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Sub Committees:

Hut & Track	John Montgomerie, Scott Campbell, Janice Love
Transport	<u>Lex Smith</u> , Peter Hewitt, Peter Berry, Janice Love
Fixtures	<u>John Montgomerie</u> , Susan Lopdell, Scott Campbell, Anne Doig, Glenda Hooper, Robyn Wilson, Kim Morgan, Rodger Burn (Mid-Week Group)
Training	<u>John Montgomerie</u> , Alan Berry, Scott Campbell
Meetings	<u>Graeme Hare</u> , Philip Mardon
Sales	Penny Isherwood
Scrap Book	Janice Love
Library	Liz Pindar
Supper	Joan Ruffell, Alasdair Shaw, Jude Hay
Photographic Records	Janice Love
Membership Records	Glenda Hooper
Publicity	Glenda Hooper, Jude Hay, Daniel Haddock, Janice Love

Club Meetings

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

Website: www.htc.org.nz

Mail: HTC, 316 Te Aute Road, RD 2, Hastings 4172.

Enquiries:

Glenda Hooper 877 4183 Graeme Hare 844 8656 John Montgomerie 877 7358

WANTED: EDITOR FOR HTC POHOKURA

Have you got computer skills with MS Word and MS Excel?

After ten years the current editor has retired from this position so an opening awaits a keen person who would like to carry on an 86-year tradition. It is also a chance to introduce new features that reflect any advances made by HTC to do with records and publicity.

Job Description

Throughout the year, the magazine editor receives written trip reports and other items usually, but not always, via email. Material is formatted, arranged in the sequence required and photos added. Current editorial policy is to then have it professionally proof-read and edited in case there are readers in the ubiquitous public domain but this is not compulsory and is probably not a service that is likely to be continued. It is then printed locally, collated, stapled and packaged to produce the thrice-yearly Pohokura.

Randall says, "During my time as editor I have learned new computer skills, introduced digital editions, reduced the size of the magazine from A4 to A5 [to reduce postage costs], improved the address labels, produced telephone/address sheets as a membership service, cross-checked members' email addresses and hand-delivered many copies in their little brown bags."

A new editor will have to negotiate costs and reimbursements, presumably with the club's executive committee. At present, there is no financial compensation for anything so your goodwill may be tested. From now on, any material will have to go to the same committee as well as queries about the job of editor. In the first instance contact the club's secretary at lhoop1berry@gmail.com

TRIP REPORTS

2518	Smith Stream Hut – Sunrise Hut
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Sat 22 May 2021

A Party:

Originally, we were looking at doing a two-day tramp into Smith Stream Hut via Hinerua Track/lower Smith Stream route on the Saturday and coming out the next day to North Block Road end and the DoC carpark. However, because of a range of circumstances - one of which being to take advantage of improving weather forecast conditions for Saturday- we ultimately decided to settle on a day trip. By combining two separate day trips, both of which started from North Block Road, we were able to make it more inclusive for those not wishing to take on the more challenging tramp into Smith Stream Hut.

The Smith Stream Hut party comprised six people\while the other party for Sunrise Hut had four. Nine of us departed in the new club van from 316 Te Aute Road at 0600 hrs and, after a brief pre-arranged stop to pick up Murry at the Wakarara Road gravel pit, we arrived at North Block Road carpark at 0730 hrs. With frost-covered paddocks all around us,

conditions were decidedly cool, so it was a quick change into our tramping gear for the six of us heading into Smith Stream Hut.

We made good steady progress throughout the morning, reaching our destination at 11:20am. After our early lunch break at the hut and when all the obligatory photos had been taken, we entered our visit in the hut log book and, at 1205hrs, headed back to Waipawa River. The route upstream from the hut has been improved slightly since Des was last there in 2016. There are now several well positioned red track marker triangles on either side of the stream, indicating recently cleared detours along either side of the stream bed. Someone has done an excellent job bush-whacking short sections of the stream bank. After several months of dry weather, we found the stream to be running at a very low level, and the short distance to be travelled in it wasn't a problem. It only took us 30mins each way. But if you're not super cautious it can still catch you out.....

Several of us had some spectacular unplanned sit-downs. We had our rain coats on briefly for some intermittent light rain that was forecast for 1400 hrs. It was amazing how accurate the YR weather forecast was, predicting the exact time we encountered the rain. The return tramp into Smith Stream Hut took us exactly 7.5 hours.



