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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 at 7:30pm; visitors are most welcome.

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## Commentary

A growing fixation has been taking place in wealthy First World countries this century about food - its provenance, processing and consumption. Media outlets every day pour a torrent of information and advice about what we eat; New Zealand is firmly in the part of the world where people have to deal with excess and over-consumption. Many of us are constantly asking is the food we buy healthy, is it fresh, what effects will it have on us and our families? Worries are many: perishable food is shored up with additives to prolong shelf life and appearances are altered to retain attractiveness. Ten percent of the world's croplands now have genetically modified crops; there are apparently sky-rocketing rates of ADHD, coeliac disease, respiratory problems and organ failures in many people worldwide that may or may not be caused by GM, pesticides or processing chemicals. And that doesn't even consider the packaging that is part and parcel of sending food from one side of the world to the other, a process that our country is heavily involved in. Terms such as pasteurisation, enzymes, additives, artificial flavours, preservatives, polyunsaturated and adulteration are common and widely discussed. Food fads and fetishes surface on a regular basis and, in the Space Station, astronauts are now growing their own lettuces!

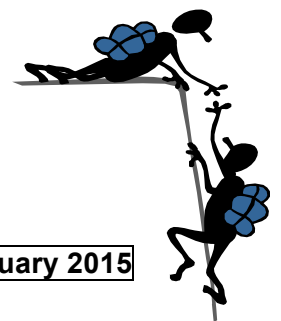
Supporters of modern food processing point to strict regulations, hygienic factories, consistent standards with random testing and the modern miracles of everyday supply chains that mean we can feed huge numbers of people. Never mind that meat is pumped full of water to tenderise it, vanilla flavouring comes from wood pulp, potato crisp makers use the same cooking oil for up to twelve days leading to oxidation and unpleasant by-products, fructose and soy derivatives plus palm oil are lurking in the vast majority of processed food. To be strictly accurate food is processed as soon as it is cooked or preserved – humans have always done it and in the past used unsavoury items such as chalk in bread, wood ash in olives and floor sweepings in ground spices! Common added ingredients nowadays include salt, fructose, citric acid, gum and starches. It's a fascinating and complicated business.

Is this of concern to trampers? What we eat on our tramps is of huge and abiding interest; over 20 years ago local hunters called us the Heretaunga Cooking Club because of the habit of individual meal preparation that is a tradition [as opposed to other clubs which still have communal stews and other cook-ups]. Many of us rely nowadays on prepared meals that are freeze-dried and light to carry with easy preparation at the end of the day. Are they good for us? You be the judge. A quick glance at the packet labelling on a brand that is very popular with HTC members reveals starches, emulsifier, stabiliser, colouring, acid, antioxidant, sulphide, salt, maltodextrin, preservative and more salt as well as recognisable food items such as vegetables and meat. All in one packet!

Those of us who started tramping 40 or 50 years ago remember carrying large chunks of bacon, cheese and salami along with bulk dried pasta or rice, potato flakes, cabin bread, Tararua biscuits, milk powder, rolled oats plus little recycled drug containers of salt, jam, butter and milo. And who can forget TVP?? Or instant puddings that were shaken with water? The club magazine was often full of advice for trip supplies, and much measuring and weighing would go on when gear was being sorted. Now it's a very quick process to buy and pack – the convenience and taste is about all that concerns anyone although there are keen club members who continue to cook, mix and dehydrate their own foods because of lower cost and fewer ingredients. In the end, I guess it's a personal choice.

CH

# TRIP REPORTS



#2294

Whakapapa Area - Ruapehu

6 - 8 February 2015

It was an overcast day as we wound our way towards Taupo, the mountain shrouded in mist. As we neared Turangi we received a text message from Ross advising that it was wet and windy at the lodge so the

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fire was lit. We stopped off at DoC headquarters at Whakapapa village and spent 40 minutes viewing the displays and getting a weather update. At the Havelock North Ski Lodge we were greeted by Ross, Sarah and Meg Berry. After the gear was moved into bunkrooms, and hot drinks and an early lunch consumed, Ross gave us a run-down on the workings and safety plan of the lodge. The weather was clearing with just light squiffy showers so we all piled into the truck and set off to walk Silica Springs Track. From the Bruce Road we walked through tussock and sub-alpine plants to the Springs where the alumino-sulphate is deposited as a creamy layer on the stream bed. DoC has put in boardwalks and viewing platforms to protect this fragile area. We walked past marshy areas and beech forest, winding our way back to the Visitor Centre at Whakapapa Village, a trip of 2½ hours.

Saturday's trip was to walk part of the Tongariro Crossing and, by 9:00am, we were swallowed up by the thousands of day trippers – a centipede that wound its way through Mangatepopo Valley and past the hut to climb the zig-zag route to the saddle between Ngauruhoe and Tongariro. We lunched in South Crater where our travelling musician, aka Peter Berry, played his penny whistle to an appreciative audience [much to his wife's dismay]. Five of the party continued on to Red Crater and the view to Oturere Hut. We returned the same way, collecting those who had chosen to stay at Mangatepopo Hut. After dinner a few chose to walk about the ski lodges at the Top-of-the-Bruce.

On Sunday we cleaned up the lodge, said our goodbyes to the Berrys and clambered aboard the truck, only to realise that the right inner-rear tyre had a puncture! It was an ideal spot to change a tyre and many hands made this short work. We travelled through National Park around to Ohakune Mountain Road – here we disembarked for a two hour walk into Waitonga Falls. A small group followed the old Blyth Track to a car park two kilometres further down the road.

An enjoyable three day trip with very comfortable accommodation and good companions. Thanks, Ross Berry for organising the Ski Lodge and Peter Berry for ferrying the troops over the weekend.

**Party:** Fred Chesterman, Marion Nicholson, Anne Doig, Alan Petersen, Christine Snook, Annetta Keys, Brent Hickey, Ross, Sarah and Meg Berry, Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry (driver), Judy McBride, Penny Isherwood and Susan Lopdell (organiser)

#2295	Happy Daze Hut - Ruahines	22 February 2015
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With Peter driving and six passengers we went south past Takapau, on to Speed Road and thence Paget Road and the Makaretu Stream, arriving there just before 8:00am. We parked on the roadside and walked up the stream which was shallow and easy going. This section is through a corridor of farmland is very pretty. We arrived at the branch of the South and North Makaretu Streams with the track up to Happy Daze Hut after a couple of hours. A walk from there gave us morning tea by the hut in the sunny clearing. Afterwards we went back down to the stream and left Peter playing his penny whistle to his heart's content while we walked up the south branch for just over an hour before we had lunch. My GPS told me that we were about 15 minutes from Makaretu Hut so three of us headed up-stream to the hut while the other three headed back to where we had left Peter. We were just in time as he was starting to walk back. We waited another 20 minutes for the others then returned to the truck, getting there about 5pm.

**Party:** Susan Lopdell, Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry

#2296	Kotare Farm – Maraetotora Road	Wed 3 June 2015
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This was the first time for the mid-weekers to Kotare Farm which has been owned by Hilton and Wendy McDermott for many years. They won an environment award in 2006 for fencing off native bush remnants and planting extensively. Farm trips have proved to be very popular for us, and Hilton and Fred met us at the farm station after a couple of stops to pick up people en route. We made our way up and down farm land crossing over several paddocks, eventually arriving at a interesting sandstone rock platform where we picked a sunny spot for lunch. Some time was spent looking around the rock formations and Hilton advised us that possums were taking over some areas. We also saw a couple of large hares (not the two-legged variety).

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Hilton then left us after giving Fred instructions for our return route. We descended through several paddocks and followed Ngamangatawa Stream before crossing a bridge and making our way back to our truck and afternoon tea. Thanks must go to Fred and Marion for organising this great day with Hilton; good conditions for our party of 23.  
RB

**Party:** Marion Nicholson, Christine Hardie, Joan Ruffell, Lyn Walch, Heather Stephenson, Pauline Mahoney, Penny Isherwood, Judy McBride, Anne Cantrick, Margaret Graham, Richard and Vivian Waterer, Bob and Heather Carter, Philip and Sharon Mardon, Roy Frost, Scott Campbell, Brent Hickey, Keith Thomson, Fred Chesterman, Graeme Hare, Rodger Burn

<b>2297</b>	<b>Waipawa River Track-Cutting</b>	<b>14 June 2015</b>
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The club has been improving the standard of this track to Waikamaka Hut for some years, mainly on the true left bank of the Waipawa River, up-stream from the tributary draining Te Atua-o-parapara. On Sunday eight of us went over to the river via the saddle on Sunrise Track - a very wise decision - carrying an assortment of tools. The Waipawa River was carrying quite a flow and moving at a rapid clip. Unfortunately the sunshine on the coast did not reach us and we had high winds and drizzle all day, not ideal working party conditions especially for Anne and Andy who went further up to work downhill and battled the conditions all the way.



Our busy team has improved the track considerably and is to be commended for everyone's efforts. We returned via Sunrise Track. Thank you to all who came.  
GRH

**Party:** Anne Cantrick, Randall Goldfinch, Margaret Graham, Glenda Hooper, Shayna Ward, Roy Frost, Andy Fowler, Graeme Hare

<b>#2298</b>	<b>Birthday Boys and Girls Bash</b>	<b>17/18 February 2015</b>
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Another year has passed and our group members are another year older but still enjoying the great outdoors.

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Our truck left Pernel just after 8:30am and, after a couple of stops, arrived at Wakarara Outdoor Camp, this year's choice of venue, at about 10:30 to be met by Julie, Camp Caretaker. After explaining the do's and don'ts, the safety issues and facilities, we sorted out our bunkrooms and it was time for lunchette.

