

HTC Committee

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Huts:	<u>John Montgomerie</u> , Janice Love, Randall Goldfinch
Training:	<u>John Montgomerie</u> , Mike Bull
Environment:	<u>Penny Isherwood</u> , Joan Ruffell
Meetings:	Penny Isherwood, Graeme Hare, Philip Mardon
Social:	Joan Ruffell, Anne Doig, Marion Nicholson
Sales Rep:	Penny Isherwood
Scrap Book:	Janice Love
Library:	Liz Pindar
Supper:	Joan Ruffell, Alasdair Shaw
Photographic Records:	Janice Love
Membership Records:	Glenda Hooper
Publicity:	Glenda Hooper, Jude Hay, Janet Titchener, Pat Hill, Robyn Pohlenz

Club Meetings: These are held every second Wednesday (before a weekend tramp) at the Hastings Harrier Clubrooms in Sylvan Road, Hastings.
Doors open 7:30pm; visitors are most welcome.

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The Front Page

A small article in the news media last month highlighted some issues that undoubtedly have relevance to HTC. Fish and Game's chief executive reported that his organisation [one of the country's larger recreational groups] is losing revenue and numbers "due to an ageing membership and lack of interest from younger people". [April 23rd 2018]

The consultant's report which identified this trend said that this was due to reduced leisure time and changing values which has resulted in [younger] people not signing up. In the long run this will affect the sustainability of this statutory organisation and diminish a very powerful voice for the environment. Fish and Game has long had an association with FMC, our parent body, and its members often think along similar lines to trampers when it comes to "Kiwis' future enjoyment of traditional experiences of the outdoors". The report also suggested that some perceptions of F & G label it as elitist and exclusive which also deters people from joining. So, how much of this is similar to the current situation in HTC? Quite a lot, it would seem.

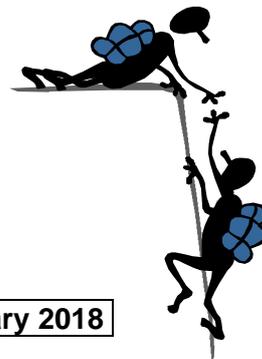
Leave aside loss of revenue – as we all know, HTC sits on considerable financial reserves which no-one has any plans to spend any time soon! Ageing membership is a feature – at last count the club had only three members under 50 – and lack of interest from younger people appears to be a constant. This writer has spoken to more than two dozen young people [between 15 and 35] over the last few months, most of whom like going into the outdoors to go tramping and hunting with their friends. None of them expressed any interest in joining our club; most of them said that a traditional club structure did not fit in with their leisure activities, work commitments or time constraints. Unsurprisingly, some said that they prefer to spend their leisure time with their peers rather than be directed by old people. They were uninterested when it was pointed out that tramping clubs have reservoirs of knowledge and experience that can be passed on. Anecdotal evidence, to be sure, but maybe it does summarise the situation that many provincial clubs of all descriptions find themselves in unless they have something novel such as fast vehicles to offer.

And it does seem strange to think that tramping clubs are exclusive or elitist – they are usually thought of as part of the great egalitarian nature of our country, a remnant of our self-sufficient and adventurous colonial past. To be fair, tramping and mountaineering can be expensive activities especially regarding equipment, transport and specialist clothing. There is no doubt also that tramping clubs are relentlessly monocultural which does not appeal to some sectors of New Zealand society nowadays.

The Fish and Game consultants suggested some ways to tackle the problem: rebranding to overcome these perceptions and use of technology such as provision of apps to give people information about what we do and where we go. FMC has been aware of this for some time and has made real efforts to remain relevant in the area of outdoor advocacy – increasing numbers of individual [non-club] members shows that it is having some success. HTC has been a lot slower off the mark and, despite forays into the age of cyberspace, has remained largely unchanged in format for most of its 83 years. Some tinkering has been done around the edges: if numbers are the benchmark, our mid-week group enjoys the most support and enjoyment especially the cycling which was not a founding activity. There is certainly a great deal of fun to be had cruising around the quieter corners of the countryside in fabulous autumn weather, a pastime that we have been fortunate enough to undertake many times in recent weeks.

CH

TRIP REPORTS



#2393

Blackhead Beach: Aramoana and Beyond

7 January 2018

Due to adverse tidal conditions the trip was altered from Blackhead Beach to Porangahau to become Blackhead Beach to Aramoana and beyond. A late start - to ensure an outgoing king tide - had us start at around 10:00 a.m. and some of us were able to dodge the waves. Others resigned themselves to wet feet, having worn appropriate footwear for this eventuality. The weather was excellent: no extreme heat and a pleasant breeze. Strong wind had been forecast but did not eventuate. [Strong wind and sand are not a pleasant combination!]

We were lucky to see a wide variety of sea and shore birds especially on the tidal flats north of Aramoana. A reef heron circled our group as we walked along the beach and there were gulls, oyster catchers, dotterels and godwits as well as a flock of small birds that we were unable to identify,

At the lunch stop it was decided to return to the truck and spend the later part of the afternoon investigating the new cycle/walking bridge across the Tukituki River near Waipukurau - an impressive structure with quite a bounce to it when walking across.

SOA fairly leisurely but very pleasant day with good company was enjoyed by all.

Party: Susan Lopdell, Anne Doig, Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, Alan Petersen, Christine Snook, Pam Turner, Penny Isherwood (organiser)



#2394

Kahuranaki and Down the Maraetotara

14 January 2018

Our second tramp was also away from the bush across farmland to the south-east of Havelock North. We started the day driving part way up Kahuranaki to the farm track that takes one down to a fisherman's bach beside the Maraetotara Stream. We started walking just short of the bach through a paddock of kale to get to the Maraetotara Stream. We followed the Maraetotara Stream, initially through trees then through farmland, down to Mokapeka crossing the stream a couple of times (plus a number of electric fences). Since 2002 there has been a lot of effort by the local landowners, the HB Regional Council and the Maraetotara Tree Trust to

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remove willows, fence and revegetate the riparian strips with natives to improve water quality and to make a corridor for wild life. Currently about 50% of the stream banks have been planted. Our day ended with a lovely cup of tea and scones provided by our hostess at Mokapeka.

Party: Susan Lopdell, Penny Isherwood, Anne Doig, Brent Hickey, Phillip and Sharon Mardon, Garry Smith, Scott Campbell, Peter Berry, Glenda Hooper, Rodger Burn, Janice Love, Anne Cantrick, Christine Hardie, Maureen Broad, Donna Truman, Raewyn Ricketts, Alan Berry (organiser)

#2395

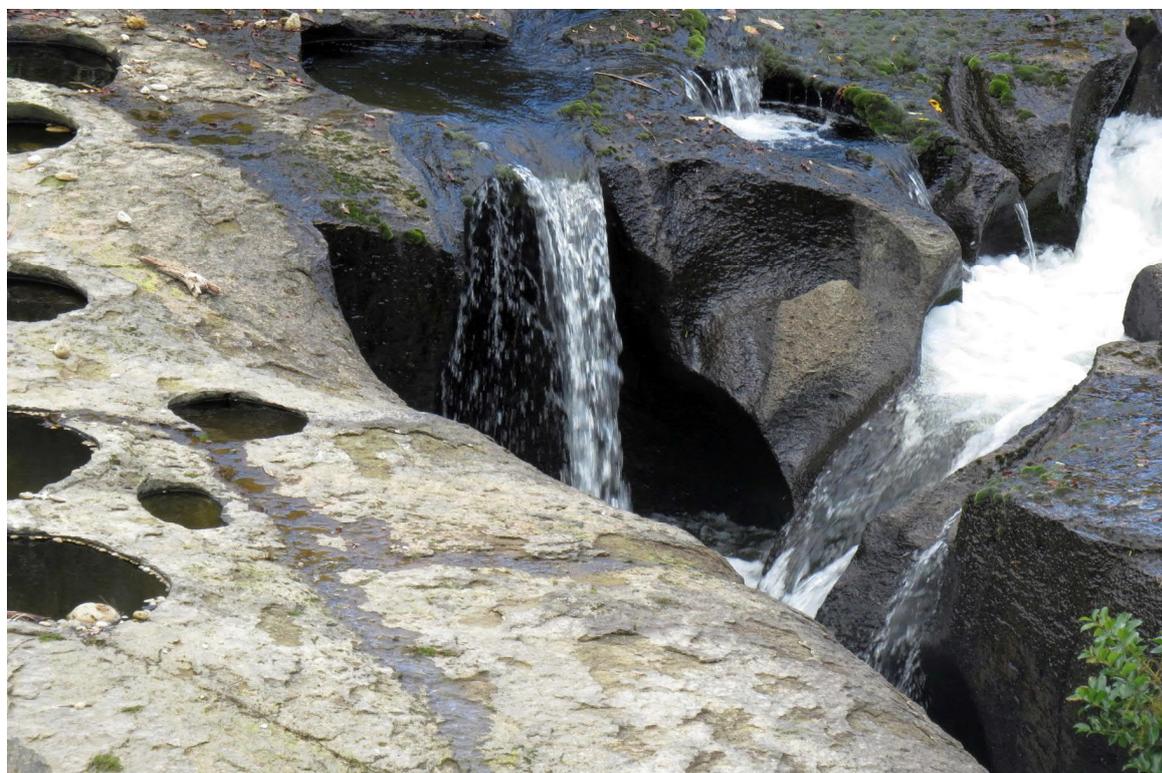
Waihaha Hut, Pureora FP

21 – 22 January 2018

There were only four of us from Hawkes Bay so we all crammed into one car at 6:30am on Saturday and headed across the Napier–Taupo Road. At Waihaha carpark - which is situated on the western side of Lake Taupo beside SH 32 - we found Derek, our fifth member, waiting for us. This carpark is now more used than it used to be as one of the Great Lake Trails leaves from here on a 13km journey to the edge of Lake Taupo. We, however, were headed in the opposite direction so we walked down Highway 32 to the bridge over Waihaha River, crossed the road and started up Waihaha Hut Track at around 10:00 a.m. Typical of this summer, it was a hot and sunny day.

