

**HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB P O BOX 14086 MAYFAIR  
HASTINGS 4159**

**POHOKURA – Bulletin No 243**

**May 2013**

**HTC Committee:**

Club Patron:	Jim Glass	877 8748	james@martinglass.co.nz
President:	Christine Hardie	844 9590	chardie2000@hotmail.com
Vice President:	Graeme Hare	844 8656	grhmare@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer:	Lex Smith	877 4087	smithers@xtra.co.nz
Club Captain:	Susan Lopdell	844 6697	susansplace@xtra.co.nz
Asst Club Captain:	John Montgomerie	877 7358	j.montgomerie@paradise.net.nz
Editor:	Randall Goldfinch	845 4913	randall.g@xtra.co.nz
Committee:	Brenda Thomas	027 628 5979	brendakthomas@hotmail.com
	Penny Isherwood	844 9994	p.isherwood@orcon.net.nz
	Geoff Clibborn	844 6039	geoff.elynn@xtra.co.nz
	Marjorie Musson	878 8279	mussons@xtra.co.nz
	David Blake	835 3284	dblake@ihug.co.nz
	Glenda Hooper	877 4183	hooperberry@orcon.net.nz

Truck:	<u>Geoff Clibborn</u> , Lex Smith
Fixtures:	<u>Susan Lopdell</u> , John Montgomerie, Graeme Hare, Brenda Thomas, Glenda Hooper, Rodger Burn (Mid-week Group)
Huts:	<u>Mike Lusk</u> , Brenda Thomas, Susan Lopdell
Training:	<u>John Montgomerie</u> , Susan Lopdell, David Blake, Mike Bull
Environment:	<u>Mike Lusk</u> , Penny Isherwood, Raewyn Ricketts
SAR:	<u>John Montgomerie</u> , Gerald Blackburn, Graham Thorp
Meetings:	<u>Christine Hardie</u> , Penny Isherwood, Graeme Hare
Social:	<u>Glenda Hooper</u> , Raewyn Ricketts, Joan Ruffell
Sales Rep:	Marjorie Musson, Penny Isherwood
Scrap Book:	Marjorie Musson
Photo Library	Lex Smith, Glenda Hooper
Library:	Liz Pindar
Editor's Assistant:	Christine Hardie
Supper:	<u>Raewyn Ricketts</u> , Alan Berry
Membership Records:	Glenda Hooper
Web Ed / Computer:	Glenda Hooper and Brenda Thomas

**Club Meetings:** These are held every second Wednesday (before a tramp) at the Hastings Harrier Club rooms 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*).

**Website: [www.htc.org.nz](http://www.htc.org.nz)**

Mail: P.O. Box 14086, Mayfair, Hastings 4159

Enquiries: Glenda Hooper 877 4183 Graeme Hare 844 8656 Susan Lopdell 844 6697

**Club Cellphone (held in the truck) 027 438 6474**

May 2013

## The President Writes

Everyone in Hawke's Bay agrees that we have had a summer to remember; a summer that seems to be continuing with weeks of dry, sunny weather and very little wind. Not what the farmers ordered but ideal for trampers. Most of our trips over the last few months have been local but in mid-March a large group went to Northland for another in Graeme Hare's successful series of wanders and rambles. Of course it's a long haul but what a beautiful part of the country that amply repaid the effort of getting there.

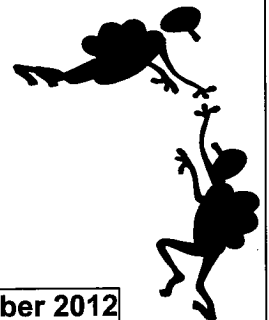
In the last few issues of *Pohokura* I have commented at length about the management of the conservation estate and major changes in policy. DoC is still undergoing restructuring although the latest announcements from the Minister have indicated fewer job losses than planned last year. Now that the Director-General has jumped ship maybe reforms will slow down but it seems likely that there will still be calls for greater community involvement in facilities management as well as more partnerships with businesses and other sponsors. In the spirit of this philosophy, a personal initiative has seen some much needed work done on Howletts Hut – in March, John Montgomerie very cleverly integrated a painting bee with a spot of helicopter travel courtesy of some Ruahine hunters. He says there is still more work to be done on the hut but his efforts in this direction are very much appreciated. Other club huts have been inspected: Waikamaka is generally sound with only minor maintenance required and the work at Kiwi Saddle is still pending.

HTC is chugging towards its 78th anniversary, not considered a major number but still commendable and a cause for satisfaction. This year has further anniversaries of note – the records show that it is now nine years since the mid-week group started its programme. This has proved to be a very successful feature of the club's activities and our thanks must go to Rodger Burn for facilitating the trip roster for so long.

However an even bigger anniversary is looming: it's now sixty years since the first complete ascent of Mount Everest, the highest piece of land in the world. Everybody in the country is familiar with the inspiring story of the 1953 expedition in which New Zealand featured so prominently and, as 29th May approaches, we can expect a flood of publicity to mark the occasion. For us at HTC the 60th anniversary is tinged with sadness - in late March we received news of the death of long-term club member, George Lowe, the last remaining climber from the great expedition. His part in the ascent is a story of tremendous ability and determination which will be retold for many years to come. Our club library has several books about this exploit and many others, and they are well worth reading to appreciate the calibre of person who achieves great feats. Two more books are being published shortly to mark the 60th anniversary, one of them centred on George's numerous letters - I hope that HTC will be able to get copies of them.

Christine Hardie

# TRIP REPORTS



#2207

Golden Crown and Beyond

8-9 December 2012

After a few hassles getting everyone together (Derek had missed the Thursday email re start time, had then waited till seven and headed back to Tauranga. We got hold of him at Te Pohue so he turned round and joined us at Masters Shelter) and dropping Glenda's car off at Sentry Box, we set off finally at twenty to ten on a fine and still morning.

After climbing through the regenerating bush to the top of the farmland, we looked out over Mangleton Valley and Wakarara. Golden Crown is getting a lot more cover on it but the middle section of the climb is still reasonably open with still quite a bit of the *monowai* that gave it the name. All the way up regeneration

May 2013

## Pohokura

is taking place quite rapidly with beech, totara and the odd cedar popping their heads up out of the scrub. Onwards and upwards - it got slightly cooler while we got hotter and hotter until we finally got into the beech forest. Then up and up and up and up and up, through the wonderful pink pine forest and, finally, on to the top of the ridge four hours later. Here conditions were much tougher than us and some of us had to put on skivvies while we had lunch in the sun followed by a quick peek at Ruapehu. Then Sue, Garry and I split off and headed down, down, down for two and a half hours looking right out over the Bay at a big thunderstorm. A lovely and very interesting and scenic trip - my leg muscles have almost forgiven me three days later. PB

We left the Golden Crown junction just after two and headed south along a wide, well-cut track on the top of the ridge. There were rat/stoat traps every 100 to 200 metres all the way to the Aranga turnoff which we arrived at an hour later. Here we had another break amongst the soggy tussock before heading southward once again. Another stop was had just before Pohatuhaha and we finally arrived at Parks Peak Hut about quarter to six. First we had a cup of tea then made our respective meals and, after a bit of relaxation, walked a little way south of the hut to a clearing to take in a photo opportunity in the last sunshine of the day.

There were only the three of us in the hut and we had a very peaceful night until I was awoken around five something by the melodious tones of what could have only been a blackbird! We finally got up sometime after 7a.m., had a leisurely breakfast and then went for a stroll along the track to Yeoman's. The weather was again brilliant and we had great views to the west which included a snow-covered Ngauruhoe just a bit down the track to Upper Makaroro. We walked 1.5 km along the ridge, over Parks Peak and onto the next peak before turning back to the hut. Here we had an early lunch, and packed and cleaned up the hut before leaving to return down Sentry Box spur around 11:30. It was very warm as we descended Sentry Box spur. I am sure it was hotter than the 23 degrees recorded in town. We had a couple of stops on the way out to recover from the heat but got to my car, parked just below Sentry Box, at about 2:30. We dropped Derek off to collect his car and headed for home. A great weekend. GH

Party: Derek Boshier, Christine Snook, Glenda Hooper, Susan Lopdell, Garry Smith, Peter Berry.

#2208	Makairo Track, Waewaepa Scenic Reserve	6 January 2013
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We had 13 people on this tramp and travelled south from Hastings under a clear sky. We drove to the western side of the Makairo Track which is situated on the southern side of the Manawatu River - crossed at Hopelands Road - 16 kilometres SE of Woodville. After a few navigational problems (signage for the track isn't very good if you are coming from Dannevirke) we arrived at the road end around 9:45am, about 2½ hours drive from Hastings. There had been a lot of logging at the start of the track but, fortunately, the dry weather we have been having meant that it wasn't the quagmire it would be in normal weather. Forty years ago the track was a route connecting Coonoor with Pahiatua but the collapse of a bridge resulted in its closure around 1975. There are now "Road Closed" signs on this bridge which stops the motorised traffic but we walkers crossed it with no problem.

After walking through the logged area we got to the Waewaepa Reserve where the track gradually wound its way up-hill, in and out of the dissecting valleys, through regenerating bush consisting predominantly of rangiora (which had only just finished flowering) and rewarewa with the odd podocarp towering over them. At times we were walking through a tunnel of rangiora with the odd ongaonga to add to the enjoyment and the occasional view through the trees down a very steep hillside to the stream way, way below the track. In some of the more open sections of the track we could get good views out to the west - Wharite and the windmills above the Manawatu Gorge were all visible.

Half the party walked the entire 10 km of track before turning round to join the rest of us who walked about 7 km of the track to where a side track up to the high point of the reserve commences. Lunch was had at this junction then some ventured part-way up the side track while the rest just relaxed in the sun. We came across two hunters in the reserve, one of whom was carrying a spiker deer out after a successful hunt. The return trip was slightly faster being all downhill and we were back at the truck by 3.30pm. For the return trip in the truck we took a different route, heading at first towards Pahiatua before turning off onto Thompson Road and following the Manawatu River back to the Hopelands Bridge - while this was more kilometres it was an easier road and thus took less time.

Party: Susan Lopdell, Maureen Broad, Des Smith, Alasdair Shaw, Christine Hardie, Christine Snook, Christine and Bruce Turner, Anne Cantrick, Peter Brown, Bobby Couchman, Rodger Burn Glenda Hooper

**#2209 Porangahau Beach Trip**

**13 January 2013**

Picked up Poppy in Waipukarau and on to the sleepy township of Porangahau to have our first beach walk for 2013. The tide was going out and there was a wide expanse of firm golden sand as we wandered past swimmers, seagulls feasting on the remnants of the previous day's fishing contest and fishermen setting their kon-tiki lines. It was a 4-5 kilometre walk along the beach to the estuary of the Porangahau River with Bird Island nestled in the middle. There was some birdlife: black-backed gulls, white-fronted terns, variable oystercatchers and a pair of godwits. We stopped on the return journey to watch a kon-tiki being winched in and, alas, there was only one kawawai for all their efforts. Whilst the others had morning tea some hardy souls plunged into the sea, disregarding the chilly conditions.

Packed up and took the LONG route around to the other end of the beach to the new access road which is only suitable for four-wheel drive vehicles. It was a one to two kilometre walk along this access in very soft sand and finally onto the beach proper where we wandered along to the remains of a shipwreck at Blackhead Point. There were hordes of people on the reef fishing or diving and we ate lunch under the cliff observing all the activities at low tide. Some chose to fossick amongst the rock pools and some set off on the homeward journey. It was a very hot and tired group that arrived back at the truck, and all appreciated the ice-blocks and cool drinks at the dairy on the way home.

Party: Susan Lopdell (organiser), Paul Whately (driver) with Poppy, Fred Chesterman, Glenda Hooper, Penny Isherwood, Marion Nicholson, Ken Nugent, Alasdair Shaw, Brenda Thomas, Anne Cantrick, Catherine Wakefield, Marjorie Musson, Bruce and Christine Turner

**#2210 Tutaekuri Headwaters**

**19 - 20 January 2013**

We arrived at Kiwi Saddle Hut after a leisurely wander from Lakes Road, observing the recently clear-felled track sides as we came. The low mosses were smoothly shaven and, of course, such small and delicate plants as orchids, forget-me-nots and the rest were mulch. Certainly the DoC protocols had been fully met! The contract gang responsible was at the hut, no doubt confident that their efforts would satisfy audit. A bit later a couple from Wellington set up a fly and proceeded to light a fire, not at all daunted by the information that there was a total fire ban. Eventually, at bed time, Graeme persuaded them to extinguish it by the subtle means of presenting them with a large bowl of water.

