

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

**POHOKURA – Bulletin No 246**

**April 2014**

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**Club Meetings:** These are held every second Wednesday (before a tramp) at the Hastings Harrier Clubrooms in Sylvan Road, Hastings. Doors open 7:30pm; visitors are most welcome. 50c donation gratefully accepted each meeting towards hall hire (*place in the old boot*).

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

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April 2014

## The President Again

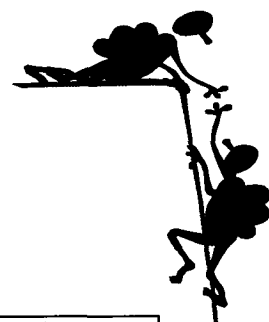
According to the latest FMC Bulletin [195], the present Department of Conservation [DoC] has nearly a third of its staff working in the capital city, its administrative centre. To an outsider that seems to say that every two DoC workers in the field have someone to manage them from afar! And that doesn't include staff in the regional hierarchies who presumably interpret and relay the commands and policies of the head office people. In an ideal world surely the ratios would be the other way round as we all know the immense range of tasks that DoC faces taking care of reserves of many kinds throughout the country on behalf of all citizens. It is commendable that so much is achieved on the ground given that there is such a shortage of personnel where they are so badly needed. HTC has really valued all the relationships it has had over the years with conservation field staff, particularly in our home ranges of the Kaweka and Ruahine Forest Parks. The recent interest and help from the Puketitiri and Onga Onga base staff during our summer of hut maintenance is an example of their goodwill which we hope will continue.

More changes are afoot in other parts of our region. Recently the hearings for the Ruataniwha dam proposals were concluded and, earlier this month, a decision released. Subject to some restrictions the scheme will go ahead so we can expect enormous construction work in Central Hawke's Bay within the next decade. HTC confined itself to tramping issues in its submission and these centred on the problem of access to a popular area of the Ruahine Range especially in the Yeomans/Makaroro area. Obviously the present network of tracks is going to be obliterated or drastically altered and we will be watching to see that promised alternatives will indeed be provided.

Autumn is now underway with its increased risk of trip cancellations. Mild temperatures are continuing for the moment but it can't be long before heavy duty clothing and equipment will be getting more use. A full programme of events has been scheduled thanks to the diligence of our fixtures committees. I'm sure we are all looking forward to more months of outdoor enjoyment.

Christine Hardie

# TRIP REPORTS



#2240

Beach Walk

Wed 29 Jan 2014

A smaller group than usual enjoyed a very pleasant and easy day in perfect weather conditions. Christine H took us on a scenic drive via Havelock North and Patangata and finally to Kairakau where we met up with the Turners. After all this travelling we decided it was time for first lunchette before tackling a hill climb to investigate a hidden valley at the northern end of the beach. After this we had a nice walk along the deserted beach at low tide and spent some time exploring the rocky pools. Then there was a wander around the considerably expanded township to view Marion's daughter's splendid new holiday house and check on the remains of the debris left by the great rain bomb of 2012.

We then drove on to Mangakuri and did pretty much the same thing until access was limited by rock falls as well as the incoming tide. So it was back to the truck and lunchette number two.

On our return journey we stopped at the impressive Elsthorpe Scenic Reserve for a 20 minute walk amid some magnificent stands of native trees while Geoff ticked off two more geo catch sites. RB

Party: Christine Hardie, Barbara Phillips, Marion Nicholson, Margaret Graham, Marjorie Musson, Bruce and Christine Turner, Geoff Clibborn, Murray Aitken, Rodger Burn

April 2014

#2241

Gold Creek Ridge

Wed 12 Feb 2014

A good team of 14 trampers left Pernel car park at 7:40 on a sunny morning. We arrived at the shingle pit on Wakarara Road to meet the Turners and then continued to Hall's farm. Walking up over the farmland we reached the fence line to start our climb up to the ridge. Once up on top it was easy going through the beech trees. Lunch after about 2½ hours and Mike arrived 10 minutes later having been checking out the bugs and greenery. A cool temperature soon had the team start back down stopping occasionally for drinks and eats. Back down at the fence-line more drinks were in order and it was here that Christine explained the workings of the Emergency Personal Locator Beacon (EPLB) largely by following the instructions on the cover! From this location we could study the river - where the dam could be built and where the lake water will back up. Back down to the truck for a hot drink and away home. The new tramper, Denise, I hope enjoyed her day out with us. Thanks for the driving Christine. GS

Party: Christine Hardie, Marion Nicholson, Denise Philpott, Roy Frost, Bobby Couchman, Mike Lusk, Rodger Burn, Graeme May, Scott Campbell, Marjorie Musson, Alasdair Shaw, Christine and Bruce Turner, Garry Smith

#2242

South Island Tour

6 - 16 March 2014

**(or Eighteen Let Loose On Nelson Lakes)**

Well goodness me, what a worry,  
 No-one seems to be in a hurry.  
 Some poles forgotten if I'm not mistaken,  
 Some essential meds, (Do Not Stop Taking),  
 A drinking mug, some odds and ends,  
 We're not as organised as we thought, my friends.  
 The truck is loaded with people and gear  
 for "The Trip" that happens once a year.  
 And finally, "release the brakes"  
 Eighteen let loose on Nelson Lakes!

**Thursday 6th March** Leaving Havelock North at 7pm, we had a good trip to Wellington only to discover that the 2:30am ferry was delayed. So we rested in the truck or on the Terminal floor (It almost was terminal) till 4:30 a.m.

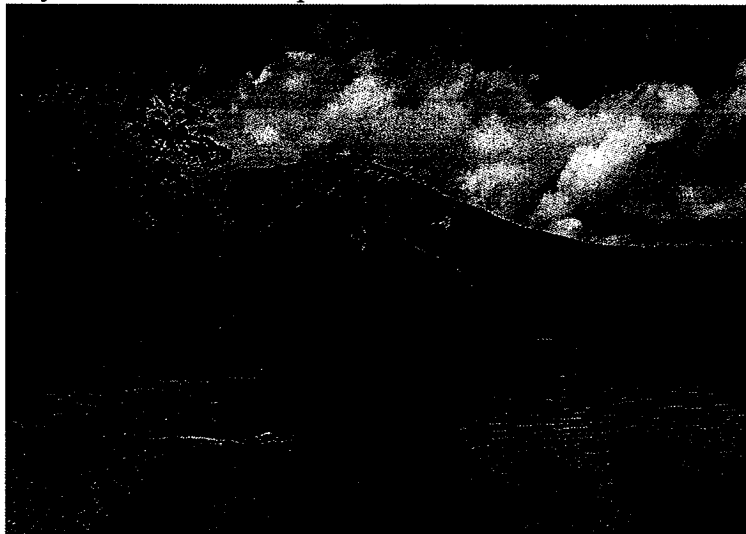
**Friday 7th March** Underway at 5:30 - a smooth crossing delivered us to Picton at 9.30a.m. We breakfasted on the picturesque waterfront before driving to the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre in Blenheim. The Centre is run by a Trust, supported financially by Peter Jackson and Wingnut Studio who made the very lifelike mannequins and props. There is meticulous attention to detail: a huge tree, hand-crafted but with real end branches, was most impressive. Rare aeroplanes from WWI are exhibited, most of which are still flown or able to be flown. Medals, uniforms, plane fabrics and other memorabilia made this a most interesting visit. After lunch we shopped for supplies at the supermarket and headed to Red Deer Lodge at St Arnaud. We settled in and enjoyed a shared dinner with cream sponge for Marion's birthday, overseen by numerous stag heads. We then explored the surrounding area, hearing and seeing weka. Poor Maureen discovered that her bag containing clothing and essentials had been inexplicably offloaded at our breakfast stop in Picton and, several phone calls later, it was arranged that it be dropped off (but not until 4pm next day). Happy to get to bed after a long day; those awake early heard the dawn chorus.

**Saturday 8th March** A large party of keen trampers set off for Lakehead Hut at the southern end of Lake Rotoiti. Cloudy but warm; it soon cleared and we enjoyed seeing and hearing many birds - predominantly bellbirds, quite a few being juveniles. We saw silvereyes, grey warblers, whiteheads, robins, noisy shags

roosting in a tree and we could hear kaka. As part of a mainland island this area is intensively trapped for stoats, rats, possums and wasps and the birdlife testified to this as the song was almost constant.

Unfortunately, where there were beech trees there was a constant hum of wasps attracted by the honeydew. I managed to kill 25 just by stomping on them with my boot on the way back. We lunched at the hut and on the return trip it was so warm and the water looked so inviting that some of us went for a very refreshing dip! That evening we shared another great meal.

**Sunday 9th March** Off up the road to begin our walk to Speargrass Hut. The three hour track through predominantly beech forest crossed several small streams and again housed a healthy bird population including kakariki and kaka. We arrived at an attractive hut set amongst golden speargrass. Pam walked part way and saw brown creepers.



Back to the truck in two and a half hours; we had a great view of Rotoiti from the car-park. We cooked dinner, ate and celebrated Penny's birthday with a cake.

**Monday 10th March** Six trampers left Mount Robert car park and climbed Pinchgut Track to the top of the Robert Range. We wandered along the ridge top for 30 minutes for wonderful views of the surrounding hills, lakes, tree-clad valleys and the private ski club down in the valley. It is now closed as a ski field but the skiers must have been keen and fit - with no road in they had to carry all their gear and climb up the slope to ski down!

Back at the turn-off we retrieved our packs and set out amongst wonderful alpine gardens. The edelweiss had just finished flowering but the gentians were plentiful and in full bloom as were eyebrights, bluebells, dark pink foxgloves, snowberries, matagouri draped with lichen and a few hardy ferns. Passing the deerstalkers Kea Hut, we descended to Bushline Hut where we lunched before dropping back down to the car-park. The truck arrived a few minutes later and Christine transported us down to pick up some of the B party which



had seven who had taken the water taxi to Coldwater Hut at the head of Lake Rotoiti (the opposite side of Lakeshead Hut), one going along for the ride and six to walk back along the western edge of the lake. Near Whisky Falls, unfortunately, Marjorie slipped on rocks and fell, fracturing her arm. With her arm in a sling and supported by others in the party they made their way back to the road where she was transported back to the lodge. Establishing that there were no medical or x-ray facilities locally, we arranged to meet the ambulance after borrowing a comfortable car from one of the locals.