Smith Stream Hut: Greg Smith, Murry Alderson, Kim Morgan, Colin Jones, Simon Whittam

It was the first time that five of our party had visited this hut so they were all quite chuffed to be able to tick it off their bucket list. It's a great little spot and everyone who did it thought that it was well worth the effort.

The Sunrise Hut party reported that recently upgraded sections of the track carried out by DoC were a big improvement. Because of poor visibility up on the tops it was a shame that our new club member, Vivian, was not able to see the normally spectacular views. On

arrival at the hut Lex reportedly amused himself by resuscitating dying embers in the fire place and soon had a nice wee fire crackling away. I gather it was a very cosy lunch break they all shared sitting around the hut camp fire. Well done, Lex, for both fire-lighting skills, and stepping up at a moment's notice to safely drive us all there in the van - much appreciated by everyone. DS

Party: Des Smith (organiser), Greg Smith, Murry Alderson, Simon Whittam, Kim Morgan and Colin Jones

B Party:

Having seen the A Party members off on their tramp to Smiths Stream Hut a party of four returned to Sunrise carpark. At 8:30, after a leisurely cup of coffee and a bite to eat, we set off for Sunrise Hut. There was a detour into Triplex to show Vivian the hut she had not visited on her previous trip to Sunrise. Although there was no-one at the hut there were sleeping bags of two trampers in the right-hand bunkroom. At the northern end of the hut a new water tank and stand has been installed.

Upgraded track from Triplex Hut to Sunrise Hut



appreciated by groups that were stock up the wood box by each carrying in one piece of wood - perhaps it was all that was considered necessary as each of our party had brought in an arm load of firewood!

A trip to Sunrise is not complete without a climb behind the hut to view the route to Armstrong Saddle. For the first time in my many visits there was very little wind so we walked along the track for about 10 minutes. There we decided that as there were 360° degree views of cloud it would be safer to go back to the hut and prepare for our return journey which we completed by deviating around Swamp Track. This track has not had the upgrade of the main Sunrise Track and there were a number of windfalls to negotiate. A very

Since the club was last on Sunrise Track in late January the track has been closed and upgraded. This work has taken out the rutted sections and provided better water runoff with many new drains and storm water pipes installed. New gravel has been added to the track and it certainly lives up to the DoC description of a high-quality walking track.

At the seat by the junction with Waipawa River Track we stopped for a short rest to have a drink, a bite to eat and a removal of a layer of clothing. From there the sign stated it was 1¾ hours to Sunrise. We did it in 1½ hours. There was no one at the hut although we had passed two parties who had stayed there and a party which had stayed at Waipawa Forks Hut. It was now time for an early lunch and a hot drink. We talked about lighting the fire. After about 30 minutes we decided that there were some hot embers and we were not in a hurry to leave the hut so we could rekindle the flame. This act was to follow us. Three university lads helped to

large tree had been a recent windfall - fortunately it had fallen into the bush and not over the track. Once back at the van it was decided to drive down the farm track towards Waipawa River to wait for the Smiths Stream party. Oh, those lads had been very swift in their tramp and were walking up the road to meet us. A special thanks to Des for all the effort to organise the trip and thanks to Lex for driving the van.

AD

Party: Lex Smith (driver), Janice Love, Vivian Xie, Anne Doig

2519 Pureora Forest Park	5 – 7 June 2021
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Saturday: Route to Pureora

Following strict instructions to be ready to leave Te Aute Road at 7:00 a.m. a party of eight was indeed ready on time. We certainly needed plenty of time to get all our belongings in the truck lockers. Susan had worked her magic and we had a bed for the night - two cabins had been booked at the Pureora [formerly DoC] Cabins. With a planned day tramp on Saturday then an overnight tramp on Sunday, plus a stay in a cabin with warm showers and cooking facilities there was such a lot of gear. Oh my, the lockers in the truck were truly valued.

A truck must have fuel to run on so a stop at J Young Motors Bay View was necessary. Then it was on to the Taupo bypass to meet Derek at the Caltex Station. Susan and Paula kept Lex company in the cab whilst, in the back, the rest of us hunkered down and kept warm being well covered by many blankets. (Janice had the mattresses out ready for us and had used the large blue blanket to cover them for added warmth). After the obligatory stop at Opepe it was on to meet Derek - at Opepe, Susan had made contact with him. At the aforesaid Caltex station Lex pulled the truck in for Derek to load his gear. That is one amazingly busy service station: there were cars coming in at regular intervals and the volume of vehicles was quite dizzying. With the full contingent of trampers it was off to Pureora.

