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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 7:30pm; visitors are most welcome. 50c donation gratefully accepted each meeting towards hall hire (*place in the old boot*).

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President's Report

Management of the conservation estate continues to change and evolve. As we are aware, DoC is focusing a lot of its resources on the front country [which trampers worry may be at the expense of the back country] and, at the same time, is seeking to increase revenue to overcome funding shortfalls. A major policy thrust is to try and involve more Kiwis [that's the people not the birds] to use the conservation estate and to also help maintain facilities that exist – a laudable aim that is complicated by the fact that the majority of the population in New Zealand lives in the north and most of the must-see destinations are in the south. Destinations are now grouped into Gateway, Icon and Locally Treasured categories and, under the umbrella of the Destination Management Framework [DMF], conservancies around the country appear to be devising ways of managing what facilities they have within their limited budgets.

HTC has just become involved in an initiative with the local conservancy - despite misgivings about some aspects of it. A DMF proposal has stated that DoC can no longer maintain 50% of the facilities [tracks, huts, bridges, roads, airstrips] in the Ruahine Forest Park and is seeking help from user groups to rank them so DoC can then decide which 50% to maintain and which 50% to close or devolve to sponsors such as businesses or volunteer groups [such as HTC]. My consultation with HTC members has resulted in a stance [voiced at a club meeting] of opposition to any kind of downgrading of facilities on the conservation estate and I have conveyed this decision to all levels of the DoC hierarchy. Despite this the club committee has decided to keep involved in the process so that we remain aware of what is going on. At the time of writing, two of our members have been to two meetings with DoC and other user group representatives to compare notes regarding this ranking of huts and tracks – I am grateful to Glenda and Monty for undertaking this task. The review process is continuing.

Once again we can look back on several months of successful trips by HTC members – always allowing for the vagaries of winter. As well as our regular programmes, there have been other activities on offer. There was a good turnout for the progressive dinner cum dress-up party: the supply of delicious food was enormous and the costumes were imaginative, especially the pregnant ladies' team! Thanks Gentrys and the team of organisers plus Alasdair, Jim and Glenda-Peter who let us into their homes. The annual Birthday Boys' Bash also went without a hitch in truly spectacular weather. A small fundraiser was completed – thanks to Graeme we have pocketed a few more dollars by sorting e-waste. On the down side we are wishing speedy recoveries for members who have suffered illness or accident lately: Dave Mulinder is in intensive care after a bad car crash and our long-time treasurer, Lex Smith, is recovering from surgery. Our best wishes go to both of them.

Christine Hardie

TRIP REPORTS

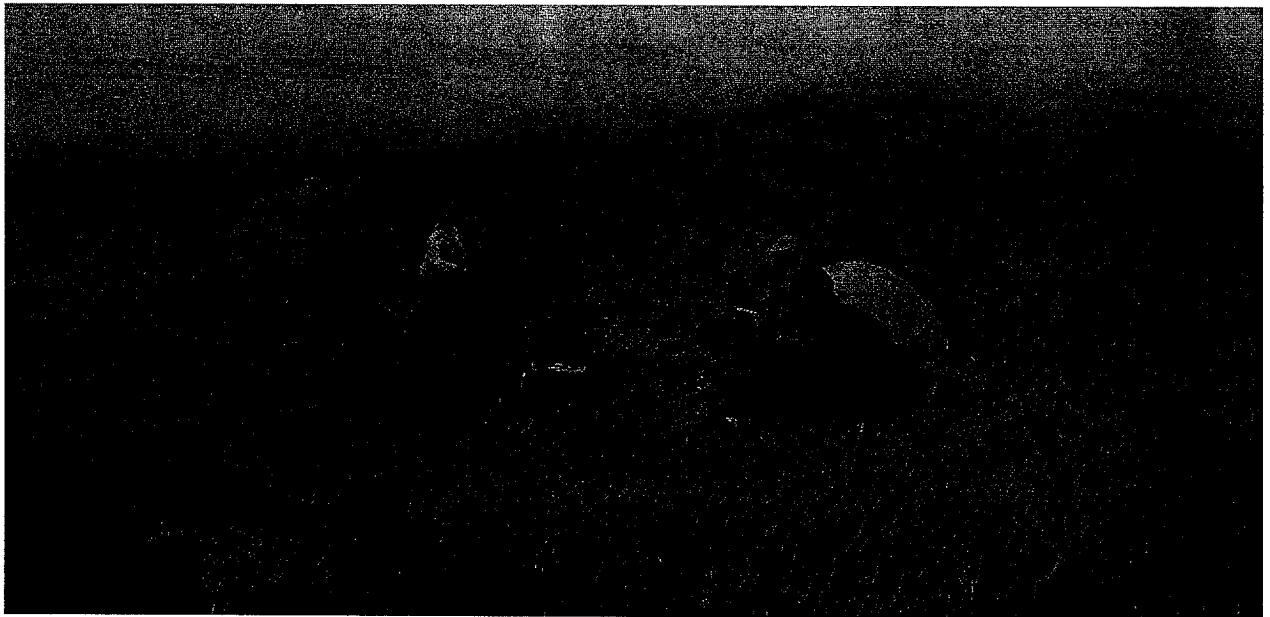
#2178	Ruahine Corner Trip	Waitangi Weekend	4 – 6 February 2012
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Party A: Permission from Otupae and Mangaohane Stations and the Awarua Maori Trust allowed the club to get in to this area by driving through the two stations to the boundary of the trust land. This involved a 12km route through open paddocks and tracks plus some cross-country travel. Five vehicles - a Hilux, a Ford Ranger and three Suzuki Escudo/Vitaras transported 20 people from Hastings to the gate at the trust lands. For fitness reasons Pam planned to stay with the vehicles so we farewelled her and proceeded on in cloud/fog which made us temporarily lose direction in the tussock! We regained the route but Bob decided to return to the vehicles and so kept Pam company. They rigged a fly up and had a reasonable little camp.

Pohokura

Eighteen made it to Ruahine Corner Hut, about an eight km route through tussock on rolling plateau country. As the first fast party arrived, so did a helicopter - to be greeted by us on the hut porch. Gone was their plan to be sole user of the hut! They camped nearby until the hut was vacated by our B party on Monday. The 11 staying at Ruahine corner had an unusual mix of ages from baby Keri Blake [7 months] with 2 ½ year old Terry Godbert-Fowler to retirees [who would not give their exact ages].

Seven of us set off south to Potae Trig, down the spur to the Mangatera River and then up the Remutipo River to stop at Colenso Hut. Before the daylight faded we all went 10 minutes extra to view Lake Colenso, a gem of a little lake tucked in the central Ruahine, probably created by a landslide aeons ago. We shared the hut with four from Wellington. Next morning the A trippers went further up the Remutipo River to where it meets a T junction at its headwaters. Using the south option we moved to the spur that once had a track going up the south side of the rocky slip scar off the top of the range. I scouted about [22 years ago it was a good track] and found just the ground marks of an old track so persisted up this to establish it as the route. There were NO MARKERS; DoC must have removed them! Down to get the troops and follow the route back up! It was quite a challenge as the leatherwood made it borderline impossible to get through in places. It was very steep as well - using the slip scar as a route was folly. I had a light slasher with me and so dealt to the worst vegetation in order to get a way through. It took us three hours to get from the creek at the bottom of the spur to the ridge and main range just south of Te Atu Mahuru! Once at the top views were generally clear. Earlier, the range had been clagged in to a low level and it all closed in again when we were near the big tarn north of Ina Rock. We navigated on, heading for Kylie Biv. Possible camp sites there were not guaranteed so we stopped instead at a tarn with useful water near Tupari Trig. There was some debate about best tent sites out of the wind constant changes in direction meant that it did not really matter. The situation was not pleasant with this strong wind, heavy mist/light rain and quite low temperatures. A bit miserable.....we had six tents for seven people so it looked like a small village!