Sadly, Marjorie had to fly home the next day after a night in Nelson Hospital.

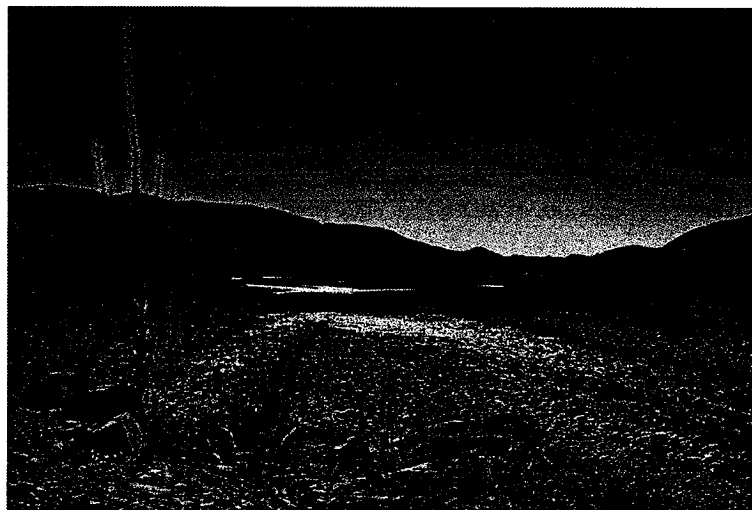
**Tuesday 11th March** We breakfasted and cleaned up the Lodge as our destination was Hanmer Springs via Lewis Pass. Setting off first into the Buller Gorge we later stopped to view the Maruia Falls in Shenandoah\Maruia Valley. Then it was through Springs Junction and on to the Nina Gorge where we walked through very pretty beech forest, again with plenty of birdlife. Some walked part-way and lunched while others walked to the swing bridge. In Hanmer we took over the Backpackers, did some laundry and, after going out for tea in groups, met for a soak in the hot pools: oh, what bliss for tired limbs!

**Wednesday 12th March** Although we were refreshed after a good night's rest we didn't get started until 9 o'clock with the truck making its way through beech forest interspersed with rowan trees covered in bright red berries. Offloading at the car-park we tramped up a steep track for just over an hour to the impressive 41 metre high Dog Stream Waterfall. The tops remained misted in cloud and very damp but raincoats were not required. The bush was varied with beech, lancewood, matai, douglas fir and other pines. Wasps were evident once again, eating the honeydew.

After lunch at the backpackers some folk walked up Conical Hill (an hour return) to view the local surrounds - Mt Isobel, Jollie's Pass, Jack's Pass and Hanmer village. By this time the weather had cleared and it was quite hot. Some of us had a rest later while others wandered around the village taking advantage of the sales. We shared a chicken dinner that evening before heading back to the pools for the ultimate relaxation.

Back at the Backpackers, many were heard to be taking advantage of the 20 minutes deep massage promotion in by the resident "electric chair"..... m-m-m- different!

**Thursday 13th March** dawned a beautiful sunny day. We left at 8:15a.m. heading for Jack's Pass, driving beside the Clarence River to the



boundary of Molesworth Station. This part of the trip was to be the highlight for some: the vastness, the history, the braided rivers, the farming and the views.

We stopped at the Acheron Cob Cottage, built in the 1800s from dung, clay, straw and water, and protected with a coating of salt wash. Lunched at the Severn Rock shelter near the confluence of the Acheron and Severn Rivers where we took in the sights including the Inland Kaikouras before crossing the Severn River and continuing north to the foot of Mt Augarde Track. Most of us climbed up to the viewpoint past a memorial cairn to

commemorate a local road-builder. Janice, Maureen and Joan pressed on to the 1237 metre summit. Back in the truck we continued on to our camping spot beside the Molesworth Cob Cottage. Our delightful camping area was surrounded by autumn poplars and we chatted to the local volunteer DoC ranger, who uses the cottage across the way. There were toilets, tank water and a freezing cold stream complete with little waterfall (for a cold wash).



After inspecting the cob cottage (there are two on the Molesworth road) we wound up the hill behind us for 10 minutes where we could see the working station homestead and associated buildings - woolshed, cookhouse manager's house, workshops - all very neat with white walls and dark red roofs. At the campsite tents soon sprouted up and after tea it was time to sleep.

**Friday 14th March** Greeted by another perfect day. Some walked up the hill to see the spectacular sunrise. A fruit and cereal breakfast followed tent dismantling and we watched a young Italian leave for Hanmer on his bike, loaded with gear. We enjoyed more lovely scenery beside the Awatere River - valleys with sheep and cattle, a top dressing plane, various farm buildings then, finally, out of Molesworth Station and farming country and into the vineyards, acres of them!

At Seddon and Yealand's Winery which is very interesting as it runs sustainably with very low carbon emissions. Every process is thought through including a complex composting system using grape sludge, seaweed, shells, packaging and fish scraps. The prunings are rolled into large round bales, tied, dried and used for fencing and fuel for the furnaces. The building is so well insulated that the barrels are maintained at a constant cool temperature. Various methods are trialled to reduce diesel use in the grounds, including guinea pigs, chickens and baby-doll sheep that graze the grass but cannot reach the grapes. We lunched in their complex's courtyard and later watched a video about the winery, bought some wine then drove fifteen minutes up the road to Seaview which overlooks Cape Campbell and the Pacific Ocean. A solar receiver quietly played orchestral music accompanying hectares of grapes in every direction, back-dropped by sea, sky and mountains. Back to Picton and settled in to Waikawa Bay Holiday Park-- comfy little units and a welcome shower.

**Saturday 15th March** Fifteen minutes drive along to Esson's Valley brought us to the start of Humphries and Barnes dams. These pretty walks were beside a river down in a gorge. Most of the native vegetation was tawa with huge black berries with beech and lancewood. We spent a very pleasant three hours in the area. Back at Waikawa Bay we lunched together and, as it was the last opportunity, five trampers set off along the Picton Walkway which joins the Snout Track up on the ridge overlooking the Queen Charlotte Walkway. Though the sky looked threatening, it remained that way so the sea views were well worth the effort of climbing up to the lookout. Maureen, Joan and Alasdair jogged the last part downhill to another lookout on the point where lots of mussels were unfortunately out of reach. That evening it rained as we set off to dine at *The Jolly Roger*. All joined in celebrating Susan's sixtieth with candles and cake.

**Sunday 16th March** After ominous weather reports the opposite was the case and a smooth trip, complete with dolphins, delivered us back to Wellington. Fourteen tired but happy people arrived back in the Bay to resume their normal day-to-day routines. Three prolonged their stay, obviously deciding the South Island was more appealing! A huge THANK YOU goes to Lex for organising a fun-filled and stimulating trip and also to Christine for sharing the driving with him. Cheers to Raewyn, Alan, Pam and others for shopping and food prep and to all who played their part in making our days so enjoyable. JR

Party: Penny Isherwood, Rodger Burn, Pam Turner, Maureen Broad, Raewyn Ricketts, Alan Berry, Annetta Keys, Janice Love, Christine Hardie, Lex Smith, Anne Smith, Susan Lopdell, Fred Chesterman, Marion Nicholson, Garry Smith, Joan Ruffell, Alasdair Shaw, Marjorie Musson

#2243	Log Milling on Fred's Farm	Wed 26 March 2014
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Fifteen of us met at Fred's Mokapeka Farm at 9:30a.m. and walked up the lane, over the hill to the Kahurangi side of the range then on to the new road put in for the logging trucks. Brent McNabb from PanPac met us and handed out safety gear so we could walk a little way on to the site. He explained the process and answered our many questions. There were five machines working: a digger clearing stumps for the road to go in further, a bulldozer making tracks and another pulling up the fallen logs to the machine that debarks and cuts the logs into lengths that the computer in the cab gives him. The last machine has arms to pick up the cut logs, stack them and load on to the trucks. There is only one man on the ground who is the quality controller.

After watching for some time we left the site and walked up the hill to get behind the pines for morning tea and get out of the nippy wind. On top of the range you can see both sides of the range all looking green with good grass. Down to the cars and had lunch on the terrace of the cottage. The Mokapeka Power Station was not working as the river was too low so will keep that for another day.

Party: Fred Chesterman, Marion Nicholson (organisers) Penny Isherwood, Rodger Burn, Christine and Bruce Turner, Anne Cantrick, Judy McBride, Garry Smith, Brent Hickey, Graeme Hare, Alan Berry, Richard Waterer, Bobby Couchman, Keith Thomson

## **Private Tramping Trips**

### **Along a fair bit of the Ruahine Range March 2014**

Gerald Blackburn, Andrew Fowler, That Godbert Girl

Grandparents imported to be looked after by nearly 4 year old Terry, 3 food dumps in place, can't change the weather forecast, might not be as bad as they say...lets go!

Day 1. Fine and clear. We went in at Tamaki West Rd (Thanks Lynette for dropping us all the way down there), past Stanfield Hut then along the ridge past Cattle Creek Hut to the upper reaches of Mangatewainui River. The track is no longer maintained beyond the Cattle Creek turn off because it leads to private land (permission sought via DOC, thanks land owner). The track was mostly still straight forward, very overgrown with bush grass in parts, all but one marker had been removed and as we descended to the river we lost it all together. Where we met the side stream that indicated the spot to drop down to the river it was quite a high cliff with an eroded and tenuous track down it. We camped further up the river in a nice spot on a crisp clear night.

Day 2. Scorching and clear. Up from the river, ridiculously forgetting to fill water bottles, realised this not far up hill but born lazy preferred to risk a little thirst rather than lose altitude. Joined the Apiti track, puffed up to the tops chewing on the first handfuls of luscious snowberries that were to be a daily feature of the trip. DOC had recently cut the track to Longview wide and clear so we made good time. Just as we were thinking we were a little parched and had started considering a slurp from a tarn we came to a boggy saddle and only needed to drop off the track about 50 metres before finding a cool tinkling very welcome start of a stream under a Hebe bush. Bloated we sloshed on to Longview. A couple of blokes from Andy's work were hunting and based there. The wind started to blow (as forecast) so ear plugs in and Zonk.