Sunday morning dawned fine and we began our drop into the riverbed far below, soon losing the roar of the blowies at the dunny. The mountain beech is open and, apart from small patches of soft mingimingi tied up with lawyer plus occasional steep slopes, we reached the Tutaekuri easily enough at the first of many pretty waterfalls we were to encounter. The next few hours we progressed up the riverbed without much difficulty, though a couple of pools were deep enough to cause a degree of lower body anguish. There were a few readily-passed log jams and some little terraces that allowed brief diversions but, by and large, it was in the riverbed all the way. With the help of side-stream counting, ardent map study and Derek's GPS we knew within a few millimetres where we were at all times and, thanks to an inspired choice by a recently retired elderly woman, we proceeded up the true R side of the last of the headwater streams (the one that heads north) GPS 886443. Said old dear dragged us upwards and we emerged, variably knackered, on the track just short of Castle Camp. Then it was upwards again to Kaiarahi and onward over the western tit in glorious sunshine and with a refreshing breeze. All the way there was a view of Ruapehu with a brown smoke haze from the Aussie bushfires giving it a rather eerie look. Occasional deep rumbling booms were presumably from Waiouru war games although more fancifully it could have been a taniwha. Stopping briefly at the top of the track from the Kaweka Hut site we found a note from Sue and Glenda which told us that they'd gone down at that point. We decided to go along to the Rogue and all but one moved off. That one soon set off too and after 10 minutes of dropping steeply through contorta - following reassuring footprints - he realised that he was on the same track as Glenda and Sue. The retreat was neither physically or emotionally pleasant. Eventually we were all on the Rogue in various stages of exhaustion, realising that we might not make the

May 2013

## Pohokura

truck at 4pm, it being by then 5pm. Those of us in the last four, (three kindly baby-sat by Tina), staggered into the Tutaekuri and immersed ourselves gratefully in the very waters we had disturbed hours before. The final grind out to the truck was rewarded by the sight of Geoff and the others with very welcome tea and general relief. We were back at Pernel at about 8pm after a magnificent trip. I must confess that I had trouble finding my way home.....

We don't now do many off-track trips (I prefer that term to 'bush-bashing' which implies some contempt for the vegetation we are alleged to appreciate) but I hope we'll do more. This one took us into a lovely area, was great for the navigators and their students, was physically challenging and altogether bloody good. I'd not call it an A party trip but it was certainly A minus, allowing as it did for frequent short necessary breaks, comradely chatter most of the time and a little nature study for those so inclined. Thanks to all who came and who all lent a hand according to their various abilities.

ML

Party: Geoff Clibborn (driver), Glenda Hooper, Sue Lopdell, Brent Hickey, Tina Godbert, Brenda Thomas, Graeme Hare, Derek Boshier, Robyn Heath, Anne Cantrick, Mike Lusk

**#2211**

**Hinerua Hut, Ruahine FP**

**27 January 2013**

My preparations for this trip included a visit to Conservation House and a chat to the lady behind the front counter. I was puzzled why the track to Hinerua Hut shown on the topo map started half way up the ridge and intrigued as to how one actually got to that point. It turns out that the track stops at the Park boundary and, to get there, one must pass over private land. Thanks therefore must go to both the lady at Conservation House and the land owner for alerting us to this. Maps detailing Park boundaries can be found on the DoC website under "Hunting Permits" as below

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/global/hunting-permits/ruahine-forest-park-permit-map-small.jpg>

I was pleased that I rejected the thought of a 0700 start for two reasons, a) I would have missed the dramatic scene in the west as the moon set and b) it would have been dark by the time we all got home. So, at the refreshing hour of 0600, we gathered at Pernel for a day in the Ruahine Ranges. Stopping only for diesel and a pie, we were safely at our roadend and all set to hoof it at 0800ish. I later worked out that it was about 3km from road end to the bottom of the ridge and it took us about an hour to get there.

A scramble off the river bed through some scrubby stuff was quickly dealt to followed by a couple of grass paddocks separated by a little bit of bush in the middle that took us across the private land to the Park boundary. The climb from the river to the park boundary lifted us nearly 300m over about a km. Once on the dashed line of the track, the climb was much more gradual and in bush. Quite pleasant really.

We stopped for lunch at 1200 and then gathered at spot height 1061 for a wee pow-wow. Christine and Penny elected to retrace the descent back to the river while the rest of us headed the last ½ km to the hut. Three young hunters greeted us on our arrival; they had been on-site since Friday night. We had a pleasant 30-minute sprawl in the sun while the hunters tidied the hut and prepared for their departure. Once our water bottles were topped up, we were away before them. Any thoughts of climbing up to the tops or ducking down to Smith Stream Hut were dismissed earlier as Old Father Time was moving along faster than we were. Down-hill is always faster and presents greater risks for tripping up but it didn't seem too long before we were all safely regrouped at the river and wending our way back to the truck, most on foot but a couple in the hunters' ute! A good day out and thanks to Christine and Paul who shared the driving.

MB

Party: Susan Lopdell, Fred Chesterman, Marion Nicholson, Brenda Thomas, Penny Isherwood, Paul Whately, Gary Smith, Mike Bull

**#2212**

**Cameron Hut, Kaweka FP**

**2-3 February 2013**

The conditions could not have been better for a tramp up the Ngaruroro River - hot weather, low river level, and warm water! The river crossings were relatively easy and only a few unintentional swims were taken. Instead of rescues, the clapping of hands was the usual response. With the high temperature, swims were taken in the numerous deep pools along the way to cool off. Swimming with one's boots on is not very elegant (too much trouble to take them off) but the dips did the trick. We arrived at Cameron Hut in the early afternoon and a swim in the lovely pool opposite the hut (without boots) was the first order of business. It is

May 2013

## Pohokura

not often after a day's tramp one can be cleaned in such a magnificent way. I am not sure the swimming attire would have won any beauty parades however. Three of us took a short visit to the swing bridge a short distance upstream and, although it is now private land on the opposite side, the bridge is still there and in good order. We shared the site with some interesting people: a representative of Fish and Game who had arrived in an inflatable kayak and was doing a survey of the trout in the river. There were numerous fish that we had seen along the way and the fishermen we had met had caught a few good sized ones. The kayak was also used for sleeping in, making it a very comfy bed. A young man arrived with a tiny pack containing a blanket, billy, bag of rice and bag of pasta with running shoes on his feet so he couldn't be accused of being over-indulgent. However, he intended to light a fire in a tinder dry forest which was a big problem so we offered the use of a stove which he accepted. He slept outside under a magnificent clear sky so the HTC young ones were able to sleep in the hut since the others had tent-flies. The return tramp down the river was without incident and all were well satisfied with a nice weekend. Many thanks to Geoff who drove us to Cameron car-park and remained there enjoying the Kaweka Mountain Race until we returned.

Party: Susan Lopdell, Derek Boshier, Rodger Burn, Garry Smith, Peter Berry, Glenda Hooper, Geoff Clibborn

**#2213      Te Kowhai, Kaweka FP**

**10 February 2013**

### Dry Feet Party: Don Juan

We left Pernel at 7 o'clock, heading for Te Kowhai. We reached the end of Hawkston Road and were ready to go by 8.30. The guys headed up Gorge Stream but Glenda and the two Susans opted for dry feet and a view. After a false start, we found the right track and were heading up toward Don Juan by nine. It was easy walking but very steep in places. Our enthusiasm waned once we hit the pine trees and, at the last high point about 500m SW of Don Juan, we decided to have lunch and head back down. We were back at the truck at about two and the other party returned about three to share in the delicious watermelon. Thanks Peter!!

### Wet Feet Party: Gorge Stream

The stream was low and a little greasy as we set off. Not far up we ran into some baby swallows then wandered upstream through lovely limestone pools and small gorge country. One of the most interesting things we saw was a pure white plume moth. High above us on the true right were some limestone bluffs and between these and the river was some steep country with nice-looking bush on it. After considerable botanising in the stream we set off upwards to have a look at the bush which contained a number of large podocarps, mainly matai. Mike showed us some red admiral caterpillars and cocoons on the onga-onga.

Further up we found a huge kowhai and Mike broke up some dead trees to discover Hawke's Bay tree weta as well as their cousins from Auckland and Wellington. A quick word of warning here: NEVER go tramping with Mike in any countries where there are snakes or poisonous spiders.

After lunch we set off back downstream to the truck with no real problems. I "accidentally" took the wrong turn driving home and so ended up on the scenic route coming back via Price, Cockburn and Waihou Roads, we might not have walked very far but we had a good time. PB

Party: Glenda Hooper, Susan Lopdell, Susan Fraser, Ken Nugent, Peter Berry, Jason McKinley, Mike Lusk

**#2214      Gold Creek Ridge, Ruahine FP**

**Wed 13 Feb 2013**

In spite of a gloomy forecast the much-needed rain did not eventuate and soon after 9a.m. we were crossing the Halls' farm to the Ruahine Forest Park boundary. There was evidence of some rain recently and Fred commented that the stock all looked in good condition.

At the start of the track we used a map printout to compare the physical features of the Makaroro River in front of us with the proposed lake that would result if the Ruataniwha Water Storage plan goes ahead. The huge area concerned gave us much food for thought and debate regarding the wisdom or otherwise of the proposal. Over the fence and the steady uphill walk along the ridge was a delight with stands of aged beech trees shielding us from the strengthening wind. We made good progress before stopping at the highest point before the descent to Gold Creek Hut. As the wind was now very strong, even in the bush, we burrowed

## Pohokura

through the undergrowth to a more sheltered spot for lunch. On our way back the wind dropped as suddenly as it had appeared and we made good time back to our truck and afternoon tea in the shearers' quarters. RB

Party: Mary Van Panhuys, Barbara Phillips, Marion Nicholson, Christine Hardie, Penny Isherwood, Marjorie Musson, Fred Chesterman, Brent Hickey, Rodger Burn

**#2215**

**Hogget, Kaweka FP**

**23 - 24 Feb 2013**

A six o'clock start saw the parties arrive at the Taruarau Bridge on the Taihape Road at around 8 a.m. Here we gleefully watched the river party walk away and around the corner into what should have been their first pack float on a rather cool and cloudy morning. After this we drove back the few kilometres to Timahanga Station and along to the roadend near the Mangataramea Stream. The ford here has long gone but we quickly found the track down to the stream which we crossed then followed an old pack track which sidles slowly up a spur heading towards the Tahuhunui Range. The bush was lovely - mainly beech and kanuka dotted with mountain cabbage, rimu, lancewood and smaller scrubby trees. Amongst it we saw/heard many different birds.

After an hour of walking the track gradient increased significantly, slackening only when we reached the main ridge. The vegetation changed from bush to dracophyllum-dominated scrub and then to tussock. In amongst the tussock a few alpine plants were still flowering (eyebright, gentians, harebells, Senecio and others). We had an early lunch, hoping that the forecast clearing of the misty conditions would happen before we reached the Hogget. Alas, that was not to be but we did have a good look around the area where apparently, according to the words made in stones on the ground, the yards used to be.



As we retraced our steps from the Hogget the mist started to lift so we had a rest and waited for the views westward over the Ngamatea plateau to the mountains and south to the Taruarau River valley to emerge. Rested, we continued down the range and back along the spur track to the truck, arriving there just after four. In view of the extreme fire danger, rather than camp out, we drove to Comet Hut for the night. After a bit of an explore of the area around the hut and a walk up the track towards the Komata high point we cooked tea. Two of us slept in the hut and two in the truck. The next morning we gradually made our way back to the Taihape Road and then down to bridge over the Taruarau River on the private road to the Pohokura block. To pass the time waiting for the other party we walked upstream for a kilometre or so to find where the warm Waipiropiro Stream discharges into the river. We then retraced our steps to the truck and settled down in the warm sunshine until the others finally appeared. A great weekend, thanks to all, particularly to Geoff for driving.