We travelled on SHW1 to Atiamuri where we turned on to SH30. Whakamaru Dam is impressive and forms a fabulous lake behind it. At Whakamaru we turned on to SH32. Alas, the signage to the Pureora is somewhat lacking and, unfortunately, we overshot the turn-off. Lex turned back up the road and Susan went into Tihoi Trading Post (aka Tihoi Tavern) where the ladies gave directions back to Kakaho Road. Along this road there is the Kakaho DoC campsite where we stopped for an early lunch. After lunch we walked Rimu Loop Track; this is marked as 1.7km, 1 hour walk. It did not take us that long to walk through this lush forest but the time for the walk was possibly a warning of the abundance of steps that would be encountered. The walk ended a couple of hundred metres north of the start. Alas, the sign was missing and the posts askew. This was to be a warning of things to come. Driving through Pureora Forest has been made extremely difficult with most of the black and white sign posts smashed or no longer there.

Unfortunately, we did not have time to climb Titiraupenga but it was decided that we would walk into the monument marking the Centre of the North Island. From there is a track through to Links Road that would take two hours and this was to be our tramp for the afternoon. On Topo Map BF35 there are three streams to cross. These involve varying degrees of steepness. The track was soft dark humus and well sign-posted with orange triangles. There were degrees of loss on the tramp: my tramping pole had lost its ability to tighten. Oh no, thanks Susan, I'll be okay without a pole. Thank you, Paula for lending me one of yours.

Janice lost her phone which is her camera and keeper of all information. A small party of us (yes we had inadvertently split into two parties) lost the track; fortunately Simon's GPS got us back on track. (We had gone straight ahead where we should have made a right-angled turn). Once back on the track we made good progress. One of the stream exits was rather steep and sticky but, once up there, we found the track was well-formed. Oh, the joy of getting to the top of the final hill and the end of the track to hear Susan tell Janice that she had her phone - she had almost stepped on it on the way back to the truck on the first descent. Susan and Lex had turned back to take the truck around to the end of the track.

Once we had shared stories of our tramp it was back in the truck to find our way to Pureora Cabins. Once again the lack of signs caused a problem. Simon's GPS was called into use and we were on our way to luxury: well, hot showers, electricity and a kitchen with the necessary crockery and utensils. Since our last stay in these cabins they have been spruced up with a coat of paint. It was great to have a cabin with a lot of room for us all to sort out our gear for the next day's overnight tramp plus what was no longer needed. Thanks, Susan for your organisation, Lex for driving the truck, and other members of the party for your company.



Wandering in the central North Island

Sunday: Pureora to Waihaha

We left the cabins at about 8:00am and drove along State Highways 30 and 32, turning off onto Waihora Road, driving along a gravel road for 7kms. Our drop-off site was a disappointment as there was an inordinate amount of rubbish (mainly loo paper) everywhere which made the place look unkempt. A toilet inclusion would be of enormous benefit to the surrounds. Once past the carpark, we headed along heavily rutted 4WD tracks to the forest and steadily climbed into the bushy surrounds. Passing a group of boys plus leader from Tihoi Adventure Camp, it was a delight to see them excited about their outdoor challenges. The orange markers were often covered in lichen and sometimes sparse, especially difficult as there was a lot of windfall to navigate around. Lots of birdcalls could be heard, with occasional flapping of kereru above us. Sometimes the track became slippery, particularly on exposed roots and this often caused Derek's demise. He managed to dirty his backside a few times but like a true, hard-core trumper, with his good humour he bounced back up. Reaching the junction after 1.5 hrs, we continued along Hauhungaroa Track (translating roughly as "wind sounds along the long road" to Waihaha Hut (translated "searching for water"). It was

impressive to read that this is part of Te Araroa, the long trail and we were doing a small part of it. The group members took turns at leading. With irregular rain falling and wet, ferny cover, we were quite wet had our raincoats on and off. It wasn't cold at all but just felt mildly humid. This weather obviously suited the low-level plant life. Many trees were covered in lichens and mosses. There were also lots of ferns, my favourite being the kidney fern which was quite prolific.