Nothing changed weather-wise overnight and we broke camp early to try and get to Ruahine Corner by 10a.m. Thick fog necessitated the trusty old compass to keep on course and an hour later we were at Trig U after weaving through the proliferation of tarns. Next it was north-west to Potae through the saddle with quite a descent, another climb with everyone changing colour as they shed layers. Now we were out of the wind. Once at Potae it was the scenic route along the top to reach Ruahine Corner, a little later than planned. The B party members had all moved on towards the vehicles so we did the same, getting there at about midday. It had been a bit of a grunter which took its toll on some. However all had soldiered on regardless in spite of the challenges.

It was unfortunate not to have been able to mix with the B group as they had done so many interesting side trips and missions. We were all busy unloading, changing and doing all the end-of-trip things with the five vehicles scattered on the small flat area like corralled wagons. I was concerned about one particular track up a hill near the Mangaohane boundary being slippery but, as grass had covered most of it and the rain was not

August 2012

Pohokura

heavy, we climbed it with no problem. It took about an hour to get back through the two stations to the Otupae base where we farewelled each other and got back on the real road home.

Everyone seemed really chuffed to have had the chance to get into this area so maybe we can make it a regular event with the continuing permission of the three owners. This trip was only possible with the 4WD vehicles made available by their owners, so thank you for that. JM

Party: Roger Montgomerie, Lisa Brownless [Tauranga], Randall Goldfinch, Brent Hickey, Anne Cantrick, Mark Hutchinson, John Montgomerie.

Party B: The team held back as we approached Ruahine Hut to allow the A team to speed away to Colenso Hut. The families and Mike put up their tents leaving four in the hut overnight. It really was a joy to have Terry and Keri with us for the weekend, and the 'Aunties' loved it too.

On Sunday the families explored the beautiful bush, tussock, tomos (large limestone holes in the ground) and streams around Ruahine Corner Hut. The gnarly old cedars in this area are very different from the normal Ruahine bush and it was a joy to be among them. Five of us prepared day packs and set off via Potae Trig for Lake Colenso. It was a very enjoyable and satisfying day. Two Canadians from Wellington who were instrumental in getting Jean-Luc to come to NZ stayed overnight. We left a clean and tidy Ruahine Corner Hut for the additional hunters due to arrive later on Monday and, after visiting the caves that Terry and Keri had discovered, we reluctantly headed towards the cars, and Pam and Bob. We did not have long to wait until the A team arrived.



Our thanks go to Monty for obtaining permission from all the landowners and organising a marvellous Waitangi Weekend trip. GRH

Party: Susan Lopdell, Lynette and Gerald Blackburn, Mike Bull, Andy and Terry Fowler, Tina Godbert David, Anne and Keri Blake, Graeme Hare

#2179 Pinus Contorta Pulling**24 - 25 March 2012**

We left Hastings at about 7.00am on the Saturday, travelling over the Napier-Taihape road with a brief stop at the historic bridge alongside the Rangitaiki River. This has been tidied up with toilet installed and plantings of natives, a project taken on by the local community.

We were slightly late meeting up with Daniel from DoC and members of the Wanganui Tramping Club outside the Karioi Paper Mill but continued for 10-15 kms along forestry roads to the carpark just outside the park boundary where we set up camp in a nice patch of beech forest, sheltered from most prevailing winds.

Saturday p.m. was spent pulling out *pinus contorta* on the eastern side of the Wahianoa River with a gentle breeze and, above us, Ruapehu standing out and not a cloud to be seen. We returned to our camp at about 5.30 p.m. and sat down to a feast of barbecued meats (compliments of DoC), salads and vegetables followed by dessert. What a great way to finish the day.

The wind got up during the night and those who were in the truck had a sleepless night. Got away quite early and this time we swept up to the Round-the-Mountain Track, back down the western edges of the river and then it was the trudge back along the pumice track for a late lunch.

There were 17 members from both clubs - eight from HTC which was a disappointing turnout for a club fundraiser. This was an enjoyable weekend away, the weather was kind to us, we pulled out 800 seedlings and enjoyed meeting members from another like-minded tramping club. We are going to be doing it again in summer next year, probably November. See you there. SL

Party: Anne Cantrick, Lex Smith, Graeme Hare, Christine Snook, Susan Lopdell, John Montgomerie, Glenda Hooper, Penny Isherwood

#2180 Tangoio Beach**ANZAC DAY 25 April 2012**

This was a last-minute choice because many people had other commitments but a gratifying number turned up to take a stroll over the stones. As the tide was still a little high we first headed south along the beach as far as the Esk River mouth. It was a flawless morning and everyone was impressed with the waders and other birds along the way. Gravel and stones are heaped in huge layers which make for some challenging walking at times.

After investigating this end of the beach we turned back to the track at the bottom of the cliffs. It has suffered some slips and washouts in places and the surface can be slippery at times but eventually everyone negotiated their way along the route and down to the first little beach. Sheila Cunningham in her guidebook states that "a certain sure-footedness is necessary" and she is not wrong but everyone was careful and no injuries were reported. Remains of the well-known boat sheds are still visible at the northern end of the Tangoio bay but they are steadily deteriorating.

At the flat section, Whakaari Reserve (an old Maori canoe landing place), we regrouped before tackling the last scramble over to Flat Rock. Along the way we were greeted by Geoff who was paddling around the coastline in one of his little kayaks. Further back some children were swimming, something that the HTC members decided was not for them! Flat Rock (Te Papa) was its usual collection of sharp-edged rocks, fossils and pools which we walked right around to Stingray Beach. Here we stopped for a lunchette, eaten while perching on driftwood logs.

After this interval some of the party headed back for the cars while a few people went on to investigate the state of Kopua Beach on the other side of the bluff. Back at the road end we met up with Geoff and Evelyn who had brought their motor home for an outing and who were entertaining Pam. Good to see you out again, Pam, and thanks for the home baking. Although this walk is close to town and relatively easy it is a good place to see the volatile state of the Hawke's Bay coastline and the effects of modification on our landscapes; a pleasant interlude on a lovely day. CH

Party: Susan Lopdell, Penny Isherwood, Bobby Couchman, Glenda Hooper, Maureen Broad, Garry Smith, Marion Nicholson, Brent Hickey, Janice Love, Mr & Mrs Lyn Gentry, Marjolene Turel, Graeme and Helen Hare, Pam Turner, Geoff and Evelyn Clibborn, Anne Cantrick

A small group left Pernel at 7.30.am on a beautiful autumn day and drove to Middle Hill carpark; made one stop at Pam Turner's gate where she stayed for the day to complete chores and invited us to return later for a cuppa. We arrived at Middle Hill carpark at 9.30 a.m. to meet our "Kiwi Lady", Mary, with her two six month-old female kiwis, both ready in their chilly bins for the tramp to Middle Hill Hut. We had turns at carrying the kiwis which gave us warm fuzzy feelings to be involved with the dedicated voluntary work that Mary does. She demonstrated and explained the tracking devices she uses and, after answering our many questions, we walked on to the hut nearby. A quick lunch, then about 100 metres from the hut Mary weighed each kiwi, removed the tracking devices and then came the most rewarding part of the day: each of us had the privilege of holding a kiwi. It was an amazing experience that we will never forget. Marj and Graeme had the honour of releasing the kiwis and we all watched them quickly disappear into their natural habitat. Many thanks, Mary, for inviting us along.

Our fantastic day ended with a 'Pam's famous afternoon tea' (including scones with jam and cream!) Thank you, Pam. A fascinating evening sky was a final touch to our astounding day.