Party: Geoff Clibborn, Penny Isherwood, Susan Lopdell, Glenda Hooper

#2216

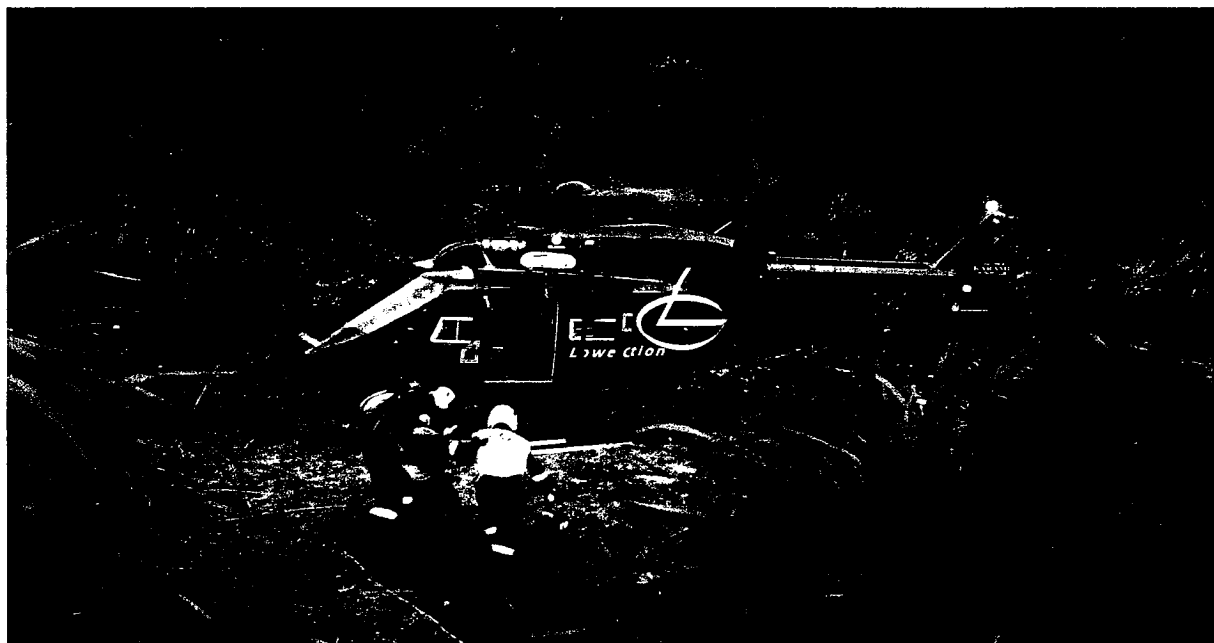
Makaroro Circuit, Ruahine FP

Wed 27 Feb 2013

The Makaroro Circuit: cross the river, go along Yeomans Track a short while then up Parks Peak ridge, nearly to the highest point. Lunch at the signpost and turn-off to Barlow Hut, drop, drop down to the river, have afternoon tea at the hut, head downriver and cross the Makaroro about 20 times to arrive back at the start. A lovely day, especially when the main range is crisp and clear, spread out like a map across the valley. We were happily doing just this, following the plan, until Bobby had the misfortune to skid on the steep track down to the river a couple of times. On the second occasion she heard a pop in her ankle when it rolled over; from there to the hut it was a struggle. She was very brave and uncomplaining, hobbling along for more than two hours to arrive at Barlows at 5.20pm. The personal locator beacon was triggered at 5.12pm.

Most of the party left for the roadend shortly after in order to use all available daylight with Pauline and Graeme staying with Bobby. We were pleased to see the Lowe Rescue Helicopter land on the pad at 7.30pm when she was quickly assessed and onboard, bound for HB Hospital. Pauline and I set off, using torches with moonlight on the river flats, arriving at 10.40pm at the truck. Thankfully, despite no firm indication of their leader's whereabouts, the rest of the party had sighted the chopper and estimated our arrival so had waited. [They entertained themselves with the Clibbornette and with planning a survival dump for the returning pair should they return later than eleven!] We were back at Pernel by 12.15am. Bobby had a broken bone in her ankle, and came home in plaster and with crutches. A longer day than usual! Special thanks to Christine for driving. GRH

Party: Christine Hardie, Bobby Couchman, Penny Isherwood, Raewyn Ricketts, Pauline Mahoney, Brian Mahoney, Alan Berry, Garry Smith, Rodger Burn, Graeme Hare



#2217

Northland Nomads

Sat 9 – Sun 17 Mar 2013

Camp Dad: Graeme HareDrivers: Christine Hardie, Lex Smith

Nomads: Maureen Broad, Marion Nicholson, Fred Chesterman, Garry Smith, Marj Musson, Pam Turner, Annetta Keys, Susan Lopdell, Anne Cantrick, Penny Isherwood, Rodger Burn, Geoff and Evelyn Clibborn, Bruce and Kerry Popplewell (ex-Wellington)  
 Joined in the Kaeo area by Visiting Nomad, Tina Godbert with mini-nomad, Terry

Highlights from our Nomadic wanders are outlined below.

May 2013



### **Orewa/ Whangaparoa**

The Orewa Top Ten Motor Camp provided excellent overnight cabin accommodation with the added bonus of a glorious beach and the warm northern sea to refresh our bodies after a lengthy journey. Penny generously shouted us all drinks and nibbles to celebrate her birthday and we surprised her with a birthday cake, glowingly crammed with candles befitting her age!!! We rounded off the evening with a delicious meal at a local Thai restaurant. We also departed Northland from this area a week later, arriving in the evening at the Peter Snell Youth Village, which was some 12 km down the Whangaparoa Peninsula. Again, we celebrated a birthday (Sue's), again, at a Thai restaurant where the staff presented her with a little birthday cake and a novel gift.

### **Whangarei Area**

Matakohe – Kauri Museum This is a real gem of the North offering outstanding kauri timber and gum displays, and insight into Northland's pioneer past. A guide gave us an overview of the development and use of the kauri timber and gum before we proceeded to spend a couple of hours agog at the magnificent and impressive displays and exhibits of Kauri history. The men were totally hooked on all the machinery. One could actually spend a whole or several days here.

A H Reed Tree-Top Walk We had a few challenges finding our way through Whangarei to this park on the outskirts. It provided a pleasant interlude to stretch our legs along a track bordering Koromiko Stream then up onto a 23m high boardwalk which gave a bird's eye view of the canopy. It featured kauri tree remnants of the original Northland forest plus the forest floor which was showing the effects of serious lack of rain. A few of us scrambled further up to view the Paranui Falls which, in different climatic conditions, would look much more impressive.

Ruaapekapeka Pa This was a wonderfully well-preserved and maintained extensive Pa site, being the last stronghold and battle ground of the Northland tribes in the early colonial wars. It is in a very prominent position with commanding 360° views which we all savoured. We were fascinated by remaining evidence of the huge network of tunnels, rifle pits and trenches. The site was well supplied with excellent billboards providing the history of the battles.

Kawakawa A definite stop for any traveller with its railway running through the centre's main road and the famed Hundertwasser toilets which we flushed with great abandon! We admired the amazingly colourful mosaics covering the walls and floors. Sidewalks also offered us mosaic-covered sofas to lounge on as we ate ice creams.

### **Kaero/Whangaroa**

Lonsdale Park Outdoor Education Centre near Kaero was our rural base for the week. This camp accommodates 65 so we had ample space to spread ourselves amongst the cabins - Camp Dad even had a suite to himself! From this base we explored a number of beautiful bays and features of interest in the surrounding area.

St Pauls Rock A prominent rock feature overlooking the Whangaroa Harbour. We had a steep ascent with the help of chains for the final section but were rewarded with magnificent views of this sizeable, tranquil inlet. Below was a marina harbouring both leisure and deep-sea fishing craft. A number of the latter could be seen heading out to sea as fishing is a major industry here.

Tauranga Bay A beautiful sweep of golden sand near the heads of the harbour - a great spot for morning tea, paddling, and exploring the beach and pretty little estuary. We continued south-east and met up with Phil, Fred's bull-breeding friend, who followed us up a hill to a view point. There, he gave us some local history and pointed out landmarks of interest such as the Cavalli Islands where the wreck of the Rainbow Warrior lies plus privately owned islands close offshore.

Matauri Bay Here some of the nomads rested, some braved the surf pounding in along this extensive bay and a few climbed the steep slope to gain the cliff top where the Rainbow Warrior Memorial stands. This moving sight was well worth the huff and puff. It is a massive plinth supported by a rainbow of stones with a central stone pillar upon which a propeller is mounted. This is the impressive work of Chris Booth and stands about seven metres high, looking out towards the point where the Rainbow Warrior was scuttled. It is a memorial to Fernando Pereira who lost his life in the explosion and sinking.

Mahinepua Peninsula Track This walk begins at the beautiful Mahinepua Beach which water babies Christine and Garry found irresistible so went no further! Most of the rest of us dumped our packs and walked /climbed the 300 plus steps up and along the ridgeline to gain the view point at the end of the peninsula. Amazing vista across to the Cavalli Islands, Cape Brett and Karikari Peninsulas resulted. On our return some of us joined the, now supposedly shrivelled water babies to cool off.

## Pohokura

Urupukapuka Island From Paihia we boarded a chartered boat and skimmed across the ocean for about 20 minutes to Urupukapuka Island, the largest in the Bay of Islands, where disembarked at Otehei Resort jetty. Being on an island was a novelty and offered a range of walks to explore as far or as near as one desired within our time constraints. On the hilltops are many archaeological sites of ancient pas and, from the vantage points, views of nearby islands, shimmering seas and sandy bays were just idyllic. There were many pohutukawa, sadly past flowering, and a dramatic coast line of cliffs that was stunning. Some of us dropped down to a newly developed wetland where we were fortunate to see brown teal on a small lake. We all ended up at a trig site in a bay for late lunch and swim before departing.

Waitangi The boat took walkers to a jetty at Waitangi and a driver back to Paihia to collect the truck. We followed an interesting route to the Treaty House where we soaked up the historic atmosphere of house, marae and waka. All very meticulously maintained and geared for tourism - NZ citizens have free entry.

On our way back and after many wrong turns we visited the Godbert's home, out of Kerikeri, where we very much appreciated the cuppa and cake offered by Isabel, Tina and Derry. Great adventurer, Terry, shared his paradise-like playground with us, i.e. the forest, lake and waterfall in his grandparents' backyard! Tina outlined the plans for the next day's tramps in Puketi Forest.

Puketi Forest An exciting beginning for me, as I met up with a teaching colleague from the mid-sixties whose farm we crossed to enter the forest. June and husband Ian Wilson have been the driving force in setting up and overseeing a volunteer project to reduce predators in the forest in the hope of encouraging back more native bird life especially kereru and kiwi. Recently, kokako have been released.

We divided into two parties, initially walking together through this beautiful forest with magnificent kauri. The B party walked about in this lower area, seeing tomtits, keruru, fantails, hearing a NI robin and later seeing a large ruru (morepork). They then returned to the truck and took it around to the Waipapa River road end to walk a little way up this track from where the A party would return. Eight members of the A party completed the Waihoanga Gorge loop, taking 7½ hrs. We penetrated further into the forest across a closed track to the Takapau kauri grove. This kauri forest had a real jungle feel and the giant kauri, Takapau 1 and Takapau 2, were truly magnificent trees with girths of over 10m. It was so magical to have the privilege of encountering these giants in a non-tourist setting.



## Pohokura

Some other special plants we saw were *phebalium nudum*, which has leaves with a long-lasting, unusually strong coconut smell, and Kirk's Daisy, a large bush found mainly in Northland. We climbed up onto the Puketea Ridge where the puketea tree predominates along with tawa. Also there were some solid thickets of young kauri. It was very special to spot some red rata vine in flower and we heard robins but not the hoped for kokako – this is only on our Wellingtonian's cellphone! We dropped down the ridge to the Waipapa River which we followed, encountering some amazing clear, deep pools reflecting the glorious forest like mirrors. Eventually we crossed onto an old logging track which followed the river down to the car park. Puriri trees often lined the track along with heaps of paraphanta. We encountered local horsemen - from the hoof prints it is obviously a popular area for riding and hunting. Tina and I certainly dived into the very refreshing pool by the car park before we departed.