The camp has all the facilities needed as it normally caters for groups such as school parties, mountain safety groups and search exercises. By this time we had left it a bit late to get up to Sunrise, much to Joan's disappointment, so we settled on the Swamp Track instead which proved to be wise as a couple of trampers we met on the path said it was very slippery near the tops with very strong winds. Swamp Track proved to be very popular and we appreciated the neat laminated information boards along the way. Some also went for a look at Triplex Hut which had obviously had a tidy-up recently.

Dinner that night was up to the usual birthday standard: group members excelled themselves with baking: tarts, cream cakes, fruit cake [with scant regard for waistlines] consumed after the main course.



That night we discussed all the local issues such as amalgamation, the CHB dam and our national flag before retiring. It was noticed that one of the ladies [who will remain nameless] brought her hot water bottle with her while another adapted an empty wine bottle for the same purpose. Some sleepers in the main bunkhouse were woken in the night by strong winds and flapping roofing iron but everyone else had a great night. After a cold night the birthday boys did not emerge from their cabins till eight o'clock and were delighted to see that the birthday girls team had already got a fire going so the dining-room was already nice and warm.

Later we drove to the Makaroro River access and parked outside the last farmhouse because of a sign at the gate clearly stating that no vehicles were to go past that point. It turned out that the road is okay to drive down but the locals are tired of constant vandalism and littering so they are not encouraging hordes of vehicles. We wandered past livestock to the campsite and noted that the river level was quite low. On our return we had quite a chat with Steve Wilson, the resident farmer, before returning to the lodge to clean up. A minor panic occurred when Randall's group discovered a locked bunk house door with the key inside but Julie came to our rescue and we were eventually away by early afternoon to beat the weather - dark clouds were settling ominously on the tops and the wind was picking up. On the way back we stopped at Peka Peka Swamp and were impressed with the work done by the various volunteer groups. I think everyone enjoyed a very laid-back overnight stay and thanks to Christine for driving. RB

**Note:** For the last three years our bash has been held at different sites: Robson's Lodge, Pam Turner's farm and now, Camp Wakarara. We are open to suggestions for further sites and whether it should be held in the warmer months.

**Party:** Christine Hardie, Liz Pindar, Penny Isherwood, Lynn Walch, Anne Doig, Heather Stephenson, Joan Ruffell, Jim Hewes, Garry Smith, Dave Mulinder, Randall Goldfinch, Rodger Burn

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#2299

Howletts Hut in Winter

27 – 28 June 2015

Anne had organised access through the old Moorcock Field Base now part of Kashmir Farm. We were very grateful for this permission because this is the best almost all-weather access to Daphne Spur with the least up and down and no exposed tops. [Some members of the party were blown over on the farmland 20 minutes from the truck on the way home but it would have been impossible to return over the tops in that wind and way too cold to go right down the river]. Initially crossing farmland for a short stretch, the track largely sidles through very pleasant bush with no more than about 200m up and down until it reaches the current DoC track. The track was well marked with old markers and easy to follow once we got onto it from the farmland but previous knowledge was needed to find that start.

From the farm we could see that the heavy dump of snow from three days before had largely washed away so some of the party stashed ice axes and crampons under a bush while others took them along to make the photos more exciting (and to keep open the option of going higher up the hill).



The Tukituki was up a little, slightly cloudy with the sort of temperature you'd expect of snow melt. An entertaining array of different footwear options was displayed with Dave Heaps' neoprene dive booties, taped at the top to reduce flushing, being considered the best and warmest. All but tough Anne had brought some alternative to keep their boots dry for the expected snow.

The river commanded respect; most crossings we did in pairs and there were several where we linked up into sets of four. We were up to...the bit at the tops of our legs...in swift water. The crossing techniques worked well but we agreed it would not be wise to attempt the river if it was any higher especially with that temperature. No wind as we lunched in the sun in holiday mood at the foot of Daphne Spur - the cold and danger were over and there was just the ascent to warm us up with the joys of Howletts to look forward to. Above the bush line the snow was disappointingly sparse but slippery, frozen gravel forced us to slither up the sides of the track.

Howletts Hut was lovely in the evening light, by torchlight and glowing in the dawn light. We were grateful for the nice DEEP loo pit dug by DoC [thanks, DoC - this is not an easy place to dig so we really appreciate

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it]. We had a warm and entertaining evening, and rolled early into our pits satiated with Neill's figgy steamed pud (he can come again!). The wind howled in the night but abated somewhat in the morning although not enough to encourage a proposed look-see up Tiraha. The miniature beech trees were all coated with clear ice that caught the morning light and the views were lovely. After Heaps and Blackburn fixed in place the rat trap carried in by Anne and a little more firewood had been gathered, we reluctantly left the lofty heights and stomped down the hill.



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The river was down about six inches and, although we still hooked up four-wide for a couple of the crossings, it was a much more benign situation than the previous day. Again, the hill warmed us up after the river and we again appreciated the sidle back across to Moorcock though the little ups and downs seemed to have grown overnight. We were glad to be off the tops as the fierce westerly gusted down the farmland, making us all stagger, stealing our hats and blowing some of the lighter members over repeatedly! It was a brilliant trip, nicely challenging, very good fun with entertaining company. Thanks to you all, Annie for organising and Dave for driving, both heroic activities in our book. TG

*A brief interview conducted with Neill Gordon on his first time out with HTC:*

TG: "Neill what do you think about the club truck?"

NG: "I love it."

TG: "Why is that?"

NG: "It's perfect."

TG: "Can you explain what you like about it?"

NG: "With the ungodly hour we left it meant I could just lie down and get more sleep on the way and on the last bit of the trip I was really looking forward to getting back to the comfort of the mattresses to lie down again. Brilliant!"

Party: Anne Cantrick, Dave Heaps, Gail Harvey, Gerald Blackburn, Chrissie Waldron, Neil Gordon, Andrew Fowler, Tina Godbert

#2300	Esk Hills Walk and Wakamaratanga Walkway	Wed 1 July 2015
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A group of 17 travelled to Eskdale for a new walk [thanks to Pauline]: Esk Hills Reserve. Tracks had welcoming signs and we followed well-formed tracks with ups and downs mainly in groves of kanuka trees in the gullies around the subdivision. One resident stopped to ask if we enjoyed our walk. Later, some lunched at Snapper Cafe in Bay View while others picnicked at the nearby beach. In the afternoon the group walked Roro-o-kuri Summit track at Onehunga Road's Wakamaratanga Walkway: 2.5 kilometres, 40 mins with Graeme and Lynn reading out the information signs about the local area and about the people. Glorious weather for July and another great day in our local hills

Party: Pauline Mahoney (organiser), Brent Hickey, Christine Hardie, Graeme May, Lynn Walch, Rodger Burn, Scott Campbell, Barbara Phillips, Yula Eccles, Penny Isherwood, Peter Hewitt, Garry Smith, Judy McBride, Philip and Sharon Mardon, Ray Manning, Des Smith

#2301	White Pine Bush and Tangoio	Wed 15 July 2015
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Weather forecasts early in the week were not too good so most folk held off making a decision until the last minute! On Tuesday at midday there were only four names on the list BUT improving prognostications, [lovely word] on the weather front meant that eleven happy trampers gathered for two local shorter walks. The waterfalls were really worth visiting: Te Ana Falls were quite stunning and Tangoio Falls equally well worth the effort. We crossed paths with The Amblers at the Falls Look-out and had a chat before carrying on to White Pine Bush along a wide trail through exotic forest then grassland and a finally a tract of natives. Quite a few of us, who had done this walk many years ago, commented that it was further than we recalled.....was this a sign of memory loss or some other feature of advancing age?!! Light rain for 15 to 20 minutes along this section did not dampen spirits and, after a lunch stop at White Pine Bush picnic tables, we completed a quick walk around the short loop track before returning the same way to the truck. A very enjoyable day with good company and a chance to have a good yarn as we mooched along. I'm sure that the social aspect of these days is much valued. Thank you Christine for driving. What would we do without you?

Party: Joan Ruffell, Rodger Burn, Penny Isherwood, Judy McBride, Christine Hardie, Lynn Walch, Garry Smith, Des Smith, Murray Aitken, Sue Taylor, Heather Stephenson



Our last visit to this area was in 2011 when we walked half the W2K tramp [from Kinloch] and the Kawakawa Bay tramp. This time we started the W2K tramp at the other end - Whakakaipo Bay - at around 10:30am and walked through five-finger dominant vegetation, past the half-way marker, and on to the shelter where the Loop Track meets the W2K track. We then walked the 200m down the headland loop to the lookout to have our lunch. After lunch we carried on for half an hour through tall manuka (or was it kanuka) on the Headland Track to the first view point. It was then time to turn around and head back to the truck, arriving there just after 4:30pm. The highlight of this track was the tui song which was prolific as the five-finger was in flower. We drove back to Taupo for the night, staying at the All Seasons Motor Camp where there was a hot pool to soak in [along with a team of Sevens rugby boys from Auckland].



The next morning we drove past the Kinloch turnoff to the Great Lake Trail shelter on Whangamata Road. Leaving there at 9:30 we headed along a marginal strip towards the lake on the Orakau Track. This track initially passes through scrubby pine forest but, after 30 minutes, there is a large flax wetland on the left (and a paddock of chough on the right). Further on there was solid bush. The flax wetland looked to be a great environment for fernbird and, sure enough, on the return trip we heard one. Most of the party did the one-way trip walking Orakau Track to the lake edge at Kawakawa Bay and then taking Kawakawa Bay Track to Kinloch. Lex, Penny and I had hoped to walk far enough to see the lake but, unfortunately, didn't achieve that - Lex probably got within 200 metres of it. We turned around 6-7.5 kilometres along the track and got back to the truck around 1:30 where we had lunch. We then drove to Kinloch to pick up the others who arrived at about 2:30.