Together, we completed 10.5km over 6.5hrs. It was great being met by the other HTC trampers especially with the water already boiled, wood collected and the fire lit. Just after arrival, the heavens opened and steady rain fell but with Susan's professional organisation plus Lex's exemplary driving, it made for a perfect ending to a day of enjoyable tramping. PK

Party: Paula Kaspar, Murry Alderson, Jo Petty, Simon Whittam, Derek Boshier

A party of four drove around to the Great Lakes Trail carpark beside Waihaha River. We went over the bridge and set off just before 11:00am. Initially, the track passes through scrubby converted farmland but, after 30 minutes, it crossed the swingbridge over Pikopiko Stream before a long gentle ascent through regenerating tanekaha to a dry plateau. Dropping down to the valley floor, it meanders through frost flats covered by monoa (dracophyllum subulatum). This is thought to be the result of a pre-European fire and frosts inhibit any new growth.

About 2½ hours from the hut we passed through some bigger tanekaha forest with miro, rimu and Hall's totara springing up. Soon the distinctive cluster of mature rimus, signalled that we were not far from the hut and, 10 minutes later, were walking out onto the grassy clearing in front of the hut. There was no-one in residence as we had passed five groups walking out so we chose our bunks, had a hot drink and collected firewood. A couple of us donned parkas and wandered along the track towards Mangatu Stream in mid-afternoon. Overcast conditions made it quite dark in the forest. A lot of birdlife was seen and heard on the way in: tui, bellbird, kaka, tomtit, robin, keruru, waxeye and we had been told about a pair of whio near the hut (this pair we observed the next morning while sitting on a log).

We had estimated that the other party would arrive at about 4:45-5:00pm and, like clockwork, Murry strode into the clearing, closely followed by the rest. They did appear to be a bit wet! The evening was spent chilling out, recounting the day's travels and cooking our meals. By 8:30pm most were in their sleeping bags.

Party: Janice Love, Susan Lopdell, Anne Doig, Lex Smith

Monday: Waihaha to The Truck

All up bright and early, interesting variety of breakfasts consumed, packs repacked, firewood collected and hut swept and left in a very tidy condition - thanks to everyone for pitching in. Just before we were ready to go, Susan saw the pair of whio in the stream beside the hut and those who had their cameras handy took pictures. We returned the same way as the group of four who had walked in, stopping off for all to view the small gorge with its rock pools and cascades - soon after this the river briefly goes underground before emerging, increased in size before quietly flowing toward Lake Taupo. Thirteen kilometres were travelled in three hours then, sadly, we had to leave to return home. We stopped briefly at the Mitre 10 complex near the Napier-Taupo Road to have afternoon tea and farewell Derek.

Thank you, Lex for driving the 660 kms we travelled and to the rest of the group for your friendliness and support over the weekend. Hope you enjoyed this magnificent forest. SL

Party: Janice Love, Jo Petty, Paula Kaspar, Anne Doig, Derek Boshier, Simon Whittam, Murry Alderson, Susan Lopdell (organizer), Lex Smith

2520

Coppermine Creek and Wharite Peak

Sat 26 June 2021

Due to bad weather the previous Sunday we postponed this tramp until the following weekend. Today it was overcast with a little sunshine and a northwest breeze which was more evident at 950 metres on Wharite Peak. At 7am nine trampers left Havelock North and travelled in the van driven by Simon to Norsewood. Murry then drove via Dannevirke, picked up Dave, then it was on to Coppermine Road carpark. From here it was a 30-minute walk to the signpost junction. This is a well-marked easy track above Coppermine Creek. Information boards told of the copper mining in this area.



Is there copper above ground?

From the junction, Party A ascended towards Wharite Peak and Party B walked into the mine shaft site up the right branch of Coppermine Creek. This was initially on a track but quickly changed to a river route which would not have been passable in last Sunday's deluge. We passed the magazine site and climbed up to the mine site, arriving 30 minutes from the junction.

Not a lot to see there, just a sign and some railway irons. Back to the magazine tunnel where cave wetas were seen at the end of the tunnel. Returning to the junction, Party B followed the loop track which took 2½ hours.

After crossing Coppermine Creek, the track ascended steeply for about 300 meters through bush, a very diverse native bush with large podocarps and lush regeneration of matai. The track was slippery in patches but the surrounding bush sheltered us from the wind. Emerging from the bush there were grand views across southern Hawke's Bay. Here, we were more exposed to the southwest wind as we walked down a slippery fenceline, a farm track and

back to the carpark. Two minutes before the carpark we crossed Coppermine Stream once more and, with wet feet, eagerly awaited for the A team to arrive. It was a two hour drive home in the comfort of the van.