Thanks also to drivers, Christine and Paul

JL

Party: Christine Hardie, Chrissy Waldron, Marjorie Musson, Janice Love, Graeme Hare, Paul Whateley, Pam Turner



Eleven keen travellers left promptly at departure time - 5:45a.m. - and had a smooth journey across to Wanganui, apart from the customary comfort stop at Dannevirke where the intricacies of automated toilets caused some amusement. We cruised into a sleepy Wanganui and parked up at Virginia Lake to stretch the legs with one eye out for the Wanganui Club passing in their van. However, they were not spotted so we journeyed on up the main highway before turning inland at Kai Iwi. This took us past the well known Bushy Park Reserve then a further 12 km to Junction Road. A few km along this road Glenda recognised a side track heading up to the forest as the designated place to meet the Wanganui group. By the time their 13 members arrived we had readied ourselves for tramping. Basil, Glenda's brother, was our leader. He is the pioneer of a project to set up a public walkway track in the bush around the old Wanganui Water Works dam at Waitahinga. Accordingly, we were privileged to be able to tramp along the proposed route before it is eventually developed into a walkway.

We headed off around up this forestry road for a short distance before turning onto a track through pines then an area of tall pampas grass before meeting the native forest. Basil had occasional markers, from previous visits, to follow down a ridgeline through a predominantly mahoe forest. Some of these trees created interest with their gnarled, misshapen trunks and exposed roots. We admired other magnificent huge old trees towering overhead, rimu and rata among them. By midday we arrived at a small clearing, Cannabis Green [a former plot] and enjoyed a lunch break in the sunshine while chatting with fellow Wanganui trampers. We then continued down the ridge to a fence line which we nipped over and used a farm track for the final descent to the dam. What a picturesque little gem - set in the forest in the middle of nowhere. Everyone plopped down to savour this tranquil scene and then explore the old dam.

To return, we crossed the dam wall and headed along an old pack track, over a few windfalls. Then, over a stream and up a steep bank as best we could to finally enter "spaghetti junction". Basil had been hyping us up for this treat! Aptly named, this was an expansive area of supplejack, festooning the forest every which way and ready to entangle any entrant. The novelty of being a contortionist soon wore off!!! Eventually we all struggled through and passed a number of big wheki-ponga with their skirts of dead fronds. We meandered through the forest back up this spur to the point where we had entered. We were back at the vehicles soon after 4:30pm, thanked our companions, especially Basil for a most enjoyable and special experience, and set off for the city. As we left, the sun was setting with amazing colours across the rugged hinterland. Clear views were had in of both Mount Taranaki – Egmont and Ruapehu shrouded in purple and pink.

At the Aramoho Top 10 Motor Camp we all had a very slick spruce-up get to The Brick House restaurant by 7 p.m. for a meal with some of the Wanganui members. It was a very pleasant evening with good food, in the restored Workingmen's Club, a beautiful historic building.

Sunday was an early departure time at 7 a.m. to follow the Wanganui TC van to the southern Ruahines at the Opawe road-end and thence up the Pohangina Valley. Six of our group joined eight Wanganui trampers and headed up hilly farmland to enter the forest where Opawe Hut had once stood. It was a reasonably strenuous 900 metre climb through beautiful forest of mainly rimu, kamahi, tawa and horopito. On over a few knobbly, rocky knolls to gain the summit of Mt Maharahara. Luckily we had the excuse to rest our leg muscles frequently throughout the climb in order to enjoy superb panoramic views in all directions. We lunched at the summit and were glad of the shelter provided by the leatherwood as the breeze was cool and clouds now engulfed us. The leatherwood formed a long "corridor" that snaked across the top area for some distance. We spotted Keretaki Hut to the south before descending the long, gradual ridge east through tall toetoe and snow grass to finally drop off, quite steeply, to the Mangapuaka River. The river bed was the route to Kumeti Road-end where, we warmly farewelled our Wanganui companions and waited for our truck party to arrive. This group had followed us up the Maharahara track to the first vantage point to enjoy the views. They then returned part-way down the Pohangina Valley to Totara Reserve, where they did the Fern Walk and were impressed by the mighty trees. This area is noted as being the best local example of the ancient forest that once covered the region.

Our thanks go to Basil Hooper and the Wanganui trampers who were such friendly hosts, Christine [for driving 668 km], and those HTC adventurers who came along to make this an excellent trip. AC

Party: Maureen Broad, Penny Isherwood, Christine Snook, Glenda Hooper, Susan Lopdell, Marion Nicholson, Marjorie Musson, Randall Goldfinch, Graeme Hare, Christine Hardie, Anne Cantrick

#2183

Sunrise Hut

23 May 2012

After all the cold, wet unseasonable weather we had been having it was so nice to have a perfect day for our tramp to Sunrise Hut in the Ruahine Range. It is an easy two to three uphill walk, made worthwhile by the great views. The high ridges were dusted with snow so were picture-postcard perfect. Christine checked out the track to Armstrong Saddle and said it was icy so, apart from the hill behind the hut, the rest of us went no further. After lunch on the porch of Sunrise it was an easy walk down to the truck to meet up with Garry and Rodger who had chosen to do a low level walk from Swamp Track to the Waipawa River.

Party: Christine Hardic, Bobby Couchman, Brent Hickey, Heather Stephenson, Marjorie Musson, Margaret Graham, Jill Connor, Garry Smith, Rodger Burn, Graeme Hare, Pauline Mahoney, Judy McBride

#218

Mount Ruapehu

Queen's Birthday

2 - 4 June 2012

A Party

Turoa Road to Waihohonu

Saturday: 10.30 a.m. saw our group of eight leave Turoa Road carpark to head east on the Round-the-Mountain Track [RTM] after making a detour to check out Blythe Hut. Six of us opted to climb above the hut and beyond the bushline where the views were clear in all directions including full vistas of the upper mountain. Alan and Christine went back to the RTM and the rest of us climbed up to the easy country at the head of the gullies to the east - crossing these individually would have been tedious. We chose a likely looking spur and bush-bashed down, avoiding washed-out guts, to emerge in the tussock and striking the track about a kilometre from Mangaehuehu Hut. Our three o'clock arrival left plenty of time to bag a bunk - the hut was full - and get firewood. Both wood sheds on either side of the porch were full of what looked like Douglas Fir. As the night went on, the fire became too uncomfortably hot to sleep! A DoC party played cards in a separate room until late and enjoyed themselves. They had been constructing wooden steps and boardwalks nearby after being choppered in so had all the bells and whistles plus medicinal drinks!

Sunday: away at about eight - after a good frost the ground was frozen solid in shaded areas. Fortunately the drizzle and wind that was forecast did not arrive and it was a clear day for us to enjoy. The track maintained a steady height with some ups and downs as we climbed from Waihanoa Stream to Rangipo Hut. People going the other way told us there was no water at Rangipo so, at the frozen stream just before the hut, we broke ice to get water from the rock pools. We carried all manner of utensils full of the stuff including ice 50mm thick which we thawed in a frying pan on the stove after carving it up with an ice axe! Arrived to an empty hut at about two o'clock, so Mark, Anne and Andy climbed another 300m or so for a look around. Robin and I retreated as it was clagging in with a biting wind. I could not accept the no-water story without checking it out and found that the tanks were very low although a stop cock at the back of the tank gave us water. The strange thing was that the tap in the hut would have only delivered water when the tank was more than half full! That evening the sunset was spectacular and since we could not see the actual event [being on the east side of the mountain] we were treated to amazingly colourful clouds over the Kaimanawa ranges - all shapes including lenticular and saucer-shaped wind clouds that changed colour by the minute. It was still clear so we had high hopes for tomorrow too.