We were lucky with the weather which was much better than forecast. Saturday was fine and sunny at times while Sunday only had a little bit of drizzle. Two of the party are from Germany and are currently Woofers for an ex-Club member. They found out about the tramp on the Friday and were keen and ready to go the

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following morning. Everyone enjoyed the tramps and the consensus was that Day Two was the better tramp because of the greater variety in the environment surrounding the track. Many thanks to Lex for driving.

**Party:** Glenda Hooper, Lex Smith, Penny Isherwood, Brent Hickey, Anne Doig, Shayna Ward, Sarah & Jo

### #2303      Unveiling of the Remembrance Plaque at Kaweka Hut Site      9 Aug 2015

After careful consideration of the weather forecast we decided on a late start [8:30 at Pernel Orchard] for this tramp. Peter was driving and as we ascended the Forestry hill he announced it was snowing. It was very pretty. We parked in snow-covered Lakes Road carpark, put on all our warm and wet-weather gear, and started on down to the Tutaekuri River. The track down to the river has been upgraded since I was last there and a 4WD could probably drive all the way down [if there wasn't a locked gate at the top]. Crossing the river was a bit bracing except for five-year old Terry who got a ride across on his father's shoulders. There has also been a fair bit of work done on the track to Cook's Horn basin with a few diversions here and there. For most of the time the snow was coming down in fluffy flakes and there were lots of photos taken along the way. We got to the hut site just after midday and had our lunch. Peter then decided we needed a ceremonial fire in the fireplace so, after a bit of firewood collection, a candle, some rubber and a lot of blowing, he finally got a reasonable fire going. Our numbers were supposed to have been increased by two for the ceremony with Tina and Gerald planning to join us after their night at Kiwi Saddle Hut. However, they never appeared and just before 1pm we gathered around the fireplace where Graeme gave a brief history of the hut (included below) and recited the song Kaweka Korus before removing the bandana veil and the covering of snow to reveal a shiny new plaque with the words, "The Site of the historical Kaweka Hut built by the Heretaunga Tramping Club 1936, destroyed by fire 2003".



After this we all headed for home. It stopped snowing as soon as we started and much of it had melted by the time we reached the truck just before 3pm. Twenty minutes later, much to Terry's delight, Tina and Gerald arrived. They had been slowed down by snow and came out directly down Rogue Ridge. GH

**Party:** Terry and Andy Fowler, Lynette Blackburn, Scott Campbell, George Turner, Graeme Hare, Penny Isherwood, Des Smith, Peter Berry, Glenda Hooper

### **Kaweka Hut**

Kaweka Hut is very special to the Heretaunga Tramping Club as it was 79 years ago that members decided a hut would be built here. Why? It was a distance from Taihape Road that could be accomplished on a Saturday afternoon walk and there was a bush basin that had plenty of deer and pigs in it. It did not take long for Peter Lattey to draw up plans and materials were carried in. On the site a 24-foot ridge pole was adzed from a totara log. You may recall the big circular saw blade at the back of the old fire place that Les Holt had carried in. Tough guys and girls in those days.

Over the years Kaweka Hut had major improvements: an iron roof, iron walls and a floor. For many over-nighting here it was the night visitors that left an impression - the rats who lived between the malthoid and iron roof and walls. I don't know how many day or overnight visitors this hut has had but during the 65 years it was here it would have been hundreds if not thousands who came this way. Unfortunately it burned down in 2003 and now all that remains is the fireplace. It is on this final piece of Kaweka Hut that we record that the hut was here

**#2303**

**Bell Rock**

**Thursday 30 July 2015**

Today was my second try for the trip to Bell Rock. The first time the rock was covered in rain and cloud; it didn't look much like a nice day out so we went to Shines Falls instead. The forecast wasn't much good this time either so we changed it to the following day, Thursday, when the weather was supposed to be really good. And it worked!! We could not have had a better day, calm and clear. Perfect. Ten trampers were able to come with Christine to drive and it was all go. An easy walk up through the bush to the exposed rock where we had lunch and admired the view then down again by the other route out in the open, a detour through the rocky valley and an investigation of the historic farm hut - lots of sun and very little wind. On the way home we stopped at Lake Opouahi, also calm and clear then home by 5:00pm. JMcB

**Party:** Roy Frost, Sharon Mardon, Des Smith, Pauline Mahoney, Garry Smith, Rodger Burn, Heather Stephenson, Graeme Hare, Graeme May, Judy McBride, Christine Hardie

From the April 1973 Pohokura, extracts from an article that still has something to offer.

### **To Make a Good Trip Really Good .....**

This contains a few ideas for planning, leading and going on trips, especially longer ones.

Firstly, consider the party: if it's a private trip then the leader or instigator chooses who to invite - usually those he or she knows, likes and knows will get on with the others. These three points are important. The leader must know the people and their capabilities, both their physical fitness and how their enthusiasm reacts to different situations, e.g. when it's pouring with rain, cold as hell and you can't see more than 10 metres and the maps are all wrong! Obviously, s/he must like the people - don't take on someone just to swell the numbers; it can be a disaster if you're stuck in a hut for several days. Likewise, s/he must be fairly sure that everyone is compatible particularly if some of the party haven't met or won't get a chance to meet before the trip. This business of suitable people also concerns the individual members. It is their responsibility to ensure that they get on satisfactorily with everyone else in the party. Any friction doesn't affect just them; it may ruin the holiday for everyone. Be a bit cagey about accepting invitations to join trips until you've found out who's going on it. On the other hand don't be indecisive for too long or the leader will die of frustration. All this emphasis on personal relationships may seem exaggerated but a little consideration of these points can make all the difference between a trip and a really good trip.

The number on the trip will probably depend on where you're going and the type of trip. Four is a good number (and is a minimum for safety). It makes for a faster party, if you have a big tent you can all get into it and if you're doing a bit of rope work an even number is useful. Six is also a good number - it tends to dilute the company a bit if you haven't considered the first paragraph enough. Eight is often all right but you start to get problems of space in huts; meals get a bit large, requiring extra billies and so on.

A club trip is a bit more difficult. The number on the trip will usually be larger which often enforces camping out – not so difficult in the Ruahines perhaps but you try a National Park. Also, the problems of personal relations looms up again. On a club trip the leader is more or less obliged to accept anyone that applies to join as long as he or she is sufficiently fit and well-equipped. The responsibility therefore falls more on the individual members. If you know you can't last a week tramping with some person on the trip, don't go! Trips are often spoilt by having too large a party. A good policy with club trips is to restrict the numbers to, say 10 or 12. The leader doesn't have to give a reason for this. It's his or her prerogative and should be stuck to rigidly. A number limit should be advertised well in advance and a first come-first in system used (with reservation). This puts everyone in the picture so they only have themselves to blame if they miss out. If large numbers are to be turned away, however, the officers of the club should be aware of this and a second trip should perhaps be arranged. While a first in-first served system seems fair, the leader should also vet the party to ensure a safe ratio of strong, experienced trampers to weaker members. Remember that if an accident occurs in bad conditions – say in snow or on exposed tops – there must be enough strong people to deal with the injured and enough to shepherd the rest of the party to safety. Weaker members may not be able to stand the cold conditions of waiting around while an injured person is tended to.

Gear and food are very important. On a private trip there is usually collaboration between all members so there are no problems. If food is calculated beforehand and wrapped in day lots it saves a lot of trouble. Each lot should be labelled with the day number and weight so that each person knows what food s/he is carrying and how much it weighs. Try to arrange distribution so that each member gets rid of weight at approximately the same rate. Some trips pool all the food at the start of each day and re-divide it into equal lots. This is a tedious business and should be avoided.

Club trips can be organised in two ways. First, all the food can be bought and organised by the leader. This takes the problem off all the individual members and ensures an economical food to weight ratio. It also means easier cooking – fewer billies on the fire if everyone has the same thing. Or, food can be bought on an individual basis. This allows people to choose their diet to their own satisfaction. But, if there are people in the party who have not experienced long trips, they may be bringing insufficient or too much food, purely because they don't know how much they'll need. Much duplication of small items (e.g. salt) occurs in this case which is wasteful of weight. No matter which way it is organised a gear and food list issued to every member by the leader is a good idea. This should list every item each person should have and its weight of food they will be given to carry. A maximum total weight allowable should also be given as a guide, particularly for younger people.

The trip itself should also be very carefully considered. Whether private or club, the intended route should be mapped out in its entirety well beforehand. This lets everyone know just what they're letting themselves in for. Also, everyone becomes mentally adjusted to the nature of the trip – unconsciously. Trampers as people are self-starters and must be fed on a sense of achievement. It is important therefore that a trip should have a goal such as a peak, a pass or whatever so that people will know where they're going and can assess each day's performance in the light of their pre-conceived notions about the trip and gain satisfaction from it. People enjoy a trip more if they have to extend themselves but don't overdo it especially on a longer trip. In choosing a trip, make as much use as possible of people who've been there before. Don't be ashamed to ask. Most people are always ready to give advice – unfortunately few people take it. Get several opinions so you can judge for yourself what an area is like. If you talk to a culler, multiply his time by 1.5! Trips invariably improve with age. "We just popped over that saddle, no trouble at all," is typical trumper talk. If it was last week it probably was easy. If it was a few years ago all the sweat and hard work have probably been forgotten or glossed over. The difficulty of the trip should suit the party. Don't make it too hard, no matter how tough you think you are. Give yourself an easy day after a hard one. Rest days are often included. These are good for the less fit people but they can be a bit boring for the fitties. Have a rest day where a side trip can be done. Plan your days with the size of the party in mind. Big parties take longer to get away in the morning and are slower travelling. Give your route flexibility so that bad weather or other problems can be dealt with without throwing the whole trip out of gear. Allow a spare day for unforeseen contingencies but have something in mind to do with it if all goes according to plan.