Wairakau Stream Track to Lane Cove Hut Tina and family met us at Totara North on the western arm of the Whangaroa Harbour with a boat in tow! Pam and Evelyn were in for a very special treat, not to mention surprise. Derry sailed them plus Terry around to Lane Cove to eventually meet up with the rest of us. They thought that was just fantastic and had views of some sea creatures we didn't encounter such as little penguins and gannets resting on the sea.

The rest of us left from the car park along a well-formed track down to the stream and valley at the base of the inlet where once Mrs Moses' cottage stood. She milked cows and carried the milk out on packhorses along the original track. Only a gate post now remains. We followed the edge of the inlet, thickly covered with mangroves. After several climbs and drops we were at picturesque Lane Cove where the sailors awaited us. We lunched together then most of the party climbed steeply 500m up to the base of a prominent rocky outcrop called Dukes Nose. Several of us used the chain rope to haul ourselves up the extremely steep last ten metres to gain the top. Terry even summited on his mother's back - well done, Tina! We were rewarded with stunning views out to the entrance of the harbour and very unusually-shaped rocky outcrops. Growing on the top was a rare *pittosporum umbellatum*. On the way back only three of us braved a refreshing dip in a stream. We did spot a pretty but spindly NZ gloxinia shrub with an orange flower.

Tairare Water Garden A short distance from our camp was a once-beautiful garden, formerly featured in House & Garden magazine and by Maggie Barrie on TV. Sadly, the owner has suffered ill-health in recent years and his life's work has fallen into disrepair. It is still an attractive, although not entirely safe, wander down through forest to the unkempt but beautiful water lilies flowering in the ponds.



## Far North

Cape Reinga We became tourists for a day which gave our drivers a little rest. From Awanui we caught the Sand Safari Bus and headed for Cape Reinga. Our local Maori driver, Senni, was a real character and gave us an amusing and informative commentary along the way. We called in at Rarawa Beach, noted for fine silica sands once mined and used in glass-making. Nothing remains of this formerly thriving industry but ramshackle buildings. Before reaching the Cape we dropped steeply down to Tapotupotu, a delightful little golden sand beach, to have our lunch. Penalties of being a tourist soon came upon us – other busloads arrived! The Cape Reinga lighthouse area is now all beautifully landscaped and one cannot wonder if it has not lost some of its spiritual atmosphere. However it remains a very moving and stunning place with Spirits Bay, Cape Maria Van Diemen and the clashing of the two oceans, Pacific and Tasman. The return was via Ninety Mile Beach, accessed along the Te Paki stream. We beat the other buses and stopped at the huge, steep Te Paki dunes for tobogganing.

## Pohokura

where Graeme and Christine were the champion speed sliders. It was such a thrill to motor along the pristine, golden beach highway. At the Waipapakauri exit we encountered a group of protesters who were wrapping up a demonstration against the proposed "Top Gear" beach race closure. Such is the power of international television crews!

## Dargaville

Opononi Our departure from the North took us through this famed little settlement but it was dolphin-free. Opo was away and under restoration! We drove out to view the narrow entrance to the Hokianga Harbour with its dramatic surrounding landscape.

Waiotemarama A short distance off the main highway we had a bush walk to view the Waiotemarama (waters of the moon) waterfall - a beautiful name for a delightful little waterfall. Near the car park was a local craft centre with an amazing selection of wooden art, mainly puzzles, for sale.

Waipoua Forest When you visit this area with the majestic giant kauri surrounding you, you really do feel just like a little ant! We walked the tracks in to see Tane Mahuta, Lord of the Forest, the tallest at 51m with a trunk girth of 13.8m and also Te Matua Ngahere, the Father of the Forest, having a thicker girth at 16m and being older. Sadly, the latter is showing of dieback disease. These two massive trees are 2,000 to 3,000 years old! We also viewed the Four Sisters, aptly named as they are so close together. All trees of note are viewed from platforms to protect sensitive root systems and, before entering the forest track, the soles of visitor's footwear all have to be sprayed to remove spores that may carry disease. Whether this is a successful measure could be debated as it appears that pigs are probably a major vector in the northern forests.

This was a fantastic trip which couldn't have happened without Graeme's wonderful organisation and enthusiasm. It was a compatible group of "nomads" who all contributed to it being such a successful time. A special thanks to Tina and her family for their generous contribution to our adventures, and a huge thanks must go to the drivers who, so good-humouredly and safely, drove us approx 2000 kilometres. AC AK

## #2218 Howletts Hut – Roof Painting

21-23 Mar 2013

I walked in to Daphne for the night on the way to Howletts. Friday saw me there at 11a.m. having carried four kilos of tools, six litres of paint, my own stuff plus a rifle (anticipating the benefit of flying out the potential venison)! The hut roof paint is in a bad state with flaking, cracked paint that needed hard and repeated wire-brushing to remove and prepare. I had managed to do part of the western side and started on the southern by Friday night but the lure of venison took me away before daylight on Saturday, up towards Tiraha at the southern end of Sawtooth Ridge and beyond. No luck so back on the job by 11a.m.

As the club trip had been changed from the Maungataniwha Trust trip to Howletts, A and B parties [to Daphne Hut] were coming in. However only one A member, Anne Cantrick, made it. She arrived at 12:30 on Saturday. We both scraped and painted, Anne on a 200 litre drum and me on the ladder. As we finished a little too late, the dew dealt to the last half hour's painting! Other jobs were done too - on the Friday I had stripped [there wasn't much paint on it] and painted two coats inside and out on the little wooden dormer window above the porch, re-screwed a seat on to one of the three chairs, put up a #8 wire drying-line behind the stove and, between the veranda poles outside, painted the window sill by the bench. We also got more firewood and did some other little chores.

Our free chopper ride [organised by Ken Mills of DoC] unfortunately was at 9a.m. on Sunday so we were up at 5.30, bacon and eggs for breakfast [with eggs from in the hut!] and into more work. I repainted the dew-damaged area and did yet more painting. Anne scrubbed down the sleeping platforms and the really grubby dormer area above the door plus the under-bench shelves and the bench itself. A good start had been made with the roof paint, so with a weather-dependant return trip in late April or early May we could finish the roof painting. It will need three coats to cover all the neglect. It is hoped that some club members can also make it for the Saturday/ Sunday of the chosen time. Between now and then a roof ladder that I made up and another 10 litres of paint will have been whisked up by the chopper – and 15 bags of coal too. Ken Mills hopes to clean down the mattresses when he is up there hunting in mid-April, weather permitting. JM.

**#2219 Daphne Hut, Ruahine Range****Sat 23 Mar 2013**

After obtaining permission from the landowner to go through Kashmir Farm, seven of us day-trippers parked our vehicles at the old Moorcock Base. We wandered along a farm track before dropping down to cross Moorcock Stream and then began the climb up to the ridge. We were initially on farmland then through scrub, finally popping out on the ridge top where the original track sign to Daphne was nailed on a beech tree. Walking through predominately beech forest, crossing two significant streams, finally popping out to the wide highway which is now the official route in. Even though few people travel in on the old route it is still easy to navigate, slightly overgrown but a beautiful area to visit. It was a sharp descent to the Tukituki River at its lowest flow I've ever seen - a short, easy route through the gorge and there was Daphne Hut nestled on a river terrace. We lunched in coolest conditions inside the hut and read John's entry in the hut book; all commented on his 34 kilo load! After looking at the start of the spur track up to Howlett's we made our way out, returning along the same route. While seated on a grassy knoll we admired the views down the river before returning to our cars - a good round trip of 6-6½ hrs. SL

Party: Des Smith, Peter Brown, Glenda Hooper, Rodger Burn, Mike Bull, Janice Love  
Susan Lopdell (leader)

**#2220 Waipawa Forks Hut, Ruahine FP****Wed 27 Mar 2013**

A 7:30 a.m. start did not deter a keen group wanting to do a circuit not attempted by most for a long time. This trip was at Bobby's suggestion even though she is out of action for the time being. At the Triplex carpark we were met by our CHB members, Bruce and Christine Turner and, after the usual chattering and dithering, we were on our way. It was another perfect day in our long run of summer weather.

Part-way up Sunrise Track we met a couple of contractors working with a Bob Cat grader doing track and drainage realignment. They assured us that the entire track to Sunrise has had an overhaul. We turned off at the junction and carefully stepped down with only a couple of stumbles to the Waipawa River - arrived at Waipawa Forks Chalet just on midday.

The hut was in clean condition and we had a pleasant lunch break there. However, to the scribe's dismay, a stoat was later seen running around in the rocks at the river's edge. We carried on down the river, enjoying the scenery and low river levels although we all eventually ended up with wet feet on the last few crossings before returning to the truck via the Swamp Track. We were interested to see that the local farmer had fenced off some of the lower river for his cattle to graze the banks. RB

Party: Christine Hardie, Penny Isherwood, Raewyn Ricketts, Janice Love, Heather Stephenson, Sue Taylor, Christine and Bruce Turner, Keith Thomson, Brent Hickey, Garry Smith, Rodger Burn

**#2221 Mount Taranaki - Easter****29 Mar – 1 April 2013**Party A's 27th March – 1st April extended trip

This party had lost its leader and all but two stalwart members during the week leading up to Easter. Brenda had wanted to spend more time to go round and climb the mountain than the four-day Easter weekend allowed so she and I left at 6a.m. on Wednesday 27th for Dawson Falls road-end. We stopped off for a coffee at Farmlands Hawera and for me to catch up with the manager. By 4pm we got to the Taranaki Alpine Club's Tahurangi Lodge which is kept locked and needs a fee of \$20 to get the key and stay. From there we dropped down towards Maketawa Hut where we met up with Brenda's father, Ron who had come over from Raetihi to climb Egmont/Taranaki. Surprisingly, we had the hut to ourselves. As the evening progressed we observed the shadow cast by Egmont over the plains as the sun fell. Out of that and the colourful sunset rose the full moon - all at the same time and quite a spectacle!

By 7:15 a.m. on Thursday 28th we were away for the climb of 1458m [sounds better at 4800 feet!] then stopped at Tahurangi Lodge where we left most of our gear in the public lobby. By 9:30 were on our way, up through the snow valley to the hundreds, if not thousands, of wooden steps leading to the scoria fields which join the bottom of the rock-solid Lizard Ridge. Then it's into the crater, walk on the ice field and up to the summit peak at 2518 m or 8300 feet. We spent about 90 minutes up there along with many of the 30 or

## Pohokura

40 people who also made it, including a couple from Quebec with their 11 month-old son in a backpack! Views were possible as the cloud, probably at about 4000 feet came and went. At times we saw down to Fantham's Peak, Syme Hut and out to the coast. By 4p.m. we were back at Taururangi and bade farewell to Ron who had to get home to deliver canoeists to Whakahoro for their Whanganui River adventures. On to Holly Hut by 7:30pm and a half-full hut with people we would be following for the next few days.

A bit of a lazy start at 9:15 after the climb yesterday, down to Bell's Falls side track to see the unspectacular falls. The old high-level track that started near here is closed and very overgrown so no option but to do the track down Stoney Creek to pick up the lower route. We detoured up to Kahui Hut by 4p.m. and on to Waiau Falls Hut by 7:15. Kahui Hut is scruffy now, sleeps six but has a very large kitchen/common room and a big covered-in porch as well. It is really only used by locals and DoC hunters who are trying to exterminate goats after decades of neglect. I seem to remember they have shot 80,000 since the 1920's! Considering this is a National Park the track up here is in really bad shape: washouts two metres deep that could hide anyone who fell in as tussock obscures these chasms and the overgrown track slows progress. After meeting up with a pleasant Maori family for a chat, we moved on to arrive at Waiau Falls just on dusk and the first rain for the trip. As the hut was full we ended up on the floor along with two guys who arrived at about 10:30p.m.