Monday: a 7.30 start with about 18km to go; again a clear day but cool. The hut porch was a skating rink with the overnight frost and the track similarly frozen. The next feature was the Whangaehu River with its high bridge. This valley, coming down from the mountain and Crater Lake, is initially wide but narrows into a chasm. Evidence was there to show how lahar material can rise in the constriction and take out the bridge. Further on, after crossing the Tukino Skifield road, there were some neat areas of boulders strewn about as if placed and grotesquely-shaped alpine shrubs - probably decades old - with roots more than half-exposed but hanging in and alive. Ngauruhoe started to appear from its shroud, later becoming fully clear. Next it was into the alpine shrub environment which showing many colours in winter. A short deviation to the Ohinepango Spring which delivers probably a cubic metre of crystal-clear water a second and Andy taking a chilling dip. Onwards we went until reaching Waihohonu Hut and happening upon the B party coming back from the old, historic Waihohonu Hut.



This new Waihohonu Hut is a palace with solar hot water systems and running hot water!! I could not believe my eyes to see such an expensive overkill of a so-called hut, one hour from a main road! The older hut now sits forlorn over Ohinepango Stream and I don't know if it is still used. We took the opportunity to lunch there and wandered out to the truck at the Desert Road carpark before getting away at about 3.30 p.m. Many thanks to David for the driving - over via the Taihape Road and returning via Taupo with an inevitable stop at Turangi for some sustenance. Our ice axes and crampons served as ornaments on this trip but you never can tell up there. JM

Party: Robin Heath, Andy Fowler, Alan Petersen , Christine Snook, Mark Hutchinson, Anne Cantrick
Jason Mckinley, John Montgomerie

B Party: A very heavy frost meant a slow trip from Pernel to Ohakune Mountain Road and we finally arrived at Blythe Hut carpark at around 10.15 a.m. After the A Party set off we drove up to the Maungaturuturu Park where Basil Hooper, our guide for the day, was waiting. Given the lateness we decided to reduce the proposed trip and went north-east into the area off the track to Maungaturuturu Hut. The day was now brilliantly fine and we were soon removing our excess clothing. This was an interesting trip; much of the landscape is strewn with rocks and lots of small to medium-sized waterfalls. Beside the streams, mosses and alpine vegetation dominate and there was at least one mountain buttercup still in flower. We had lunch beside a stream and continued over to another tributary where we said good-bye to Basil and returned to the truck.

On our way to Ohakune we stopped at the DoC station to do the one-hour Mangawhero River walk, after which we did a quick shop and went to David's uncle's bach, our accommodation for the next two nights. While we had enjoyed a cloudless day up the mountain, it had been misty in Ohakune all day and we were very glad to have both a heat pump and a fire to keep us warm.



On Sunday we went back up the mountain road and walked into Blythe Hut. Not such good weather this time but we still got reasonable views and didn't get wet until the trip back down the Old Blythe track in a light drizzle. This track is in poor condition - the board walks have mainly disintegrated so we were walking in a bog most of the way.

Monday, our final day, was a walk in to Waihothonu Hut to meet the A Party. Once again we had good weather and good views. As we reached the "hut" [in reality a \$5,000,000 over-the-top, waste-of-money, palace] ahead of the other party we walked over to the historic Waihothonu Hut which, we felt, blended far better with the environment. The A party arrived safely so we had lunch together before returning to the truck and heading for home. Many thanks to David for driving, Keri for navigating and to all the others for their company.

GH

Party: David, Anne and Keri Blake, Margaret Graham, Glenda Hooper

#2185

Tramping for Venus

Wed 6 June 2012

Something a bit different today: our original trip was altered to fit in with the once-in-a-lifetime chance to see the Transit of Venus which, as we all know, is an important event in the history of New Zealand/Aotearoa. The mid-week group decided to go for a shortish walk around parts of Napier Hill before going to the HB Planetarium to glimpse the transit through telescopes available for public viewing.

The weather forecast was not very encouraging – in fact, the South Island was being swept by vicious winds and snow as we met in balmy weather at the top end of the Botanical Gardens. Ten of us walked briskly down Goldsmith Terrace (mingling with the men laying the super speedy broadband cable) to the flats on the Ahuriri side of the hill. We then walked along Battery Road as far as Seapoint Road which led us upwards and onwards to the lookout on Bluff Hill. Clouds were drifting around so we didn't linger despite the view. Down through Sturm's Gully, heading south past the two girls' high schools, a few ups and downs and back to Napier Terrace and the cars. On the last stretch we were greeted by Tina and son Terry on their way back from a swimming class – they recognised us we were plodding along (dodging more road workers).

August 2012

The next stage in our big day out was a drive through the busy streets of Napier over to the Boys' High where we were joined by Liz Pindar and Penny Isherwood. There was just enough time for all of us to get a pretty good view of the transit through the aforesaid telescopes that the HB Astronomical Society had set up in the park area by the school before the cloud cover solidified and cut out any further watching. We had a good look around the Holt Planetarium including the big screen photos of the transit that were coming through the camera on the roof – after the local scene clouded over, we could see the pictures from Hawaii courtesy of NASA. Although the sight of a little black circle creeping over the hot surface of the sun is possibly not hugely spectacular by galactic standards, we all decided that it was great to have been able to see something that is not going to be visible again from Earth until 2117. CH

Party: Christine Hardie, Garry Smith, Heather Stephenson, Rodger Burn, Judy McBride, Raewyn Ricketts, Alan Berry, Mary Gray, Keith Thomson, Pauline Mahoney

#2186	Parks Peak Hut - Ruahines	17 June 2012
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With a 7.00 a.m. start we left Pernel for Mangleton Road end where, at 8.30, six bods tramped off across a bit of frosty farmland, on to conservation estate and followed the track to Sentry Box Hut. The weather conditions were perfect, albeit with very chilly temperatures, accompanied by a blue sky and sunshine twinkling through the bush. The steady climb to the Parks Peak ridge is about 750 metres and we had breaks to view the beautiful farming landscape below with our miniature HTC truck parked beside the road. Ten centimetres of soft snow with some icy underlay was encountered as we plodded up the last 300m – it got thicker the higher we went. Very attractive falls on the beech trees, however. The track has been very recently re-cut and chopped branches litter the ground. Recent bad weather made it super slippery especially on the bottom section so great care was needed. We met four guys coming down who had stayed Saturday night at Parks Peak Hut but didn't have a lot to say as they carefully negotiated the steep slope.

By 11.15 the faster people had reached the track turn-off, veered south and made faster progress along the ridge to the hut. Along the way we could catch glimpses through gaps in the trees of Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe, both looking magnificent with their snowy coatings. The group (most of whom had not seen the new hut) thought that Parks Peak Hut is nicely sited for sunshine: the design is fabulous with beautiful wooden furniture and features like the grill flush with the veranda deck plus stainless steel bolts, big windows and front door looking so classy. The tail-end Charlie – our plodding president – eventually reached the hut after everyone else and the group had an enjoyable lunch break until about one o'clock when we started the return journey to our truck.

The return tramp was reasonably uneventful except for a few slides and brief encounters with the ground for one or two people! We zoomed back northwards to the track junction then eastwards, slipping and dancing ever downwards along the ridge, over Rocky Knoll and on to Sentry Box Hut before continuing out to the truck. It was about 3.30pm by then with the north-easterly side of the ridge, where we were parked, in shade and a cold little breeze moving in from the south. The temperature was dropping fast so our small party changed and packed quick smart for the return to town to start the new week all feeling good. Big thanks for great weather and the drivers. RG

Party: Christine Hardie, Christine Snook, Janice Love, Margaret Graham, Paul Whateley, Randall Goldfinch

#2187	Bell Rock – Maungaharuru Range	Wed 20 June 2012
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Thirteen souls set out for Bell Rock on a beautiful mild day although there were a few black clouds on the horizon in the vicinity of the Maungaharuru Ranges. We were a bit concerned as we drew nearer because the wind was strong and the temperature was going down. Would we get any views or would it be a sea of mist? We arrived and climbed up through the bush at the start of the track. Beautiful and lots of birds.