Finally, a few words on leadership. All the good books list a leader's duties. Remember the three basic rules: the safety of the party, the enjoyment of the party, the successful completion of the trip. But make sure you



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put them in that order. More should really be said of the party's responsibility to the leader. The leader has to put a lot of work into organising the trip, especially if it's a club one. If it doesn't go too well s/he feels responsible. It's up to the individual members of the party to ensure that it does go well. Don't wait to be asked to do things - get stuck in and do them. A person who is self-motivated in this respect is much better company than the slacker who does the bare minimum. "A good leader is unobtrusive," say the manuals. If a leader has got a good party s/he will be unobtrusive. Judge for yourself; remember that the leader should enjoy the trip too!

[Yes, you may laugh at this but tramping groups did achieve amazing trips in the past. Ed.]

## From the Archives

## Twenty-five Years Ago

*This previously unpublished trip report is 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

#### Section Four

**16 January 1991** - part five of The Long Walk Home commenced with a trip into Turangi for a sort-out. We didn't really need to go there; we just needed to get out of the rain while we reorganised our loads! Nick and Mike had brought with them our penultimate tucker box. This boost of calories needed to be combined with what was left in our packs. The remainder was then sorted into what we wanted flown into Boyd and what was to be taken back home. From Turangi we needed to travel some way back down the Desert Road to the start of the track over Umukarikari. As it was still raining to the south, we decided to miss Waipakihi Hut and go directly to Cascade Hut via Kiko Road and stay at Cascade for two nights.

Off we went into a windy, cloudy day that was quite dark due to an eclipse of the sun. Cloud and wind didn't help us across the open tops. We had to move from cairn to cairn and consult the map often. Rain was never too far away either so the whole trip into Cascade was with our coats on. Track markings left a lot to the imagination with the most indication being tags in the grass at ankle level. At a point not too far away from Cascade, I tripped on a tree root and tumbled into the bracken. I survived the fall okay but couldn't get up. I was cast on my back like an old woolly sheep. Eventually I managed to unclip my pack harnesses and belt, regain my feet, recover my pack and scoot off down the track to catch up with the others. Finally we arrived at Cascade to find the hut all ours - neat! Even had an old kero lantern with fuel in it to brighten our evening. While outside the trees to the west were strongly silhouetted against a blazing red sky. Looks good for tomorrow. Seven hours: noon to 1900! (plus one hour 15 minutes from Waihohonu.) It felt like a long day too! Steak, spuds and coleslaw for tea.

Location:	U19 974339	Cascade Hut
The Radio Hour:	Mountain Radio:	KU 101 and ZKBY at 1930
	Amateur Radio:	ZL2BCK (Graham)
Weather:	Not recorded	
Track Times:	0745 - 0900	Waihohonu to Desert Road
	1200 - 1900	Desert Road to Cascade

**17 January 1991** - slept in until 0900! Quite sore from yesterday and possibly Ruapehu and Ngaruhoe (back and knees) very tired still. Mike and Nick took off at 1100; DoC guys, Bruce, George and Ken arrived via a Hughes 300 for a bit of maintenance. We gave the guys a bit of a hand cleaning up around the hut and were most impressed with Bruce's tree-dropping skills. To save the little trees, DoC carefully selects a larger one, drops it and slices it into rounds for later chopping, as required, by hut users.

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My radio aerial was slung - as per most nights - with the centre of the dipole at the hut and the rest stretched out as best the surrounding terrain allowed. My only rule was that the middle should be as high as practical and at least one third of the aerial either side of the centre, should be in the clear. The ends of the dipole were mostly tied back to smaller trees or shrubs at about knee height. Bruce indicated where the tree was to crash to the ground and, fearing for my aerial, I began to recover the threatened leg until the operation was over. "It's okay," said Bruce and started the chainsaw. I was off in the opposite direction. Down she came, missing the little tree I had my aerial tied to by a few millimetres, - just like Bruce said. Soon, like a sliced loaf of bread, the tree was processed and ready for consumption. Prior to setting out on our journey I had been listening to radio traffic on the Mountain Radio Service from home. Traffic indicated that there was a thief operating in the area, ripping off gear out of huts while the occupants were away shooting or day tripping. This was of some concern to us when we started the trip, a concern that became a reality when the log book at Cascade Hut was checked out on our arrival. A couple of hunters, only a couple of days ago had left the hut in opposite directions for a day's hunting. One returned to the hut about 20 minutes later to collect some gear he had left behind. The hut was empty: no gear, no food, no sleeping bags. Nothing. He stayed there all day until his mate arrived back and headed out to the carpark. Bruce was off late afternoon to see if this character had left any clues to his whereabouts and to maybe bring home a bit of venison. The only thing he brought back was both bits of his broken rifle. By chance in April 1991 I was staying in a motel in Hamilton for my work and there in the complimentary NZ Herald was an article on the discovery of the thieves' den. The thieves unfortunately got away.

Location:	U19 974339	Cascade Hut
The Radio Hour:	Mountain Radio:	ZKKU & ZKBY at 1930 plus XRC (Dave ZL3DK)
	Amateur Radio:	ZL2BCK (Graham) & ZL2AHC (Stan)
Weather:	Not recorded	
Track Times:	Nil	No tramping today

**18 January 1991** - slow start to a beautiful day. Cascade is very damp and so was much of our gear. Selwyn's was even wetter when he slipped off a log bridge into the Cascade Stream: SPLASH! Once I could see that he was okay, I turned away and shook like a jelly in fits of silent laughter. We reached the Waiotupuritia Saddle quite quickly, probably because of the thought of the thieves and their Rottweiler hidden away in the dense bush, maybe even watching us as we went by. Being a bright sunny day, the forest was magic. The sunlight was shafting down through the tall trees in places and splashing off bright green leaves. In contrast, the darkness created by the deep shadows of the great trees created a spooky atmosphere. Dropped into the North Arm (Te Waiotupuritia Stream) to have our lunch about one km from the airstrip; delightfully spread out in the sun for an hour. Called into McNutts Hut to find a hunter from New Plymouth had just flown in (along with our tucker box for Boyds). Bruce had indicated to us before we left 'the way' to Boyds. After leaving McNutts we found the going, especially in the tussock, pretty hard work. It was like that all the way to Boyds. We had missed the track in most places but it was a pleasant, warm day. Te Waiotupuritia Stream and Mangamairi Stream join together to become the Ngaruroro River at a point not too far from Boyds. We frolicked there awhile before ambling on through the tussock, stopping now and then to wallow in our surroundings. At 1700, eight hours after leaving Cascade, we arrived at Boyds to find a trumper named Bob in residence. A couple of hunters joined us later, then a plane load from Rotorua. Boyds is a Lockwood-style hut with separate bunkrooms and kitchen. There is also an airstrip suitable for fixed wing aircraft. Might fly in here one day, then walk out.

Location:	U19 839229	Boyd Hut
The Radio Hour:	Mountain Radio:	ZKKU 101 at 1930, with KU 8 at Lake Colenso, KU 9 at Manson, KU 3 at Te Iringa carpark. KU read from newspapers on how the Gulf war was hotting up. ZKBY was there too.
	Amateur Radio:	ZL2AHC (Stan), ZL2CZ (Geoff), ZL1GQ (?), ZL1UFP (Owen), ZL2BCK (Graham).
Weather:	Not recorded	
Track Times:	0800 - 1700	Cascade Hut to Boyd Hut (1 hour for lunch).

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**19 January 1991** - funny night: thought half the metal in the wire bed base was missing. Found half a plank of ply stuffed under the mattress in the morning! Bob took off to Harkness while the two hunters went to pick up some of their gear left deep in the bush. After the laundry was done and strung out to dry, I made a loaf of bread for lunch. Boyds Hut is about 100 metres above the valley - a real pain when, after a long day, you are confronted with this stepped climb. But boy, the view from the hut verandah is worth a million dollars. Made some zeds after lunch and went for a walk around 1600. The two hunters were back and trumper Daryll arrived from Ngaawapurua for the night. We had planned to spend three nights at Boyds but decided it was time to move on, with a night up our sleeves, to spend somewhere else along the track. However, we had food enough for us to stay out Boyd for a month I'm sure. After stocking up the hut it was pig out time: salmon on Krispie biscuits, ham, venison, noodles, peas, carrots, vanilla instant pud and apricots and apples. Wow! A shared meal that had us all cast.

Location:	U19 839229	Boyd Hut
The Radio Hour:	Mountain Radio:	ZKKU at 1930
	Amateur Radio:	ZKKU 101 at 1930, with KU8 at Kylie Biv, KU9 at ?, KU3 at Oamaru, KU4 at Kerikeri. XRY was also in there; Dave ZL3DK was working 3345 for a change
Weather:	Not recorded	
Track Times:	Nil	No tramping today

KU 3 turned out to be Mal Garner of Fire Service, Hastings who had left Hastings in 30 degree temperatures and hadn't packed enough clothing. As we were carrying a minimum, we couldn't help. KU 4 was Lyall on holiday.