Wharite Peak: after scrambling up the steep incline from the junction, the rest of the 920m ascent became less vertical. The canopy soon turned to low hardy plants like leatherwood which later provided shelter from the chilly wind.

The track is well-maintained, sometimes slippery or boggy. A few breaks in the foliage allowed us to appreciate the views and remark on our progress.



Wharite Communications Site

The track ends at the transmitter tower that dominates the skyline on the most southern tip of the Ruahine range. Low clouds on the horizon did not diminish the amazing view across Southern Hawke's Bay. Finding a sheltered spot for lunch, we then began the descent to the carpark. Tramp was 5½ hours. Thank you to the drivers, Simon and Murry. JP

Party: Simon Whittam, Murry Alderson, Glenda Hooper, Anne Doig, Susan Lopdell, Anthea Chiappa, Derek Boshier, Dave Mulinder, Jo Petty, Vivien Xie, Janice Love (organizer)

2521 Waikamaka Hut – Ruahine FP	3-4 July 2021
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This was a significant trip for me as it is now 65 years since I joined Heretaunga Tramping Club. I went on my first trip as a fifteen-year old, a working bee to help re-pile the original Waikamaka Hut. I did not continuously go on trips all this time, being away from Hawkes Bay, though I kept up my membership. For the past twenty years I have been celebrating my time being in the club by arranging a club trip to Waikamaka at each five-year anniversary. I thank all those who have joined me on these special trips.

This year the trip was delayed four months but we had a winter weekend to increase the pleasure! Snow had fallen earlier in the week down to Highway 50 though, by the time we were there, it had retreated to the tops. However, the air temperature was such that in the valley shadows, frost did not melt at all. The rocks were slippery.



Our party of eight was away from Havelock North in the van by 6:30, loading ice-axes and crampons which were taken by most of us on the tramp. Great to have with us Andrew York, who came on a trip or two as a schoolboy in 2009 and Luke Devane, my grandson, now a student at Canterbury University. The weather was perfect all weekend: windless with clear blue skies. The river water temperature was “snappy” as we worked our way up to the saddle for a lunch break.

We walked past spectacular icicles overlooking Waikamaka Stream that were continually growing in the frigid conditions. On arrival at the hut it was working bee mode. The existing tools had been broken so we had taken in a new axe and two saws plus two chair bases (as we presume someone needed them for firewood) and rat poison. We replenished the wood supply. As well, we were able to make decisions about the toilet. The hole was dry, so surface rainwater was not seeping into it but a torchlight inspection showed that the contents were getting closer to the top. We felt a new timber-frame toilet flown in and placed over a new hole would be the best solution. A team flown in for a week could get the job done: seal the existing toilet hole and leave the character building as a wood storage facility, like Kiwi Saddle Hut.

The stove took a while to lift the temperature in the hut as we prepared our dinners. Then Paul, a farmer from Putara near Eketahuna, arrived just on dark with his Jack Russell, Leo, both very pleased to find the hut. He has invited us to visit him as he has a private hut adjoining the Northern Tararuas. Next to arrive was Ben, a NZ Alpine Club member who had come up from Wellington via Sunrise Hut and over 66, the last hour in the dark. Our visitors used the queen mattress on the floor. We were all warm and cosy for Saturday night.



Waipawa Saddle on Saturday before dropping down to Waikamaka

We were not in a rush to get out in the cold air the next morning and left the hut at 0930. Ben was returning to his vehicle via Rangi and Smith Stream Hut while Paul travelled back with us to his ute. To escape from the frost we had lunch in the sun at Waipawa Forks Hut, another hut with a broken axe. We certainly noticed the cold the moment we dropped into the Waipawa River again. Back in Havelock North at 4pm. My thanks go to our drivers, Kim and Simon, plus all who came to Waikamaka on this celebratory trip. GRH

Party: John Montgomerie, Luke Devane, Kim Morgan, Gerald Blackburn, Anne Cantrick, Simon Whittam, Andrew York, Graeme Hare (organiser)



Party heading down into Waipawa River on Sunday



Waipawa Forks Hut for a lunch stop

[Ed - Congratulations, Graeme, on your 65 years of HTC membership and still being so incredibly active in the hills. Long may you tramp on.]