Emerging into the open and, as always, I heard the wonderful sound of music at such a spectacular view. Marion said she knew a short-cut along the cliff edge and there were some magnificent rock formations. It was a bit tricky negotiating a fence in the gale - Graeme bravely hung on to Raewyn's crutch to get her over [well, that was his version of the story]. We arrived at the rock and huddled down out of the wind while a few gallivanted hair-raisingly over the rock and posed for photos.

Because of the cold and wind, we headed back to the bush for lunch then returned the way we had come. We met a Swedish family on their way up - their last day in NZ and they were determined to see Bell Rock!

August 2012

Pohokura

On the way home we stopped off at the entrance to Boundary Stream to look at the new Maori gateway and the huge aviaries [no birds as yet]. At Opouahi we dropped in to see how the new shelter was coming along - very impressive. A larger building is going in to keep canoes and other gear locked up with the shelter constructed on the side. It will have seats all round and a carved doorway. The pupils from Hastings Boys' High are doing the construction work. Their supervisor was there and was very informative. Home by four pm; another great day in Hawke's Bay. Thanks to Christine for all her skill in negotiating the winding road.

Party: Christine Hardie, Gary Smith, Joan Ruffel, Rodger Burn, Heather Stephenson, Marion Nicholson, Bobby Couchman, Susan McKenzie, Keith Thompson, Raewyn Rickets, Graeme Hare, Bruce Finn, Pauline Mahoney.

#2188

Barlow and Park's Peak Track

30 June - 1 July 2012

We approached the ranges on a fine day but the low snow and ice in the puddles at the road-end forewarned us that we were in for a cool experience. So it proved; the river crossings were icy and knee-deep at least, making the sight of Barlow Hut on its river terrace most welcome. The Corker Cooker and a change of clothing soon defrosted feet and legs but, even after lashings of warm food, nobody took up my kind offer of a nocturnal (and unsuccessful) weta hunt. Following a brief but revealing urological confessional we all enjoyed a warm night, though it wasn't long enough for one who complained bitterly at 7a.m. when the roar of the first gas cooker woke her!

Anyone who wasn't completely alert became fully so during the river crossing required to reach the link track which it was our task to clear. Since it was last done two years ago the small shrubs under the red beech have grown vigorously so progress was slow and pleasant on the very steep slope. Higher up, we needed to re-route the track past a couple of large windfalls. At about lunchtime we had reached the lower extent of the snow and the upper extent of the shrubbery, which was perfect, as time demanded that we needed to start tramping in earnest to reach the car by dark. The snow became ever deeper but was never difficult, and was surprisingly pocked with many fresh deer tracks together with orange patches showing that wildlife too, have bladder issues. I was pleased to find, lying on the snow, a couple of tree weta, one dead and the other nearly so. The latter responded to standard hypothermia management and by evening was restored, though not obviously grateful. He's now in the deep freeze awaiting transit to Massey University. The snow was deep, crisp and uneven on the ridge but had gone by the time we reached the steep part of the descent to Yeoman's Track so we made good time, enduring the last river crossing to reach the car just before the light faded.

Moral: If no member of the Fixtures Committee intends coming on your trip, be very, very suspicious. ML

Trampers: Christine Snook, Maureen Broad, Glenda Hooper, Randall Goldfinch, Mike Lusk.

#2189

Birthday Boys and Girls Bash – Robson Lodge

18 - 19 July 2012

This year a cheerful and enthusiastic group of 16 was blessed with some of the best winter weather experienced for a good while - clear blue skies and little wind. On arrival at the Lodge (which was clean and tidy) we soon had the fires going with Randall's bagfuls followed by Marion and her huge load of wood courtesy of Fred. No way would we be getting cold. We even left firewood for the next visitors! In the afternoon we walked down to the bridge and the picnic area then up to the top of the Gentle Annie where we tried to find the start of the Te Iringa track which appears to be overgrown.

That night Graeme and Mr Lyn supervised a number of fun games and brain teasers which kept everybody entertained. No special soup this year as Pam had gone down at the last moment with a virus but everyone else excelled themselves with tasty treats - Heather brought a very nice birthday cake for her big day and Liz's baking also went down a treat. The following morning Mr Lyn, as is his custom, treated the ladies to a cooked English Breakfast which went down a treat - not much left for the guys!

After such a feast we embarked on a number of local walks in continuing fine weather. One group did a big climb of Bonny Mary along the forestry roads among the logging which is currently being done. After lunch most party-goers returned to town leaving five blokes with Heather to improve the tone somewhat. They did their best to consume the remaining food. Thank you all for again making this such a fun and successful event.

RB

August 2012

Party: Marion Nicholson, Penny Isherwood, Christine Hardie, Heather Stephenson, Lyn and Lyn Gentry, Graeme and Helen Hare, Bruce and Anne Finn, Liz Pindar, Marjorie Musson, Randall Goldfinch, Garry Smith, Jim Hewes, Rodger Burn

#2190

Manawatu Gorge

28 - 29 July 2012

This trip replaced the Whirinaki weekend which was cancelled due to road wash-outs. There were three new people in the group of seven travelling by car to view what has been happening with the slips in the Manawatu Gorge. We drove through some dense fog which persisted until Dannevirke. A welcome break was taken with some tasty morsels purchased at the bakery in Woodville and we arrived at the Ballance Road carpark after 9.00 a.m. Sunshine, a slight wind and a cool five degrees were perfect for walking on a well-benched track that meandered its way uphill through predominately tawa forest with maire, rimu, nikau, mamaku, silver ferns and kawakawa. We stopped at all four lookouts over the Manawatu River and viewed the wind farm at the half-way mark, aided by inquisitive yearling cattle. Since my last visit to this track some sections have been re-routed and there is a brand new bridge over one of the larger stream beds. About eight kilometres along the track we came across the road where the contractors had cut through the bush in order to reach the top of the slip. Steps have been constructed down to a BBQ table - the midway point - then to a viewing platform situated at the top of the slip (not yet open to the public). Three of the party continued to walk to the Ashhurst end of the gorge and then attempted - successfully - to return via the road. Someone must have let them through! We all met up again at the cars then carried on for a coffee stop at Digby's Cafe in Woodville. Home by 5.00 p.m.

Party: Susan Lopdell, Glenda Hooper, John Montgomerie, Brenda Thomas, Kara from the Czech Republic and Anka from Holland.

From the Archives

Fifty Years Ago

During the winter of 1962 HTC members completed many enjoyable trips.

Nancy Tanner led a trip in the Kawekas in July: We left Holts at 6.20 on a frosty morning with a cloudless sky. The wind got up later as did the heavy clouds which started rolling in from the west. At the turn-off, in terribly cold conditions, we struck off for the Lawrence. Half an hour gone and Black Whare was reached. Then down and up the other side of Happy Valley; from there the 1200 foot drop into the Lawrence River. So far it had taken 1¾ hours. A sign of a humorous nature was found, "Emergency food for anybody caught out (including George Wilder)".

After lunch and reading the rain gauge we trotted off to the river which was cold! With four on a pole it was no problem - up the Donald, crossing again. Around the next corner we found a fence, maybe the fence of the route guide. Wasting time here, we finally decided to go up the spur. As usual it was the wrong one.....

On another occasion Ken Tustin, Kev Monk and John Townshend went deer-hunting near Lake Colenso:

After a bit of very fancy shooting we downed a stag at 800 yards. Time was short so we wasted no time in the ding back down Colenso Spur and had the good fortune to shoot a spiker in the Makaroro bringing our tally to four. During the trip we called ourselves The Royal Boulder-hoppers Association Incorporated [RBA] so, if you see that name in any hut logbooks, don't be alarmed. It's only us!

On Aug 5th 1962 Jim Glass and Kath Berry led a very large group into the Ruahines:

After receiving only nine names at the meeting, who would have believed that 42 would turn up at Holt's?! We packed the truck and a couple of cars. It was drizzling and the prospect was not bright when we finally left at about 9 a.m.