**20 January 1991** - funny sort of day: high overcast and quite dark. I enjoyed a good night's sleep without the ply under my mattress, except for a few problems with a nocturnal leak. I had slipped out of my sleeping bag, gone across the verandah, down the stairs and off in the direction of the loo before realising how dark it was [no pocket in my PJs for a torch]. Stopping wherever I was to do the deed, it was then back to bed but where was the hut?!! I headed off in one direction, hoping to bang into something familiar such as the water tank, wash basin, chopping block or even the hut wall. No success in that direction and changing direction brought no success either. I wasn't dressed for night exploration and was starting to feel really cold. I was getting ready to yell out and my last action before bellowing was to get down on the ground to see if I could silhouette the hut against the black sky. Success! The hut was just blacker than the sky and it wasn't too long before I was back in my sleeping bag. There's a lesson there somewhere. Up at 0700 and away by 0850 with six days tucker on board. It took an hour through the tussock to the bottom of the track to Tussock Hut. That is one track that needs marking! [Well, that's what I wrote in 1991. In 1995 I was through this way again and walked off the airstrip into this stretch of unmarked track to find that the real track doesn't go that way. It follows the edge of the hills rising on the true right, all the way through to Boyds!] It's quite a climb out of the Ngaruroro valley. The ridge we were climbing was open with views all around. Looking back into the river we saw a lone trumper. Where did he come from? We carried on a little further before stopping again for another look at the views and this guy was gone. Lots of coming and going up here in the wilderness. An early lunch at Tussock Hut with a team of trampers who had earlier left Harkness Hut. One of these trampers knew Nigel Dick, my Telecom counterpart in Hamilton. I asked him to pick up my aluminium plate which I use under the billy when cooking bread and had left in Boyds Lodge in error. As it turned out, my aluminium plate beat me back to work. It was in my IN tray waiting for me within a couple of days. The trip down the Harkness valley is pure magic. I have done the trip once before and have been dreaming about being here again. The track is poled down to U20 882192 then it is in and out of the river (27 times) before taking a left turn (and another 10 crossings) and on up to Harkness Hut. Arriving at 1515 and finding we had the hut to ourselves it was billy on and back into the river for a scrub. Total immersion was not for me but Selwyn took the plunge. All cleaned up and a cuppa in hand it was time to set the camera up on the bucket pump for a snapshot of the boys in the Harkness Streetside Cafe.

Location:	U20 898182	Harkness Hut
The Radio Hour:	Mountain Radio:	ZK 101 at 1930
	Amateur Radio:	ZL2BCK (Graham), ZL2MB (John), ZL2QM (John), ZL2CZ (Geoff), ZL3DK (Dave), ZL2LF (Peter), & ZL2AHC (Stan)

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Weather:	North to northwesterly winds, some light showers. Generally fine until Wednesday.	
Track Times:	0850 - 1130 1215 - 1515	Boyd Lodge to Harkness Hut via Tussock Hut (Lunch).

**21 January 1991** - a very very slow start to the day. I made a cuppa and while Selwyn stayed in bed we nattered on. Cleaned up, packed up and away by 0940. We headed back down the stream that we had crossed 10 times coming in last night then mucked about a bit looking for some resemblance of a track from the junction down. Progress was quite slow but we weren't too worried as soon we were to hit the high track. It seems that, in the past, the river was the route between Harkness and Ngaawapurua until unknown craftsmen had carved out the track on the true right bank of the river. A sign, nailed to a tree, proclaimed:

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THIS TRACK YOU HAVE NO FEELING FOR WORKS  
OF ART. GET DOWN BELOW WHERE YOU BELONG

Soon afterwards we found ourselves at Ngaawapurua Hut - 1220, a journey of 2 hours 40. Ngaawapurua is at the junction of the Ngaawapurua Stream and the Ngaruroro River and is similar to Harkness. In residence were two hunters and their dog from Hastings, and Bob whom we had met at Boyds). A mucky-around sort of afternoon as we nattered, read and checked out the deep green pools of both rivers. We shared a few more yarns after tea, made arrangements via Mountain Radio for a pick up for our Hastings Hut companions, and then it was off to bed.

Location:	U20 904139	Ngaawapurua Hut
The Radio Hour:	Mountain Radio:	ZKKU 101 at 1930
	Amateur Radio:	ZL2AHC (Stan), & ZL2MB (John).
Weather:	Northeasterly wind with showers and cloudy. Fine in the afternoons. Warm and humid. Outlook similar.	
Track Times:	0940 - 1220	Harkness Hut to Ngaawapurua Hut

**22 January 1991** - no complaints about my snoring through the night. They all must have had a nice deep sleep or maybe sleeping on my tummy worked. I had a sked with KU101 at 0800 to confirm arrangements for the Hastings hunters. All okay so they're off to Otutu and then back to Boyds. Bob was to follow a little later. Selwyn and I left Ngaawapurua at 0840, over the swingbridge and straight into a 570m climb to reach the Otutu/Manson track junction by 1040. Mt. Manson looked days away on our south-eastern horizon even though the sign said we were only two hours away from Manson Hut! As it turned out, the sign was only 30 minutes out! Or maybe we dilly-dallied through the open tops, the 'cricket pitch' and all-round views. Bloody Great! However, still no sign of Ruapehu/Ngaruhoe yet; maybe on Friday. Manson Hut is the same as the last two (six bunkers) except that it has been painted to blend in as compared with the others which are painted orange to stand out! I cooked my last loaf of bread once we had settled in. As the aluminium plate was somewhere between Boyds, Hamilton and my IN tray, I was lucky to be able to find a camp oven. Did a good job too! Read a Readers Digest about this chap lost on Ngapuketurua in the Kaimanawas. Now we had just been there a few days ago (on our way to Cascade Hut) so the story took on real meaning. I could only vaguely remember the event and wasn't really surprised to find the Readers Digest was over 10 years old (aren't they all?). Difficult to read too! Not because of age but because of the bullet hole slap bang in the middle of the book. The weather was really kind to us today: blue skies as we left Ngaawapurua, cloudy along the tops but around 1730 the cloud dropped along with the temperature and rain arrived from the north west. Luckily I had the aerial up and the washing in.

Location:	U20 913068	Manson Hut
The Radio Hour:	Mountain Radio:	ZKKU 101 at 1930. KU3 @ Boyd, KU4 @ Kerikeri, KU8 @ Ballard

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	Amateur Radio:	ZL1UFP (Owen), ZL2BCK (Graham), ZL2MB (John), ZL2CZ (Geoff), ZL2AHC (Stan).
Weather:	Wind from the northerly quarter, temperatures moderate, showers in the ranges, heavy at times	
Track Times:	0840 - 1310	Ngaawapurua Hut to Manson Hut

**23 January 1991** - a slow start to a drizzly day although there seemed to be some bright patches; mince left-overs for breakfast plus a slice of freshly-baked bread and, of course, Vitamin T. All cleaned up, packed up and on the track at 0940. The weather had brightened and cloud lifted to give us excellent views all around as we ambled along the track to Kiwi Mouth Hut. Crossed the Ngaruroro courtesy of another swingbridge then back up-river on the true left to arrive at the hut by 1140. Just in time for lunch! Cuppa soup, fresh bread, honey, jam and Vitamin T. The day had turned into a beaut, one of those lazy days where the smell of the bush and manuka smoke coupled with the chuckle of a busy river and the drone of the odd blowfly in search of a suitable landing spot, soon had one's eyelids drooping. Zzeds, in stereo, completed the scene. It was nearly tea-time when we woke! Gosh! how will we sleep tonight? We did okay. Before tea, I heated a big billy full of hot water over the fire and wasted the lot having a jolly old scrub up - the luxury of having ample manuka firewood and the Ngaruroro nearby. (You can get quite mean when rationing white spirits and tank water!) On to my last film today. That will leave me ten snaps for tomorrow and ten for Friday, our last day.

Location:	U20 927036	Kiwi Mouth Hut
The Radio Hour:	Mountain Radio:	ZKKU 101 at 1930, with KU4 on his way home
	Amateur Radio:	ZL2BCK (Graham), ZL2CZ (Geoff), & ZL2AHC (Stan)
Weather:	Winds northeasterly moderating. Cloudy and warm	
Track Times:	0940 - 1140	Manson Hut to Kiwi Mouth Hut

**24 January 1991** - another really neat slow start to a drizzly day; muesli and Vitamin T, a clean-up and off up Kiwi Creek by 0950. A good river to travel in and I had been this way before. Even so, lost footing had me wet up to my waist. (I wonder if Selwyn had a silent laugh like I did back at Cascade). We met a trio of trampers heading down to Kiwi Mouth for the day. We'll see them again tonight. Two hours later it was out of the river and, after an initial steep climb, on to the hut to arrive at 1250. Pack down and out to the saddle to soak up the view to the east, a view that flows down the Tutaekuri River valley and out to the cities of Napier and Hastings. After 29 days we were looking at home. Tomato Soup and the last of the bread for lunch plus more Vitamin T; washed shorts, socks, undies, buzzy bee propyl and then me. (Well, I was going home tomorrow!) Kiwi Saddle Hut is a really neat hut built by HTC in 1987. Being members of HTC, it was specially organised that our last night would be here. Being here thinking that it wasn't too long ago, whilst on Mt Ruapehu that we could see Kiwi Saddle on the far eastern horizon. Now, after 12 days, we were here. It was a couple of Huts back since we had company and it was good to share a yarn with our hut mates. A couple of guys from Lincoln College who are working for DoC (based at Castle Camp) called in after shooting a deer about 10 minutes away from the hut. They offered to take us back to claim the forequarters if we wished. Alas, we had our meal on the go and wanted to travel a bit lighter tomorrow. In my original plan our last day was to be along the tops to Kaiarahi, Mad Dog, Kaweka J and down to Makahu. We were quite concerned about the weather expected for this day and since Manson we had settled on two options dependent on the actual weather on the day: option A [sunny day] - Makahu; option B [rainy day] - Kuripapango. Final decision to be made at tomorrow's 0630 sked and our pick-up transport organised accordingly.