2522

Tutira Walkway

Wed 7 July 2021

The pundits were not expecting this trip to go ahead given the weather forecast but, after an early morning check with the Tutira Arboretum, the leader's decision to proceed was vindicated. The weather was great with early morning mist rising and little wind.

The truck, driven by Pete, took us up Ridgemount Road to the shelter area and, after a smoko break, boots were finally donned. We started off by following the poled route along the walkway but, unfortunately, many cattle had had the same idea over the last few days and in places the track was overlaid with very viscous mud. Gaiters were a blessing if not a necessity.

Most took off up to the top of Table Mountain (494 metres) while others continued along the lower Peras Track, side-stepping the muck where possible and startling a few cattle beasts trying to feed. A lunchette was duly held at our favourite sunny spot with views to the lake, the church and the arboretum. An interesting discussion ensued about Herbert Guthrie-Smith, the far-sighted farmer of Tutira Station. His ideas about overstocking, soil erosion and depletion of native forests were not mainstream a hundred years ago but he is now acclaimed as a pioneer in farming practices that are accepted today as beneficial especially in the face of climate change.

Time to head downhill to the lake. Rodger decided that his knees weren't up to it so he plodded back the way he had come. Christine decided to go up to 494 where there was a strong wind but a 360° view of Hawke's Bay. Then she continued north-east along the ridgeline until it ran out. No more animal tracks and steep limestone bluffs at the far end! Descent required a bit of very ungraceful negotiating – her very muddy backside was testimony to the last muddy slide!

Eventually, back at the truck and its last trip for HTC. Christine drove it down to the lake campsite to join the others and then on to Napier before Peter took it back to base. Our

beloved truck [well, beloved by some] has given us years of service and taken us to many parts of NZ. It was finally sold a few days ago, after a series of fairly tortuous negotiations, and packed off to Deakin Motors. It has been replaced with a modern Ford van with many state-of-the-art electronic features [details in Pohokura #365]. An enormous vote of thanks should go to Pete Hewitt for all his efforts and patience during the decommissioning process.
RB

Party: Janice Love, Anthea Chiappa, Susan Lopdell, Margaret Graham, Lynn Walch, Christine Hardie, Anne Cantrick, Joan Ruffell, Graeme Hare, Peter Hewitt, Garry Smith, Rodger Burn (organiser)

2523

Kuripapango Hill – Kaweka FP

18 July 2021



At Lakes Carpark: yes, they all came in the van

Bad weather was forecasted for most of New Zealand although Kuripapango Hill's share was for less than 5mm of rain during the day and a fresh breeze only. As the wind was from the NW we expected to be reasonably sheltered for most of the trip. The forecast proved to be spot on and we only experienced the occasional light drizzle interspersed with patches of sunshine.

Fourteen of us, including newcomers Marie, Nick and Dylan, headed up the Taihape Road to Cameron carpark where we dropped Colin, Derek and Kim off to take Smith Russell Track up to 4100. The rest of us left from Lakes Rd carpark at 8:45am and made our way up to the junction near 4100 in two groups with the stragglers arriving around 10:30am.

After morning tea at the junction we reorganised into different groups: Peter, Jo and Dylan planned to find the old shingle slide off 4100 and return that way while the rest, in three further groups, continued along the track towards Kiwi Saddle Hut. Some had an early

lunch sheltering under the beech trees before returning to the junction while others got as far as the Cameron Hut turn-off, where it was rather windy, before turning back.

Vivian checking out the white stuff



By 1:30pm all except the shingle slide trio were back at the junction ready for the return journey. Robyn, Jude, Marie, Nick and Glenda took Smith Russell Track down to Cameron carpark while the rest followed the other track down Lakes Road where they had a 30-minute wait for the shingle slide party to return. They then drove around to Cameron carpark arriving there at about 2:45pm just after the Smith Russell track party had arrived.

Shingle Slide Party: forty years ago you stood on the top and headed off past a small

and lonely beech tree, raced down the shingle slide and came out at the lake. Now you head east through the horrible tangle of contorta and deer droppings with the lie of the land and the deer tracks pushing always to the south of where you think you want to go. You can't see a bloody thing until eventually you end up in some lovely but very eaten out beech forest, where the easiest route pushes you even further south of where you think you should be. The ridges keep turning into scrub and the gullies keep turning into dry waterfalls. Eventually the beech turns to larger scrub with a sprinkling of lawyer, flattens out a bit and you find yourself on the edge of the pine forest. So, no shingle slide, but a great little adventure. To Marie, Nick and Dylan - I hope you enjoyed your first trip with the HTC and come out on many more.