Away at 9:15 again and on the high track to Lake Dive. This just climbs steadily up to the big cliffs where the track goes underneath and then up to the alpine area well above the bush-line. We met two groups of eight so, what with them plus others arriving at Waiau Gorge Hut from the lower tracks, I suspect the hut was overflowing! One of the groups told us that there had been 32 in the ten-bunk Syme Hut the night before, packed in like sardines! There are some neat herb fields above the tussock with a range of coloured plants. On down again on tracks with tannalised timber steps and culverts, not my favourite as you cannot make your own pace/step length and it is hard on the knees. This hut was also full with two on the floor. Arriving at 5:15 gave us more leisure for preparing meals and photographing the spectacular mirror image of the mountain reflected in Lake Dive. I spoke to Glenda from the B party by cellphone to let them know of our probable plans re the weather change - we had not been able to catch up with them until now.

Rain fell during the night with wind gusts added so the change in weather was upon us and not a bright outlook for Sunday. Underway by 9a.m. out towards Dawson Falls road-end in the rain, arriving just on midday. The original plan was to go up to Syme Hut and back down on Monday but, as the weather forecast at the Dawson Falls Visitor Centre was not very cheerful, we made the decision to head back home a day early. Annoyingly, the B party observed on Monday that the mountain was clear and bright - we should have persevered with the original plan! Many thanks to Brenda for the transport and good company and the smallest A party that has ever done a long weekend HTC trip!

JM

Party : Brenda Thomas, John Montgomerie.

### Party B's trip as planned

#### Good Friday Maketawa Loop Track

After a six hour car journey we arrived at North Egmont Visitor Centre at 12:15 to find that the car park was totally full with all sorts of extra cars parked in non-parking areas. Luckily, following the road up further towards Camp House we squeezed into one of the very few remaining spaces. A quick lunch and a change of clothes and we were off. The uphill on an access road was very hard after sitting all morning but once on the Maketawa Track we were rewarded by superb forest, a good track and the equally impressive Maketawa Hut for a brief break. The mountain was clear, the views were great and we met many groups out for a fantastic weekend.

#### Saturday 30th Holly Hut and Return

What a surprise to wake up to 'RAIN'. But, no matter, we were packed and ready to take off with faith that "Rain before seven, fine before eleven" is a Taranaki Truth from one who should know!? {At around midday, daylight saving was blamed for the delay in the arrival of fine weather}.

Back to the actual tramping and a steady plod up Razorback Ridge - with steps to rival the Inca Trail - brought us to the Around the Mountain Track. This was easy walking with a few spots where work-in-progress was evident. The gentle ups and downs for crossing dry steam beds made for pleasing progress and with expansive views obliterated by cloud we were more aware of the plants along the way: lots of astelia, five finger, leatherwood and flax. There were also miniature gardens of amazing variety in tiny pockets along the track-side: mosses, lichens and fungi of all colours, shades and shapes.

We caught occasional glimpses of the Ahukawakawa Swamp as the clouds broke briefly, before descending more steps to Holly Hut where dry clothing was donned for lunch. The afternoon weather, though misty, was

much improved. We could actually see the Dieffenbach Bluffs looming out of the mist and appreciate the ruggedness of the steep, rocky gorges where some tricky rock scrambles were necessary. At Boomerang Slip we could see the other end and probably had a much easier crossing due to the dampness. We could also see the orange colour in the stream below where ochre wells up from the ground. After a good seven hours we were happily back to our starting point in dry weather but with soggy clothes and boots.

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Waingongoro Track to Waingongoro Hut , Enchanted Walk and Patea Loop.

WHAT ?! ! Not just rain .... It's torrential. Our leader, though, had no fear. Maybe just a bit later than planned but, "we are going." Good decision. After wondering if we were completely crazy to even set off, we found ourselves in a magical forest at its very best. Raindrops + sunshine = sparkling bush. The easy track allowed us to look at all this magnificent array of plant life and we relied on our photographer to do it justice. The rain comes and goes but we enjoy a comfortable lunchtime at the hut before kitting up for our return.

Meeting quite a few folk on the way, we progressed to Jackson's Lookout with clearing weather ALL ALONG THE WAY. At one stage we were stopped by magnificent rainbows in the misty gorge below. Photos are a priority. Thank-you, Glenda for carrying your camera. Past the lookout we descended through the "Enchanted Walk". Easy to see why it is named that way. The trees are all hung about with fantastic lichens and the whole environment is like a magical place. We decided to add on a little extra - Patea Loop and enjoyed a dry and warm end to our day.

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Lake Rotokare, a predator-free sanctuary

We had a guide for this venture. Glenda's sister, Audrey, is a volunteer here and gave up a morning to show us around. The lake is open to the public with two electronically controlled gates. We found this very interesting, as opposed to public exclusion. Once on our guided walk we were impressed by the variety of native trees - nikau, tree-fern and miro. Bird life included tui, kereru, fantails and one particular robin which was happy to land on Audrey's hand, looking for a treat. The extensive wetlands with raupo, harakeke and kahikatea support water fowls as well as kokopu and eels in the streams. The wider area of native bush has tawa, rewarewa, miro, and mahoe. A walk along the predator fence line showed rata in bloom and also how much effort is needed to maintain these places. With DoC being stressed and expected to do more with less, we need to get out and do all we can in our own back-yard. A great weekend and thank you, Susan Lopdell, for your planning and leadership.

Party: Susan Lopdell (leader), Glenda Hooper, Susan Fraser, Penny Isherwood

<b>#2222</b>	<b>Three John's – Ruahine Ranges</b>	<b>7 April 2013</b>
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I concluded my report detailing our Sept 2012 trip with the words, 'Next time we might take the easier route to Three Johns Trig from Waipawa Saddle.' Attempt Number Two took place on Sunday 7th April. The change of clocks at daylight saving can cause problems so we decided to treat our day as if the change had not taken place. All okay so long as everyone has the information!!!

Still, we were travelling up the Waipawa River by 8:10am with Susan and Glenda planning to go to Waikamaka Hut, Geoff to go as far as the sunshine, and five of us hoping to go to Three Johns before descending via the ridge systems to either the farmland or Waipawa Chalet. I noted that none of the September 2012 party were coming out on Three Johns Part 2.....I wonder why?!

The main group was tucked out of the breeze by 11a.m. enjoying an early lunch. Mike B retreated from here and so did the Waikamaka party when an isolated skiff of snow came through the saddle as they approached. By 1p.m. our group of four was on Three Johns ready to start the descent. The tussock ridge was easy but once we struck the leatherwood, both alive and dead, the well-defined trail vanished and we were fighting to move downwards. Very short sections of old deer tracks enticed us further into the battleground. Even so, we retreated, hoping that the users of the Waipawa Chalet had kept the ridge track open to the tops. Again we were stymied and at 2:38 we decided the only logical way out was to return via the Waipawa Saddle and Waipawa River. By 4:10pm we were back at the saddle and after a steady plod reached the truck at 6:20p.m.

My thanks to all who retained their good humour and patience on what was a full day of tramping in the Ruahine Ranges. The Three Johns loop trip can be attempted by another group in the future. Thanks for driving, Geoff.

GRH



Waikamaka Party: Susan and I followed the others up the Waipawa River until we came to the gut on the sidle round from the beech trees up to the saddle. There aren't many handholds left here and, while inspecting it, we noted little flakes of snow in the drizzle while above us the rest were donning their cold weather gear. Given that we didn't have the hut book to take to Waikamaka Hut (the initial object of our mission) we made an executive decision: run away, back to the sunshine!

So about-turn we did and followed the river down to where we had left Geoff sitting in the sunshine near Waipawa Forks Hut. He wasn't there but it was still sunny so we sat down and had our lunch. After lunch we took the track up to the saddle on the Sunrise Track and then descended this track to the Swamp Track. We then followed the Swamp Track back to the truck arriving at about 3 p.m. just as Mike Bull appeared from the track to the river. (He had turned back a little after us and returned back all the way down river, missing us at our lunch spot by about 10 minutes.

GH

Party: Geoff Clibborn, Susan Lopdell, Glenda Hooper, Mike Bull, Janice Love, Paul Whateley, Des Smith, Graeme Hare.

**#2223**

**Guthrie-Smith Arboretum, Tutira**

**Wed 10 April 2013**

W. H. Guthrie-Smith is long gone but I'm sure he'd have been pleased to know that much effort is being put towards converting the small remnant of his once large holding into a superb development. The visit of a HTC group was a first for the club but I hope it will become a regular event, perhaps with late autumn and early spring trips alternating.

We arrived in a full truck and were greeted by curator, George Christenson with a short, welcoming talk and gentle encouragement for members of the group to become Friends of Guthrie-Smith. The 90ha are being planted in geographical groupings under the overall direction of plants man, Chris Ryan. Many of the trees are now large enough to be figuring in the landscape with the exact location of each recorded, supplemented with progress photographs. That species and site selection have been knowledgably done was proven by the remarkably small numbers of casualties of this season's very severe summer/autumn drought.

We wandered some of the tracks at the northern end thence returning, via the hanger, to an area of natives left untouched by Guthrie-Smith in order to see what changes would occur. One prediction was that there would be invasion by some nasty weeds although this is not now as obvious as it was 10 years ago, thanks to some hard gardening. After lunch we explored the southern end of the arboretum where there has been recent plantings of a wide variety of natives on the slopes surrounding the small, shallow Lake Orakei, close to the main road but not visible from it. Christine drove us with her usual expertise and while we didn't cover much ground it was a thoroughly enjoyable and, I hope, educational day.

ML

May 2013



Party: Rodger Burn, Penny Isherwood, Marion Nicholson, Janice Love, Joan Ruffell, Alasdair Shaw, Pauline Mahoney, Murray Aitken, Geoff Clibborn, Garry Smith, Graeme and Helen Hare, Keith Thomson, Bruce and Christine Turner, Heather Stephenson, Brent Hickey, Pam Turner, Glenda Hooper, Mike Lusk (chief botaniser), Christine Hardie (driver)

**#2224 Pureora Forest Park**

**20 - 21 April 2013**

Left Napier in the early hours of Saturday morning, stopping off at the BP Wairakei to collect Alan, have a second breakfast and continue on our way along the Western Bays Road to the bridge over the Waihaha River where we disembarked. It was overcast with steady light drizzle greeting us so we donned our parkas and trundled across the bridge to the start of the track. Ours was the only vehicle in car-park. It was about 2005 or 06 that I had last been in the area and I was surprised at how the trees had grown alongside the river, now obscuring a lot of the views of the rocky formations near the gorge section.

Initially the route goes through grassland and regenerating bush, all streams bridged, on a well-benched track to the swing-bridge over the Mangatu River. Here, the track winds up to two lookouts, ideal photo spots, before dropping down to the frost flats at the Pakaiora Clearing, and weaving through the monoao and tussock. We continued along the true left bank of the river, passed some tempting deep pools (in summer of course), and noted tanekaha, toatoa, toru, dracophyllum, lots of hebes in flower and a few rewarewa. Some had a look at a small waterfall two minutes on a side track and, after two and a half hours, began to enter the area where podocarps are abundant: rimu, matai, with fewer miro and Hall's totara present, popping out onto a grassy clearing and the 10 bunk Waihaha Hut. Time taken was three hours and, while we lunched in the comfort of the hut, two mountain bikers arrived. It had taken them only one hour to cover the same distance! Saturday afternoon was spent either dozing on a bunk or wandering along the Hauhungaroa Track back to a well-used campsite beside the Mangatu Stream 1¼ hours away. Four of us marvelled at trees that would have been over 500 years old and 120 feet tall. We saw two pale, translucent blue fungi on the track and the birdlife was more often heard than seen - tomtits, robins, kereru, grey warblers, fernbirds, waxeyes and kaka. Saturday night saw all of us testing our word knowledge by undertaking the "pays to increase your word power" quizzes in Reader's Digest magazines left in the hut. Before long it was 9:00pm so all retreated to their bunks for the night. Heavy squally showers came and went during the night and we awoke to an overcast sky but no rain! Three stayed back to tidy the hut before returning to the truck and five of us continued along the Hauhungaroa track towards Te Awaiti Stream, discovering a grassy clearing ideal for summer tenting ( 1-1½ hours). Bird calls were constant with sightings of kaka and karariki the highlights. Back at the hut, raincoats were off, a quick check to see that nothing had been left behind and we set off on the return journey, stopping occasionally to clamber down and get a closer view of the rock pools in the river. We had just stopped for lunch by the swing-bridge when the thunder and lightning flashes began to get closer and closer - wolfed down our food and set off at a very determined pace to reach the truck and change before the rain began. Unfortunately, 10 minutes from the truck, the rain began, lightly at first but when we left the car-park it was torrential. Pureora Forest missed most of the heavy rain the rest of the country encountered and for once the forecast for the area was spot on, making it a remarkable weekend.