The Waihaha Hut track passes through many different vegetation types: initially we were walking along scubby converted farmland above the slow-moving Waihaha River but after half an hour's walking there is a bridge across Pikopiko Stream and more diverse re-growth bush. After another half an hour or so there is a little bit of a hill to climb before descending to a flat area dominated by turpentine and tanikaha. From here there are dramatic views down to Waihaha River which has carved a pathway through the ignimbrite volcanic rocks, leaving a rather sculpted river bed. We had our lunch at one of these picturesque spots before continuing on through some lovely beech forest and reaching the hut a bit after 1:00 p.m.

At this stage there were six others at the hut and later on another couple arrived on foot. Then a couple of cyclists dropped in just before tea but there were only our five and two others staying there for the night. The rest returned to Waihaha Carpark. After a bit of a break and a talk with the other hut visitors we went for a short walk northwards along the Te Araroa Trail to enjoy the birds, ferns, mosses and trees. We then spent a bit more time discussing life and bird-watching outside the hut before tea.





Waihaha Hut, Pureora Forest Park

There was one tomtit that spent its whole day circling the hut catching insects at each of the windows starting not long after 6:00 a.m. We heard or saw nearly all the birds likely to be there including the long-tailed cuckoo, whose call was heard all along the track, kakariki and kaka (five kaka were seen at the hut on Sunday morning). The next morning we took a short walk, this time southwards along Te Araroa Trail before loading our packs and leaving the now-empty hut to return back to our cars. En route we met another two cyclists plus two men on a day walk to the hut. GWH

Party: Susan Lopdell, Anne Doig, Derek Boshier, Brent Hickey, Glenda Hooper (organiser)

#2396	Fernie Ridge – Kaweka FP	28 January 2018
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A pleasant summer Sunday saw seven avid trampers travel out to the Kaweka FP for a day. Heading to Whittles Road and going to the top car park we drove a short distance past the first quarry and around the next corner found a car park for the truck. Crossing the road we found a not well-defined start of the track taking us to the back boundary of neighbouring farmland. This would have been used by hunters for access to pigs and deer. Losing the track we carried on bush-bashing, knowing roughly in which direction we were heading to get up to the ridge. With a couple of well-earned water breaks, a cooling breeze picked up to help alleviate any overheating problems. Enjoying the view and lunch at the top, we followed the original track out that we managed to lose, making the point of tying a fluorescent shirt where we missed the turn off. Thanks, Peter, for driving the truck. BH

Party: Des Smith, Janice Love, Ann Doig, Peter Berry, Jude Hay, Glenda Hooper, Brent Hickey (organiser)

#2397	Whirinaki Forest Park	3 – 6 February 2018
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Two vehicles left Napier in clear, sunny conditions around 8:30 a.m. heading along SH5 to Taupo with a stop at the Opepe graves. A very cold southerly wind greeted us at the car park and it was a very brisk walk

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into the graves. It is over 20 years since my last visit and the area has been tidied up with the graves freshly painted. The names of those who died in 1896 could be read easily. Into the transport and we continued through Reporoa, Waiotapu and on to SH38 to Murapara where we stopped at the cafe for lattes! We all thoroughly recommend this cafe on the main road - good kai, drinks and friendly service and very reasonably priced. Collected the key from the locked box at the DoC Centre just down the road and we drove through the roadworks to Whirinaki Recreation Camp, arriving shortly after 1:00 p.m. The camp has three cabins, each sleeping 10 persons - basic tramping accommodation with two solar powered showers and four flush toilets including a disabled one. Across the grassy clearing was a large cooking shelter with two benched areas for prepping food, a water tank, sink and, in the centre, a seated eating area. There is no electricity at this camp, so lanterns, candles and headlamps were the order of the day. In the afternoon we wandered through the trails close by the camp: Lookout Walk (one hour) and Wiremu Merito Trail (one hour) plus a river trail to a very nice swimming hole (30 minutes).

On Sunday we drove to River Road car park and walked through the ecological area to the canyon where we veered off to do the Waterfall Loop anti-clockwise. The birds were very vocal along this stretch of the track to the waterfall especially families of the long-tailed cuckoo, pipiwharaoroa. Stopped for a photo shot and whilst waiting for the group to re-gather, spotted an astelia in full bloom. We continued on the main route to Vern's Camp (about 45 minutes to an hour from Central Whirinaki Hut) where a shelter has been erected - the area is now quite overgrown and it is not as easy to get down to the river as it once was. After lunching here we returned the same way back to Waterfall Track junction and completed the loop back to the car park where we were greeted by the kaka chorus.

Monday dawned overcast with the threat of heavy rain showers in the afternoon. The plan was to visit three short walks in the morning. Set off to Arohaki Lagoon; road slightly overgrown and a bit rough in places for my little Ford Fiesta. Everyone had a feed of wild blackberries at the start of the track and it was a gentle uphill gradient to the lagoon which, unusually, was full of water with a family of shags and a couple of dabchicks in residence. We also spied a couple of small green frogs - about an inch long - by the side of the track. We wandered initially through podocarp forest, dropping down to cross the stream then getting wet feet as we climbed the last bit to Waiatui Falls, an easy 1.5 hour walk to view them. The first few of the group startled a blue duck which flew off downstream. We returned to River Road car park and chatted to the concessionaire of the camp 30 minutes past Rogers Hut. After a lengthy wait he has had his concession renewed and, over the next few months, will be fixing up the camp. Sped off to do the H Tree loop track before the vanloads of Dutch tourists arrived - a well benched track through some wonderful podocarps. Fred commented on the lack of young seedlings in this area and about ¾ of the way around came to this tree in the shape of the letter H. Returned to camp and by 3:30 p.m. there was steady rain falling, so we sat around the cooking shelter, ate dinner and retired to bed. Tuesday dawned overcast so we finished breakfast packed up, tidied our area of the camp and returned the key to the DoC box. Drove back and stopped in Taupo for a coffee and food before driving home, arriving mid-afternoon at Bay View. A special thank you to Fred for driving and to the group - we had a great time and would stay here again.

Party: Fred Chesterman, Susan Lopdell, Marion Nicholson, Anne Doig, Rodger Burn, Garry Smith, Scott Campbell, Derek Boshier, Brent Hickey

#2398	Karamu Stream Clean-up	Wed 14 February 2018
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Scott generously allowed his Dartmoor cycle trip to be replaced with a HB Regional Council tidy-up exercise on the banks of Karamu Stream at Crosses Road, Havelock North. Stevie Smidt, Open Spaces Development Officer, was delighted when we offered to assist him again. We returned to the area that we worked on 15 months ago, cutting out unwanted vegetation and saplings, weeding and tidying a stretch of the landscape plantings on the residential boundary of the Karamu. After our morning's work we had built up quite an amount of rubbish. Unfortunately for Stevie who supplied us with so many sausages, onions and bread for lunch that we did not stay for the afternoon. He was still very grateful for our help. My thanks to all who came and worked.

GRH

Party: Rodger Burn, Scott Campbell, Joan Ruffell, Bob Carter, Barbara Phillips, Pam Pike, Mike Lusk, Graeme Hare (organiser)

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#2399

Khyber Pass – Ruahine FP

18 February 2018

One usually travels up the Tukituki River from the DoC track off the end of Mill Road to Daphne Hut, Hinerua Hut, Tarn Bivvy or beyond. This Sunday, however, we chose to head downstream. We had left town at around 7:30 a.m. in the truck and arrived at the DoC carpark just before 9:00 a.m. It took about 30 minutes to walk down the track to the river bed and cut through the buddleia to get to the edge of the river. We then made our way downstream in the relatively warm waters of the Tukituki River. Maybe it was because of the long hot summer we have had but there was much more algal growth, the water was more turbid and rocks more slippery than when we were last there in January 2014. It was still enjoyable though, much better than climbing up hills with temperatures in the high 20s.

The river meanders significantly in this area and it is about six kilometres by river to Khyber Pass where the Tukituki River passes through a 50 metre-long by six metre-wide chasm which would be a spectacular site in high flood. We arrived at the pass around noon and after a walk through it we settled down for lunch. The day was hot, the water warm and a swim was had by some to cool off in a good pool just downstream of the pass.



After lunch we made our way back upstream to our track though the buddleia where some cooled down with quick immersion just prior to returning through the vegetation to the DoC track back to the car park. Part way up the track we came across our driver, Peter, playing the whistle. He had been entertained in the morning (while he was trying to catch up on some sleep in the truck) by a large group on a trail bike ride hooning down the farm track that continues on from the carpark, past the truck and on to Mill Road. We had heard the roar of their engines as we had walked down the river. We walked the final bit to the truck together and were soon heading back to town. It had been a great way to beat the 32° day those celebrating Art Deco in Napier had endured!
GH

Party: Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, Mary Gray, Janice Love, Janet Titchener, Anne Doig, Dale Barnard

#2400

Esk River Walk

21 February 2018

The day was lovely and fine; twelve members drove out to Esk Valley along the Napier-Taupo Road. We turned off at Ellis Wallace Road and wound up to the end where there was a field to park the truck which we did despite signs discouraging visitors. Dogs at the nearby farmhouse were vocal in their appreciation of our arrival – their owner assured us that it was okay to make this our start point.