We arrived at Shuteye Shack in dribs and drabs - here it was a case of sit outside in the cold or sit inside and be smoked. However we all had a welcome cup of tea and the mist lifted from the tops for a while. Most of the party set off for Armstrong Top to return to the truck via the shingle slide and Triplex Creek. The few remaining members left some time later for Buttercup Hollow. Much to the delight of the young ones, snow began to fall while we were there. By the time we got back to Shuteye the ground was covered with sago snow.

Private Tramping Trips

Des's Solo Day to Longview

14 July 2012

This trip was originally scheduled for Sunday 15th July as a HTC club trip, and was to include the Daphne, Longview, Awatere Hut circuit. There were three other names down in the trip book on the Wednesday night so, as trip leader and hoping to encourage a better response from club members, I suggested at the meeting that a shorter, less-demanding trip into Longview Hut and out again from Kashmir Road might be a good alternative and less challenging option. Weather forecast for the Sunday had not been looking good all week and this was confirmed on the Friday night. I decided to ring the other three interested trip members on the Friday night and give them the option of accompanying me on the Saturday when the weather was forecast to be slightly more favourable. Unfortunately no-one was able to accompany me on the Saturday and, as I had wanted to do this trip for some time, I decided that I would go ahead and check it out myself.

I duly arrived at the Ruahine Forest Park entrance gates at around 8:30 a.m. I was unsuccessful in trying to negotiate the steep section of Kashmir Road beyond the gates in my old, front-wheel drive Subaru so spent a nerve-racking time reversing back down to the bottom. I can confirm that this piece of road is definitely four-wheel drive territory and, in my opinion, it is not worth the risk of coming unstuck on this steep section of road in a normal road vehicle. The Kashmir road-end was only a 45-minute walk from the Ruahine Forest Park entrance so it is no big deal to play it safe and leave your vehicle safe and sound there. From Kashmir Road it was a steady one and a half hour climb to Longview Hut. The views on the way up were quite spectacular in places and it was possible to see clearly right out to the coast.

With a freshening wind on the tops and a good coating of new snow on the higher parts of the surrounding ranges, the weather was starting to change quite dramatically as I sat in the hut having my lunch. I had changed into four layers of dry clothing when I arrived but it was still freezing cold inside the hut. By the time I left the hut at around midday there was a full gale blowing and it was an exciting struggle with the elements to make it back to the shelter below the main ridge and down to the road end. I was back at my vehicle and heading home by 3pm, well satisfied with my day's outing.

Des S Smith

HTC BIKE TRIPS



Begin or Upgrade your Geo-cache Skills

Wed 15 Feb 2012

An honorary bike trip!!

When expert organiser Geoff sets up the plans for the day, relax and go with the flow!! A spread sheet was provided listing 20 geo-cache sites in a southerly circuit from Hastings with location, cache name, type, numbers 1-20, latitude and longitude. In addition, there was a driving route guide good enough for a rally driver to follow. These were the preliminaries Geoff had prepared prior to our departure from Pernel.

Our first stop was Maraekakaho Memorial where Geoff instructed us in the finer points of geocaching by setting up our GPS gadgets and letting us loose. It was appropriate to start us off on the geocache chase here at the home of the HB Hunt Club hounds. As the day progressed our ability to track down the elusive geo-caches improved. Our next stop was at Tikokino where we located three caches. Then, on to the Waipawa River, the Onga Onga Golf Club, the Pukehou Church and the Pekapeka Swamp.

GH

Party: Geoff and Evelyn Clibborn and friend, Christine Hardie, Marion Nicholson, Judy McBride, Garry Smith, Rodger Burn, Helen Hare, Marjorie Musson, Glenda Hooper, Pam Turner, Penny Isherwood, Bobby Couchman, Graeme Hare

August 2012

Pakowhai Park to Clifton

Wed 16 May 2012

With the vagaries of the weather this was an on again-off again trip but the forecast was good for the morning so we took a punt on it and 18 keen cyclists took to the pathways. Some left from Pakowhai Park and regrouped with others who were waiting at Clive. Together we enjoyed the picturesque ride via the lagoons at Clive and coastal scenery at Te Awanga before arriving at the Clifton Cafe which was pretty empty so we were doubly welcome. A lengthy smoko break ensued with coffee and other delicacies before heeding the approaching storm clouds and taking to the bikes again for the homeward lap. We all made it safely in various sub-groups before the rain started. RB

Cyclists: Christine Hardie, Bobby Couchman, Penny Isherwood, Pam Pike, Judy McBride, Peggy Gulliver, Isobel Holdaway, Heather Stephenson, Lyn and Lyn Gentry, Graeme and Helen Hare, Garry Smith, Richard Waterer, Alasdair Shaw, Chris Robinson, Stewart Hislop, Rodger Burn

Napier to Bay View

Wed 30 May 2012

Beautiful weather and no wind; frosty with a nine o'clock start. After meeting people on the way, we had 19 in the party. We set out along the sea front toward Bay View, always an interesting ride. We passed people, dogs and kids along the pathway. We traversed the quay area to go over into the bird sanctuary and under the highway searching for spoonbills which feed in the area. We did spot one through Isobel's binoculars. Along the way we met a group of middle-aged men who also go cycling every Wednesday. They tried to talk the ladies in our group into taking a European cycling trip with them and Heather was tempted!!!

After this we continued around the airport and were pleased to report this track is vastly improved from last year. We finally emerged at the Snapper Park Motor Camp and its popular café. Most of us consumed bowls of soup and other goodies out in the autumn sunshine in their very attractive garden - I could have spent the rest of the day there. It had a very Mediterranean feel to it.

With the breeze now behind us we headed for home along the beach front and arrived back at Pakowhai Park by 3.30 p.m. Chris had a puncture, our only casualty - not bad considering we covered nearly 60kms. BC

Cyclists: Isobel Holdaway, Joan Ruffell, Chris Robinson, Peggy Gulliver, Rodger Burn, Penny Isherwood, Garry Smith, Christine Hardie, Margaret Graham, Heather Stephenson, Graeme Hare, Lyn & Lyn Gentry, Richard Waterer, Judy McBride, Pam Tate, Sue Davis, Jim Hewes, Bobby Couchman

Apley Road Circuit

Wed 13 June 2012

Because of strong winds we decided to alter our route and do a shorter cycle than planned. From the Puketapu Pub, twelve of us did the new circuit following the southern side of the Tutaekuri River along to the EIT where we met up with Christine and Garry before continuing back to the pub. The serious cyclists - Isobel, Heather and Richard - did the planned Apley Road circuit without any drama, arriving back at the pub just a few minutes after us.

Most of us adjourned to the hotel for a very pleasant lunch where we were joined by our support crew of Helen and Penny and after a while we make our own way home. RB

Cyclists: Christine Hardie, Heather Stephenson, Joan Ruffell, Susan McKenzie, Pam Pike, Isobel Holdaway, Marion Nicholson, Marjorie Musson, Richard Waterer, Garry Smith, Graeme Hare, Bruce Finn, Mr Lyn Gentry, Brent Hickey, Rodger Burn

The New Pathways**Wed 27 June 2012**

Some of the club cyclists had been put off by high winds in Hastings early in the morning. However, conditions were sunny and clear so a keen group set off from Clive at about 9.45 a.m. to explore the new paths being constructed from Havelock North through Hastings and Whakatu, one of the latest sections in the network. We headed south along SH2 until we picked up the pathway and followed it to the back streets of Whakatu which most of us were unfamiliar with. This settlement is increasingly busy nowadays with the number of businesses now based there and a constant stream of trucks goes along the road. The cycleway begins again alongside the railway line but, before that, we ducked in to Liz Pindar's place in Station Road for morning tea. Unfortunately Liz was out but we made ourselves at home on her back doorstep which is a comfortable and sunny spot for outdoor dining.