Party: Peter Berry (driver), Susan Lopdell (leader), Glenda Hooper, Alan Peterson, Christine Snook, Natalie Berry, Ben Morgan, Peter Brown.

**#2225 Lake Tutira and Table Mountain**

**Wed 24 April 2013**

For whatever reasons our small group gathered on a lovely autumn day heading to Lake Tutira After refuelling the truck at Bay View where Keith doing a good job of window cleaning, we arrived at the lake and parked in the camping ground. What did we first realise? Yes, the lake was indeed clean.

We decided to go up the Tutira Walkway to "Table Mountain", following the farmer herding his cattle in the same direction. Cattle through the gate and the farmer realised he has missed one so a spectacle for some with man's best friend doing what he does best. The farmer also informed us that the gully over the fence which is Regional Council land will be planted in manuka to form a new forest with the hope that a few years on the broadleaf trees will return.

### Pohokura

A few minutes later, taking the windy conditions in our stride, we stood talking again to the farmer who explained how the Regional Council is managing the lake. A bit involved for me but it sounded interesting. Heading downwards and taking the Galbraith Track we stopped for lunch just before entering the pine forest. After negotiating several very muddy corners on this track, we reached the junction and opted to take the outer track. Back walking over farmland and there were mushrooms for all (if we could beat other gatherers). Nearing the end of our walk a large opossum was seen caught in a trap low to the ground – looked like a recent end to its days.

Made it to the truck by 3p.m. for a cuppa and then drove to Hastings, having had a wonderful day. MM

Party: Christine Hardie (driver), Keith Thomson, Pauline Mahoney, Alasdair Shaw, Brent Hickey, Judy McBride, Heather Stephenson, Marjorie Musson



#2226

Central Hawke's Bay Beaches

Thurs 25 April 2013

The main purpose of this trip was to see how this area is recovering after the weather bomb of over a year ago. We set off from Aramoana Beach past the recently repaired historic woolshed and Te Angiangi Marine Reserve towards Blackhead Beach noting scarred hillsides and a new road constructed through the debris, just above the high tidemark. The DoC toilets have been completely obliterated with only two green posts and a partly uncovered concrete tank remaining. Blackhead has new baches being built and appears to have come through remarkably unscathed. We walked for about an hour past the private camping ground before turning back, stopping to lunch on a newly grassed mound with 180 degree views – we were joined by two red-billed gulls on the scrounge. Wandered over the marine reserve and was slightly disappointed by the lack of life in the rock pools - may have been because the tide had turned and we were unable to roam further out on the rocks.

We came back to the truck and Peter offered to drive around to Pourerere Beach while the rest of the party walked along the sand. There was a lot of seaweed washed up due to the big easterly seas we had a week ago. Birds seen were pied and black shags, black-backed gulls, red-billed gulls, terns, variable and pied oystercatchers, a solitary black swan surfing the waves, white faced herons and, I think, a sandpiper. The find of the trip was when Maureen saw an intact nautilus shell on the beach.

On our way home we stopped off at the Pekapeka Swamp and it is great to see the work that has been achieved in cleaning up the waterways, constructing track systems and putting in boardwalks. The highlight

May 2013

## Pohokura

was to see a family of dab chicks swimming past as these birds are normally shy and elusive. Back at Pernel by 4:30 p.m. An enjoyable trip with very little wind and pleasant company.

Party: Susan Lopdell (organiser), Peter Berry (driver), Maureen Broad, Des Smith, Rodger Burn, Susan Fraser, Glenda Hooper

**#2227 MacIntosh Hut, Kaweka FP**

**5 May 2013**

With a 6:00a.m. start from Pernel, 11 bods motored off up the Taihape Rd, weather fine and dry. Turning off at Blowhard onto Lawrence Rd we drove to within 600m of the roadend and emptied out. We left the truck with Geoff to drive around to Castle Rocks Road and were heading for the Tutaekuri River cable bridge by 7:45am. Next, uphill to a track junction then left down to the Donald Stream, crossing to climb up to the MacIntosh Spur at 10:00am. At higher levels there was plenty of pig sign where they had ripped into the ground. The party fair flew along on the easy gradient into MacIntosh Hut for lunch at noon; there were a few spots of rain but otherwise it held off. No-one else was at the hut while we had lunch and Graeme gathered firewood to help future visitors. It was nice sitting on the veranda in the sunshine but by 12:30pm the party was packed and heading out to Castle Rocks Road over the metal bridge. That climb stuffed me and I just crawled up to the top for 2:00p.m. to find Geoff arriving from doing some geocaching in the area. A hot drink was most welcome then we all loaded up and zoomed off back to Napier in the HTC 'Recovery Ward', beating the bad weather that had followed us out from the hut. The autumn weather has been very kind to us but you could feel that the cold weather will be here in the next few weeks. Many thanks, Geoff for your driving services. RG

Party: Geoff Clibborn, Graeme Hare, Peter Brown, Paul Johansen, Ken Nugent, Christine Snook, Anne Cantrick, Penny Isherwood, Glenda Hooper, Janice Love, Randall Goldfinch

On Sat 27<sup>th</sup> April I had done a solo tramp around this route plus Castle Rocks Rd, over Gold Creek and Lawrence Rd back to my car. I was caught unawares by the overgrown rubbish in Gold Creek area and became overdue, spending the Sat night bivvying out. I got back to my car the next morning at ten, just before a full-on SAR operation started chasing me even though the Wx had been better than today's!! RG

## Private Working Trips

### Waipawa River Track Cutting

**Monday 15 April 2013**

Over recent years the access track on the true left terrace of the Waipawa River above the forks has become overgrown with tutu and other vegetation, forcing trampers to follow up the waterway, clambering over large and often wet rocks, taking a longer risky route with more effort. Graeme and I re-cut this access track from above the forks up to the point at which it opens out to sub-alpine vegetation. There is a good canopy in most parts and regeneration should not be too much of a problem; it could be easily managed on a club trip say every two years. To search where the old track had been I found that by looking from a low level, as in kneeling, I could peer through the regrowth and see the route no problem.

While this track-cutting effort was in progress Ros zoomed off on a solo tramping mission to Waikamaka Hut delivering a new hut book successfully this time.

Party: Mike and Ros Lusk, Graeme Hare

## From the Archives

**Sixty Years Ago**

*Because of the Everest climb anniversary this issue of the Pohokura will change its focus from the usual 50 years in order to acknowledge the special occasion. The club records of mid-1953 have many snippets relating to George Lowe's achievement, starting with the editorial.*

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO THE EVEREST TEAM. George himself has said that thirteen men climbed Everest. He would also include Eric Shipton who found the successful route and scientists Professor Finch

May 2013

and Dr Bourdillon who devised the oxygen apparatus.....George's letters, read at our fortnightly club meetings, have been the most exciting serial story we have ever heard. Moreover they were fact, not fiction and the adventures described were still continuing at the time of reading. We feel tremendous pride in the work he did for the ascent. "Step-bashing" across the face of Lhotse at 25,000 feet without oxygen must have been grim.

*The magazine goes on to record the establishment by Federated Mountain Clubs in June 1953 of the Hillary – Lowe Everest Fund as a permanent recognition of the pair's magnificent work. The fund's purpose was to help future overseas expeditions from New Zealand. HTC appointed a local representative to channel donations to the Wellington-based trust whose five trustees would decide on its distribution.*

*At the end of June when George's parents invited the WHOLE CLUB to their home for supper and a reading of his latest 27 page letter apparently everyone turned up. When George himself finally arrived back home he was given a tremendous reception.*

And then George came home. And Hastings cheered like mad for the second time. [The first time was when the news of his ascent came through at the end of the Coronation ceremony]. The Club turned out as a guard of honour in theory but in actual practice, linked arms and tried to keep the crowd from bursting bounds. We didn't have enough ice axes to make a good display so just bedecked ourselves with club colours except for those who were representing the club at the Mayor's cocktail party afterwards. They were dressed so smartly that they almost had to be introduced.

George looked terribly tired but made the speech of a lifetime, cracking jokes in his own inimitable way. Now we are waiting all agog to hear the "unofficial story" of the Everest Expedition but in the meantime, this edition of Pohokura just simply has to go to press.

## HTC BIKE TRIPS



### Cycling Down the Motu

3 – 6 December 2012

After recently tackling the local waterways with a flotilla of kayaks, Mister Lyn moved on to plan the details for a grand cycling trip. He researched North Island cycleways and proposed that a group of keen cyclists ride the Motu Trail, a very recent entrant in the list of Great Rides. Plans had been made and remade over the last few months; eventually a small group left for the wilds north of Gisborne.

Day 1: Rodger's car was loaded to the roof with apparently essential gear and all went according to plan including a lunch of Ostler's famous pies in Wairoa. We met the 'Duck's Nuts' as planned in Matawai and hastily unloaded bikes so that everyone except the vehicle drivers could cycle 14km to Motu. This is an easy route on a sealed road with no traffic and it didn't take long to reach our accommodation. Motu Lodge is the converted local Post Office (built in the 1920s) and run by the local teaching family. Although plain it is very well equipped and we had a room each!

In the late afternoon it was decided to take a short ride to the local scenic spot – Motu Falls - along an unsealed but well-graded road. A problem arose when Christine discovered that her bicycle had a badly ripped back tyre and tube from causes unknown. Fortunately the team of Gentry, Burn and Hare dealt to it quickly and efficiently with comprehensive repairs. It meant that the entire wheel was potentially seriously compromised but the brave Presidential traveller decided to risk it!

## Pohokura

The falls were not large but prettily sited in a piece of bush (complete with freedom campers next to the swing bridge) and the 10km ride was a welcome exercise.

Back at the Lodge Mr Hare developed an intense interest in the local mail system – even though the Post Office no longer operates as such, the residents' personal boxes are still kept in the entrance porch and people come in during the evening to collect their papers and mail after it has been brought up from Gisborne. The papers were late this particular night so some locals visited more than once to check. One man, who was short in stature, had his box on the top of the stack – Graeme felt sure that this was a problem so he lay in wait in order to pop out and help the man on his repeated visits. Eventually this man seemed to become somewhat alarmed at Graeme's sudden and frequent appearances at the door, and left the vicinity in a great hurry. A bit later on, the local teacher came to check that all was well with us. Several drinks and a huge number of hunting stories later, he left us to a peaceful night.

Day 2: Away half an hour earlier than planned! Mrs Lyn was driving The Duck's Nuts all the way round to Opotiki leaving the four cyclists to ride 17km along the road to the Pakihi Track turn-off. By the end of the day we had had quite a slog. This first road is unsealed, long and steep. We left the settlement, climbed slowly past farms, had a stop at a local cemetery to look at historic headstones and up to the top which had great views back to the Motu Valley. The farmland petered out and the bush took over. It was slow work. At the top we tried our mobile phones and finally found a spot where Christine could get a message out to her niece in Whakatane to bring her a new tyre. After the ups it was great to go down although the road is rocky and scoured-out in places. At last we reached the Pakihi Junction where there is a DoC toilet of the modern composting kind. At the same moment as we arrived, a lone cyclist appeared from the opposite direction. He had come up the road from the coast, the ride that we planned for Day 3. He assured us that it was straightforward, and with that heartening news, we plunged into the forest and down the Pakihi Trail.

This is by far the most exhilarating part of the Motu Trail. It is a former stock route that became a tramping track and has now been further improved to cater for bikers. The first section is just over 11km of constant downhill in the bush with lots of sharp corners and very steep drop-offs to your left. Many wooden bridges have been built to span little creeks and ravines [if you want to see the trail before bridging was complete look for the film clips on YouTube] and there were the remains of numerous little landslides. However we all reached the Pakihi Hut without incident and had lunch. The hut is in a clearing with views of foxgloves, tree ferns and steep, bush-clad hills behind. Lyn made another call via radio to his girlfriend at the Opotiki i-site; she had lent it to him to call in for updates which he did several times throughout the day. We were very impressed by this arrangement which we hadn't realised was available.