We sauntered over a small concrete bridge at the bottom entrance to Esk Forest then turned downstream to walk along whichever side was the easier way. This involved many crossings and route-finding through the prolific blackberry bushes. After nearly an hour we arrived at a camping spot complete with ancient long-drop so we stopped for a snack break. Des, Christine and Peter continued ahead of the main group and eventually disappeared from sight. They later reported coming across a large flock of wild goats complete with smelly billies and then another camp, this one complete with tents and vehicles next to an old house where they had lunch. No sign of people but it was obviously in use. Along the way they found an abandoned day pack right on the riverbank with fishing gear and fresh snack foods inside. Along the way they found an abandoned day pack right on the riverbank with fishing gear and fresh sank food inside.

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After rapping through it a mobile phone number was found which they rang once they were in a reception area. abandoned day pack right on the riverbank with fishing gear and fresh snack foods inside. After rapping through it a mobile phone number was found which they rang once they were in a reception area. The owner turned out to be a fisherman [obviously] who had been along the river the day before with some learners – he had inadvertently left the pack behind and forgotten about it!! He was now in Taupo but arranged to drive down forthwith and collect it. We left it at the kennels on the corner at the main road where he later picked it up. Before leaving, Philip, Christine and Judy had a swim in the river near the truck park – they reported it as being very warm and agreeable.

GS

Party: Anne Doig, Janice Love, Philip & Sharon Mardon, Judy McBride, Rodger Burn, Des Smith, Christine Hardie [driver], Peter Hewitt, Garry Smith [organiser], Marion Nicholson, Brent Hickey

#2401 Barlows Hut – Ruahine FP 3 - 4 March 2018

Pohokura advertised Barlow Hut, Parks Peak or Upper Makaroro so there were some great choices for anyone that had not been to these huts or make a return trip. There were six in the party which left Havelock North in two cars headed for Yeoman's car park on a clear warm weekend. Before we set off at 9:00 a.m. along the new poled route to the Makaroro River we decided that we would have two teams of three people: one to Parks Peak and the other to Barlow but confirmation of this would be confirmed at the turnoff. Instead of the river walk to the track we went up Dutch Creek to the forestry road which was about 45 minutes. A decision was now made that the six of us would go to Barlow Hut for the night. Yeoman's Track climbs steadily northwards through attractive beech forest where it opens out to good view points. With heavy weekend packs there were many short stops to re-hydrate and check track positions. It was 2:00 p.m. when we re-grouped near the Barlow - Park's Peak turnoff - Glenda calculated it would take about an hour and a half down to the Makaroro River and the hut. We knew it would be slow as it's a very steep descent and the track is overgrown in places. The club maintained this track in 2015, starting from the river end but the top is now very thick with cutty grass covering the track. We had also marked the track with orange triangles but, today, about two-thirds of the way in we lost the sight of the next marker. Derek did a quick scan through fallen trees in the direction of the track but no markers could be found. He used his GPS for track location but this seemed to take us away from the track through thick undergrowth of ferns and grasses. We returned to the original spot, saw one more marker then no more. It was now 3:45 p.m.



Barlows Hut

Back Row: Dale, Anne

Front Row: Derek, Janice, Jude

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Derek led the way, consulting his GPS at regular intervals, but could not get an accurate reading to get back on the track. For the next few hours we bush bashed through thick, steep, undulating bush that seemed never ending. We were all getting tired and often had to untangle ourselves from vines and messy undergrowth. The safest way down was to slide on butts - confirmed with discomfort the next day. Derek and Dale kept scouting and, once they found the river, we went straight down a very steep drop. We were all so relieved to see the hut at 7:30 p.m. and found the track about 20 metres away from where we emerged.

Drinks, food and sleep were priority. On Sunday we had a more pleasant walk down the Makaroro River spotting trout and many deer prints. Glenda and Anne were bird-spotting and we made a visit to the Colenso Memorial. An eventful weekend especially for the two members for whom this was their first overnight hut stay. Derek's quote: "No-one can say we have boring tramps." JL

Party: Derek Boshier, Dale Barnard, Jude Hay, Anne Doig, Glenda Hooper, Janice Love (organiser)

#2402	Cape Kidnappers	18 March 2018
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Low tide at Cape Kidnappers was 1:00 p.m. so we had a 10:00 a.m. start (okay, so it was 10:10) from the carpark opposite the Clifton Café. A party of eight took the opportunity for the 19km return walk. Starting from the carpark the walk is along the road and through the camp. There is much evidence of the power of the sea with erosion to the road and camp. Gaining the beach was across shingle but we were soon on sand. The cliffs out to the cape show the uplifting and tilting of the landscape. They are magnificent and majestic. Black Reef is the first colony of gannets. Close to where we walked, on a large rock, was one of this year's chicks readying itself for its flight to Australia. On the cliff above was a young white fluffy chick: I wonder if it will make the crossing?

At Black Reef the raincoats came out as the overcast skies had produced drizzle. By the time we reached the track to Plateau Colony there was a short sharp shower of rain. A few of the party went on to the gannets while the rest of us stopped at the rest area to take advantage of the excellent facilities: information panels, picnic tables, a covered shelter area and toilets. We lunched here before making our way to the colony. It is a half-hour trip uphill to the gannets, the largest accessible mainland colony in the world. DoC information recommends seeing the gannets between early November and February. Our visit in mid-March allowed us to see a large number of gannets and soon to fledge chicks. On our return from the Plateau Colony and after a short stop at the rest area to make use of the facilities, we gathered together for our return journey to the cars. The sky was now blue and it was a walk along firm sand. The last of the walkers were back at the cars by 3:10 p.m. so it was a five hour trip. AD

Party: Janet Titchener, Des Smith, Mike Bull, Jude Hay, Maureen Broad, Debra Seek, Dale Barnard
Anne Doig (organiser)



January 2018

#2403 Craggy Range and Te Mata Park**Wed 21 March 2018**

Our programmed trip paddling down the Karamu Stream was cancelled as the weed had not cleared. As I was keen to walk the Craggy Range Track up Te Mata Peak this was substituted. It was a perfect day for a jaunt through the park to the radio mast where our party of seventeen had a bite and a breather. It is an impressive track that Craggy Range Winery has planned and installed, especially when viewed from the top. It is expertly contoured and graded, suitable for all and, in my opinion, would easily re-grass to be quite unobtrusive. Craggy Range has generously gifted a worthwhile asset to the region. After reaching Waimarama Road we sheltered from the sun under the trees before returning up the track. A small number decided for various reasons to stop here and return home. Lunch for the balance was had back in Te Mata Park.



Party: Anne Doig, Anne Smith, Lex Smith, Greg Smith, Alasdair Shaw, Lynn Walch, Rick Bowker, Brian Hall, Margaret Graham, Marion Nicholson, Garry Smith, Deborah Seek, Rodger Burn, Judy McBride, Pauline Mahoney, Heather Stephenson, Graeme Hare (organiser)

#2404 Blowhard Bush Tour**Wed 4 April 2018**

After being postponed twice our group of 16 managed to get away and enjoyed great weather, defying Blowhard's reputation. We were fortunate again to have Theresa Hurst of Hastings-Havelock North Forest and Bird [carer of the bush] to guide us on the day. After a morning tea stop at the shelter and a talk from Theresa, we set off.

The tracks had been cleared after recent storms and are in good condition and before long we came to Pataki's Cave where Theresa explained the history about a Maori warrior and his family who lived there for many years in the late 1800s. Then it was on to Weta Cave in the dark where several ventured in. Again back to the bush, wandering along amazing, weathered limestone rock formations and trees firmly rooted onto them with some magnificent matai trees along the track. The bird life was good and that would be due to the continued predator control with traps and 1080. We soon arrived at the top and on to the scenic lookout where we had great views to the main Kaweka ranges before returning to the shelter for lunch. We ended our day with a trip down Troglodyte Track with its strange rock formations.

Many thanks to Theresa for her informative commentary and to Christine for driving.

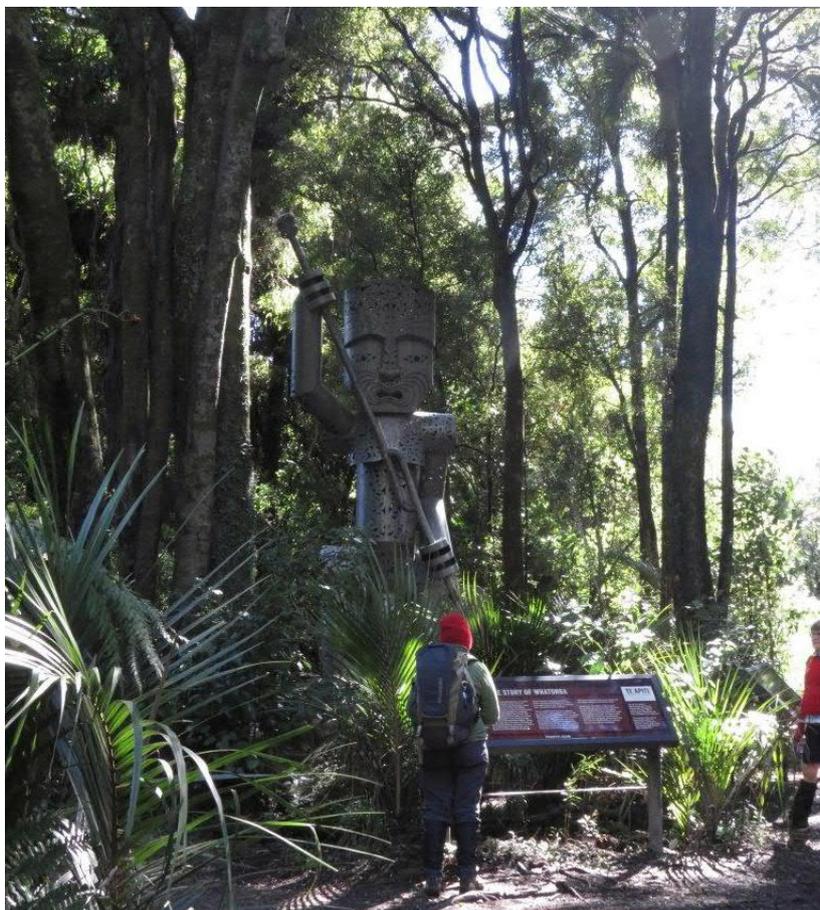
Party: Rodger Burn (organiser), Heather Stephenson, Barbara Phillips, Christine Hardie, Lynn Walch, Marion Nicholson, Judy McBride, Pauline Mahoney, Joan Ruffell, Theresa Hurst, Sharon and Phillip Mardon, Roy Frost, Garry Smith, Alasdair Shaw, Scott Campbell