Location:	U20 963027	Kiwi Saddle Hut
The Radio Hour:	Mountain Radio:	ZKKU 101 at 1930
	Amateur Radio:	ZL2BCK (Graham), ZL2MB (John), ZL1UFP (Owen), ZL1UAY (Jack), & ZL2LF (Peter).
Weather:	Rubbish	
Track Times:	0950 - 1250	Kiwi Mouth Hut to Kiwi Saddle Hut

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**25 January 1991** - heard Selwyn's alarm go off at 0600 and spun around to be head down, able to operate the Mizuho come sked time. Selwyn woke about 0620 and leapt up and whacked me on the head thinking I was still the other way around! Boy, the mates you tramp with! We recovered from a good belt of laughter to be on air at 0630. Tough work! ZL2BCK with ZL2MB and ZL1UFP on the side to assist but I needed to resort to CW to finally confirm Option B. Yep! It was raining. Porridge for breakfast and away by 0840. At the top of the climb out of the saddle it began to rain and rain and rain. For most of **The Long Walk Home**, I had carried my camera mostly in hand to snap away as the trip progressed. Not today - after a photo of Selwyn in the murk, I slipped the Olympus into my pack for only the second time. It rained all the way to 4100 then stopped! Raincoats were left on to keep the wind off. But it was dry enough to get the camera back out for the last few shots as we dropped down to the water gauge carpark. One hour 25 minutes to 4100 and it was all over at 1115, two hours 35 minutes from Kiwi Saddle. Michael Hawthorne arrived at 1150 and, after our last photo, it was off home. Michael was able to show us the photos he and Nick had taken on the way out from Cascade on the 17th: great views including Ruapehu and Ngaruhoe with a good covering of snow. Once home, Katrina showed us the photos that she had taken on Ruapehu on the 12th. What a fun day that was. Dave Head rang at about 1600hrs to say that he had been up to the 'J' to meet us. I really felt quite sad that we had gone the other way. My shower was good, the shave hard work, the DB tasted good and the fish and chips were exquisite. Cecile followed us all the way. Who is Cecile? Well, she's the shining cuckoo. It was one bird call that we heard nearly every day. We came to call him/her Cecile. As we clambered down to the water gauge carpark the call was heard again.

Location:	U20 971987	Water Gauge Carpark
The Radio Hour:	Mountain Radio:	QRT (closed down)
	Amateur Radio:	QRT (closed down)
Weather:	Not needed till next time	
Track Times:	0840 - 1115	Kiwi Saddle Hut to the Water Gauge Carpark

On 26 of December I weighed in at 81kg; on 26 January I was down to 76kg.

*It's been great to see Mike and Selwyn's trip finally in print - a great experience for those two and a valuable record of an inspiring trek through our wonderful backcountry. Ed.*

--oo0oo--

# HTC Bike Trips



## Camp David and Beyond

**Wed 27 May 2015**

Eleven cyclists braved the elements and met at Mutiny Road south of Havelock North before tackling a rather strong southerly along Middle Road. The road was unusually busy with a large number of trucks – we later learned that an accident had caused traffic from SH2 to be re-routed along Middle Road which is quite narrow with blind corners in places. The Camp David hill proved to be a challenge in the conditions and many elected to walk up some of this before we all regrouped at the Camp gates for a snack.

Four “real cyclists” carried on to the Patangata pub for coffee and savouries while the rest of us returned from the Camp and enjoyed a great tail wind back to the cars where we had the rest of our lunch. RB

**Cyclists:** Christine Hardie, Anne Cantrick, Lyn Walch, Bobby Couchman, Pat Sheridan, Garry Smith, Graeme Hare, Ian Stewart, Dennis Beets, Jim Hewes, Rodger Burn

## Stop Bank Circuit

**Wed 22 July 2015**

Despite the threat of rain and high winds, thirteen die-hard cyclists gathered at the Hastings Golf Club car park at 9:15am to ride an extended version of the cycle we did on the 15th of April. Exiting the Golf Club, we turned right on to Maraekakaho Road with another right turn at Ngatarawa Road junction, making steady

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headway against a stiff SW wind coming in from our left. There was another right turn on to SH50 then, after a quick re-group, we proceeded to Roys Hill Reserve for a snack stop, aided by a tail wind. Owing to the wind intensity and the chill factor we did not linger for very long. After a quick spin around the reserve we were on our way once more to the Omaha Road junction where we turned left this time towards the bridge before crossing over to Gordon Road and on to the stop bank.

As we made our way toward Ormond Rd turn-off our tailwind gradually morphed into a headwind, gathering in intensity as we approached Oak Avenue where the trees afforded us some respite. After negotiating the Omaha and Flaxmere Avenue roundabouts we turned left into Portsmouth Rd and south along the home stretch down Stock Rd where we met the full force of the sou-wester head on! Nevertheless we battled on with Lyn making very restrained use of his new electric bike, finally reaching the Golf Course gate at noon, having covered a distance of 29 km. Though the wind was daunting, we had no rain or showers to contend with and the sun shone most of the time. Afterwards we all gathered in the cafe for lunch and coffee [along with two other cycle groups so the place was full of the lycra brigade] - a decadent way to finish the outing.

**Cyclists:** Lyn Gentry, Dennis Beets, Garry Smith, Pam Pike, Joan Ruffell, Christine Hardie, Peggy Gulliver, Heather Stephenson, Peter Hewitt, Richard and Vivienne Waterer, Rodger Burn, Scott Campbell

## Awatoto to Puketapu Hotel

**Wed 5 Aug 2015**

A change of venue and a late starting time: things were looking good till we met a snag at the cycle path underpass on SH2 which was flooded due to high tide. Rather than get wet we adopted plan B along the road to get back on the track which was easily accomplished. Carrying on west along the Tutaekuri stopbank cycleway we met Christine and Pam and continued on to Pettigrew Green where Ian and Dennis chose a more energetic route via Puketapu Road, Poraiti Hill and Puketitiri Road while the rest carried on beside the river. We all met up at Puketapu Pub for a very pleasant lunch break. Mr Lyn used his battery assisted cycle at times which made the rest of us a little envious - perhaps a sign of things to come.

Judy, our team leader was mindful of a pending weather change so eventually got us going again, this time along the south side of the Tutaekuri River via Omaranui and Taradale where the locals left us. By the time we got to the Awatoto underpass the tide had receded and we had no problems going under the bridge. We had a little rain for the last kilometre or two but luckily missed all the heavy stuff. JM

**Cyclists:** Lyn Walch, Christine Hardie, Pam Pike, Judy Mcbride, Dick and Vivienne Waterer, Dennis Beets, Ian Stewart, Graeme May, Mr Lyn Gentry, Rodger Burn

## HTC History 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversery

The club was born in adversity, a response to a need. Hamish Armstrong was a southern Hawke's Bay farmer with an interest in flying but he became lost while piloting his De Havilland Gypsy Moth from his Akitio farm to the Hastings aerodrome on 21 July 1935. A huge search followed, both on land and from the air. Nothing was found. But a fortnight after Armstrong disappeared Ian Powell and two mates were traversing the tops of the Ruahine Range near the present Sunrise Hut looking for potential areas for skiing, when – there it was. The Gypsy Moth at rest in what we now know as Armstrong Saddle, an area that had been flown over several times during the air search. An extensive land search followed, involving a number of former members of Wellington area tramping clubs as well as Police, local farmers and hunters. But again, nothing was found. It appears most likely that Armstrong had mistakenly headed west into the vast wilderness of the Ruahine Range.

That tragedy brought home to local trampers the need for some form of organisation that would be available at short notice to mount searches and rescues in the mountains of Hawke's Bay.

And so the Heretaunga Tramping Club was born. On 30 September 1935 sixteen trampers assembled in Doctor David Bathgate's rooms in Hastings and made the decision to form a tramping club, the objective of which was "To familiarise members with the back country of Hawke's Bay". The club became an incorporated society in 1937 and I note that the application to incorporate was signed by five civil servants and six clerks, out of the total of fifteen signatures. Tramping is an

August 2015

activity that appeals to those who live a more sedentary life during the week and I doubt that much has changed.

In the 80 years since the day the club was formed, members have tramped far and wide, to every corner of the mountains of New Zealand, and from Mount Everest to the Antarctic. Back in 1935 though, their focus was closer to home and the immediate task was to build huts to provide shelter for club members and for other mountain users in the back country of Hawke's Bay. The first was Kaweka Hut, on the eastern flanks of the Kaweka Range. This beech timber, malthoid and corrugated iron hut was sited near a tributary of the Tutaekuri River, at a sufficient distance from the Napier – Taihape Road to be reached after Saturday mid-day closing. The Waikamaka Hut followed, completed during the first year of the war on the western side of the Waipawa Saddle. Kiwi Saddle Hut was built in 1948 and in the 1970s the club assumed ownership of Howlett's Hut from the Manawatu Tramping Club. The Kaweka Hut was burned down twenty years ago but the others have been continually maintained and upgraded and have provided very welcome shelter to thousands of weary trampers and hunters over the years.