The next stage is nearly 10km and the trail gradually flattens out to closely follow the river right out to the road. This section is still being developed – bridges were more numerous (we got up to 26 in the end), road signs appeared and we came across two bobcats before meeting a gang of DoC workers clearing a large slip and putting in a very impressive bridge. We had to carry our bikes over this stage! The trail is not difficult to follow but it is narrow in places and the cliff side is very close.

The river valley became wider and quite suddenly we popped out at the road end feeling very pleased with ourselves for having completed the ride. This was not the real end though – we faced another 30 km into Opotiki and out the other side to the motor camp where we were staying for the night.

The ride to town was comparatively easy. Initial gravel surface gave way to tarseal and long, straight stretches past dairy farms. Mrs Lyn cycled to meet us and we were in the coffee shop at Opotiki before 4:30 pm. After refreshments we cycled off down the Dunes Trail, an attractive ride over a magnificent suspension bridge and past coastal sand dunes, to the camp; Christine had by this time managed to speak to her niece, Sarah, and waited for her to arrive with the new tyre. Mercifully the old one had lasted for the whole day.

The motor camp at Tirohanga is well appointed and very clean so we were in for a good night. Sarah came out with the new tyre and was given a great welcome by everyone. We were a bit worried that Rodger's state of undress would unnerve her but she took it in her stride as just another example of her aunt's unusual friends with interesting customs! The only fly in the proverbial ointment at this stage was the weather forecast which promised rain and then severe storms for our big ride the next day.

Day 3: The forecast was right. Heavy rain overnight and the sign of more during the day! Rodger and Christine decided to strap their bikes on the back and accompany Mrs Lyn in the luxury of the vehicle. Mr

## Pohokura

Lyn and Graeme set off early to tackle the first 26km of rough road. We let them get ahead for over half an hour and then slowly followed in the direction they had gone. The presence of logging trucks on the road meant extra vigilance was required.

We were impressed to find that the intrepid duo had covered nearly half the distance by the time we caught up and were into the hill stages of the ride. However the next few hours were slow and difficult. Unfortunately the weather did deteriorate to become progressively wetter and cooler. The road became steeper and Mr Lyn decided a tow was in order. He travelled in this way for several kilometres before traversing a couple of long, flattish valleys near the summit. Graeme latched on to him at times. Fortunately there was very little traffic and Mrs Lyn managed to time her stops to coincide with the appearance of other cars which could then pass us easily.

Eventually the conditions became very unpleasant and Mr Lyn decided to call it quits. He strapped his bike on top of all the others and joined us inside. But Mr Hare decided to continue. What a machine! He didn't flag in his quest for the summit – we made sure we were never too far in front of him and his bright little fluoro jacket.

Disaster struck going down from the highest point before the Pakihi Junction. As the Duck's Nuts jolted over a rocky patch, there was a thump – not enough to disturb us unduly until Mrs Lyn looked in the rear vision mirror and spotted the bikes in a heap in the middle of the road. The bumpy terrain had been too much for the bungy cords holding them together and the whole lot had fallen off! So it was out into the cold and wet to effect a remedy. As we were picking them up and disentangling them, Graeme appeared around the corner. He had seen them coming off but no-one in the bus had heard his shouted warnings.

The bikes were attached more firmly and one was even taken inside. Onwards and upwards again to the junction where we stopped for lunch – Graeme sheltered in the toilet building to eat as the rain was steady. We were able to have pies that had been heated up in the little oven plus hot drinks. Fantastic! From here it was the last push over the road we had done yesterday. We left Graeme on the last stage, knowing that he would be okay, and drove back to the Lodge. Here we prepared a suitable finish line for the King of the Road complete with finish tape, flowers and trophy. He arrived very soon after we did. One little slide had left him with a small gouge in his knee that was shedding blood but otherwise he was still full of energy. He was happy to enjoy a hot shower and a rest in front of the fire which we had lit.

Graeme recovered quickly enough to resume his vigil for the short man at the mailbox and leapt out when he finally appeared. The man, whom we now knew as (Frank) Murphy from the name on his mailbox, was not fazed this time by the treatment and accepted an invitation to come in for a drink or three. What entertainment he provided with his tall tales and true from the legendary past! It turned out that he had been a deer culler and bushman in the 1950s and 60s – in fact he was a close colleague of the legendary Barry Crump. In later life he had branched out into farming, forestry and tourism, and is a real mover and shaker in the metropolis of Motu. This entertainment was enhanced by the earlier arrival of the teacher who donated us a bag of freshly caught fish, a surprise that resulted in a delicious entrée.

Eventually the day's exertions and excitement caught up with us and we staggered off to bed before we could fall asleep in our chairs. The next day everyone reported dreams of long fast downhill rides in the forest. Exciting stuff that we can now recommend to everyone.

Party: Mr and Mrs Lyn Gentry in The Duck's Nuts bus; Graeme Hare, Rodger Burn,  
Christine Hardie in the Rav 4WD

## Local Riverside & Cycleways Rubbish Clean-up

**Wed 12 Dec 2012**

The cyclists on Wednesdays have enjoyed riding our local cycleways so we thought it only fair to offer our time for a clean-up before the influx of visitors arriving to walk and ride our trails over the holiday season. Vince Burn of the HB Regional Council was delighted with our offer and supplied rubbish bags and gloves. As he said, it's not the cyclists or walkers who leave litter but it is deposited when people have vehicle access.

May 2013

Our group of 16 went initially to the Waitangi / Tutaekuri River mouth and quickly filled bags with all sorts of "foreign material." After our sweep the area looked tidier. We then had time to go to the Guppy Road Tutaekuri River access where we picked up and grouped more bags of litter. The council picked up and disposed of our dumps of filled bags the following day.

Shortly after midday the job was completed. Thank you to all who helped; a job well done. Vince wrote and thanked the club and its members for their generous assistance. GRH



Working Party: Geoff Clibborn, Rodger Burn, Bobby Couchman, Marion Nicholson, Marjorie Musson, Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, Christine Hardie, Chris Robinson, Brent Hickey, Raewyn Ricketts, Christine Turner, Bruce Turner, Penny Isherwood, Helen Hare, Graeme Hare

### **Exploring New Local Cycle Paths**

**Wed 6 February 2013**

About a dozen keen cyclists turned up for the first trip of the year. Starting from Kenilworth Road we used cycle ways through Whakatu, Clive, Haumoana, Te Awanga to finish at Clifton Cafe at about lunchtime. Lunch over it was all the way back again with the weather staying ideal for cycling. No dramas, just a happy time and we got back to Hastings at about 2:30pm. JMcB

Cyclists: Heather Stephenson, Garry Smith, Rodger Burn, Peggy Gulliver, Christine Hardie, Graeme and Helen Hare, Annetta and Ken Keys, Pam Pike, Lyn Gentry

### **Fernhill to Dartmoor**

**Wed 20 February 2013**

Just another great day in the Bay with most of our group meeting at the Hills orchard in Fernhill before cruising down Swamp Road to join up with the Taradidlians at the reserve in Dartmoor Road. After the usual natter and several of us playing on the children's swings we headed off for a further 10 kilometres and a pleasant smoko down the access road on the banks of the Mangaone Stream.

The plan was to regroup back on the road but Christine and Garry, showing masochistic tendencies [and advanced deafness] tackled the formidable Sacred Hill section before reappearing. Meanwhile Marjorie had fallen off her bike, fortunately suffering non-life threatening injuries and was duly patched up by Marion. A disconcerting fact emerging from this was that there were only two decent First Aid kits among the group. Everyone should really ensure that they carry reasonable first aid gear as part of their standard equipment. Our Taradale group left us at Puketapu while the rest continued back to Hills Orchard where most had lunch with the rest going straight home. Thanks, Alasdair, for organising the day. RB

Cyclists: Christine Hardie, Marion Nicholson, Peggy Gulliver, Penny Isherwood, Marjorie Musson, Garry Smith, Jim Hewes, Brent Hickey, Graeme Hare, Bruce Finn, Alasdair Shaw, Rodger Burn

**Mystery Cycle****Wed 20 March 2013**

The very welcome drought-breaking rain stopped early in the morning making it possible for us to have our 'Ride of Discovery'. Starting at Clive, we rode the Tukituki Cycleway diverting to Waimarama Road to visit John Hayes' private museum with some interesting local history in it. Onto the road then through an orchard and back on the cycleway briefly before going cross country - sorry, cross river! Emerging from the calf-depth water crossing we headed straight up to Tennants Road and along to the alpacas on Raymond Road. Dave Evans gave us a tour of their 'Good Life' farm with dogs, chooks house-cow and beautiful miniature pony. The heavens opened up while we had lunch under shelter with an informative talk on the products made by Dave & Ann. A further kilometre up the road to MT Pots to see the quirky garden and outdoor art. Maggie's colourful work always puts a smile on your face and is a great place to visit. Back onto the cycleway to Clive by about 2p.m. Amazing what interesting things we have in our own backyards!

Cyclists: Judy McBride, Pam Pike, Rodger Burn, Jim Hewes, Penny Isherwood, Bob Carter, Marion Nicholson, Geoff Clibborn, Lyn and Lyn Gentry

**Otane Circuit****Wed 3 April 2013**

A large group met at McCauley's Café, Otane in what Bruce and Christine assured us was normal CHB weather - warm with very little breeze! Most of us pre-ordered our lunch then and there and we were off, following a loop circuit familiar to our group, down to the Tukituki River. We continued cycling along the roads to the Patangata Pub with one pause for cattle grazing the long acre. Making the most of any grass in a drought. The traffic, as usual, was minimal and it was getting warmer so it was nice to get the couple of small hills over with. It also gave Joan a chance to get to know her nice new bike [which Christine had to test-ride] and experiment with all the bells and whistles. We were back at the cafe just before midday after a 35km. After a very pleasant lunch in the cafe gardens we all made our various ways home. RB

Cyclists: Penny Isherwood, Marion Nicholson, Pam Pike, Peggy Gulliver, Judy McBride, Joan Ruffell, Christine Hardie, Heather Stephenson, Christine & Bruce Turner, Mr Lyn Gentry, Jim Hewes, Garry Smith, Alasdair Shaw, Rodger Burn

# CLUB NEWS:

**Annual Helicopter Rescue Fund-Raising Auction****Wed 6th March 2013**

Another really successful evening that raised \$1200. Thanks everyone who participated. It all ran like clockwork with enthusiastic input from everyone: our entertaining auctioneers, the accounts team, the regular helpers who turn out for every meeting and all of you who BOUGHT the items donated. Some very generous donations were evident, particularly in the amazing fruit and produce lines. It's all very much appreciated and we know that the money is going to a fantastic public service - long may it last. President Christine on behalf of the Committee.

**ITEMS for SALE**

The club has a number of useful tramping items for sale at discounted prices.

<b>New</b> Topo 50 Maps:	\$4.50
Large blue survival bags	\$5.00
Smaller white pack liners	\$2.50
Metal HTC club badges	\$8.00
Blue HTC caps	\$17.00
Bushcraft books	\$12.00
Safety in the Mountains	\$3.00

These can all be ordered from the salespersons, **Marjorie Musson** and **Penny Isherwood**



## Photo Competition:

The photo completion is to be held in June or July. For each category there will be two winners, one determined by a judge and one by popular choice. There is a maximum of two entries per person per category for both the Judge's choice competition and the people's choice competition (these could be four different photos). Brian Smith has again agreed to be our judge and, as he will need to receive digital copies of all entries by June 20, these need to be sent/given to Glenda by 16 June (no late entries will be allowed).

The People's Choice entries must be provided to Glenda by the Monday before the competition (again, no late entries will be accepted). Voting will be done from the digital image but, for those people requiring a hard copy to help them choose, a display of photos will be available to view from 7:15 pm before the meeting starts. Both category winners will be shown at the following meeting and the overall winner will be determined by popular choice.

Photos must have been taken in the last two years by the person entering them. While photos taken overseas can be entered these will not be accepted for the FMC competition.