#2405

Manawatu Gorge

15 April 2018

The proposed trip to Te Kooti's Lookout was unable to go ahead as the owners are not allowing anyone up there at present. As our local ranges were currently full of hunters we decided to play it safe and go and walk part of the Manawatu Gorge Track. There was just one car-load and we left Havelock North at 7:00 a.m. to arrive at Ferry Reserve at 8:30 a.m. This reserve has had a considerable make-over in recent years and it is now a lovely area for picnickers, motor-homers and wanderers. There are a number of picnic areas, a flash toilet block and a short track through a small bushed area there as well as the Manawatu River.



We left our car at Ferry Reserve and walked over the old road bridge at the start of Manawatu Gorge to the Upper Gorge Track. This track climbs steadily up from the road through some lovely bush to reach the main track which goes from Ballance Road through to the Ashhurst end of the gorge. Within the hour we were at the lookout that gave views to the wind turbines on the southern side of the gorge. An hour and a half later, having viewed the abandoned gorge road from Sentinel Look-out, we were at the track to the Big Slip lookout. This track is currently closed so we sat down and had our lunch at the junction beneath the large metallic sculpture celebrating Whatonga. Whatonga, so the signage says, was one of three recognised chiefs aboard the Kurahaupo waka which journeyed across the Pacific to New Zealand. Whatonga settled near Cape Kidnappers but was a great explorer of the lower North Island and his

journeys spear-headed the migration of his people into this area. After lunch we made our way back along the main track. At the junction with the upper gorge track, two carried on along the main track to Ballance. The other two dropped down to Ferry Road to take the car round to Ballance Road car park where they walked in to meet the others. We all viewed the large totara that is on the small loop track near Ballance Road before hopping back in the car and heading home at about 3:00 p.m.

Party: Dale Barnard, Anne Doig, Susan Lopdell, Glenda Hooper (organiser)

#2406

Havelock North Reserves

Wed 18 April 2018

A party of 12 met at the end of Keith Sands Grove for a stroll to the Redwoods via Tainui, Hikanui and Te Mata Reserves. Initially, we thought the predicted sunny weather was going to abandon us as a sudden, unexpected squall passed overhead. Fortunately, the rain did not last and we continued our walk to the Redwoods for morning tea in pleasant weather conditions. It was interesting to note the Chambers Track improvements in Te Mata Park and new plantings near Tainui Reserve entrance. The return walk to our vehicles took us through Tauroa and Tanner reserves. The five reserves walk proved to be an easy half day outing on well-formed tracks through tranquil surroundings.

Party: Barbara Phillips (organiser), Lynn Walch, Rodger Burn, Elizabeth McKerras, Graeme May, Joan Ruffell, Marion Nicholson, Sharon Mardon, Des Smith, Heather Stephenson, Peter Hewitt, Judy McBride

Private Tramping Trips

Kaweka Tramp for Silver Duke of Edinborough Award

8 - 10 January 2018

Due to forecast weather deterioration, Des, Graeme and I decided to alter our original departure time and leave a day earlier on Monday morning. I scrambled to gather together the last of my gear and food necessities before consuming a big breakfast. We hit the road and arrived at Makahu Saddle Carpark at approx. 11a.m. ready to embark on our three- day tramp in the Kaweka Ranges. We made a steady 764m uphill climb from Makahu Saddle to Kaweka J, the highest point in Hawke's Bay. The weather was fine and sunny – a beautiful cloudless day. On the way we stopped at Dominie Biv for lunch and enjoyed the picturesque views across the Bay. The sun was stronger than I had thought and sunburn resulted!

After reaching the top of Kaweka J, an altitude of 1724m, we carried on past North Kaweka to Whetu Trig. We ate an afternoon snack, fuelling ourselves ready to embark on a 500m downhill steep side ridge to Ballard Hut. On arriving at the four-person hut we met a hunter getting organised to leave for his evening hunt. Another six people arrived and luckily they had tents with them! We cooked a hot dinner on our primus and chatted to the other trampers who were heading out the following day.

After a good sleep in the small, cosy, well-maintained 1958 Ballard Hut, we were up early, eager to make a start on the day ahead.

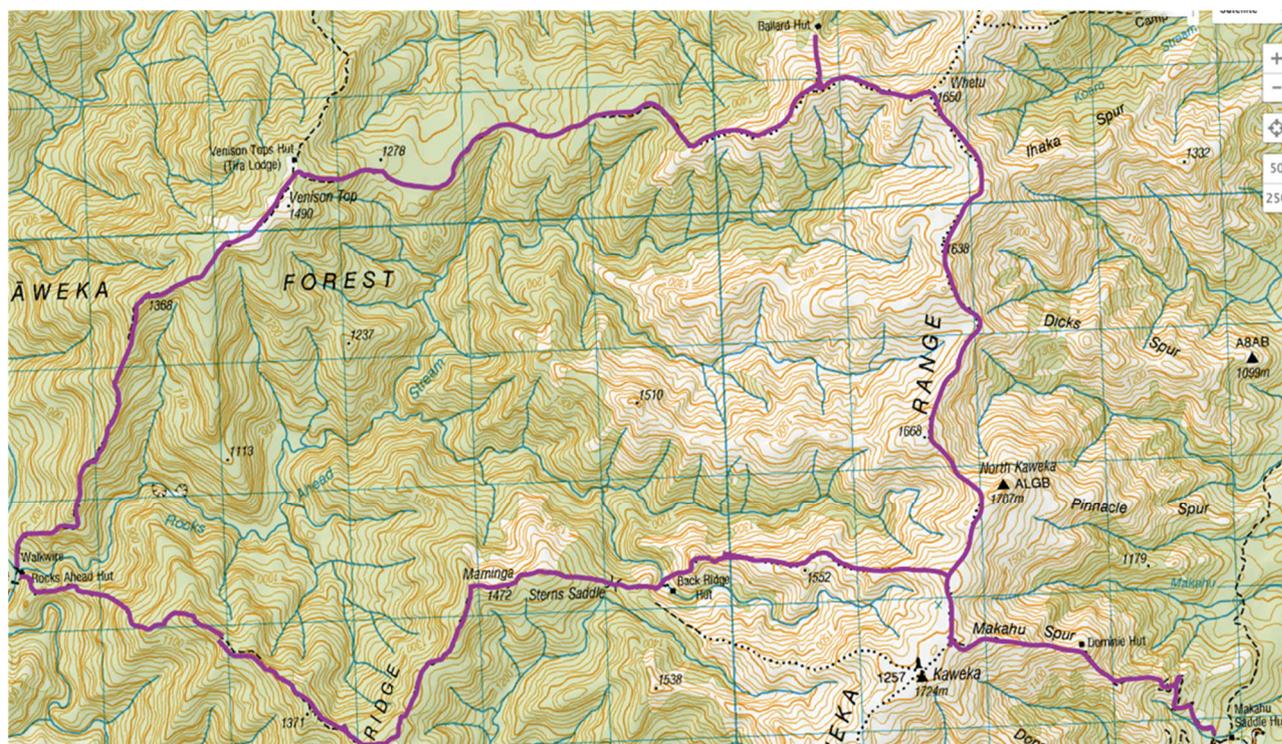
Leaving at 7:00 a.m. we climbed back up to the top of the ridge and then went in a westerly direction, moving out of bare alpine tops into beech forest. We had lunch at Tira Lodge, Venison Tops and chatted to two men who had been helicoptered in to go hunting. I was surprised how steep the ridge was, dropping into the Ngaruroro River catchment. We just kept going down until we reached a three-wire bridge which crosses Rocks Ahead Stream. This was a balancing and co-ordination trial with its swinging tendencies! I was relieved to get to the hut as we had been making good progress in great time with few stops. We reached the four-bunk Rocks Ahead Hut situated at the junction of this stream and the Ngaruroro River in among the red beech forest. We were now down at 646m in this 1960s DOC hut. An interesting American tour guide was already at the hut. He had carried in an inflatable three-metre kayak to paddle down the Ngaruroro River. Later on, I enjoyed learning how to use the cableway which is a unique method of crossing large rivers. The cage looked precarious and crossed the river by a winding device. I am glad we didn't have to use this contraption! After a yummy Back Country dinner, we headed into our sleeping bags early as we had another big day ahead.

After an early breakfast we repacked and planned to climb back up from 646m to Kaweka J at 1724m. We passed Back Ridge Biv and then the hut but did not drop down to it as we had already done enough steep hill climbing! Instead we decided to have lunch on the track. We continued up, up, up to Kaweka J with heavy packs and tired legs. We dropped back down to Dominie Biv for afternoon tea and finally descended to Makahu Saddle Carpark. This had been a memorable nine-hour day of tramping, fortunately in warm, sunny weather.