Day 3. Windy with Horizontal rain of the 'drives straight through the breathing holes in your fancy fabric' sort. Up and over to Howletts Hut. Pull raincoat over upwind eye, peer out of other and attempt not to get blown over, link arms on the really exposed bits. Too unpleasant for more than one brief muesli bar under a dripping leatherwood bush. Even very small rocks were completely dry on the down wind side, impressively horizontal rain. Very happy to get to Howletts in record time and early in the day. Too wet to paint so had a big firewood foray along the ridge to Tiraha. After festooning the hut with our laundry we cracked open the pack of cards that proved to be the most appreciated item packed. Food dump number one was retrieved and feasting ensued.

Day 4. Windy Still and Snow! Andy shook us out of bed before dawn in the hope of heading out over Sawtooth and anticipation of a big day. We put our heads out window to White White White, and still blustery. We agreed Sawtooth Ridge not on the agenda today but went out for a predawn walk in the stunning snow covered scenery and exercised our shutter fingers as much as the cold allowed. Once the sun was up and the magical morn was revealing itself to be a blustery grey day with sleet we bliss oh bliss returned to our pits and slept again until about 9am! Forecast not improving much for the next day so to prevent bed sores we packed up, dropped down to Daphne and made our way up to Tarn Biv. This was a track I had looked at the contours of, never particularly wanted to attempt, Gerald confessed he had been down and vowed never to go up but it turned out to be rather lovely and after the first bit a very pleasant path and climb. Installed ourselves in Tarn Biv, put our noses over the ridge, lay in the wind flattened tussock and gazed at Saw Tooth which had emerged from the cloud looking beautiful in snow coated glory.

Day 5. Easing a little but essentially more of the same; wind, sleety showers, scudding clouds. Not really a day for continuing on over Otumore and the most exposed part of the journey; so apart from a short afternoon jaunt to inspect the start of the ridge down Government spur we stretched out in Tarn biv, played cards a lot and yarned a bit. A very valuable hour was whittled away repairing the sole of one of Andy's

boots that had started to talk with an ideal piece of wire stolen from under Gerald's gaiter. Gerald's vice like fingers wove it through the sole and the boot until the boot was better than new, indeed has done not only the rest of that trip but another one since!

Day 6. Blessedly the wind had dropped right away, tussock stood relaxed or rippled gently instead of cowering and thrashing as it had the previous 72 hours. Low cloud to start as off we went along Black ridge, over Ohuinga ( I kept waiting for the awkward bits I remembered and found we had reached the top without them materialising..Phew) a bit of snow around in patches but soft and no problem. Still little viz we navigated off Ohuinga seeking the saddle to the north to join Broken Ridge, some uncertain moments but a timely brief thinning of the cloud showed us we were on route and we continued. On Broken Ridge the cloud cleared opening up wild and wonderful views, magnificent country. The ridge was only a little broken but I admit to finding the descent from Paemutu very intimidating. Andy and Gerald were patient with me and we tiptoed down the rubbly bits. Once on Rangiateatua we were back on ground we knew and on a beautiful afternoon/evening we happily strode down to Waipawa saddle and had a dip below the waterfall before enjoying the luxury of the newly cleaned Waikamaka Hut for the night.

Day 7. Fine still and clear, one out of the box. Up early enjoyed the morning light as we climbed above Waipawa Saddle toward 66-Te Atuaoparapara. On top of 66 completely still, views right to Mt Taranaki and could see plumes from the new crater on Tongariro. We retrieved a second food dump from Armstrong saddle and lunched like Wills and Kate. Thinking of our drivers noses we even had a plunge across the tarn on the saddle, I say plunge because to stop in your trajectory would have resulted in a coating of mud. Rattled down past Sunrise to meet our transport party of grandparents and Terry coming up the path to meet us.

A very enjoyable outing; we did not get as far as we might have had the weather not given us a breather but honed our 500 skills in Tarn biv and had a great time. The Ruahines are ideal for having so many opt out options that it makes a longer trip like this easy to adjust when necessary. Recovered our third food dump another weekend!



Gerald Blackburn and Andy Fowler





Howletts Hut – Look at all that white stuff.

## **From the Archives**

## **Twenty-Four Years Ago**

*This previously unpublished trip report will be divided into five parts. It records how Selwyn Hawthorne and current HTC member, Mike Bull achieved their goal of tramping from the west to the east of the mid-North Island. They each had certain skills of planning, ham radio knowledge and tramping but there was heaps of work to do on logistics, equipment and route knowledge to make it happen. All of this required motivation and great attention to detail.*

### **The Long Walk Home**

Selwyn and Mike's East-West Journey

27 December 1990 – 25 January 1991

### **The Plan**

#### **Section One**

East Egmont (Stratford Mountain House) - Waingongoro Hut - Lake Dive Hut - Waiaua Gorge Hut - Holly Hut - East Egmont (Stratford Mountain House)

#### **Section Two**

East Egmont (Stratford Mountain House) - Kohi Saddle - Oamaru Hut - Pouri Hut - Puketotara Hut - Ramanui Lodge - Mangapurua Valley - Kaiwhakauka Valley - Whakahoro Hut

#### **Section Three**

Whakahoro Hut - Discovery Lodge - Mangatepopo Hut - Oturere Hut - Waihohonu Hut - Kiko Road

April 2014

## Section Four

Kiko Road - Cascade Hut - Boyd Lodge - Harkness Hut - Ngaawapurua Hut - Manson Hut - Kiwi Mouth Hut - Kiwi Saddle Hut - Water Gauge Car Park

### The Plan

It always was going to be called The Long Walk Home.

Other names for our *Across the North Island* journey just didn't seem to fit the task that had been set.

For me the task went back to early 1983 when, with Long Service Leave due in 1985, I joined the Heretaunga Tramping Club with a reasonably loose idea of a long trek to or from somewhere (note: I had done some tramping with HTC in 1965/66 but never actually joined the club). However my second son, Anthony, arrived in 1985 and my long service leave was used to build him a bedroom.

The 'loose idea' remained almost forgotten until a HTC Pinus Contorta trip to Mount Ruapehu in February 1989 when Selwyn was heard to say, "Before I turned 50, I am going to tramp coast to coast, across the middle of the North Island." I thought about that for a couple of weeks, checked out a map or two, jotted down a rough itinerary then rang Selwyn to say, "You're on and it will happen at the end of 1990."

I knew Selwyn but I didn't know Selwyn and I guess Selwyn probably knew me just as well. I had tramped with him once before on a 1982 HTC Easter Trip to Waikaremoana. However Easter trips are traditionally four days long and most club trips involve more than two people. A 'compatibility trip' was in order and the HTC 1989 Labour Weekend trip to Whirinaki was selected. The winter of 1989 was spent firming up on the many ideas that were being generated and the Whirinaki trip presented additional opportunity to continue the planning process.

The Whirinaki trip was a success in many ways:

It was a 'stag trip' (better class of jokes), it was a great area to tramp in, the Olympus tent would fit two. And my Praktica camera proved too big!

But back to the winter of 1989 and ideas that were thought of but not used are as follows:

- # going from Cape Egmont to Stratford via the northern slopes of Mt Egmont to Stratford.
- # having travelled west, it was deemed best to check out Egmont National Park rather than walk along the gravel roads of rural Taranaki. That decision was expanded to keep all the walking to the Parks and the utilisation of any other modes of transport between tracks.
- # the Whanganui River was too big to swim - although at Ramanui Lodge wet-suited, barrel-pushing adventurers were observed getting out of the river at day's end. The 1992 Whanganui River Album details a Taumararua to Pipiriki trip that was also a wet one. But swimming wasn't for us.
- # the 'figure of eight' in the Tongariro National Park was going to be too long and any delays caused by weather would have downstream effects on the remainder of the trip.
- # rafting from Oamaru to Pakaututu (Mohaka River) would have added some cost.
- # jet-boating from the Tararua to the Chesterhope Bridge (Ngaruroro River) also would have added cost.
- # walking from Pakaututu via Te Waka, Esk Forest and Arapaoanui River to the coast was not practical.
- # walking from the Donald River to Puketapu (or Waitangi) down the Tutaekuri River was best but would add 2 - 3 days to the trip.

At the beginning of New Zealand's Sesquicentennial Year (1990) enthusiasm had increased even though planning had slowed a little. Then Selwyn had some business issues to resolve that could affect the timing of the adventure.

However, the route had been selected and the journey was divided into five sections:

- (1) Around Mt. Egmont from East Egmont
- (2) East Egmont to National Park
- (3) National Park to Desert Road
- (4) Desert Road to Boyd Hut
- (5) Boyd Hut to the Water Gauge

The August/September 1990 issue of *Adventure* magazine detailed a David Van Der Pete-led trip that started at the mouth of the Tutaekuri River and finished at Cape Egmont. The article provided some insight to what The Long Walk Home could be like. David's trip took 18 days and they tramped over road and farmland.

Special permission from farmers along the route was obtained for camping and access. As detailed earlier, we had already decided to keep off the roads and see as much of the National and Forest Parks that we could.

Selwyn and I had discussed suitable clothing in great detail with a decision being made to move to Polypropylene for weight reasons. The Macpac Wilderness range was chosen.

Food had also been discussed: Michelle Pilkington's *Outdoor Cookbook* was read and re-read which resulted in Selwyn experimenting with dehydrating mince while I was baking billy bread and growing mung beans. The modern version of a haybox was made and over the tramp it became known as 'the microwave'.

Boots, stoves, fuels, tent, packs, billies, first aid kit, tea pot, maps all came under individual and close scrutiny. With Selwyn's business matters resolved, planning moved into high gear.

Dates were inserted into the itinerary and annual leave applied for.

Letters were written to Stratford Mountain House, Ramanui Lodge, Discovery Lodge, Department of Conservation Offices at New Plymouth, Wanganui, Tongariro and Turangi, Air Charter Taupo, Midhurst Motors.

Orders for clothing were placed and not entirely satisfied locally. This resulted in Selwyn completing his order from Brian Culpan in Taihape while I completed my wardrobe with a trip to Alp Sports in Palmerston North. I had ordered my new camera (Olympus AF-1 Twin) and tripod (which I then left it at home due to space restrictions). My photo budget was set at 300 slides (10 per day for 30 days). Selwyn had decided to stick with colour prints (200 budget).

Replies to my letters were received, information duly digested, itinerary altered and menu adjusted.

