Map U22

Leave mid Saturday afternoon and walk into our Club Hut for a tidy up of the area and Hut.

Organizer: Mike Lusk 877832

Driver: Lex Smith

10 Oct

Ahuriri Estuary

Ahuriri Estuary circuit returning via Bay View.

Organizer: Judy McBride 8769756

W

17 Oct

Pakowhai – Bike Ride

Bike ride Pakowhai Park over stop banks to Fernhill and back.

Organizer: Jim Hewes 8776784

W

19-22 Oct

Kaweka – Kaimanawa Traverse

\$25

Maps U20/U19

A: From Makahu Carpark ascend onto main range, along to Venison Tops, Te Puke to Boyd Lodge. Over the Waitawhero and Waiotupurita saddles to Cascade Hut and out to Upper Clements Rd.

B: From Clements Rd to Cascade Hut, over the Waiotupuritia Saddle to Boyds Hut. Return via Waitawhero saddle to the Oamaru or Harkness Valley & out to Clements Rd via Te Iringa.

Organiser: A:

B:

Driver: Geoff Clibborn

24 Oct

Onga Onga – Bike Ride

Drive to Onga Onga area and bike around local scenic areas.

Organizer: Marion Nicholson 8735935

W

4 Nov

Kaweka – Cairn Trip

\$15

Map U20

Come and join the Club President on our annual pilgrimage to the Memorial Cairn atop of Kaweka J, where a brief service is held to remember past members. Various options for return journey to Makahu Carpark.

Organiser: Club President

Driver: Geoff Clibborn

7 Nov

Waipawa River

Waipawa area and explore river walkways.

Organizer: Judy McBride 8769756

W

10-11 Nov Whirinaki Forest park \$25 Map V18
A: From Pine Milling Rd climb up to spot height 1210 & descend to Upper Te Hoe Hut. Sunday return to Plateau Rd via the picturesque Whirinaki River Valley.
B: Walk in with the A Party and stay at Upper Te Hoe Hut. Sunday drive around to Plateau Rd and walk into the caves.
Organiser: A: B: Graeme Hare 8448656
Driver: Geoff Clibborn

14 Nov Boundary Stream
Boundary Stream to Shines Falls and on to Heays Access Rd.
Organizer: Marion Nicholson 8735935

W

17-18 Nov Hazmobile Collection
Come and support this fundraiser for the Club. An enjoyable weekend – help is needed at the Hastings and Napier Collection areas.
Organiser: Graeme Hare 8448656

21 Nov Kaweka Black Birch
Kaweka Black Birch area to Clover Patch
Organizer: Rodger Burn 8776322

W

1-2 Dec Ruahine Crossing \$25 Maps U20/T22
A: from the Western side of the Ruahines, climb onto the main range via Rangiwhia Hut and traverse tops to Mill Rd via Howlett Hut.
B: Climb up to Rangiwhia Hut, onto the Tussock tops descending to Triangle Hut for the night. Sunday follow the Orua River out via Irongate Hut and the Heritage Lodge. Drive around to pick up A party.
Organiser: A: B: Sue Lopdell 8446697
Driver: Geoff Clibborn

5 Dec Tongoio Beach
Tongoio Beach to Waipatiki Beach walk.
Organizer: Bobby Couchman 8778557

W

12 Dec Awatoto – Napier – Bike Ride
Bike Ride Awatoto – Napier EIT – Puketapu – Poraiti circuit or Maraetotora Valley Rd trip.
Organizer: Rodger Burn 8776322

W

16 Dec Kaweka \$15 Map U20
From the Lakes Rd Carpark, walk into Kiwi Saddle Hut, along to Castle Camp and returning either via Rogue or MacIntosh Spurs to truck. Scope for both an A and B party trip.
Organiser:
Driver: Geoff Clibborn

6 Jan 2008 Beach Trip

\$20

From Aromoana Beach walk along the sands to Pourerere, Mangakuri and Kairakau Beaches.

Organiser:

Driver: John Berry

7-11 Jan Waioeka Forest

\$tbc

From Napier, travel along SH36 into the Waioeka Gorge Area, between Opotiki and Gisborne. A very scenic area for all capabilities. Price to be confirmed.

Organiser: Sue Lopdell 8446697

Driver: Lex Smith

13 Jan Kidnappers – Ocean Beach

\$15

Come and assist Tamsin Ward-Smith pulling out pine trees whilst wandering along the predator proof fence.

Organiser:

Driver:

19-20 Jan Wakarara

\$tbc

Map U22

A social / tramping weekend based at Camp Wakarara. Plenty of options for day tramps in the area. Social Evening planned for the Saturday night. Cost to be confirmed.

Organiser: Social Club

Driver:

27 Jan Shutes Hut

\$16

Map U21

From the Napier – Taihape Rd, drive into Komata Hut. Drop steeply to the river (fish or retain your breath) before climbing to the historical Shutes Hut. Return via the same route.

Organiser:

Driver:

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.