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Our tramp had circled around the large catchment of Rocks Ahead Stream with my unused parka stowed safely away in my pack the whole time. Overall, this had been an amazing three-day tramp covering well over 50km. The highlight was the satisfaction of completing 24 hours of solid tramping in a wide variety of terrain from alpine tops to deep river valleys. LD



Party: Graeme Hare, Des Smith, Luke Devane

Castle Camp and Beyond

14-18 January 2018

A quick zap over the hill with East Kaweka Helicopters had us lounging in warm sunlight at Castle Camp within minutes of leaving Puketitiri. What a superb way to get there! The afternoon passed quickly with browsing around the area, tent pitching and sussing out the track for tomorrow's 'adventure.' Long-tailed cuckoos, pipiwhararoa, called incessantly and flirty little tomtits entertained us. Ominous thunder stalked around the hilltops but rain only threatened. During the night a morepork came investigating.

Monday dawned fresh and clear, so it was up and away, along the ridge heading to Kiwi Saddle Hut. Much deer sign and a bonus was a hind with tiny baby Bambi huddled under the bush edge. Had she not barked, I would never have seen her! The mountain flowers, hebes, coprosmas, manuka, were in beautiful full bloom but, alas, only two celmisia flowers on the whole journey. These plants looked healthy enough but just no flowers. Bees buzzed as ants hurriedly went on their missions and even an iridescent indigo coloured butterfly flitted past, as pipits zig zagged around. White fluffy mist clouds threatened to occlude the views but, just as suddenly, rolled away down the valleys. The rain was there but never quite got there! A perfect day to be out, almost on the top of the world! But not so perfect was the track!

Narrow and deeply rutted with overgrown edges in places made it suitable for those with legs as long and thin as a deer. In parts it was difficult to get one boot through to take the next step and, at times, all our combined skills were tested. In odd places the track had simply disappeared, slipped away, leading one into oblivion! Needless to say, no speed records were set – in fact my team mates were at Kiwi Saddle Hut two hours ahead of me and had already made up beds, had a brew ready and the floor swept!

That night it rained – heavily enough to have the trees polished and sparkling by morning. The long-tailed cuckoos sounded happy! With windows and architraves cleaned, floor re-swept several times, loo cleaned, wood gathered, chopped and stored, the workers took a break and ambled down the track towards Kiwi Mouth. I found a book! Two ladies on a hut-bagging mission came over from Manson, intending to include

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Cameron in their tally, but as one was suffering a painful ankle - she perhaps very wisely refused my offers of first aid - they returned to Kiwi Mouth Hut.

Wednesday morning's sunrise set the plains on fire – a foreboding warning! Pack up and off! Wind soon increased to the extent that travel was difficult at times. Marion felt the doubtful pleasure of being airborne twice. My bulk assisted me but my stick kept getting blown horizontal each time I shifted it. A quick glimpse of a very snowy Mount Ruapehu as the clouds swirled with the rain always over on the next hummock. It was a relief to finally reach the shelter of Castle Camp. We huddled for the afternoon, very grateful for the shelter that plastic covered framework provided us. The wind raged during the night, bringing down a tree too close for comfort - just missing the track. It seemed almost futile to pack up but just as well we did! Between the wind gusts and two minutes ahead of time, Chris lowered his helicopter onto the rocks and by lunch time we were back in town.

My thanks go to a great team: Marion with her quiet, organised resourcefulness, Fred for his bounding energy and cheerfulness, Chris for Service and flying skills. If you want a good trip have a good team around you!

Party: Marion Nicholson, Fred Chesterman, Pam Turner

Mangaturutu Hut plus.....

13-18 February 2018

The original plan was to fly with Chris Crosse into Venison Tops for two nights, walk over to Mangaturutu for two nights then fly out but low cloud and fog put paid to that. The first attempt to get there was thwarted because of mobile fog blanketing the northern end of the Kawekas so it was back to the hangar for cups of tea and yarns. A slight clearance saw us dash out to hesitantly land at Mangaturutu. Barely was the little R44 helicopter off the ground again before it was engulfed in fog. And so the scheduled trip was to be done but backwards!

Mangaturutu is one of the original Forest Service deer culler six-bunk huts, well built, lined and still with the original open fire place – a real comfort luxury as we cooked tea. Heavy rain overnight left everything fresh and steaming next morning. A rare sight was an “upright rainbow,” a straight bar of rainbow colours extending from the valley below the heli-pad right up the ridge to the sky. With cotton wool white balls of swirling mist moving around the valley, it was a most inspiring sight but, alas, faded to ¼ of the length by the time we got cameras out. As the sun burst out, time after lunch was spent wandering along the tracks towards Makino River and up to the tops, gathering firewood, dusting out the wood box and general housework. Another comfy night.

Thursday morning dawned clear, calm and brilliant so it was a final clean-up, packs up and away. The two gazelles sped off, leaving their packs at the signpost on the tops before scampering along the track for a look towards Te Puke. We re-met at the sign posts before they scuttled off towards Venison Tops, shimmering a-w-a-y along THAT ridge. Already the tranquility of it all was getting to me, watching falcon (thought to be the first recorded sighting of such in the Falcon Register from that site) and it was only rising mist down the valley that eventually made me move. Down the steep scree slope and into the coolness of the bush. Again the tranquility grabbed me: dappled sunlight on moist emerald green moss carpeting the floor. After twenty five years I had forgotten just how really beautiful it all was. The whole day stretched ahead. New windfalls made superb seating and the birdlife was to die for – ten species in the day including, pipits, kaka, robins, kakariki, whiteheads, long-tailed cuckoo, ‘ordinary’ bush birds and, of course, the falcon. BUT it was also much steeper and the endless saddles were much deeper than I’d remembered them! Then I thought of food and drink BUT my water bottle wasn’t there. It was still out on the tops at the sign posts! And there I had been chivvying the others to “make sure you have water – there is none along the way!” Yeah right! That realisation had dramatic psychological effects: 1. my pack instantly became lighter with no water to carry, 2. I was immediately desperately thirsty and 3. I regretted any ability to read maps as that only showed how very much further I still had to go! I nibbled at the best stuff in my scroggin bag but that lost its taste and was far too dry. Off came all clothing - including hat - that wasn’t needed for decency reasons. This was to stop me getting overheated. I thought that if I could go at a measured steady pace, things would be okay. Who said that the last 300 metres of straight up was a “gentle sidle”? Yeah, right again!

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The few steps (crawl) up the rocky face took it out of me and, with stomach cramps increasing and using my pack as a pillow, I stretched out on the moss for a half hour rest. Tranquil bliss – I even dreamed of possessing Randall's legs and striding to the top in one bound! Five minutes before my so-called rest period was up, I heard that now-familiar low, tuneful whistle: Guardian Angel, Fred had come looking for me! Assuring him I was not hurt but just very thirsty, he manfully returned to Tira Lodge then came back with a litre of "Marion's Mix." Never has fluid tasted so good but I can't really remember drinking it! A short spell to let it get absorbed then the slow haul up out of the bush, to be met at the grass edge by the ever-caring Marion as the warming smell of Fred's newly lit fire drifted by.

Friday was spent, for me, with mostly R & R - re-hydration and re-hydration! Twenty-two hours without a pee was, I guess, pushing it a bit.

Moral of the story: TAKE TWO WATER BOTTLES & ALWAYS TRAVEL WITH A CARING PARTY!

We wandered the tops with the gazelles exploring down to overlooking Rocks Ahead along the track towards Ballard, and gathering/chopping firewood. Sunrise and sunset views/colours were amazing, including Mounts Edgumbe, Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe, and Taranaki-Egmont plus Ngamatea farmlands and multitudes of ridges and ranges. The beech tree tops were aflame in the setting sun's light. There are always the log book moaners of "stove top too small, needs bigger fire box to take larger wood" etc but, to us, both little huts were palaces. Saturday was up and away, still in perfect weather.

Huge Thanks Team: Marion Nicholson, Fred Chesterman with pilot Chris' assistance. Roll on the next one!!

Pam Turner

Working Bee: Howletts Hut New Benchtop Project

February/March 2018

I measured the bench top in August 2017 during a club trip there with the thought that it might be possible one day to replace the old manky aluminium nailed down sheets with a flash stainless steel one. Well, there was another Outdoor Recreation Consortium funding round closing late September 2017, so I made a bid on the very last day. It was successful and so began the getting of quotes for the materials and helicopter transport. Janice Love and self became the crew that would see the job through. It became a long-winded exercise over nearly three weeks to get up there. 5th Feb we went down at 6am with the bench [3.2m long] on my trailer, the paint ordered and supplied via the DoC/Dulux scheme, some firewood from my home, timber to make a bench seat on the porch, a new chair and other materials for the job. As well paint trays, brushes, rollers, sugar soap etc for use when the painting of the interior that may happen next summer. A strong wind got up and prevented flying. Back home.

7th Feb another try, but this time cloud had descended and caused another delay! 14th Feb another attempt, but it was too windy. The materials had now had two trips there so we stored them in an old falling down shed on the farm. Up till now the chopper never got off the ground from Waipukurau! 15th Feb down again, the pilot flew straight in to check conditions and quickly got out of it! The farmer [Stanley Stubbs] happened to be there offered for us to stay in his cottage on Kashmir road to save yet another 180km round trip 16th Feb the chopper and us to the end of Mill Road at 7am, he took me up and wanted to check conditions, we just about got blown out of the sky. He considers that the R44 is beyond its capabilities for the job and at 4500ft and so another operator is consulted. 23rd Feb, with almost now perfect weather today, a Squirrel completes the job with a sling load followed by Janice and self.