From DoC in Stratford (who rang because he hated writing letters): stay at Waingongoro Hut on your first night as it's only 40 minutes from East Egmont; don't bother with Kahui as it's an old tin thing; Waipuka isn't there anymore; expect the weather to change at any time and the worst weather comes from the south-west.

From DoC in Wanganui: take care through slips in the Kohi Saddle - Oamaru section; enjoy the views from Mt. Humphries; read *The Bridge to Nowhere* by Arthur P Bates.

From Midhurst Motors: transport from Stratford to Kohi Saddle confirmed.

From Discovery Lodge: bookings for 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> January 1991 confirmed.

From Ramanui Lodge: booking confirmed for the night 5<sup>th</sup> January 1991 and directions for the delivery of the No.3 tucker box (to Ramanui Lodge via Ohakune) received.

From Air Charter Taupo: flight for Tucker Box No.6 confirmed for 18<sup>th</sup> January 1991.

It was all go.

But back up a bit to the suggestion from DoC to read *'The Bridge to Nowhere'*. In a brochure sent by DoC Wanganui, there was an interesting extract from the book that gave an insight into the hardships these early settlers experienced. I located the book in the Napier Public Library and settled in for a good read. What a fascinating story. Selwyn and I knew that we were 'poncing' through the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka Valleys where, in not too distant history, much sweat and blood was given up for very little return by these returned servicemen turned farmers. As we tramped through these two valleys we could almost feel the disappointment of the final abandonment. The book and visit started a sort of love affair with this part of New Zealand for both Selwyn and me. Selwyn has since rafted the Wanganui River (December 1992) and I led a HTC trip to The Bridge to Nowhere at Easter 1993 and again at Easter 2007. We are also both members of *Friends of the Whanganui* and in February 1994 my son, Darrin, and I completed a canoe trip from Ohinepa to Pipiriki with this group. I guess there will be many other expeditions by both of us to this really neat National Park.

### **Amateur Radio**

In early November 1990 I re-established contact with Terry Waghome [Callsign ZL2AYY] at a weekend meeting with Amateur Radio Emergency Comms (AREC) National Manager, Don McKay, in Napier. Sometime earlier I had introduced Terry to the *Mitsuho* two-watt, amateur radio transceiver (Graham Thorp, call sign ZL2BCK, had already brought one). Since our earlier meeting, Terry's work had taken him to Japan where he was able to call at the Mitsuho factory and, after some bartering, he had brought a unit of his own. While the AREC meeting progressed, Terry was proudly showing us all his new *Mitsuho* transceiver, complete with whip aerial. "I gotta have one," said I! On Tuesday Terry telephoned me to ask what the financial limit was. Another call on Wednesday told me that a unit had been brought by one of Terry's workmates who just happened to be in Japan. A third call on Friday told me, "It's here," and, on the Monday, the unit was in my little hot hands. One of the best Amateur Radio items I have ever bought and radio was to play a big part in the month to come.

Gary Gloag, call sign ZL2VL, NZART Councillor and NZART 1990 Co-ordinator wanted to have the journey listed as a 1990 Project. I declined mainly because of the commitment required. The expedition was noted in the *Break In* magazine for those interested. Another reason was that the project would have been at the end of 1990 and most people were likely to be tiring of 1990 celebrations.

### **Task Co-ordination**

During the planning stage, almost automatically, a 'division of responsibilities' had occurred. Selwyn had developed the menu for thirty days and then went on to purchase the food required, repackage it into meal lots and assemble the goodies into tucker boxes for each section. A flow-on effect of knowing the menu so well meant that Selwyn did most of the cooking, a task Selwyn enjoyed although, at times, I felt that I could have helped a bit more. However, there was plenty more to do so it wasn't really an issue.

I had become the navigator. The broad itinerary was developed into track times, rest times, motels, huts, camp sites, buses, jet boats, aircraft, and strategic rendezvous.

My familiarity with the itinerary allowed me to make alterations to suit progress and weather. Familiarity even allowed me to suggest to Selwyn, now and then, 'to keep going for another five minutes and we'll have smoko at the hut or at a spot with a view!'

Such 'precision' was rewarded, from time to time, with a macadamia nut.

While staying at one hut, I overheard Selwyn saying to one of our hut mates for the night that 'He (Selwyn) didn't know where he was going and I didn't know what I was eating'.

### **Fire Service**

8<sup>th</sup> December 1990: an anniversary date of great importance. I had completed 25 years in the New Zealand Fire Service and qualified for the UFBA Gold Star Award - party time! The award, presented on 15<sup>th</sup> December was followed by a carry-on-a-thon at home afterwards and a more informal 'Lost Day' on the Sunday. Amongst piles of brand new tramping gear, maps, kids, packs, weekend guests, billies, radios, family, films and so on, 'Sunday School' began at 10:00 a.m. and 'Evensong' ended at 9:00 p.m.

Hundreds of people came and went, Selwyn and Heather amongst them. Details of the trip were related again and again with both Selwyn and I being impressed with the interest shown. (Actually everyone thought we were nuts - interest shown is just a nicer way of putting it).

Hundreds of sausage rolls (Lani's specialty) were heated and consumed, the brand new camera tested 'to the max' and, even through the bubbles in the beer, trip details were never far from our thoughts.

As the sun slowly sank on a great weekend, the trip slipped into the number two slot on the list with only Christmas to go.

*Sections Two to Five of this tramping trip will follow in future issues of Pohokura.*

# HTC BIKE TRIPS



## Lyn's Mystery Bike Ride

Wed 8 January

From Napier Aquarium 22 of us headed off to Bluff Hill for a bit of hill work-out: up Coote Road, right to a steep walkway which some tried biking up [and of course Alasdair got to the top], on to Lighthouse Road then to the Lookout. By this time a few thought the hill biking was a bit tough. After drinks and eats we headed back, down Cobden Road, up Sealy Road, Napier Terrace past Napier Botanic Gardens. Note – this is where my Heather is part of a small group beautifying the cemetery and it is now looking great with their plantings. I have been known to help with others to move truck-loads of compost supplied by NCC on to the graves to help the plants.

Back to the biking: down Goldsmith Road, testing the brakes and nerves, now onto the flat (Phew!) meeting up with others who went the short way down. Over Pandora Embankment Bridge and along Tamatea Drive to go around Park Island, back to Pandora under the expressway with the path under water at this high tide. I just hope those who pushed their bikes though the salt water gave them a good wash down when they got home!

We had lunch at Pandora with six swimmers taking to the water. After that we headed back via the Marine Parade to the start. Thanks, Lyn, for the 29km tour. BC

Cyclists: Christine Hardie, Garry Smith, Brent Hickey, Penny Isherwood, Bobby Couchman, Alasdair Shaw, Joan Ruffell, Marion Nicholson, Graeme Hare, Mr and Mrs Lyn Gentry [organisers], Scott Campbell, Margaret Graham, Rodger Burn, Pam Pike, Maureen Broad, Geoff Clibborn, Heather Stephenson, Marjorie Musson, Graham May, Pauline Mahoney, Mary Gray, Bob Carter

## Along Some Local Pathways

Wed 5 February

Fifteen met at Pakowhai Park and cycled along the stop bank to Fernhill; being high up and behind Twyford gives you another dimension of how much land there is. We turned down Highway 50 then down Ngatarawa Road to the Hastings Golf Club for a lovely morning tea.

When we were about to leave Rodger found he had another puncture in the back tyre that was the second of the morning. Jim helped him and I caught up with the rest who were waiting at the Chatham Road corner. Rodger and Jim arrived and we all carried on to Raupare Road going through Twyford to get back on to the stop bank and back to Pakowhai Park where we had lunch. It was a good ride on a lovely HB day and not too far for everyone to travel for the start.

Cyclists: Heather Stephenson, Judy McBride, Bobby Couchman, Rodger Burn, Raewyn Ricketts, Alan Berry, Pam Pike, Jim Hewes, Graeme Hare, Peggy Gulliver, Graeme May, Garry Smith, Marjorie Musson, Margaret Graham, Marion Nicholson (organiser)

## Otane to Boundary Road Circuit

Wed 19 February

Alasdair was leading the real cyclists while Rodger was taking the B party for a more leisurely outing. B Party: another typical summer CHB day as 10 of us left the A party at McCauley's Café in Otane and headed down Racecourse Road towards the Tukituki River, enjoying the lack of traffic plus the scenery. Only one decent hill before dropping down to the Patangata Pub where we had smoko on the grass verge outside. Showing a bit of willpower, we then carried on down River Road to Tamumu where we regrouped and the lads made some adjustments to Bobby's brakes before returning via Tod Road to Otane.

We then indulged ourselves in snacks at the cafe before returning home. It was the first time out for Tracy who enjoyed the 33 km ride. RB

Alasdair's party had a good slog along the College Road – Te Onepu Road loop that we normally do as part of his East Argyll ride. Then it was the great swoop down to SH2 which we then crossed to go along a farm road or two. First it was a limestone surface and, after a weary plod to the top, it was across paddocks. The farmer friend of Alasdair's had left gates open for us and we negotiated a couple of steep descents before coming out on the other side of the farm to Te Aute Trust Road. We turned south and east to complete the long haul back to Otane. The heat made it a bit of a challenge so we indulged ourselves with a few stops along the way!

Cyclists: Marion Nicholson, Heather Stephenson, Tracy May, Bobby Couchman, Penny Isherwood, Marjorie Musson, Garry Smith, Ian Stewart, Dennis Beets, Rodger Burn  
Alasdair Shaw, Joan Ruffell, Brent Hickey, Christine Hardie, Graeme Hare, Scott Campbell

## Tukituki Circuit

Wed 19 March

Another sunny day and a large gathering met at Summerset retirement village.

Our group initially split into two parties with equal numbers electing to go either to the Clifton Cafe via the cycle paths or the more hilly route via Tukituki Valley Road. No incidents on either trip.