Back to the cycleway which we followed along the eastern side of Apollo Packhouse heading for a junction with Ruahapia Road. But then our luck ran out. We could go no further because the very impressive bridge over the River Karamu was incomplete. In fact a group of workers in high viz vests was labouring on the site as we arrived – well, most of the men were watching two of their number in a large crane swinging over the site! (A photo of it appeared in the newspaper the next day). We faced a long detour either back the way we had come or an unknown distance over bumpy stopbanks to find another crossing.

Mr Hare saved the day.....after a friendly chat with the boss bridge builder we walked our bikes over the railway track, on to the main route and turned into Otene Road. Here, the track surface was still ungraded so more push was required for the pedals. It then turned into Kenilworth Road where we stopped to pass the time of day with Judy M who was fighting off the last traces of flu and unable to join us. Then, through a number of Hastings streets to Havelock North where we decided to have another timeout and sample a few pies from the local bakery. We were impressed by the public facilities in the village – the musical toilets next to the information centre are a marvel. From there it was a quick dash down Te Mata Road to the River Road cycleway and northwards to the Black Bridge while keeping a look out for the advertised frisky cows (which, luckily we didn't encounter). Over the road and on to the next stretch of cycleway around East Clive. Joan kindly invited us to her place for another session of R and R which we couldn't possibly refuse. Her little house and garden is a model of bird-friendly reserve and we all enjoyed more sitting in the sun while supping on tea and smoked salmon.

The last section back to the cars in Clive had the only noticeable wind of the day and we were back to base by 2.30 – despite all the stops we did manage to cover nearly 40 kilometres so it was a respectable outing after all.

CH

Cyclists: Lyn Gentry, Bruce Finn, Joan Ruffell, Graeme Hare, Penny Isherwood, Christine Hardie

Middle Road to Patangata Tavern**Wed 11 July 2012**

After a week of solid rain it was marvellous to be rolling along Middle Road in beautiful sunshine. Our peloton, which built up to sixteen cyclists shortly after leaving Glenda and Peter's, never seemed to remain bunched. However, as long as everyone was satisfied with their ride we had achieved our objective. A couple of riders dropped out before the big hill as planned but the rest continued. Despite grumbles from one or two recalcitrants the group chugged past Camp David, our usual destination, and eventually got to the tavern by the river where tasty meals were bought by some. On our return journey, the hills and the grunty bits slowly slipped by and we were pleased to be back at the cars after cycling over 65 kilometres. A lovely day although longer than usual.

GRH

Cyclists: Christine Hardie, Bobby Couchman, Jim Hewes, Rodger Burn, Heather Stephenson, Marjorie Musson, Marion Nicholson, Joan Ruffell, Susan McKenzie, Richard Waterer, Margaret Graham, Alasdair Shaw, Maureen Broad, Isobel Holdaway, Bruce Finn, Graeme Hare

CLUB NEWS

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of Heretaunga Tramping Club will be held at the Harriers' Clubrooms, Sylvan Road, Hastings on Wednesday, 14th November after the regular meeting. Nominations are needed for all positions.

Congratulations to Ali Hollington

Recent HTC member, Ali Hollington, has won the position of World Champion in her division of Women's Ironman Competitions in Europe. Hundreds of kilometres of swimming, biking and running have earned her this honour. Congratulations, Ali. What an impressive achievement.

Emergency Personal Locator Beacons (EPLB) Stored in Truck

There are 3 EPLBs stored in the truck for use by HTC trampers, on club tramping trips.

'First and Second Call' on 2 EPLB's is for any HTC tramping, one for each of the A & B parties. The notebook stored with the EPLBs must be filled out to record who has what & when. After the tramping trip promptly return the EPLB and sign off in the notebook.

'Third Call' on one EPLB available for use by club members on private tramping trips.

Permission for this private EPLB use must be granted by the Club Captain (1st) or President (2nd) but absolutely always 2 EPLBs must remain in the truck for HTC tramping use.

This instruction must be seriously considered because the HTC has provided these EPLBs at cost with good intentions to protect its members for club use before anyone else.

Do you want your *Pohokura* sent via email to you as a pdf?

Any photos included will be in colour and you can print it as you wish.

You have the following options:

1. we send you a pdf copy via email to try as well as the usual magazine hard copy.
2. we send you a pdf copy only via email.
3. don't reply to this and we will keep sending you the usual magazine hard copy.

If you would like to avail yourself of these options, send an email to the Editor, randall.g@xtra.co.nz

Personal Contact Information:

If you change your mailing address, home phone number or e-mail address please inform the Club Editor - Phone 845 4913. Otherwise, we could lose contact with you.

Heretaunga Tramping Club Meeting and Trip Information

Date	Speaker	Topic	Host	Supper Help
22 Aug	Bernard Lock	Hunting and Travelling around the World	Ken Nugent	Joan Ruffell Garry Smith
05 Sept	Susan Lopdell	Tramping in South Australia	Des Smith	Geoff Clibborn Mary Gray
19 Sept	Ros Lusk	Photo Competition	Penny Isherwood	Graeme Hare Isobel Holdaway
03 Oct	Training Committee	Truck Know-how	Judy McBride	Marion Nicholson John Montgomerie
17 Oct	Mike Bull	The Long Walk Home	Heather Stephenson	Susan Taylor Jim Glass
31 Oct	Mike Lusk	Questionable Plants	Pam Turner	Maureen Broad Randall Goldfinch
14 Nov	Annual General Meeting	Reports, Elections and Remits	President	Committee
28 Nov	Richard and Vivienne Waterer	More Cannel Boating in Europe	Bobby Couchman	Alan Berry Margaret Graham
12 Dec	Club Travellers	Talks and Trips	Anne Cantrick	Liz Pindar Marj Musson
09 Jan	Members	Post - Holiday Reports and Photos	Rodger Burn	Brent Hickey David Blake
23 Jan	Guest Speaker tba	Mystery Destination	Marion Nicholson	Paul Whately Graeme Hare

Meetings Sub-Committee: Christine Hardie and Marjorie Musson.

Please refer ideas for club night speakers and activities to us.

Supper: Put out cups, wash dishes, leave kitchen clean and tidy, generally help Raewyn.

Sweep floors and check that heaters - lights are off at the end of the meeting.

ARE YOU FIT ENOUGH TO TRAMP?

Even the easiest of club trips requires 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 cattle-stop via the roadside track with an eight kg pack should take about 70 - 80 minutes. Further, this pace should be able to be maintained for five to six 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 and 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

			DAY TRIPS	WEEKEND TRIPS
<u>Wear/Carry</u>		<u>Carry</u>		All items listed for day trip plus
Pack and pack liner		Map & compass		Sleeping bag
Boots and gaiters		High energy snacks		Sleeping mat
Socks		At least a litre of water		Food for three additional meals
Parka and over-trou		Lunch		Cooker, billy and matches or lighter
Fast-drying shorts		First aid kit		Extra snacks
Fleece or woollen jumper		Torch, spare batteries and bulb		Toilet gear, small towel and toilet paper
Long-johns & singlet		Sunscreen		Additional warm clothes
Sunhat & warm hat		Emergency food		Plate, mug, cutlery
Gloves/mittens		Survival kit (whistle, cord, matches, pencil, paper)		Tent/fly if required
Overmitts				
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 your 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 two 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 10.00 pm. All newcomers should ensure that their own emergency number is noted in the party list that the leader leaves in town. For all enquiries about overdue trampers please telephone one of the following:

Susan Lopdell 844 6697

Graeme Hare 844 8656

Glenda Hooper 877 4183

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

Club Meetings: These are held every second Wednesday (the one before a weekend tramp) at the Harrier Clubrooms in Sylvan Road, Hastings. Doors open at 7.30 pm; visitors are welcome.