So the chopper has gone, we get the cargo taken in organised and in place, yes, make a cup of tea, then begins removing the old aluminium bench top sheeting, it must have had hundreds of clout nails holding it down! After lifting the window facings that the new upstand would go behind and modifying the bench edge to fit the new one... just slow tricky stuff, by 1pm it had been trial fitted several times to ensure a good final look. Two hour glue was spread by gun over the area, the brand new stainless steel bench put in place and weighed down with bags of coal for a couple of hours for the glue to set. A finishing timber strip where it attaches to the wall and likewise at the ends and all is done except for some painting. The bench sure looks a million dollars now and will be so easy to keep clean. That afternoon and next day much else was done too, sleeping platforms wet cleaned, mattresses scrubbed outside, sunny day fortunately, shelves and utensils cleaned [including the frypan that still had the remains of someone's long ago cooking in it!] Three empty coal bags of rubbish filled, I bag of glass bottles, one of 18 plastic drink bottles and one of general rubbish! The toilet was given a good clean up, firewood collected [there was NONE when we arrived] sprayed the weeds around the hut, the paint brought in stowed under the bunk area, rat bait station refilled. A new axe [with a welded steel handle], a stout chair and the outside bench seat all of which I had provided, the seat being installed on the outside wall under the verandah. Just as well that I had donated the chair because one

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in the hut was broken and was taken out with the other junk by Helicopters HB when the next crew of hunters were flown in. Our next objective was to camp behind Tiraha and do Sawtooth next day and down to Tarn Biv that night then out on the Monday to Mill Road end.



We set off for Tiraha at about 4pm and set up camp just south of the tarn behind Tiraha, cooked a meal and settled in for the night. By 9pm it was getting breezy and by 10 quite windy, not a concern but a nuisance. At midnight it was blowing so hard that we got everything in the tent porches inside. It got progressively worse. We had had no sleep at all, and at 3am we got dressed in full storm gear and partly packed our packs as I was concerned that the tent would disintegrate at any minute. We sat with our backs to the windward end from 3am to 7am to help hold it up and were buffeted severely by the continual gusts, and due to the wind chill had our sleeping mats between us and the tent to stop getting chilled in the back. Once it was daylight about 7am we packed up our remaining gear, got out and how we managed to get the tent down in 80-90 km winds I do not know. I was amazed that the tent suffered no damage. We staggered in the wind until in the lee of the norwester on the south face of Tiraha and so made our way in thick fog down off the tops and down towards the haven of Howletts hut. But if you thought the wind was strong up on the tops, well that was nothing to what it was along the ridge to the hut from the bottom of the hill from the tops. We had to crawl in places as one could not stand up - we did river crossing holds to try to prop each other up and make our way. I did not indicate to Janice how worried I was about our plight up there, I know now that she was quietly worried but telling her my concerns would not have helped! When it got so much worse, then it was time to go into survival mode which we did. If the tent had shredded and disappeared then we were prepared.

We arrived at Howletts at 9am like zombies, no sleep last night, no breakfast, shell shocked and stuffed. A brew up and breakfast went down well, we did a few other jobs and hit the sack to regain some lost sleep and composure and gave away the idea of going out today.

So no Sawtooth again, it will still be there next time! We left about 9.00am Monday morning, down to Daphne and plod down the river to Mill road, taking a shortcut through the farm [Stan Stubbs now leases it] , a trip that took just over five hours. The river was quite low so was a pleasant trip.

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At last the project was done, but there are still some finishing touches to be done, those can wait until a well deserved winter trip up there without the pressure to do the big part of it now done. Thank you, Janice, for your unfailing help and good company. The club can be proud to present such a hut to the users of the park and, as I keep going on about, a magic hut in a magic place. It's a pity that now so few members can or do get there to enjoy it.

Party: John Montgomerie, Janice Love

Timber Trail Mountain Biking

10 – 12 April 2018

Lyn Gentry had spoken with someone who had recently ridden the Timber Trail mountain bike track through the Pureora Forest and who was enthusiastic about this two-day, 84km mountain bike ride. I said I had been keen to ride this too. His reaction : “Leave it to me.” Within a few days an email came out to 14 people from the Wednesday and Thursday cycling groups he rides with, inviting them to join. Cost of package: \$225 (excluding transport from Hawke’s Bay to Ongarue, the southern end of the ride where our cars were to be stored), transport by Epic Cycle Adventures of people and bikes to Pureora (northern end where we commenced riding) and taking bags to our overnight accommodation, Timber Trail Lodge halfway through the ride at Piropiro. One of the group had a house at Kuratau which enabled us all to meet there for the first night. Some slept marae-style in the large garage that had its own bathroom. We were a little worried that the cyclone weather expected could affect the track overnight but thankfully that stayed in Auckland. At Ongarue our bikes went onto a large trailer and we boarded a 14-seater bus for Pureora.



Timber Trail Lodge - Evening Meal of Lamb Shanks

By 11:00 a.m. our group was cycling south through majestic bush where many birds were singing lustily all around us. Gorgeous!! Biking on mountain bike trails is very different from roads and cycleways with lots of rising or falling corners and plenty of up and down grades. It is only occasionally that the track is straight or level. Consequently it is much slower and more physically demanding than road riding. It is also very easy to have the group spread over a wide area in a short time. Thankfully it did not rain - only a short burst of sleet as we skirted at 980m, the summit of Mt Pureora.

I think everyone was pleased to see the outstanding new Timber Trail Lodge late in the afternoon. It has accommodation for 40 with shared bathroom or ensuite facilities, a huge central lounge and dining area, a

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bar and a commercial kitchen. Impossible to fault this operation. The meals provided to us in our package were outstanding: dinner, dessert, breakfast and lunch for Day Two.

The terrain varied from lush virgin bush, goblin forest near the summit of Mount Pureora, tree ferns, manuka scrub, old cut-over and logged bush. On the second day we rode south on an old bush railway track which guided us through a tunnel, a spiral, old logging camps and cuttings. At times we cut across or along public or forestry roads; our journey was continually changing. The twenty magnificent new fixed and suspension bridges are very dominant features all the way. Maramataha Bridge at 141m long and 53m high is the longest and highest.

The Timber Trail is a superb ride in the Pureora Forest Park that has been developed through the New Zealand Cycle Trail, Te Haerenga, auspices. Aren't we spoilt having this built for our use?

Thank you, Mr Lyn, for planning and organising a ride to remember!!!

GRH



Maramataha Bridge: 141m long and 53m high

Mountain Bikers: Kevin Longman, Brent Griffiths, Simon Moore, Gerald Townshend, Dennis Beets, Alister Beets, Alasdair Shaw, Des Smith, Christine Hardie, Heather Stephenson, Ian Stewart, Rodger Burn, Graeme Hare, Lyn Gentry (organiser)

HTC BIKE TRIPS



Cycling Local Pathways

Wed 17 January 2018

Another great day for cycling and a good turnout of 17 bods. Taking off from the HBRC depot on Guppy Road at 8:30 a.m. we ambled along past EIT and took the southern riverside cycle track, arriving at the Puketapu end. On to Dartmoor Park for smoko which was welcome as it seemed a long time since breakfast. Our early start was warranted as the day got progressively warmer with only a slight wind. At Apley Road a couple decided to return to the Puketapu Store for ice-cream. The rest carried on to our favourite delightful picnic area on Dartmoor Road by Sacred Hill Bridge while Des disappeared to parts unknown, followed shortly by Alasdair up the steep hill below the winery. Christine and Scott followed for a while before returning to the riverside for lunchette. The two long distance riders later rejoined us at the pub where we had indulged in coffee and other refreshments. We then continued along the cycle track on the Tutaekuri's northern side with Taradale members leaving us at Pettigrew Green Arena. An enjoyable day of 41km.

Cyclists: Christine Hardie, Margaret Graham, Lynn Walch, Anne Cantrick, Pam Pike, Sharon Wellwood, Garry Smith, Jim Hewes, Scott Campbell, Graeme and Tracy May, Roy Frost, Graeme Hare, Alasdair Shaw, Des Smith, Robbie Smith, Rodger Burn (organiser)

Central Hawkes Bay

Wed 28 February 2018

This time we ventured a little further afield for our first trip into CHB this year. Ten of us met on Wakarara Road to join up with Des, the organiser; headed along the mainly straight road west towards the Ruahines in good conditions with little traffic to distract us. About 11km along we stopped after the first hill at Hardy Road for smoko which was enjoyed by all except Scott who disturbed a wasps nest and paid the penalty for that. Fortunately his first aid kit dealt with any issues.

Looking down the steep drop to the river and then up to some serious hills most decided to return the same way and left Des to carry on to the mountains - we heard later that he reached Wakarara School Camp, accompanied some hefty bulls on the road for a while and returned via Makaroro Road, a distance of 48km. The rest of us retired to the Tikokino Pub to wait for him and have lunch before going home. RB

Cyclists: Joan Ruffell, Christine Hardie, Heather Stephenson, Garry Smith, Dennis Beets, Ian Stewart, Des Smith, Rodger Burn, Alasdair Shaw, Scott Campbell

Local Pathways

Wed 14 March 2018

Fourteen members met at Clive to cycle out to Clifton. We pasted through Freedom Park and out along the foreshore to Haumoana. From there it was on to Te Awanga where we stopped on the beachfront for a snack and a drink. Forty minutes later, it was off to Clifton itself to lunch at the café. While there Des made a decision to leave us and take the long way home. The rest of us headed back to Clive. The day was mild with no wind.
GS

Cyclists: Garry Smith [organiser], Dennis Beets, Ian Stewart, Heather Stephenson, Scott Campbell, Sharon Wellwood, Pam Pike, Rodger Burn, Lynn Walch, Roy Frost, Graeme Hare, Ray Manning, Des Smith, Margaret Graham

Apley Road Circuit

Wed 25 April 2018

It was a sunny, windless Anzac Day and many had been to Dawn Services. We met at Park Island for a westerly circuit ride. [Our original planned route at Maraekakaho had considerable active road works hence the change]. Eleven set off for different rides, two peeling away at the Puketitiri/Puketapu Road junction because they had other social engagements and Des continuing to Patoka and Waihau Road from the Apley Road corner. It was not long before we were at Puketapu Domain for lunch. Our return to the cars was via the Tutaekuri stopbank. On this section we must have more than a hundred cyclists, out for family rides. It was a perfect day for riding the 43kms that most of us did.