The pathways group caught up with Christine H who had cruised in from somewhere near Clive after an outing to the airport for passenger drop-offs and they all arrived expectantly at the cafe a while before the valley group. Mr Lyn was with the pathway ladies because he had not read the instructions about choice of route. The cyclists from the valley ride soon joined the café crowd for a well-earned smoko and our usual chatter. After a relaxing rest most followed the scenic coastal pathway to Black Bridge and then made their various ways to Havelock North or directly home. RB

Cyclists: Anne Cantrick, Judy McBride, Joan Ruffell, Marion Nicholson, Raewyn Ricketts, Bobby Couchman, Pam Pike, Heather Stephenson, Lyn and Lyn Gentry, Bruce and Christine Turner, Alasdair Shaw, Jim Hewes, Dick Waterer, Ian Stewart, Graeme Hare, Rodger Burn, Christine Hardie

## Havelock North to Hastings

Wed 2 April

Eleven cyclists met at Pakowhai Park and set off to Havelock North. We met another seven Havelock members at the corner of Crosses and Napier Roads which made our group total 18. A very good turn-out on a lovely calm day; ideal for biking. Rodger led us over the hills of Havelock North and on to Birdwood Cafe for morning tea. Such a large group was totally unexpected by them but it is such a nice place to stop, and coffee and cake was quickly served up. We then headed to Flaxmere via the back roads of Hastings and the comment was made that it was great to ride over country roads that some people had never been on.

At the end of Tollemache Road the faster riders [LG, DW, CH, IS, DB, RM] took a longer route, much of it into a head wind, to the Longlands roundabout, along Maraekakaho Road and down Stock Road to Flaxmere before heading back to Pakowhai Park via Oak Road and the stop-banks. The other ten of us biked along Wilson Road and Oak Ave onto the stop-bank of the Ngaruroro River which led back to the park. On arriving back, the faster riders caught us up and we all sat down to enjoy lunch. The Havelock cyclists then headed back to complete their circuit. A very easy 37 kms in great company. What more could a cyclist want? PG

Cyclists: Ian Stewart, Pam Pike, Penny Isherwood, Mr and Mrs Lyn Gentry, Judy McBride, Rodger Burn, Christine and Bruce Turner, Alasdair Shaw, Marion Nicholson, Ray Manning, Pauline Mahoney, Dennis Beets, Richard Waterer, Garry Smith, Christine Hardie, Peggy Gulliver [organiser]

# CLUB NEWS

## ITEMS for SALE

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

<b>New</b> Topo 50 Maps:	\$5.00
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	\$5.00
Revised Safety in the Mountains book	\$12.00

These can all be ordered from **Marjorie Musson** Ph 878 8279 [mussons@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mussons@xtra.co.nz)  
or **Penny Isherwood** Ph 844 9994 [p.isherwood@orcon.net.nz](mailto:p.isherwood@orcon.net.nz)

Orders are collated in batches to save on courier charges so you may not get your maps straight away.

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## Personal Contact Information:

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

## SPECIAL REPORTS

*These following reports describe the continuation of the 2013-14 summer programme of maintenance of our huts. There are also important details of the alterations and improvements done. All the hard work means that HTC huts are now in good condition with enhanced appearance all round.*

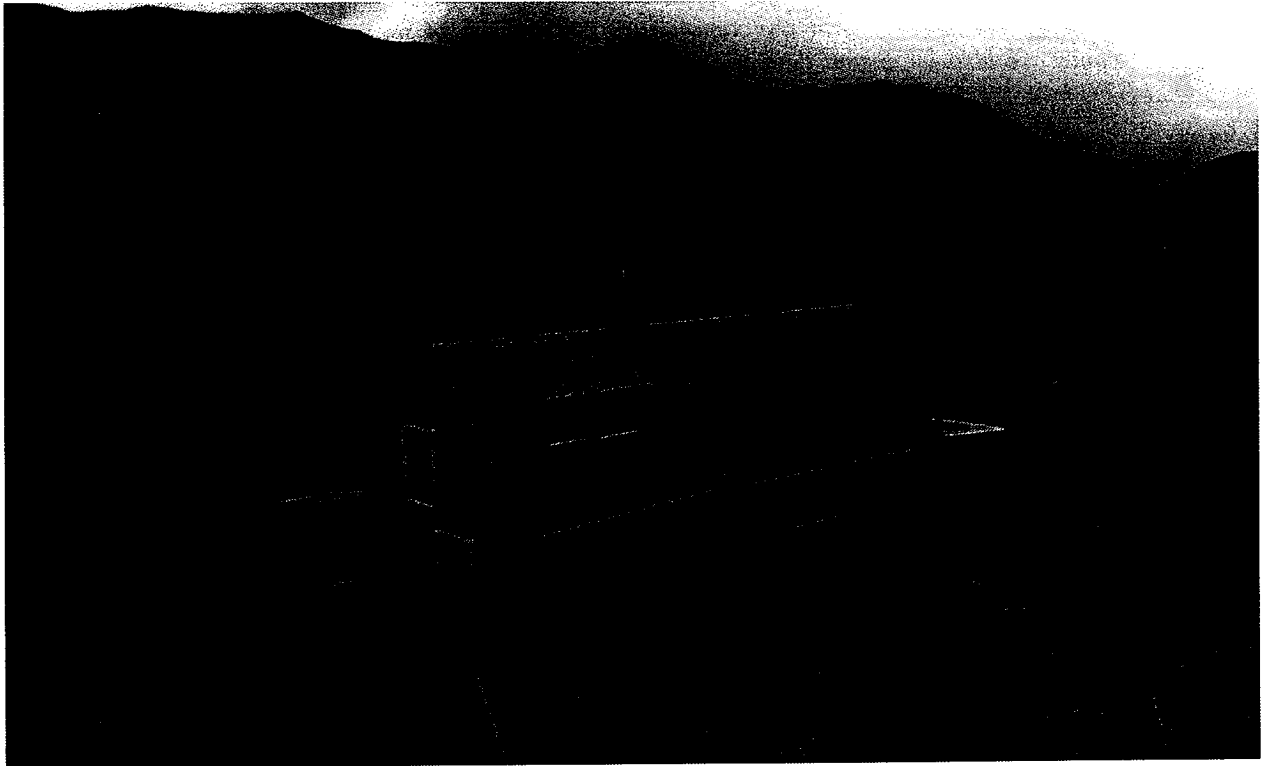
### Howletts Hut Maintenance – Stage 3

17 - 19 Jan 2014

Leaving my home at 6:15a.m. on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January was the beginning of the third work party for Howletts. This time it was Mike Bull, Anne Cantrick and myself doing the business of final repairs, maintenance and improvements at Howletts. We went in [with permission] through Stan Stubb's farm over his tracks in the Hilux to the hill across Moorcock Stream, saving a km or so and a hill. We had a bookshelf in pieces shared among us, some tools and a 3m length of 65mm down pipe [cut in two] with some joiners. We used the original access track [from 20 years ago] over the saddle and down into the valley, along the face and coming out about 10 minutes from the Tukituki River on the 'new' track. It is remarkable how good this track still is. After an early lunch on the steps of Daphne Hut, we mentally prepared ourselves for the 2500 foot climb to the top, having wrung the water out of our boots and socks. This took just on three hours with our cargo. We were surprised to find on entering Howletts hut a past member of the club, Anke Poulton [nee Knegtmans] with her husband David and family of four - twin girls of 10, a son about nine and the smallest boy at seven. Anke greeted us warmly and we had a pleasant time recounting past club trips from the early to mid 1990's. They now farm at Takapau. We enjoyed the company of the Poultons and the children; quite neat having kids up there enjoying the area. They had all gone up to Tiraha in the morning and enjoyed the views. Even the youngest one had no problem. On their return they lunched and went down to Daphne for Saturday night. Friday night got down to just a degree or two with two good hail storms heralding the possibility of some snow – but no luck! Mike had never been to Howletts – or to Daphne either so it was a buzz for him.

Saturday was the main job day but it was not going to be a marathon. I actually went for an unsuccessful hunt for an hour early before "work". Anne dried off the porch roof and painted it while Mike and I reassembled my bookshelf [recycled out of furniture discarded by a neighbour] with screws and had fun finding points to anchor it to the wall just above the left end of the bench with the limited tools I had taken up. No electric drills! At 450mm wide, it is already 2/3rds full and gives much more bench room and saves especially the historical stuff from getting spoiled by cooking spills. There are photocopies of hut log books going back to 1969! Next was opening up the temporary drain from the east side gutter downpipe and replacing it with one of the 1.5m downpipes, closing it in securely and making a base for the very heavy concrete slab that goes over it and makes a step to the porch deck. This was all done and lunch over by about 1:30pm. The three of us headed along the ridge and up to Tiraha at the southern end of the Sawtooth Ridge, but Mike turned back. Is a wee grunt of about 90 mins; I had taken my rifle on the trip and so was keen to connect with some venison but a good look on the way up and a wander over the west side found nothing to get stag fever about unfortunately. It was a perfectly clear day but very windy which did not help the chances either. It was very hard to stay standing on Tiraha which we bagged before descending again. The newly painted hut stands out like a beacon now from up there as before then the roof was just about the same as the tussock around it. A cross Ruahine tramper from Rangiwahia wondered if it was the right hut as all the photos he had seen did not have an orange roof! Back to the hut at about 5p.m. Two young guys turned up and two women from Tararua TC plus the one who had done the crossing so the hut was filling up.

Come Sunday everyone else dispersed - the two lads did do Sawtooth but found it pretty scary with the wind [ they actually caught us up on the way out]. The two from TTC opted to leave Sawtooth for another day. Again the sky was blue and clear but probably wind gusts upwards of 100km/hr- it blew strongly all the way out and was hard to stand up in places on the farm before we got to the vehicle. Before we left Anne scrubbed the bench and shelves with sand soap. We made out of #8 wire a pull handle for the little wooden window above the door, painted the bench window sill and surround plus the sills of the bunk-end windows. We also brought back the firewood that I had left on the Tiraha track a month ago although other good souls who had seen my note in the log book had also done so, I then hand-sawed the bigger bits and now the wood shed has never been so full! Mike tried out a loan AARN pack this trip - with a back pack and front pockets - and seems to think it is the bees' knees. Away at 10:30am, retracing our steps to the vehicle. Many thanks for the help and company of Mike and Anne.



It was difficult to advertise this work party to the club due to my wife not knowing if she had a hand operation confirmed - it was on and off up to the day before we left. The trip was not intended to be a closed

April 2014



shop and it involved a Friday too! The first attempt on the hut work was Anne and myself in March 2013, the second Janice and myself in mid-December 2013 and this one was to complete the jobs. Howletts is now in A1 order, looking like new on the outside. It is very rewarding to see the fruits of our labours over the three trips to achieve this.