It was the need for a rapid response search organisation that prompted the very formation of the club and land search and rescue has been one of our primary roles during the club's 80 year history. Working in conjunction with the Police, members have taken part in countless searches and recovery incidents in the hills of Hawke's Bay. In the days before helicopters and effective radio communications a search and rescue operation was an extremely arduous physical operation demanding the ultimate in fitness and experience of the searchers. Since the day that Hamish Armstrong walked away from Armstrong Saddle, never to be seen again, only two people lost in the Hawke's Bay bush have not been found. But the availability of cell-phones and personal locator beacons has greatly reduced the need for this community service role and SAR no longer figures large in the club's activities.



Mapping has also been one of the club's functions and Norman Elder, in particular, was responsible for surveying and drawing many of the maps that the club and other mountain users relied on for navigation through the relatively unknown ranges of Hawke's Bay prior to the Lands & Survey publishing their own series of maps. (Pic: Norman Elder & George Lowe)



But it has not only been deeds, adventures and community service that have provided the club's story of 80 years. It has also been the people who have woven the tapestry that depicts the club's colourful history. There have been true legends such as Norman Elder, trumper, botanist, mapper and pioneer; Doc Bathgate, historian and author; George Lowe, mountaineer extraordinary; Nancy Tanner, who held the club together as club captain in the 1960's; Wally Romanes, hard man club captain and Himalayan adventurer. (Pic: Doc Bathgate & Nancy Tanner, Nancy holding the radio aerial at the 1958 cairn service).



And characters such as Angus Russell, whose preferred way of keeping his tramping clothes dry was to take them off and put them in his pack; or Dave Williams, who used to carry his huge full plate camera everywhere and was allegedly not beyond slipping under the camera's curtain on the Marine Parade to view the scenery on the beach through his telephoto lens. Perhaps we trampers have now become totally boring and conformist as they don't seem to make them like that anymore.

Be that as it may, it is still the people of the club, the community of like-minded members who enjoy the outdoors and the company of one another who provide the very reason for the club's being. And the very make-up of the club has indeed changed over the years. Pensioners were very thin on the ground indeed when I started tramping but now comprise perhaps half our membership ☺. A bunch of awesomely fit scruffy looking youths and (less scruffy looking) girls powering up and down the hills has pretty much been replaced by a much smaller bunch of equally fit but less scruffy trampers and a much larger but less mobile group of gentlefolk wandering along smelling the wildflowers, or happily pedalling their way around the cycle trails.

That is now the club and for so long as we can cater for those two disparate groups, our future is assured.



Armstrong Saddle, where it all began.

Alan Berry

APPLICATION FOR INCORPORATION 18 JUNE 1937

NAME	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS
<i>J. J. Green</i>	<i>Solicitor</i>	<i>Hastings</i>
<i>M. Dadelzen</i>	<i>Law clerk</i>	<i>Havelock North</i>
<i>J. L. Lene</i>	<i>clerk</i>	<i>Hastings</i>
<i>L. Holt</i>	<i>clerk</i>	<i>Hastings</i>
<i>M. Elder</i>	<i>Schoolmaster</i>	<i>Havelock North</i>
<i>Rolf Keys</i>	<i>Photographer</i>	<i>Hastings</i>
<i>Chas. Bass</i>	<i>clerk</i>	<i>Hastings</i>
<i>D. Wallace</i>	<i>Engineer</i>	<i>Napier</i>
<i>L. Wilson</i>	<i>Chol.</i>	<i>Hastings</i>
<i>F. Hobbs</i>	<i>Nurse</i>	<i>Hastings</i>
<i>W. L. Keys</i>	<i>Bank clerk</i>	<i>Hastings</i>
<i>H. Keys</i>	<i>if carried</i>	<i>Hastings</i>
<i>J. A. Budd</i>	<i>Traveller</i>	<i>Hastings</i>
<i>J. Hannah</i>	<i>Girl servant</i>	<i>Hastings</i>
<i>J. L. P. Gill</i>	<i>Girl servant</i>	<i>Hastings</i>
<i>J. L. Palmer</i>	<i>Girl servant</i>	<i>Hastings</i>
<i>Janet L. McNeill</i>	<i>Schoolteacher</i>	<i>Napier</i>
WITNESS to all the above signatures:-		<i>Clraig Clerk Hastings</i>



Proposed ... 18th June 1937

# CLUB NEWS:

## **New Members**

The following have become members in 2015: Anne Doig, Lynn Walch, Pat Sheridan, Pat Hill and Shayna Ward. Welcome to you all - we hope you will enjoy many tramps/rides out with us.

## **HTC 80<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

The Club celebrated its 80 years with a dinner at the Havelock North Club in late July. In attendance were 50 people, three of whom have been members for 60 years. Many thanks, Alan Berry for speaking at this celebration. An article was published on July 28<sup>th</sup> in HB Today about the origins of the club in 1935.

## **Electronic Capture of Old Pohokura**

Many thanks to Mike Bull and Anne Cantrick who have been scanning our old Pohokura magazines at The Knowledge Bank at Stoneycroft. They have now completed about 40 years worth. If anyone has old Pohokura (pre-1950) that we can use for this please let us know as it is very difficult to scan the bound ones.

## **HTC Boot Camp**

This is a walk in Te Mata Park which will probably take between 90 minutes and two hours. The plan is that those who wish to take part be at the main gates carpark [Te Mata Peak Road] by 9 o'clock on Sunday mornings of non-tramping weekends. This is a way for members to get additional exercise with willing participants and there is no further organisation than this. People can split into groups and walk at their own pace if they want, they can carry as little or as much as they like and choose how far they wish to walk.

**Boot Camps will start on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August.**

## **HTC/NTC Challenge**

A Heretaunga Tramping Club/Napier Tramping Challenge is being organised for late September - we will send an email round when the date is finalised.

## **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
FMC pack liners	\$2.50
Large blue survival bags	\$5.00
Smaller white pack liners	\$2.50
Metal HTC club badges	\$8.00
Blue/red HTC caps with emblem	\$17.00
Bushcraft books	\$12.00
Safety in the Mountains [booklet] by Robin McNeill	\$5.00
Revised Safety in the Mountains book	\$12.00

Orders will be taken at general club meetings or contact **Penny Isherwood** Ph 844 9994 or [p.isherwood@orcon.net.nz](mailto:p.isherwood@orcon.net.nz)

Map 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.

August 2015

### **HTC 2015 Calendar**

Compiling the calendar was again an interesting challenge – thank you to all those who submitted photographs. Many were very good but, of course, not all could be included. I had just sufficient that I thought suitable for the cover and large pictures, and more than enough for the smaller pictures. I tried to put in something from everyone who contributed but didn't quite manage it. If you missed out, don't let that deter you from submitting your pix next time.

The following might help you improve your entries:

- consistent with the policy I adopted last year, I favour shots taken on club trips.
- I rejected numerous shots of people with their backs to the camera even though many of these were otherwise very attractive.
- having a large (near) figure in a picture that is essentially a landscape tends to be distracting; on the other hand a small (distant) figure gives scale and adds interest. Often, the smaller the figure the more impact it has.
- several shots were not straight (sloping horizons or leaning verticals). This was particularly obvious in pictures of huts. I don't mind straightening them but often important other aspects of the picture get cropped in the process. Digital cameras that have only a screen on the back are difficult to hold straight – those that have a view finder (that you look through) are easier to use.

**Brian Smith**

**For the 2016 Calendar email your photos to Brian Smith at [smithcbrian2@yahoo.com](mailto:smithcbrian2@yahoo.com)**

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### **HTC Annual Subscription Reminder**

Subs are now due and the \$5 discount applies up until August 31<sup>st</sup>. If paying after that date please add another \$5 to your payment to make Active Subscriptions \$30, Family Sub \$43, Associate Sub \$20.

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### **Hazmobile 2015 Information**

Once again we have been invited to participate in the Hastings and Napier Hazardous Waste Collection and the club wishes to support it. This year the collection will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November. Hastings is at a different venue this time: Splash Planet car park, Grove Road. In Napier it will be at the usual place; Eastern Truck and Marine, cnr Austin Street and Prebensen Drive in Onekawa. If you can help on what can be a busy fun day give me a phone call or email closer to the event. Each person's day is worth \$100 to the club.

**Graeme Hare Ph 8448656**

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### **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM of Heretaunga Tramping Club will be held at the Harriers Clubrooms, Sylvan Road, Hastings on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> November after the regular meeting. Nominations are needed for President and all other positions.

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### **Calendars**

Thanks to Brian Smith, the 2016 calendar will shortly be available. Support this project and put your orders in with Pam Turner, Ph 8768995 or see her at club meetings.