Cyclists: Rodger Burn, Christine Hardie, Des Smith, Graeme May, Scott Campbell, Ray Manning, Lynn Walch, Joan Ruffell, Alasdair Shaw, Heather Stephenson, Graeme Hare (organiser)

Havelock North Environs

Wed 9 May 2018

The iconic autumn day in Hawke's Bay: blue skies, no wind, very warm temperatures, lots of red/gold/orange/yellow colours on the trees. Real biscuit tin stuff! The group met at Rodger's house which was full of vocal dogs belonging to various members of his family. We trundled through Mary Doyle Village next door and then headed through the town and on to the main road to Hastings; a left turn to St Georges Road and down to the junction with Te Aute Road. Look left, look right then over the rise and carry on past the sculpture farm towards the eastern hills.

The flow of trucks and tractors on the roads diminished hugely on these roads and we cycled along with very little disruption. Eventually we had a stop in a gateway – time for continuing our chats on life, the universe and everything, and some people enjoyed snacks they had brought with them. Then it was back on the road to the next junction and a left turn north. From here it was a straightforward cycle with a few easy rises as the road skirts the edge of the old swamp. The sign for Birdwoods loomed ahead and we turned in for our lunchette. This is a very popular venue judging by the number of people sitting around – the furniture has been rearranged since we last were here and more space has been given to the food side of the business. However there is still a selection of interesting art and craft on display and the sculpture garden had many attractive pieces arranged around the back field. Most of us decided that we really liked the shiny stone hippopotamus lying in the grass.

Unfortunately none of our group members had the requisite cash reserves to acquire one of these works so after drinking our coffees it was back on the wheels for an easy glide to town. Overall about 26km was covered, not a strenuous day but a notable one for the perfect conditions.

Cyclists: Scott Campbell, Des Smith, Anne Cantrick, Lynn Walch, Garry Smith, Christine Hardie, Heather Stephenson, Jim Hewes, Rodger Burn, Pam Pike, Elizabeth McKerras, Margaret Graham, Helen Sinclair, Ian Stewart

CLUB NEWS:

Committee News

New Member

Welcome to our latest member, Dale Barnard, who has already been out on quite a few tramps.

Huts

Many thanks to Randall Goldfinch, John Montgomerie and Janice Love for the work they have done maintaining our huts in the last few months. Randall has repaired the window stays at Kiwi Saddle while John and Janice were responsible for the installation of a shiny new stainless steel bench at Howletts. Thanks also to the Backcountry Trust which covered much of the cost for the bench and the helicopter to carry it in.

There was talk at a Wednesday meeting of the need for a dog kennel at Kiwi Saddle Hut. While the committee is sceptical that it would be used, they have decided the following: if some club member wants to use the timber and tin stored under the hut along with any materials that he/she carries in the committee would support the building of a kennel and reimburse the additional materials purchased (provided that they had previously been advised of and agreed to what would be purchased). In the interim a laminated paper sign that says "No Dogs in Hut" will be produced and made available to the next club

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member visiting the hut to place on an appropriate wall. It is thought that this sign might empower a hut user to ask for a dog to be taken out of the hut.

Social Get-togethers

There will be another 10-pin bowling evening, probably near the end of May, with the option of having a meal there first before a 7pm start while in July or August there will be a mid-winter dinner.

Pohokura

Postage is going up yet again - from July 1st it will cost \$3.60 to post a Pohokura. A recent ring-around has shown that most members still want the hard copy so we are going to ask the 10 to 15 people who have their magazines posted to them to pay an annual surcharge of \$12 to cover this. This surcharge will not apply to members who pick their magazines up on a Wednesday night or have them delivered by others. In light of this charge, if you now only wish to receive the electronic copy of the Pohokura please email htc@orcon.net.nz to let us know. There has also been comment that the Pohokura should be down-sized to A5 (like the FMC magazine) which would thus be cheaper to post. If you have any strong ideas about this please let us know.

Training

The Mountain Safety Council DVD "Outdoor Safety Code" will be progressively shown at meetings.

It is in five parts covering the following aspects:

- 1 plan your trip
- 2 tell someone your plans
- 3 be aware of the weather
- 4 know your limits
- 5 take sufficient supplies and equipment

ITEMS for SALE

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

New 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
Safety in the Mountains	\$5.00

These can all be ordered from **Penny Isherwood** Ph 844 9994 or email p.isherwood@orcon.net.nz
Orders are collated in batches to save on courier charges so you may not get your maps straight away.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2018 - 2019: (Due July 2018)

Please pay now to: the Treasurer (HTC, Box 14086, Mayfair, Hastings 4159)

Or (preferably) pay into Westpac Hastings Account 03 0642 0802494-00 remember to add your name,

The rates from 1 July 2018 are:

ACTIVE - SENIOR - \$25 -

ACTIVE FAMILY - \$38 -

ASSOCIATE - \$15 -

Pohokura Postage charge \$12 (this is to paid only when you need your magazine posted to you)

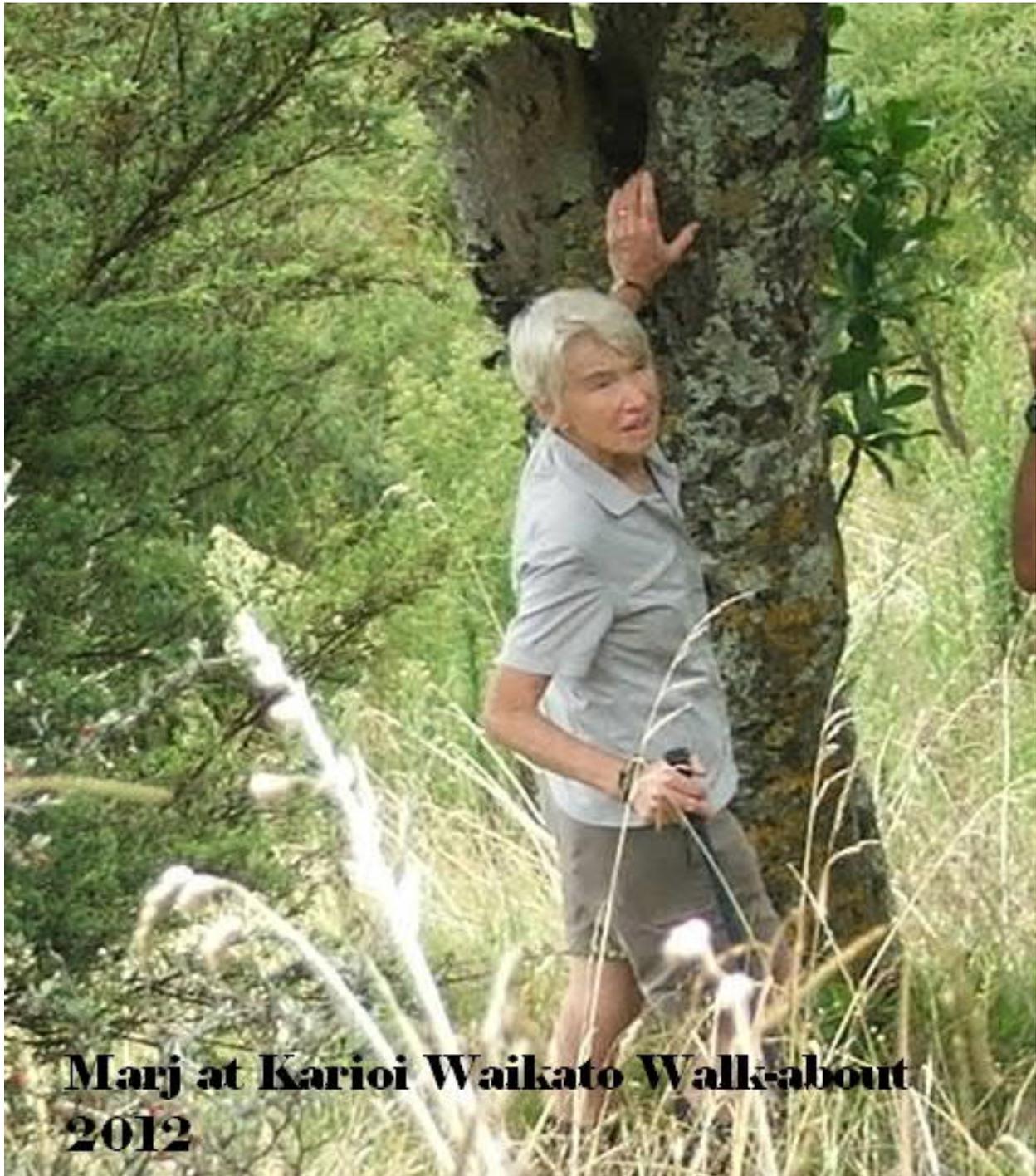
Note that invoices won't be sent until 1 September at which time \$5 will be added to the amount owing so pay soon and save us some hassles and you some money.