TRIP LIST 2012

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 Ph 844 6697. Please email trip requests to susansplace@xtra.co.nz



25 - 26 Aug Makahu Saddle / Middle Hill / Te Puia - Kawekas \$15 Maps: BJ37
A Party: From Makahu Saddle, tramp to Middle Hill for the night. On Sunday come out via Makino Track.
B Party: Tramp to Te Puia Hut for the night with a trip to the hot pools. On Sunday return the same way.
 There is a variety of other options for both parties. A truck party could base itself at the road end and enjoy the Mangatutu Hot Springs.
Organisers: A Randall Goldfinch Ph 845 4913 B Mary Gray Ph 844 283 **Driver:** Lex Smith

29 Aug Wed Tramp Te Mata Peak Tracks – Havelock North
Organiser: Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322

5 Sept Wed Cycle Ohiti and Matapiro Roads
 Back to the Crownthorpe area.
Organiser: Jim Hewes Ph 877 6784

9 Sept Three Johns or Te Atuaoparapara - Ruahines \$15 Map: BK36
A Party: Tramp up the Waipawa River to Waipawa Saddle then over Te Atuaoparapara to Armstrong Saddle and out via Sunrise Track.
B Party: Tramp up the Waipawa River to Waipawa Chalet and climb the ridge to Three Johns. Return via Waipawa Saddle and Waipawa River.
Organiser: Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656 **Driver:** Christine Hardie

12 Sept Wed Tramp Black Birch – Kaweka FP \$15 Map: BJ37
 Wander along to the Clover Patch and check on the grass growth.
Organiser: Garry Smith Ph 844 9931

19 Sept Wed Cycle the Aorangi Road Circuit
 Start at the Maraekakaho Memorial.
Organiser: Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322

22 - 23 Sept Jumbo/Holdsworth Circuit - Tararuas \$ 30 Maps: BP34 & BP33
 Leave from Holdsworth and tramp in past the Atiwhakatu Hut to Jumbo Hut for the night. Sunday return via Powell Hut. Easy option is walk up the Powell Hut track to the Mountain House shelter and then drop down to the Atiwhakatu Track and along trip to Atiwhakatu for the night. Return back along the Atiwhakatu Track
Organiser: A John Montgomerie Ph 877 7358 B Susan Lopdell Ph 844 6697 **Driver:** Lex Smith

26 Sept Wed Tramp to Parks Peak Hut – Ruahines
 Visit the lovely newish hut at the top of the ridge.
Organiser: Christine Hardie Ph 844 9590

3 Oct Wed Cycle the Roads in Central HB
 Along country roads near Waipukurau with our local guide.
Organiser: Christine Turner Ph 06 857 5227

7 Oct Te Kowhai \$15 Map BJ38
 Drive to Hawkstone Road, Patoka and tramp through the Wakatu Afforestation Trust's Te Kowhai Forest.
Organiser: Peter Berry Ph 877 4183 Driver: Peter Berry

10 Oct Wed MacIntosh Hut, Kaweka Range \$15 Map BJ37
 From the road end, down over the steel bridge in to MacIntosh Hut and out the same way.
Organiser: Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322

17 Oct Wed Marion's Mystery Cycle Ride
Organiser: Marion Nicholson Ph 873 5935

19-22 Oct Labour Weekend
Option 1: Mt Taranaki \$35 Map BJ29
Party A: Around-the-mountain track, starting and ending at North Egmont; perhaps a climb to the summit.
Party B: Poukai circuit – Holly Hut, Bells Falls, across the Ahukawakawetland to Pouakai Hut, North Egmont, Maketawa Hut and return.
Option 2: Kaimanawas \$30 Map BH36, BJ36
Party A: Umukarikari Range to Waipakahi Hut, Junction Tops, down to Rangitikei River, Te More to high point 1570m, up to Thunderbolt, Motutere and out via Waipakahi River or the Urchin Track.
Party B: In to Waipakahi Hut via the Umukarikari Range and stay two nights. Sunday, follow the Waipakahi River to camp at a well-used campsite; out with Party A.
Organisers: A] John Montgomerie Ph 877 7348 B] Susan Lopdell Ph 844 6697

24 Oct Wed Coppermine Creek and Gold Mine, Ruahine FP \$15 Map
 From Waitara Road along the stream.
Organiser: Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322

31 Oct Wed Two Cycle Parties in Maraetotara
Party B: from Lake Lopez along Maraetotara Road to Mohi Bush and return.
Party A: along Maraetotara Road, drop down to Waimarama and return along the main road to Lake Lopez.
Organiser: A] Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656 B] Marion Nicholson Ph 873 5935

4 Nov Cairn Trip – Kaweka FP \$15 Map BJ36
 Led by the President, this is our annual pilgrimage to the rock cairn atop the main Kaweka Range at the J where a brief service is held to honour past members. Plenty of options on the way back to Makahu Saddle.
Organiser: Christine Hardie Ph 844 9590

7 Nov Wed Tukituki to Clifton Over Private Farm
 A repeat of our popular walk over private farmland.
Organiser: Mr Lyn Gentry Ph 875 0542

14 Nov Wed Cycle a New Route in Central Hawke's Bay
 A new ride in CHB; come and check it out.
Organiser: Alasdair Shaw Ph 06 877 6225

17-18 Nov Hazmobile Collection
 One of our fundraising commitments – sign up for either Saturday or Sunday and have fun assisting the Hastings District Council collect hazardous waste.
Organiser: Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656

21 Nov Wed	Beach Walk		
A beach walk south from Blackhead with an optional return over farmland.			
Organiser: Keith Thomson Ph 877 5391			

25 Nov	Waikoau Gorge Area	\$15	Map: BH39
<u>Party A:</u> come and explore the limestone caves discovered by our own club members.			
<u>Party B:</u> tramp down the picturesque Waikoau Gorge and return across farmland and via Blue Lake			
Organisers: A]		B] Peter Brown Ph 877 2907	
Driver: Christine Hardie			

28 Nov Wed	Cycle Some of the New Local Pathway Additions		
Organiser: Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322			

5 Dec Wed	Tramp: Gold Creek Ridge, Ruahine FP		
Start from and return to Hall's farm.			
Organiser: Judy McBride Ph 876 9756			

8-9 Dec	Parks Peak - Ruahines	\$15	Map: BK37
<u>Party A:</u> From Mangleton Road, ascend Golden Crown to Aranga Hut (derelict), Trig U, Totara Spur, Upper Makarora Hut, Park's Peak Hut and back via Golden Crown Spur.			
<u>Party B:</u> Golden Crown Spur along the main range to stay at Parks Peak Hut; return same way.			
Organisers: A] John Montgomerie Ph 877 7358		B] Glenda Hooper Ph 877 4183	

12 Dec Wed	Local Riverside and Cycle Ways Rubbish Clean-up		
A public relations exercise liaising with the HB Regional Council.			
Organiser: Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656			

6 Jan 2013	Waewaepa Reserve – Makairo Track	\$25	
Organiser:			

13 Jan 2013	Whangaehu Bush - Porangahau		
Organiser: Mike Bull Ph 843 6052		Driver: Paul Whately	

19 - 20 Jan	Kiwi Saddle – Kaweka FP	\$15	BJ37
Start on Saturday afternoon and tramp in to our beautiful hut for the night. On Sunday follow Mike Lusk into the upper reaches of the Tutaekuri River and out via Castle Camp.			
Organiser: Mike Lusk Ph 877 8328			

27 Jan	Hineura Hut – Ruahine FP	\$15	BL36
From Mill Road cross the Tukituki River, follow up the 'Foote's Mistake' route and across farmland to Hineura Hut. Various options available in the area before returning the same way.			
Organiser: Mike Bull Ph 843 6052		Driver: Christine Hardie	

2-3 Feb	Cameron Hut – Kaweka FP	\$15	BJ37
From the Cameron car-park, tramp up the Ngaruroro River to stay the night at Cameron Hut. Return via Smith Russells track or via the inland river route.			
Organisers: Susan Lopdell Ph 844 6697		Glenda Hooper Ph 877 4183	