## Heretaunga Tramping Club Meeting and Trip Information

### Coming Meetings:

Date	Chair	Speaker	Topic	Host/Supper
19 Aug	Joan Ruffell	Janet Titchener	Diabetes Treatment	Liz Pindar
02 Sept	John Montgomerie	All Members		Randall Goldfinch
16 Sept	Graeme Hare	Gray Ruffell	Reciprocity	Alan Berry
30 Sept	Penny Isherwood	All Members	Club Quiz	Bobby Couchman
14 Oct	Susan Lopdell	All Members	Photo Competition	Fred Chesterman
28 Oct	Graeme Hare	Hilton Taylor	All You Need to Know About Bicycles	Garry Smith
11 Nov	Penny Isherwood	All Members		Geoff Clibborn
25 Nov	Susan Lopdell	Annual General Meeting		Graeme May
09 Dec	Geoff Clibborn	Bring a Plate for "The Last Supper"		Heather Stephenson
06 Jan	Lex Smith	All Members		Janice Love
20 Jan	Pam Turner	Arnim Littek	His work at Cape Sanctuary	Jim Hewes
03 Feb	John Montgomerie	Training	Map-Compass-EPLB	Judy McBride
17 Feb	Graeme Hare	Brett Gilmore	Summit-to-Sea Trip Ruapehu to Hawkes Bay	Lex Smith
02 Mar	Penny Isherwood	Members Games		Margaret Graham
16 Mar	Susan Lopdell	TBA (no speaker)		Marion Nicholson

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

## ARE YOU FIT ENOUGH TO TRAMP?

Even the easiest of club trips requires a reasonable degree of fitness and, from time to time, tramps have been seriously delayed by unfit party members. While individuals may have varying degrees of basic fitness it is unlikely that a person who has a sedentary job or who plays no sport will manage an average B Party trip. The best preparation for tramping is tramping and there are hilly places in Napier and close to Hastings which make excellent training areas. For example, a walk from the cattle-stop car park in Te Mata Park to the top of the peak via the big redwoods and back to the cattle-stop via the roadside track with an eight 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 hrs+ tramping - experience and a high level of fitness necessary.  
 Unless otherwise specified an A trip would have a **HARD** grading and a B trip a **MEDIUM** grading.

GEAR LIST FOR DAY & WEEKEND TRAMPS		
DAY TRIPS		WEEKEND TRIPS
<u>Wear/Carry</u>	<u>Carry</u>	<b>All items listed for day trip plus</b>
Pack and pack liner	Map and 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 Overmitts	Survival kit (whistle, cord, matches, pencil, paper)	Tent/fly if required
Whistle	Complete set of spare warm clothing	

**Leave at truck/car:** complete set of clothing for the return trip and a mug with tea/coffee/chocolate or whatever takes your fancy 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 the transport. Even after arriving back there it may take two hours or more to return to the departure 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 [below] 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 to avoid delays for the rest of the party.

## TRIP LIST 2015

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)



### 19 Aug Wed Cycle Taradale to Bay View

**Organiser:** Garry Smith Ph 844 9931

### 22-23 Aug Kaweka Range

**\$15**

**Map: BJ37**

Tramp in the Kaweka Range, leaving from Makahu Saddle carpark on Whittles Road, along Matauria Ridge, over the Donald River gorge to MacIntosh hut, up MacIntosh Spur to the tops and on to Studholme Hut, up to Kaweka J and down to Back Ridge Hut. Depending on numbers, Studholme or Back Ridge could be the night stops. Return to the truck via Don's Spur or Domini Bivvy.

### 26 Aug Wed Te Mata Park

Check out the tracks in Havelock North's premier reserve.

**Organiser:** Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322

### 2 Sept Wed Cycle Maraekakaho District

Various options heading west from the Memorial on SH50

**Organiser:** Jim Hewes Ph 877 6784

### 6 Sept Longview Hut, Ruahine Range

**\$15**

**Map: BL36**

A loop tramp from Daphne carpark on Kashmir Road, up to the ridge towards Daphne Hut but head south at the track junction along the open ridge (great views) to Longview Hut (renovated last summer). This is followed by the descent to the end of Kashmir Road and a 15-minute walk to the truck.

**Organiser:**

### 9 Sept Wed Beach Walk

Along the coast somewhere south of Hastings.

**Organiser:** Keith Thomson Ph 877 5391

### 16 Sept Wed Cycle in Crownthorpe

Pukehamoamo, Matapiro and Crownthorpe Roads among others.

**Organiser:** Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322

### 19-20 Sept Eastern Kaimanawa

**\$20**

**Map: BH37**

From SH2, Napier-Taupo Road via Taharua Road to Poronui road-end, through the farm access and across the Mohaka headwaters to Oamaru Hut; could stay there or camp at the Kaipo Stream junction. Next day, out to Clements Road via Te Iringa ridge to the truck - different scenery, rivers, tussock valleys to explore.

**Organiser:** Susan Lopdell Ph 844 6697

### 23 Sept Wed Sunrise Hut – Ruahine FP

**\$15**

**Map: BK36**

**Organiser:** Raewyn Ricketts Ph 877 7223

### 30 Sept Wed Cycle Kereru Road and Beyond

Rides of different lengths are available.

**Organiser:** Lyn Gentry Ph 875 0542

**4 Oct Apiti Track \$15 Map: BL36**  
 Many years ago construction of a road was started to link Norsewood with Apiti. This was never completed but the track heading into the Ruahines from Ngamoko Road behind Norsewood is now known as Apiti Track. The first two hours are very easy going, passing through regenerating bush but once it gets into the bush proper it becomes more of a tramping track. The options are a return tramp or, for the more energetic, a detour to travel down the Makaretu Stream, past Makaretu Hut and Happy Daze, to come out by the Makaretu Road Bridge.

**7 Oct Wed Matauria Ridge, Kaweka FP \$15 Map: BJ37**  
**Organiser:** Scott Campbell Ph 879 8554

**14 Oct Wed Cycleways in Central Hawkes Bay**  
**Organisers:** Rodger Burn Ph 8776322

**17-18 Oct Northern Kaweka FP Free to Workers Map: BJ37/BH37**  
 HTC/DoC venture to the Gums Car Park at the end of Makahu Road, Puketitiri; a working bee to remove broom in the area with the opportunity next day of a loop trip up to Makino Hut, down to Te Puia Hut and out beside the Mohaka River back to the truck. Camping at the carpark with the Mangatutu hot tub too!

**21 Oct Wed MacIntosh Hut \$15 Map: BJ37**  
 One of our favourites to stroll along the plateau.  
**Organiser:** Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656

**23-26 Oct Labour Weekend Tararua Range \$30 Map: BN34**  
 For this weekend we will spend the nights at the Kiriwhakapapa camp ground which is beside the ranges behind Mount Bruce. There are several tramps both here and at Putara Road end, a few km north: Mikimiki old tram track or a tramp to Blue Range Hut or from the camp ground for an easy day trip along the Mangatainoka River then up to Herepai Hut. For a longer tramp to Roaring Stag Hut, leave from Putara Road end. Also possible is a tramp along the Ruamahanga River. The weather and the party will determine which ones we do. A multi-day trip from one road end to the other is also an option.

**28 Oct Wed Cycle Apley Road Circuit**  
 A stop at the Puketapu Pub is bound to be somewhere in the programme!  
**Organiser:** Christine Hardie Ph 06 844 9590

**1 Nov Eastern Ruahine Range \$15 Map: BL36**  
 The tramp leaves from Mill Road, inland from Ashley Clinton, crosses the Tukituki River and then goes over farmland before reaching the Park boundary. From here it is a steady climb up an old track that follows a spur to the Hinerua Ridge Track junction. From the junction it is a 30-minute walk to Hinerua Hut.

**4 Nov Wed Lake Tutira**  
 Lake Tutira with HB Regional Council to view future work requirements.  
**Organiser:** Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656

**7-8 Nov Hazmobile 2015**  
 Hastings at Splash Planet car park, Grove Road [new venue]  
 Napier at Eastern Truck and Marine, Austin Street, Onekawa [same place].  
**Organiser:** Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656

**11 Nov Wed Memorials Meander 100**  
 Cycle around Hastings and Havelock North with a focus on the many war memorial structures.  
**Organiser:** Christine Hardie Ph 844 9590



# Pohokura

**15 Nov Kaweka Range Free Map: BJ37**  
Cairn Trip dedicated to those club members lost in WW2; a short service at the Kaweka J Cairn aimed for 11am. Return via Don's Spur or down via Domini Bivvy to Makahu Saddle carpark.

**18 Nov Wed**  
 From Peggy's place at Roys Hill on SH50 to Fernhill, following Ngaruroro Riverbanks over private pathways and farmlands.  
**Organiser:** Peggy Gulliver Ph 879 7763

**25 Nov Wed**  
 A cycle ride in Central HB; something for all abilities.  
**Organiser:** Alasdair Shaw Ph 877 6225

**28-29 Nov Kaweka Range \$15 Map: BJ37**  
 In to our club hut, Kiwi Saddle, via Kuri trig to appreciate the work done to give it a recent massive upgrade. Out the same way or via Castle Camp, Kaiarahi and Rogue Ridge back to Lakes Road carpark.  
Note: Be prepared for a possible swap to Maungataniwha for a botanising weekend with Mike Lusk.

**2 Dec Wed Community Service Day**  
 Our annual reserve clean-up with the HB Regional Council.  
**Organiser:** Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656

**9 Dec Wed**  
 Final for the year – members' choice.  
**Organiser:** Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322

**13 Dec Ruahine Range Free Map: BK36/BK37**  
 Barlows Track maintenance: in from Yeomans Mill, over the Makaroro River, up Parks Peak ridge to attend to the top end of the track to Barlows Hut. Come armed with suitable trimming tools. Out the same way

**3 Jan Local Coast Map: BK40**  
 Cape Kidnappers Sanctuary area - more details in next Pohokura or on the website for this and the following summer tramps.

**10 Jan River Sports \$TBA**  
 Rafting and canoeing in easy water somewhere.

**6<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 27th January Wednesdays**  
 Cycle rides venues and leaders to be decided closer to the time.

**16-17 Jan Whirinaki Forest Park \$35 Map: BG39**  
 Whirinaki-Okahu Road to Skips and Rogers Huts.

**24 Jan Tutira Backcountry \$15 Map: BH39**  
 Investigate Boundary Stream with several different tracks.

**31 Jan Joint NTC-HTC Tramp TBC**

**6-8 Feb Kaimai Area TBC Map: TBA**  
 Bay of Plenty, here we come.