Obituary:

Marjorie Musson 1940 - 2018

Sadly, as the Pohokura went to print, Marjorie Musson passed away. Marj first tramped with the club in 2006 and became a club member in 2007. From then until 2014 she was a regular member of the Wednesday tramps and cycles, plus a few Sunday tramps. She helped on many of our working bees and went on some of the extended club trips usually held in late summer. In 2010 she joined the committee on which she served with responsibility for sales and the club scrapbook until 2015, retiring because of ill-health. During her illness Marj still kept in touch with the club, coming out on Christmas functions and the occasional club meeting, and we will miss her quiet presence.

GH



Heretaunga Tramping Club Meeting and Trip Information

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Chairperson	Speaker and Topic	Host/Supper
2018			
23 May	Penny Isherwood	Alan Lee DoC Kaka Beak	Pam Turner
06 Jun	Lex Smith	Pam Turner Petrels at Boundary Stream	Janice Love
20 Jun	John Montgomerie	Gordon Anderson Local Back Country Tales	Graeme Hare
04 Jul	Pam Turner	All Members	Penny Isherwood
18 Jul	John Montgomerie	Photo Competition (See the Categories below)	Marion Nicholson
01 Aug	Penny Isherwood	All Members	Anne Doig
15 Aug	Brent Hickey	Alan Berry and Raewyn Ricketts Kakadu and Northern Territory	Pam Turner
29 Aug	Susan Lopdell	All Members	Jude Hay
12 Sep	Jude Hay	Lex Smith Voyage of the Vikings	Janice love
26 Sep	Graeme Hare	All Members	Brent Hickey
10 Oct	Pam Turner	John Berry Anchor Island, Dusky Sound	Judy McBride
24 Oct	Lex Smith	All Members	John Montgomerie
07 Nov	Alan Berry		Raewyn Ricketts

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

Supper: Put out cups, wash dishes, leave kitchen clean and tidy, and generally help Joan and Alasdair.
Sweep floors and check that heaters and lights are off at the end of the meeting.
Don't drag the furniture as it marks the floor.

The 2018 Photo Competition will be held on 18 July and as in recent years, we want you to forward the photos to Glenda prior to this meeting. The categories are:

1. Above bushline with no human element
2. Above bushline with human element
3. Below bushline with no human element
4. Below bushline with human element
5. Historic
6. Native Flora and Fauna
7. Club Character

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>	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 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 / 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 contact" people listed below if a trip 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:

John Montgomerie 877 7358

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 2018



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 John Montgomerie, Ph 877 7358. Please email trip requests to htc@orcon.net.nz

Wed 23 May Cycle Waipawa to OngaOnga

An attractive ride in Central Hawkes Bay.

Organiser: Jim Hewes Ph 877 6784

26 – 27 May Waikamaka Hut - Ruahines \$15 Map BK36

In to our club hut via Waipawa River and Saddle for the weekend to enjoy the alterations done in November 2016 may be a few more small jobs that need doing. B party could overnight at Waipawa Chalet instead, a very short tramp. An alternative is to go to Sunrise Hut.

Organiser: John Montgomerie Ph 877 7358

Wed 30 May Pohokura Road

Potter around the limestone cliffs.

Organiser: Pete Hewitt Ph 877 5188

2 - 4 June (Queen's Birthday Weekend) Waitangi Falls: East Woodhill Arboretum \$35

Over the weekend we will visit the picturesque Waitangi Falls on Ruakituri River before continuing to Eastwoodhill Arboretum near Gisborne where we will roam the many tracks and hopefully see the autumn colours. Time permitting, we may wander along the Otoko Walkway.

Organiser: Susan Lopdell Ph 844 6697

Wed 06 June Lyn's Favourite Somewhere

More information closer to the day.

Organiser: Lyn Gentry Ph 875 0542

10 June Three Gorges to Middle Hill Hut \$15 Map BJ37

Through Makahu Station to the saddle before the road end, then up near Makino Bivvy and head south west to take in the three gorges of Mangatutunui Stream headwaters. Arrive at Middle Hill Hut before returning to the carpark at the twin bridges.

Organiser:

Wed 13 June Walk Tangoio to Flat Rock and Sting Ray Bay plus pathways

Organiser: Joan Ruffell Ph 877 6225

Wed 20 June Cycle the Tuki Tuki circuit to Clive, return via Karamu stream

Organiser: Jim Hewes Ph 877 6784

23 - 24 June Mackintosh Hut Area – Kaweka FP \$15 Map BJ37

A classic local trip: in to Mackintosh Hut via the gorge bridge and out via the old Kaweka Hut site to Lakes carpark. Sub-parties could climb Mackintosh Spur to Studholme Hut for the night before going out over Kaiarahi and Rogue Ridge to Lakes Carpark.

Organiser: Brent Hickey Ph 876 5873

Wed 27 June A Beach walk TBC

Organiser: Christine Hardie Ph 844 9590

Wed 04 July	Cycle CHB explore the new cycle path Waipawa to Waipukurau and onwards		
Organiser: Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322			
8 July	Koanui to McNeills	\$15	Map BK39
From Maraetotara Road to Waimarama Road: up through Chesterman's farm at Koanui on Maraetotara Road and down through McNeill's farm to Waimarama Road. [Just a rural trip for a change of scenery].			
Organiser: John Montgomerie Ph 877 7358			
Wed 11 July	Explore Napier Hills and hidden gems		
Organiser: Garry Smith Ph 844 9931			
Wed 18 July	Cycle trails from Pakowhai Park		
Organiser: Scott Campbell Ph 879 8554			
21-22 July	Waihohonu/Oturere/Ketetahi	\$35	Maps BH35/BJ35
Essentially just in to Waihohonu , 'Castle' Hut, but with options of going further on to Oturere Hut under Mt Tongariro then return. If people are keen and there is good weather, go up to Emerald Lakes, across North Crater and out via Ketetahi Track. This option will be a snow travel trip with all the sharp and pointy gear. A reward will be a soak at Tokaanu thermal pools.			
Organiser: Glenda Hooper Ph 877 4183			
Wed 25 July	Tramp into Macintosh Hut – Kaweka FP		
Organiser: Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656			
Wed 01 August	Cycle from Otane CHB a loop track somewhere maybe Patangata		
Organiser: Des Smith Ph MOB 022 370 6118			
5 August	Parks Peak – Ruahine FP	\$15	Map BK37
From Mangleton Road to Sentry Box access, up and along to the cute cottage of Parks Peak Hut. The very keen could go down to Upper Makaroro Hut and back as a side trip!			
Organiser: Janice Love Ph 877 5442			
Wed 08 August	Tramp to Sunrise Hut in Ruahines, various options		
Organiser: Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322			
Wed 15 August	Cycle trails from Clive		
Organiser: Christine Hardie Ph 844 9590			
18 - 19 August	Kiwi Saddle Hut	\$15	Map BJ37
From Lakes Road carpark up to Kuripapango trig and along Smith Russell Track to the haven of Kiwi Saddle Hut for the night. As in past trips, the keen could exit via Castle Camp, Kaiarahi and Rogue Ridge back to Lakes Road.			
Organiser: Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656			
Wed 22 August	Walk the Dolbel and Taradale hills		
Organiser: Alasdair Shaw Ph 877 6225			
Wed 29 August	Cycle from Park Island to Bayview		
Organiser: Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322			

Pohokura

2 September A-Frame [Travers] Hut - Southern Ruahines \$20 MapBM35
 South-eastern Ruahines from Tamaki Road end straight up to A Frame Hut. Takapari 4-WD Track comes to the hut and beyond from the western side. The keen and fit could go north along the main range, down to Stanfield Track and so down Holmes Ridge to the roadend.
Organiser: Anne Doig Ph 878 8694

Wed 05 Sept Walk Tangoio Scenic reserve and White Pine bush areas
Organiser: Scott Campbell Ph 879 8554

Wed 12 Sept Cycle from Middle road or Mutiny road to Camp David areas
Organiser: Des Smith Ph MOB 022 370 6118

15 - 16 September Howletts Hut \$15 MapBL36
 A trip into the magic of Howletts Hut: probably in via the old original track through Kashmir Farm, down to the Tukituki River, wet boots to Daphne and a grunt up the spur to Howletts....what a reward. Could go out via Longview Hut which is dependant on a vehicle being moved around.
Organiser: John Montgomerie Ph 877 7358

Wed 19 Sept Tramp the Yeomans Track – Ruahine FP
Organiser: Janice Love Ph 877 5442

Wed 26 Sept Cycle ride somewhere with Alasdair in CHB
Organiser: Alasdair Shaw Ph 877 6225

30 September The Hogget - Kaweka \$15 Map BJ37
 Access via Timahanga Station with permission from Jack Roberts; up through the old logging track to Tahuhunui Range ridge and from there to The Hogget high point. Return the same way.
Organiser:

Wed 03 October A coastal walk from Waipataki to Aropaoanui
Organiser: Lynn Walsh Ph 650 6965

Wed 10 October To be Confirmed

13 - 14 October To Be Decided
 As this is just before Labour Weekend with a major trip planned, this may become a day trip.

Wed 17 October Cycle ride Whakapirau road and valley road circuit
Organiser: Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656

19-22 October (Labour Weekend) Queen Charlotte Walkway \$tba
 A new idea for the four day weekend combined with an overseas trip! This can be walked in 3-5 days and is 70km long, going from Ship Cove at the end of the peninsula to Anakiwa. More detail closer to the time.
 Costs will include truck fares to Wellington and back, ferry passenger costs, boat out to Ship Cove to the track start, accommodation on the walkway and shuttle from the track end at Anakiwa back to Picton.
 There is an excellent DoC brochure on its website: *Queen Charlotte Walkway/DoC map.*

Wed 24 October A walk to Bell Rock – Maungaharuru Ranges
Organiser: Roy Frost Ph MOB 021 0238 4519

Wed 31 October Cycle ride from Lake Lopez to Mohi bush area via Maraetotora road
Organiser: Jim Hewes Ph 877 6784