JM

Working Party: John Montgomerie, Anne Cantrick, Mike Bull

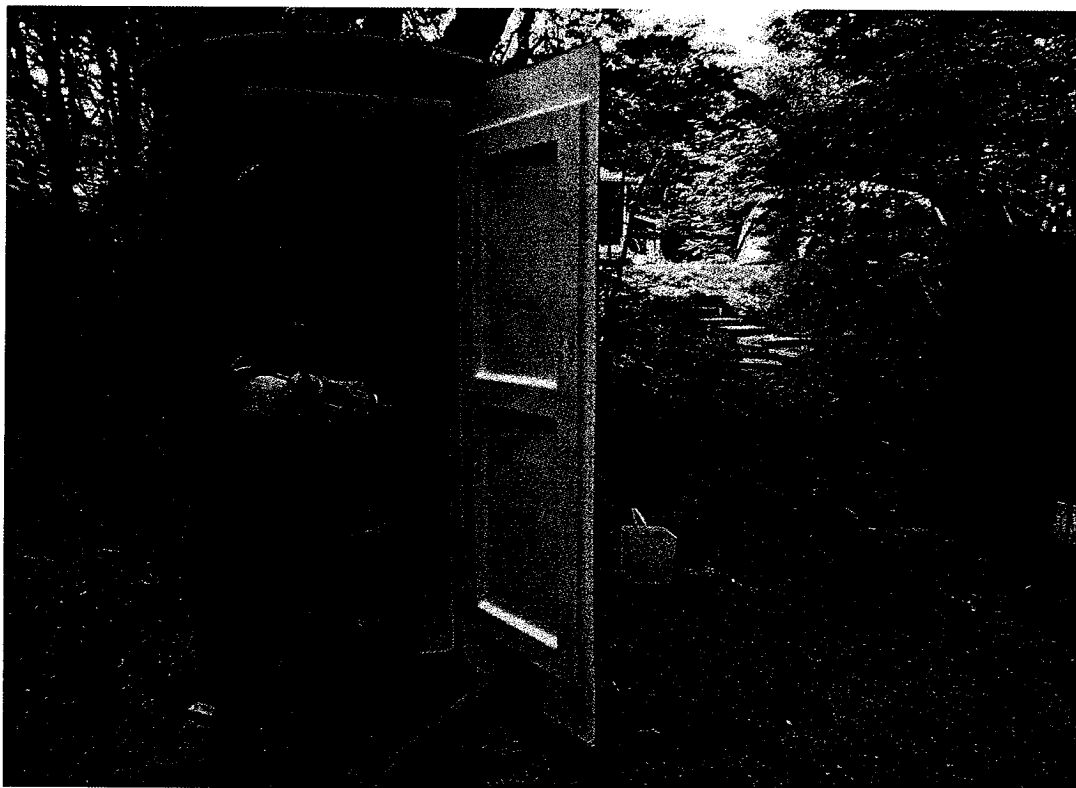
### **Kiwi Saddle Hut Working Bee - Stage 2**

**20 - 24 Jan 2014**

What follows is a list of repair tasks carried out by club members over five days. Some days were very cold/wet and the group set up a large tent shelter to cook and work under so that the interior hut work and painting could take place.

Finished fixing roof ridging; added chimney braces; replaced interior wall lining for north gable and wall beside left of wood stove; added narrow lining strips to roof apex; exterior corner trim to porch west end; replaced heat shield on wall behind and above wood stove with mini-corrugated sheet metal; top of wall finish at west end of porch; fitted window reveals interior trim; cleaned and repaired mattresses; removed foam from long seat and painted; painted table; modified rainwater drainage plastic piping to rainwater tank and fitted s/s pyramid filter to tank top; fitted an overflow plastic pipe to rainwater tank; dug trench and installed corrugated drainage pipes from the tank o/v and the porch downpipe; installed hold-open catches on the interior and exterior doors; painted lean-to wood shed; painted interior walls of hut main room with three coats; replaced shelves above s/s bench; relocated the old toilet and modified it into "Monty's Wood Shed"; installed new Norski fibreglass toilet on a wooden deck with a hinged metal tread; dug and fitted new steps filled with shingle from the hut down to the toilet level; installed new hut signage to doors and above s/s bench.

Working Party: Geoff Clibborn, Garry Smith, Ray Manning, Rodger Burn, Pam Turner



*Rodger Burn in action*

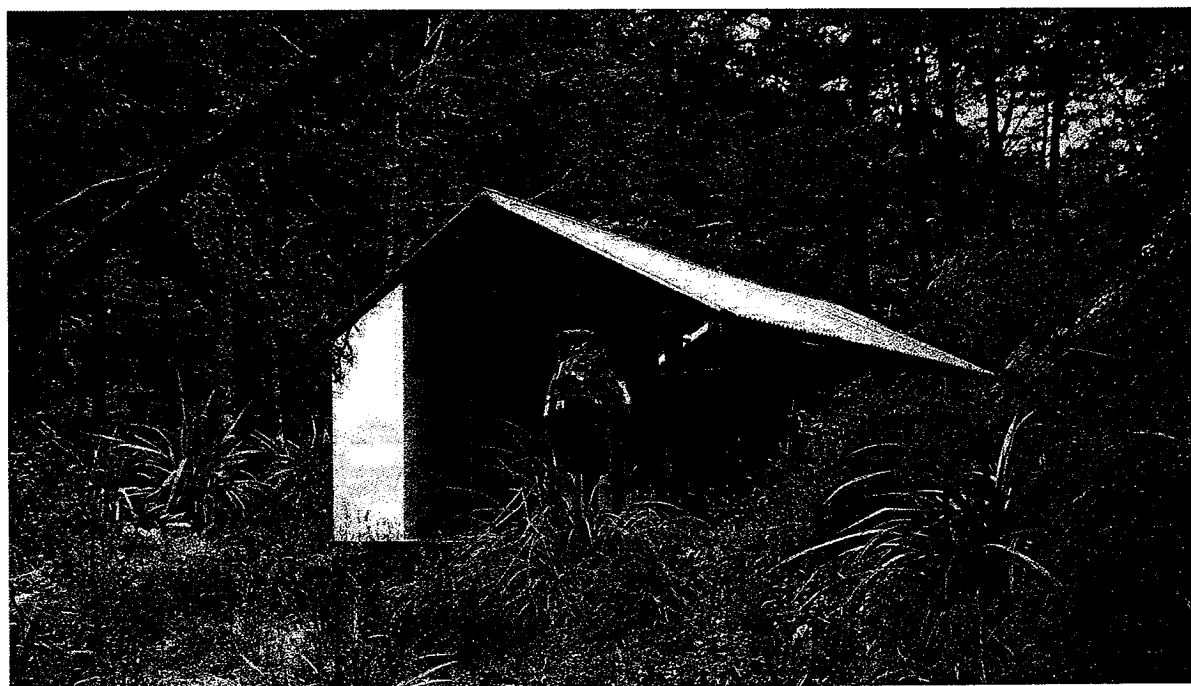


*Pam Turner's shelter that was the work room cum cook house*

#### **Sunrise-Top Maropea-Maropea Forks**

**6 - 8 Feb 2014**

A small party of two headed up to Sunrise, over to Top Maropea for lunch then down to Maropea Forks for the night. DoC had already cleared a site for the new hut further away from the river, an unusual decision as the old hut didn't look to be all that close to being swept away by a river that has moved to the other side of the valley. A Hawke's Bay couple was off fishing and I was encouraged by the sight of a bag of fish hanging up – unfortunately they were taking them home the next day. "Only eat them smoked!" Oh, well dehy it was then. Next morning over to Wakelings for lunch and up the Waikamaka River. We had thought to camp part way up but with rain forecast we pushed on through the gorgy bit to Waikamaka Hut, arriving at 5:30. It is a beautiful river to walk up.



April 2014

**Waikamaka Hut Working Bee – Stage 1****8 – 9 Feb 2014**

We drew up a list of jobs to be done on the hut and lit the *Fatso* stove, only to see on close inspection how stuffed it was. Much of it has rusted out badly and needed replacing before it got any worse. We woke on Saturday morning to heavy rain with thunder and lightning. We had anticipated the arrival of the hut working bee party about noon on Sat 10<sup>th</sup> but were now doubtful if they would come as the weather was worse than expected. John had a radio sked with Mike Bull each night but we still did not know for sure that the weekend crew was not coming. Armed with barely any “real” tools we used kiwi bush ingenuity and with the axe, an old pick handle, half a hacksaw blade, an old file and some nails we found in a tin it was, “Hey ho, hey ho, it’s off to work we go.”

First up, we cleaned the hut rags [very scungy but were all we had] washer-woman style on the river rocks! Wiped all ceiling and walls once [still grubby even after many wipes] and found some sugar soap that the rats had chewed the top off. It was a bit thick but worked for the second wipe. Wiped bench and shelf [carving off candle wax] and scrubbed them; cleaned out ash buckets. John resurrected the old form seat that was derelict in woodshed by bracing it with slats from a piece of packing case timber, split with the axe, and cut with the half hacksaw blade! Now is quite robust and useful again. We found, half-buried, some flat iron up by the toilet so dug it out, flattened it and, with the clean end, cut strips about 75mm wide using the axe tapped by the pick to act like a can opener on the ground outside. We cut enough to cover the top plate under the lower ends of both the roof clear-light panels where vermin had chewed their way in plus a strip along the bottom of the door on the inside. It seemed that a rat had been inside and was chewing its way out again but did not quite get there! Fortunately we found a good number of ‘clout’ nails that were ideal to attach the tin strips. Fixed the loose sign saying “Take rubbish out”, as a hut log entry noted that vermin had been getting in under it; removing it revealed a six-inch hole which they had used so we re-affixed it firmly; carried up a beech stump from river as a chopping block; broomed out toilet; got rid of red-backed spiders - not really!

Prepared window for painting [had hardly any and was in bad shape] and covered it overnight with a poly sheet taped with insulating tape to keep it dry. However Sunday greeted us again with rain so that was in vain. We did get the sill done from inside with the cover over the window. Visual check of hut exterior: seems sound but some riveting needed on flat iron in places - a little rust on higher part of north end wall and some small areas on roof on west side. Some rot in the outside woodshed wall - easily fixed; piles sound. Removed vegetation from around the outside of the woodshed; made a new broom handle from a local sapling and sharpened the axe.