Party: Peter Berry, Jo Petty, Dylan Veale, Colin Jones, Kim Morgan, Derek Boshier, Nick Walkerdine, Janice Love, Jude Hay, Vivian Xie, Marie Taylor, Robyn Wilson, Anne Doig, Glenda Hooper

2524

Te Mata Park

Wed 21 July 2021

An executive decision was made to change the original planned trip to Blowhard Bush and instead do this trip that had also been cancelled because of adverse weather and investigate Te Mata Park. There was a group of 14 plus the lovely Layla (Joan's dog), that met at Te Mata Park's main gates at 9:30am on a beautiful, sunny but coolish day. We were privileged to have local resident and former HTC President, Mike Lusk, join us to share his wealth of knowledge about the park. Mike has spent numerous voluntary hours in the park planting and maintaining vegetation and he works closely with the Te Mata Park Trust. The Taradale folk in our party had not seen the extensive plantings in the newly purchased part of the park above Te Mata Peak Road which has been done with mainly volunteer workers. Being the second week of the school holidays the park was busy with parents and children walking or riding mountain bikes.

First it was a walk and talk through this newer area with a couple of stops to look at the views to the western hills – the removal of pine and other exotic trees has opened up the vistas noticeably. Then it was a left turn and head south-west into the rest of the park. At one stage we went past a plantation of 50 kowhai trees gifted and planted by local identity, Patrick Dingemans in memory of his late wife, Cherry. Strangely, the BMX club has routed its newest trail right through the dead centre [no pun intended] of the plantings. Many of us think that maybe they would have some respect when cycling there. Yeah, right!

As we ascended through more plantings, we observed an area done by local schools and now maintained by them. Graeme Hare was not physically on this trip but his spirit of consumption was present when we stopped for a lunchette - need to keep fluids up. Mike was able to point out some of the more interesting trees that remain plus the general successes and failures of the long-term work at TMP. The hot, dry Hawke's Bay summers are a constant challenge for young trees and survival is not guaranteed. Up to higher ground and Raewyn left us for a previously-made appointment. We picked our way through old slash with lots of pine trunks and branches on either side. After walking for another hour or so we ended up on the main park road. The majority of us had long decided to reward ourselves for such a strenuous day and we headed for Peak House Restaurant where Pete had earlier made a party booking. There we indulged in decadent treats, a great spot with fantastic views over sunny Hawkes Bay. We then walked down to our vehicles.
PH



Party: Joan Ruffell, Alasdair Shaw, Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, Roger Burn, Christine Hardie, Margaret Graham, Mike Lusk, Raewyn Ricketts, Susan Lopdell, Barbara Phillips, Garry Smith, Anne Cantrick, Pete Hewitt (organizer)

2525	Tongariro Snow Trip	31 July – 1 August 2021
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This trip was booked to start with a full vehicle of 12 but ended up with eleven, a test of the van and its cargo of bods, day bags and packs. Boots and crampons were stowed in the polybins and packs on their side stacked in above. It all eventually fitted in but not a lot of room if someone wanted something from a pack on the bottom! It will undoubtedly be

better when the racks are installed to separate things. Derek came down from Tauranga, we met him at Turangi and he followed us to the trip start.

A Party: arriving at the Waihohonu carpark about 25km down the Desert Road at around 10:30 we found the carpark to be pretty much a bog, very inappropriate for the entry to a five-star hut. The whole party trooped to Waihohonu Hut (palace) and consumed lunch alfresco in the sunshine on the tables on the spacious decks. The A party bade farewell to the B and set off towards Oturere. By now the cloud that had lingered on Ngaruahoe and Tongariro had lifted and a warm afternoon made a pleasant stroll while taking in the vistas and photographic opportunities. Arrival at Oturere hut about 4pm meant that we could look around. The water cascade in the northern gully was eye-catching, along with views to Lake Taupo, the Desert Road and Kaimawawa Range. Firewood was in plentiful supply and the hut people had a good fire going so we settled in. Was good to have time like this as often at the end of the day arriving and preparing a meal is pressurised a bit. Present were those from South Africa, Germany, Korea and all were quite chatty with other inhabitants.