The categories and category codes are given below – it would help if photos are to be named thus:

Category Code – Photographer's Name – Heretaunga TC - Photo Name

Above the Bush Line    ABL	Hut and Camp Life        HCL
Below the Bush Line    BBL	Historic                    HIS
Outdoor Landscapes (no people) OLS	Club Character            CC
Native Flora and Fauna (no people) NFF	

## HTC Calendar: Submitting Digital Photos

1.     Pix must be technically acceptable: in focus, sharp.
2.     Pix must be crop-able to the chosen formats (3:2 or square).
3.     Pix should be reasonably current (preferably taken since the last calendar)
4.     Include names of places/subjects and photographer's name.
5.     Prefer:
  - pix that are aesthetically attractive (look good)
  - pix taken on club trips
  - pix that show the range of club activities
  - mix of scenes, people, and scenes with people
  - mix of summer and winter shots.
6.     Avoid:
  - pix that are essentially single-person portraits
  - pix taken overseas and on private, out-of-the-Bay trips.

Anyone can send me pix as soon as they are ready. I'll just store them away until the time comes. I have a couple already from Graeme Hare taken on the last Cairn Trip.

**Brian Smith**

## 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, you may not get your Pohokura and we could lose contact with you.

## Obituary

W George Lowe [1924-2013]



Not many tramping clubs in New Zealand can claim a close association with one of the great explorers of the 20th century. Sixty years after the first summiting of Mount Everest/Chomolungma, HTC is joining many other people around the world to admire and reflect on the achievements of George Lowe, probably the most famous Club Captain and life member the club has ever had. His part in the epic 1953 climb was of crucial importance and described as "an astonishing feat of endurance" but his own accounts do not dwell on the sheer effort required and are more likely to modestly say that he "was fit all through the vital days". A mere two days after the climb he wrote to HTC about the Everest show, as he called it, to say that the top had been reached and the whole party was now "unutterably tired and weary looking, and quite unable to grasp the idea of success."

Since 1953 there have been many accounts published and photographs shown of the Everest expedition and the men involved including those by George himself. He wrote

in detail about all his adventures, not just the ones in various parts of the Himalayas but also those in other places - that most of us will never see - such as Antarctica and Greenland. He made a name for himself operating all manner of cameras to add to the documentation of expeditions he was part of. The "epic tenacity and skill" he possessed - as acknowledged by John Hunt, the leader of the Everest climb - were undoubtedly key elements in his successes. His ice-climbing techniques alone were considered to be of the highest order.

Along with these qualities he displayed a huge joy in his climbing and tramping which is evident in his writings. Even in his accounts of trips with HTC this enjoyment comes through. In 1946 he tells of being one of a group hauling large loads of malthoid into the Kiwi Saddle Hut site and then losing his portion in the scrub! Numerous trips up and down the scree on 4100 eventually saw all material delivered - George must have been exhausted but made it sound like an easy walk and recounted how the party members were all singing as they went!

In 1948 a bush bash off the No Man's plateau became an epic gymnastic struggle down cliffs in the mist but was eventually described as a pleasant tramp. In January 1949 he was with a group that traversed the summit ridge of Mount Cook/Aoraki. George's trip report in the Pohokura recorded the group members "yodelling madly for sheer joy" as they went. "There is a deep satisfaction in standing at an altitude of 12349 feet and still having one's [own] feet on solid ground".

Many present members of HTC will recall listening to George when he was on trips in New Zealand and had time to give a talk at a club meeting. Larger than average attendance was usual on such an occasion and the audience was always able to enjoy photos of untouched places he had been to. It was deeply appreciated that he kept up his association with the club all his life and he told us how he was proud to wear the club badge. Our condolences have been sent to George's widow, Mary, and club members plan to attend his local memorial service at the end of June.

Christine Hardie

May 2013

## Heretaunga Tramping Club Meeting and Trip Information

### Coming Meetings:

Date	Speaker	Topic	Host	Supper Help
29 May	All Members	Everest Climb Anniversary	Joan Ruffell	Rodger Burn
12 June	Club Members	QBW Trip Reports	Liz Pindar	Janice Love
26 June	Volunteer Required	Own Choice	Marj Musson	Marion Nicholson
10 July	Christine Snook	South Island Tramping	Paul Whately	Judy McBride
24 July	Brian Smith tbc	Tips on Taking Good Photos	Helen Hare	Des Smith
07 Aug	Susan Lopdell	Hikes in Scotland and Ireland	Brenda Thomas	Geoff Clibborn
21 Aug	Ken Hunt	Te Poutini o Tane	Randall Goldfinch	Graeme Hare
04 Sept	Dick & Vivienne Waterer tbc	Canal Boating Part 2	Brent Hickey	Alasdair Shaw
18 Sept	Glenda Hooper Ros Lusk	Photo Competition	Heather Stephenson	Maureen Broad
02 Oct	Training Committee	Equipping Yourself	Penny Isherwood	Alan Berry
16 Oct	Volunteer Required	Own Choice	David Blake	Joan Ruffell

**Meetings Sub-Committee:** Penny Isherwood, Graeme Hare, Christine Hardie  
We want ideas for club night speakers and activities.

#### **Supper:**

Put out cups, wash dishes, leave kitchen clean and tidy, and generally help Raewyn and Alan. Sweep floors and check that heaters and lights are off at the end of the meeting.

**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.

## 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 kilogram 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:** 8 hrs plus 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 tea / coffee / sugar or whatever to have a hot drink 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 ring 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** so as to avoid unnecessary delays for the rest of the party.

## TRIP LIST 2013



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](mailto:susansplace@xtra.co.nz)

### **Wed 15 May Cycle the Tour of the Bays Circuit**

From the Hastings Golf Club to the Raukawa area.

**Organiser:** Jim Hewes Ph 877 6784

### **18-19 May Robson Lodge \$15 Maps BJ36, BJ37**

Combined Heretaunga/Wanganui Clubs weekend based at Robson Lodge, Kuripapango.

**Organisers:** John Montgomerie Ph 877 7358

Susan Lopdell Ph 844 6697

**Driver:** Geoff Clibborn

### **Wed 22 May Tramp the (Realigned) Manawatu Gorge Track**

**Organiser:** Garry Smith Ph 844 9931

### **Wed 29 May Cycle in Central HB**

**Organiser:** Christine Turner Ph 06 857 5227

### **1-3 June Tararua Ranges \$30 Map BN34**

**Party A:** From Putara Road end to Roaring Stag Hut, Cattle Ridge Hut, Cow Creek and out via the Blue Range to Kiriwhakapapa Road.

**Party B:** Sat, up to Herepai Hut and the tops then return to truck. Sun, walk in to Blue Range Hut for the night. Mon, wander along old tramline and maybe the loop track.

**Organisers A:** John Montgomerie Ph 877 7358

**B:** Glenda Hooper Ph 877 4183

### **Wed 5 June Tramp Mount Kahuranaki (access to be confirmed)**

**Organiser:** Alasdair Shaw Ph 877 6225

### **Wed 12 June Cycle the Seafeld Road circuit**

**Organiser:** Christine Hardie Ph 844 9590

### **16 June Iron Whare \$15 Map BJ37**

From the quarry off Makahu Road to Makahu River; up the spur to Iron Whare Hut. Return via Kaweka Flats track.

**Organiser:**

**Driver:**

### **Wed 19 June Tramp the Thomas Bush and Lake Opouahi Areas**

**Organiser:** Bobby Couchman Ph 877 8557

### **Wed/Thurs 20 - 21 June Birthday Boys Bash**

Our annual get-together at Robson's Lodge; birthday girls are included!

**Organiser:** Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322

### **Wed 26 June Cycle the Pukehamoamo Matapiro Road Circuit**

No hills promised!

**Organiser:** Jim Hewes Ph 877 6784

## Pohokura

<b>29-30 June</b>	<b>Waikamaka Hut</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>Map BK36</b>
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**Party A:** From the carpark follow Waipawa River to the saddle, on to Waikamaka Hut for lunch then over Rangi Saddle to Waterfall Hut for the night. Return the same way.

**Party B:** Follow then Waipawa River up over Waipawa saddle to stay at our club hut. Return the same way or perhaps divert to Sunrise Track and back to the truck via Swamp Track.

**Organiser A:** **B:**

**Wed 3 July      Tramp to Sunrise Hut and Armstrong Saddle.**

**Organiser:** Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322.

**Wed 10 July                      Cycle Awatoto to BayView**

Cruise along the cycle paths.

**Organiser:** Garry Smith Ph 844 9931

<b>14 July</b>	<b>Southern Ruahines</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>Map BM35, BM36</b>
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From Kumeti Hut ascend the main Ruahine range to a Matanginui highpoint then to Kiritaki Hut. Return either the same way or follow Oruakeretaki Stream out to Fairbrother or Loveday Roads

**Organiser:** Christine Snook Ph 835 7456

**Wed 17 July      Tramp to Holts Forest Park, Waikoau and Tangoio Falls**

**Organiser:** Janice Love Ph 877 5442

Wed 24 July                      Cycle in CHB

## Investigate Ashley Clinton and Monkton Scenic Reserves

**Organiser:** Alasdair Shaw Ph 877 6225

<b>27-28 July</b>	<b>Southern Kawekas</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>Map BJ37</b>
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Mid-winter dinner at our club hut, Kiwi Saddle. Walk in on Saturday, shared dinner and plenty of options for routes out on Sunday.

**Organiser:** Brenda Thomas Ph 027 6285979

**Wed 31 July**                      **Tramp up Kuripapango Hill**

Up 4100 and along to the Ruapehu viewpoint at least.

**Organiser:** Christine Hardie Ph 844 9590

**Wed 7 Aug                      Cycle the Apley Road Circuit**

Finish at the Puketapu Pub.

**Organiser:** Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322

11 Aug	Central Ruahines	\$15	Map BL36
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Travel to Kashmir Road carpark and climb towards the main range at Longview Hut. From the front of the hut, drop into the headwaters of the Makaretu River and go on to Awatere Hut. From here a good track leads to the ridge above Moorcock Saddle and the truck.

**Organiser:** Graeme Hare. Ph 844 8656

Wed 14 Aug Te Mata Peak

Explore the new steep track on Te Mata Peak and who knows what else.

**Organiser:** Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322

Wed 21 Aug      Cycle: Mystery Ride in CHB

**Organisers:** Bruce and Christine Turner Ph 06 857 5227.

**24-25 Aug                      Rangiwahaia Area                      \$30                      Map BL36**

A joint Palmerston North TMC and HTC weekend trip into this area. Options for all abilities.

**Organiser:** HTC = John Montgomerie. Ph 877 7358

**Wed 28 Aug                      Tramp to Bell Rock**

Through the lovely forest on the Mangaharuru Range.

**Organiser:** Marion Nicholson Ph 873 5935

**Wed 4 Sept                      Cycle Pakowhai Park to Clifton**

Easy trip along the cycleways.

**Organisers:** Richard and Vivienne Waterer Ph 875 8561

**8th Sept                      Whirinaki Forest Park                      \$20                      Map BG38**

A two hour drive into this wonderful forest park with an easy to moderate day's tramping to the caves or in to Upper Whirinaki Hut.

**Organiser:** Susan Lopdell. Ph 844 6697

**Wed 11 Sept                      Beach Walk**

Wander along the sands of one of Hawke's Bay's beaches.

**Organiser:** Keith Thomson Ph 877 5391

**Wed 18 Sept                      CHB Cycle**

Ride from Waipawa to Onga Onga and return via a loop.

**Organiser:** Penny Isherwood. Ph 844 9994

**20-22 Sept                      Northern Kawekas                      \$15                      Map BH37, BJ37**

**Party A:** Gums carpark -Te Puia Hut - Mangaturutu Hut -Venison Tops -Middle Hill out to Mahaku Road.

**Party B:** Middle Hill - Ballards Hut - Makino Hut -Te Puia Hut -Gums carpark via riverside track.

**Party C:** Three days to wander into both Te Puia and Middle Hill Huts and do walks in the area.

**Organisers:** A John Montgomerie Ph 877 7358    B                      C Glenda Hooper Ph 877 4183

**Wed 25 Sept                      MacIntosh Hut**

Down to the river and up to the MacIntosh Plateau; return the same way.

**Organiser:** Judy McBride Ph 876 9756