On Sunday morning we attacked the woodshed: removed current useful contents and used the big metal rubbish tin found buried in the far corner to ferry about 30 crammed bins of dross that had accumulated in the last ??? years until we got down about two feet to the floor stones! The level of unusable stuff was up to the concrete doorstep! We expected to find a rat’s nest or two but, no, just two mummified possum carcasses! Finished off a final check then headed over Waipawa Saddle. John whizzed his slasher like a ninja to re-cut the track that Mike Lusk and Graeme Hare had cleared last year about half-way down. We went up to the Sunrise track which brought us back to Triplex. John and I made a great team. We had regulation union approved tea breaks, no arguments and got all done that was needed except the window painting. We did all this without any tools taken in except a 15mm paintbrush and half a hacksaw blade! All this was preparatory to a working bee in the near future to do the painting, repair jobs and fire replacement. Many thanks for your company, John.

AF

Working Party: Andy Fowler and John Montgomerie

**Waikamaka Hut Working Bee – Stage 2****7 – 8 March 2014**

After probably two full days over a two-week period, I had organised everything that needed to go to the hut in the helicopter load: the new *Wagner* cook-top model stove, the ladder, the roof ladder and the 7x4litre tins of paint, courtesy of Dulux/DoC: two roof layers, two walls, one interior undercoat, two interior water enamel top coats, replacement polycarbonate [clear roof], timber for the woodshed/porch repairs, mattress, tools needed, a steel crowbar I welded up and food for the main meals. The day before departure I had all the stuff assembled in my garage with long stuff taped in bundles so as to not slide out of the cargo net. I

had scored a suitable pallet from Farmlands which was to support the load on the way in. After a trial run at home I loaded all this on my trailer plus ute, and was on my way to meet Edward, Christine and Anne at the load site ready for take-off at 4pm on Friday. I was concerned that the total net load of about 450kg was the maximum for a Hughes 500 but, as Jim Guerin's chopper was not in service, Farm Helicopters arrived with the latest Squirrel which the pilot said can lift 1500kg! Ed Holmes, Christine Snook, Anne Cantrick and myself flew in the first load with our packs in the second sling load. It was a cruel slog in of just over three minutes! The sling load already assembled for lifting arrived about 15 minutes later on the 'front lawn' at Waikamaka Hhut. Everything had to be quickly unpacked from the net and pallet to get the net rolled up and taken down to the chopper in the river bed. I have a movie of the whole trip in and the sling load drop. As it was now about 5:30 we made the most of the remaining daylight. The stove was unpacked from its pallet and taken inside with the banana and orange boxes that I got from the supermarket which contained paint, tools, materials and food. All survived the trip and were unpacked. A start was made on cleaning down the outside walls before darkness and a meal.

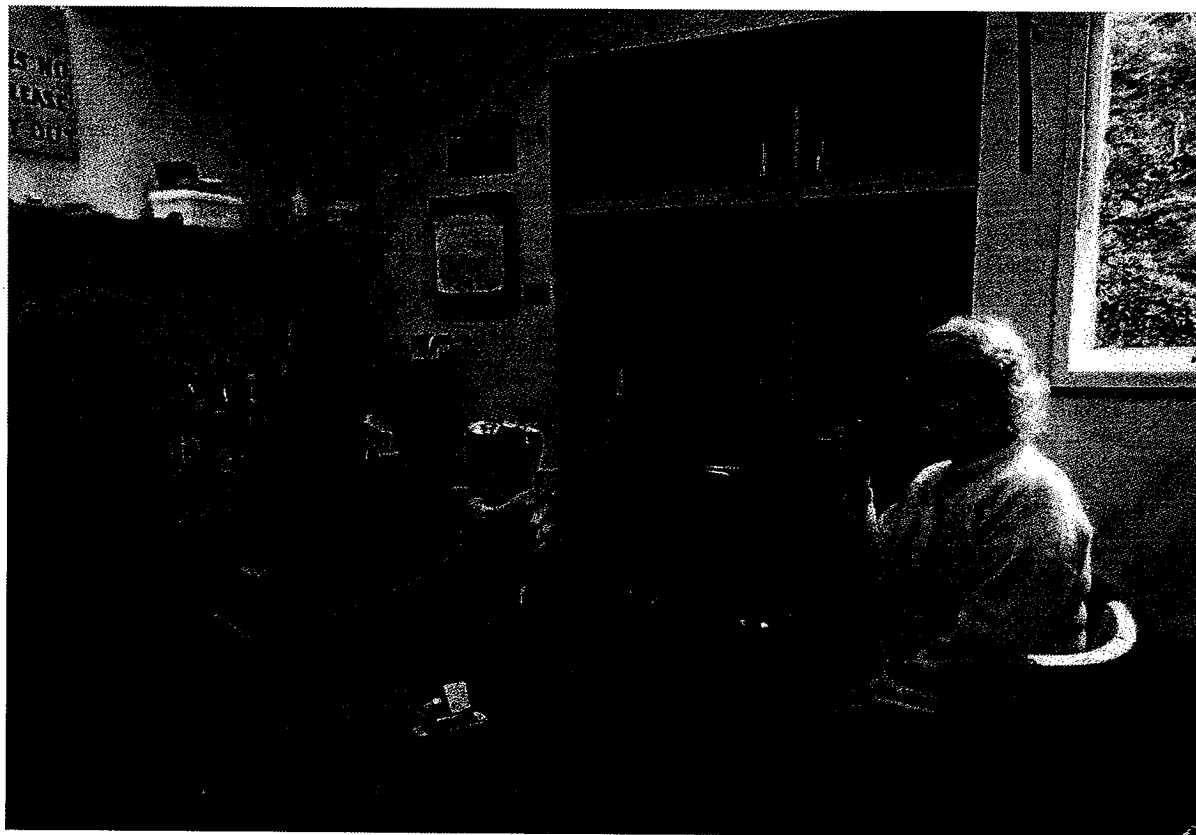
Saturday was flat-out. Ed removed the old fire, installed the new one and the flue system, and was done by midday. A small fire was lit to get the paint smell burnt off before the evening. The outside walls were completely wet-scrubbed, dried and progressively painted in the morning and a second coat in the afternoon, thanks to the efforts of Anne and Christine. Meanwhile Ed and I scraped [almost had to chisel off] the old paint residue on the main roof which then had one coat and the east half a second coat. Fortunately the weather held although at times the clouds caused the temperature to drop and slowed the paint-drying times.

Sunday was better and the west roof had a second coat. The porch/woodshed roof had a scrape and two coats. Replacement of the lower purlin and half of the woodshed frame was done along with replacing roof/wall nails, pot riveting loose iron ends and a general tidy-up of the exterior. The 'new' folding ladder got a good workout as did my roof ladder. The end wooden window was almost paintless but by Sunday afternoon had an undercoat and two top coats. With the recent weather it was nice and dry for once. Ed and Christine walked out at about 2pm on Sunday with Ed's tools and some of mine not needed. Anne and I then got to work inside – took everything off the walls and, with a roller, fairly quickly got the undercoat primer on everything except the lower bunk platform.

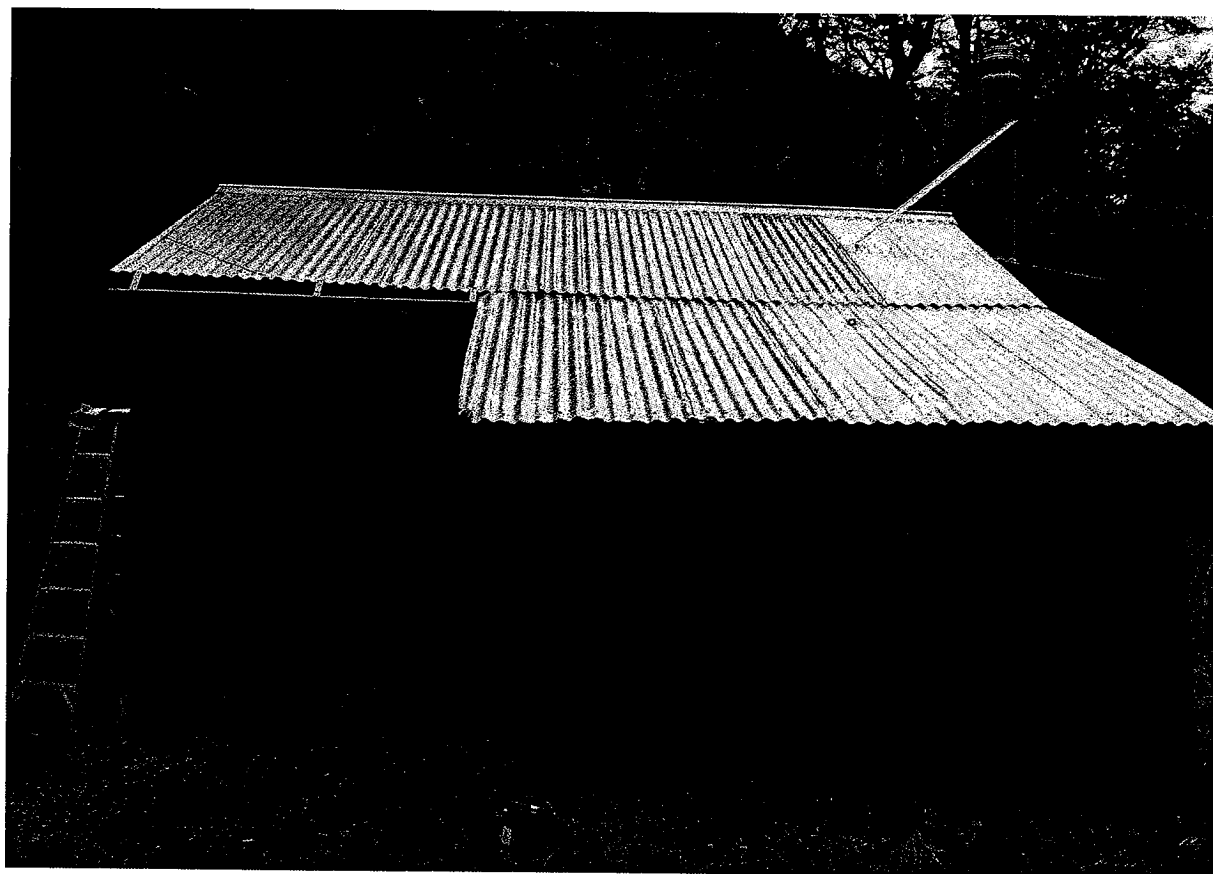
Monday was an early start and, to make it easier when the final paint finish is done, I made sure the top bunk area was done with a top coat twice so the next crew can camp up there and not need to shift their gear while working. The 'living area' walls have had a top coat too. What remains to be done is the rafter and roof-light area from undercoat on, the walls of the 'living area' a final top-coat, and the lower bunk area also needs an undercoat and two top. I wrecked the pallet used to get the load in and used 150x25 boards and other timber to make a shelf under the bench from the fire end - for pots or whatever - and lined it with a piece of shower laminate for easy cleaning. This should keep the kitchen area less cluttered in high use times. The new 400x400 sign on the door looks really impressive and eye-catching so hopefully will prick users' consciences? I mounted the DoC bait station on a piece of flat timber with the end showing out marked 'bait station' by the step and so can be maintained; put granular herbicide around the edge of the hut to keep vegetation clear; put up a #8 wire drying-line inside the woodshed; re-fitted the loo door catch with large washers as it was chewing into the door. Anne and Christine had cleaned and painted the loo as far as they could reach on Sunday so it was finished off with me up a ladder on Monday to the top of the 'rocket'. Wow, what a facelift! Anne also chose to paint the door in the roof rescue orange - really sets it off. After breaking up all the cardboard boxes, packing up the tools and stuff, and cleaning up the whole hut and surrounds it was 4:50pm before we departed, thus getting out after dark to the car-park.

Many thanks for the help from the crew. We were flat out all the time to get it almost all done although if Anne and I had been able to come out on Tuesday it would have been completed! At the hut there are the following tools under the bunk overhang: a hammer, linesman pliers, flat/Phillips screwdrivers, a hacksaw, a paint roller handle and roller, paint tray, mastic gun, half a tube of silicon, wire brushes, 8-point handsaw [in woodshed], sandpaper, paint brushes and a good selection of nails, screws, tech screws, staples, binding wire, painting pots. In the porch are a spade, shovel, pick, crowbar, 7' folding ladder and an axe. JM

Working Party: Ed Holmes, Christine Snook, Anne Cantrick, John Montgomerie



*John Montgomerie, Edward Holmes and Christine Snook in front of the new wood stove*



*Waikamaka Hut with exterior repainted and new flue braced*



*Waikamaka Hut toilet (Fantasy Land) repainted to match the hut*

## Heretaunga Tramping Club Meeting and Trip Information

### Coming Meetings:

Date	Speaker	Topic	Host	Supper Help
30 Apr	John Montgomerie	Waikamaka Hut Renewal	Marion Nicholson	Graeme May
14 May	Martin Brenstrum	Fishing in Alaska	Judy McBride	Bobby Couchman
28 May	Philip Shambrook	Kaweka Mountain Race	Maureen Broad	Anne Cantrick
11 June	All Members	Long Weekend Trip Reports	Pam Turner	Rodger Burn
25 June	Peter Berry	Bees and More Bees	Janice Love	Liz Pindar
9 July	Everyone	Photo Competition	Heather Stephenson	Scott Campbell
23 July	Everyone Again	Mid-Winter Pot Luck Meal @ the Clubrooms	Pauline Mahoney	Denise Philpott
6 Aug	Mike Lusk	Reaction to a Situation	Des Smith	Ray Manning
20 Aug	Glenda H and Sue L	Quiz Night	Geoff Clibborn	Jim Hewes
3 Sept	Kay Ward	Her Choice	Graeme Hare	Peter Brown
17 Sept	All Members	Poetry Night	Alan Berry	John Montgomerie
1 Oct	Mike Lusk	Do You Know Your Flora and Fauna?	Randall Goldfinch	Fred Chesterman

**Meetings Sub-Committee:** Lex Smith, Penny Isherwood, Graeme Hare

We want ideas for club night speakers and activities.

### **Supper:**

Put out cups, wash dishes, leave kitchen clean and tidy, and generally help Joan Ruffell.

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:** 7 hours + 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
Over-mitts		
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 2014



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)

**4 May Eastern Kaweka \$15 Map BJ37**  
 Lotkow to Don Juan, Cable Creek, Donald River and return via Lawrence Track.  
**Organiser:**

**7 May Holts Bush \$15**  
 Go with a guide and find out the details of this remarkable reserve.  
**Organiser:** Janice Love Ph 877 5442

**14 May Wed Cycle from Pakowhai Park to Fernhill**  
 Return the same way or devise another route.  
**Organiser:** Joan Ruffell Ph 870 1549

**16 – 18 May Central Plateau – Ruapehu \$TBC**  
 Join Wanganui Tramping Club: Whakapapa, Fishers Track, National Park to Horopito, Ruatiti to Whakahoro. Accommodation is at WTC's Possum Lodge.  
**Organisers:** Dave Scoullar, Esther Williams [WTC]

**21 May Wed Napier Hills**  
 Wander around the streets and steps then maybe down the Marine Parade.  
**Organiser:** Penny Isherwood Ph 844 9994

**28 May Wed Cycle the Aorangi Circuit**  
 Start and finish at the Maraekakaho War Memorial.  
**Organiser:** Jim Hewes Ph 877 6784

**31 May - 2 June Waikaremoana \$30 Map BG40**  
 Party A: Hopurahine to Manuaha & Sandy Bay out via Waikareiti to Aniwaniwa.  
 Party B: Makau to Ruapani Tarns on Sat then to camping ground for night. Sunday ascend Ngamoko.  
 Monday into Waikareiti to meet up with Party A.  
**Organiser:**

**4 June Wed Bell Rock**  
 Wander in the Maungaharuru Range  
**Organiser:** Judy McBride Ph 876 9756.

**11 June Wed Cycle a Loop from Pernel**  
 Finish with lunch at the Pernel Café.  
**Organiser:** Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322.

**15 June Hinerua Hut, Ruahine FP \$15 Map: BJ37**  
 Go in from Alder Road up to Hinerua Hut and down to Smith Stream or up to the tops.

**18-19 June: Birthday Boys and Girls Bash**

This year the BBB is at Pam's farm in Puketitiri. Options are there for Hot Springs, Balls Clearing and so on.  
**Organiser:** Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322.

**28-29 June Tarawera Trail \$30 Maps: BF 37 &38**

Leave from Te Wairoa car-park, 15mins from Rotorua; walk to Hot Water Beach for the night. Return the same way on Sunday.

**Organiser:** Christine Snook 835 7456

**25 June Wed Cycle from Park Island to Bay View**

This is mainly on the Napier pathways.

**Organiser:** Alasdair Shaw Ph 877 6225.

**2 July Wed Lake Tutira**

**Organiser:** Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656

**9 July Wed Cycle the Local Pathways**

**Organiser:** Scott Campbell Ph 879 8554.

**13 July Waipawa River/Saddle \$15 Map: BK36**

Cut/mark the track from Waipawa River to the Saddle. Option to overnight at Waipawa Chalet if interested.

**Organiser:** Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656

**16 July Wed Marion's Choice**

Maybe Te Waka Trig from the Napier-Taupo road if permission is granted.

**Organiser:** Marion Nicholson Ph 873 5935.

**23 July Wed Cycle One of Heather's Favourites**

**Organiser:** Heather Stephenson Ph 843 9157.

**26-27 July Tararua Tramps \$30 Map: BP34**

Travel via Masterton to Holdsworth camping ground. Options for both weekend and day tramps.

**30 July Wed Three New [Small] Tracks in Te Mata Park**

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

**6 August Wed Cycle with the Club President**

Probably around Napier.

**Organiser:** Christine Hardie Ph 844 9590.

**10 Aug Mangleton Rd End Loop \$15 Map: BK37**

From the old Kamatua Hut site, sidle south along the bottom of the Forest Park and exit via farmland.

**Organiser:** Mike Lusk Ph 877 8328

**19 August Wed Tramp With Rodger**

An outing in the local ranges.

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

**20 August Wed Cycle in Central HB**

From Waipawa to Onga Onga and return.

**Organiser:** Jim Hewes Ph 877 6784.

**23 - 24 August Maropea Forks Hut \$15 Map: BK36**  
 A chance to visit the new Maropea Hut via Sunrise Hut, Top Maropea Hut and down to Maropea Forks Hut.  
 Return the same way on Sunday.  
**Organisers:** Randall Goldfinch Ph 845 4913

**27 August Wed Blowhard Bush**  
 Tramp and inspect the bush restoration work done here.  
**Organiser:** Bobby Couchman Ph 877 8557

**3 September Wed Cycle Fernhill to Sacred Hill**  
 A flat route leading to the Dartmoor area.  
**Organiser:** Judy McBride Ph 876 9756

**7 September Hoodoo Saddle \$15 Map: BJ37**  
 Up the Taihape Road to Boyds Bush area.  
**Organiser:** Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656

**10 September Wed MacIntosh Hut**  
 Down the hill, over the bridge and up up up up the other side.  
**Organiser:** Janice Love Ph 877 5442

**17 September Wed Cycle in the Crownthorpe Area**  
 Go along Matapiro Road from Pukehamoamo School to Crownthorpe church; return the same way.  
**Organiser:** Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322

**20 - 21 Sept Makino and Te Puia Huts \$15 Maps: BJ37, BH37**  
 From the saddle on Makahu Road, up the ridge to Makino Hut for the night. Sunday down to the springs for a hot swim, lunch at Te Puia Hut and walk along the riverside to the truck.  
**Organisers:** Janice Love Ph 877 5442 Glenda Hooper Ph 8774183

**24 September Wed Beach Walk**  
 Maybe Tangoio, maybe somewhere further south - depending on tides.  
**Organiser:** Keith Thomson: Ph 877 5391.

**1 October Wed Cycle the Tour of the Bays**  
 Complete the circuit from Hastings Golf Club.  
**Organiser:** Jim Hewes Ph 877 6784.

**8 October Wed Black Birch Range**  
 Another visit to the Clover Patch in the Kaweka FP.  
**Organiser:** Penny Isherwood. Ph 844 9994.

**15 October Wed Cycle in Central HB**  
 An outing with our CHB hosts.  
**Organiser:** Christine Turner: Ph 06 857 5227.

**22 October Wed Tramp with Garry to Sunrise Hut.**  
**Organiser:** Garry Smith Ph 844 9931