We aimed to get away 7am Sunday but did so at 7:10am for the route up to the base of the Emerald Lakes ridge. On the way we took in the alpine shrub colours which are at their peak at this time of the year as well as the rock gardens to go through. Quite an unusual and surreal scene as with some imagination, many rock pillars could become statues and animals.



Emerald Lakes

At the base of the ridge found a reasonable slope of firm snow to practice ice axe arresting - especially for the three new alpine members, Paula, Jo and Simon. It had been a good alpine frost overnight which fortunately gave firm snow to save plugging in the soft stuff. Soon we were at Emerald Lakes with lots of photos, as usual, and taking in the vista especially for those three who had not been there before. Then the firm snow trudge-up the ridge to the top of the Red Crater, and again, the views clear all around. Our Korean friend took a group photo at the top. As the snow going down the ridge to the South Tongariro Crater was quite icy it was time to don crampons primarily for practice for the three needing this. After wandering around on flat we then ventured a little way down the slope to get the feel of using

crampons in earnest. Back to the top, packs on and down we went. It was very firm iced snow which was predictable, being in the shady southerly aspect, and likely would be even harder lower down near the rock pillars near the bottom.



A Party at the top: Simon, Paula, John, Anne, Jo, Colin

I was so pleased to congratulate the three on how well they had done, taking their time in a new environment and experience. Simon commented that it was among his greatest experiences. I was rightly concerned about the potential even for glass ice conditions there, as I had struck this on a club trip years ago, so had for that reason carried 45 metres of rope, a harness and belay etc in case. It was still a bluebird day which was just so magic. Just inside the south crater entrance is a sign that questions travellers as to whether they are up to the challenge, or if the conditions are poor, to turn back. In pleasant sunny conditions we stopped here for our lunch break. All that was left was the crater crossing of just on a kilometer, down the staircase to Mangatepopo Valley, past the hut and to the carpark at 3pm, and to the waiting club van and the B party. In a short time we were sorted and in the van, so lucky to have had clear weather as by now cloud had suddenly descended and blanked out everything above the South Crater. Due to the time now, a hot pool at Tokaanu was off the agenda so a quick fuel up at Mobil and we were on our way, back at Glenda's about 7pm. Thanks for the company all round and especially to Murry who drove us there and back as well. The van got along effortlessly considering it had about 1000kg of bods and gear. JM

Party: Paula Kasper, Jo Petty, Colin Jones, Simon Whittam, Anne Cantrick, John Montgomerie (organizer)



Waihohonu Hut: Jude H and Susan L rushing in for lunch and a cup of tea

B Party: It was a blue-sky day for our walk into Waihohonu Hut although the mountains had covering cloud. The track from the Desert Road carpark to the hut has an ascent of 100 metres. The beauty of this is that Mount Ruapehu stood out in all his majestic glory. The track dips and at times scrub obscures Ruapehu but when he comes back into view it is truly a breath-taking sight. The lack of elevation across Rangipo Desert gives clear views of Ruapehu, Tongario and back to The Desert Road where the power pylons and white-sided large trucks stood out. Both parties had left the carpark at 1045 in perfect weather with the first $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour of the tramp being walked on soft volcanic sand. Twenty minutes into the tramp we crossed Ohinepango Stream which we would see more of later in the day. Along the track there are a couple of patches of beech forest. After walking through one, I was just settling in for about another half hour walk when I rounded the corner and there was Waihohonu Hut. The sign post at the carpark stated it was $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours to the hut and that was how long it had taken us. After lunch we walked over to Ohinepango Springs which are south of the hut on the Round the Mountain track, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ km from the hut. These springs, from where they appear under a cliff, do not look inspiring but the volume of water coming through must be immense as Ohinepango Stream has a good flow to it.

Before returning, we visited Old Waihohonu Hut which was built in 1903-04 and used as a stopover for stage coaches. This corrugated iron hut has been well restored and with its brick red paint stands out in the patch of beech in which it is set. The men and women had separate sleeping quarters where the only concession the ladies had was a mirror. To say Waihohonu is a hut is a misnomer; it is a palace. Google describes Waihohonu Hut as a guest house. Okay, there are marae-style bunks with accommodation for 28 but the footprint is truly grand. As we were out of season, we did not have the benefits of gas for cooking or hot water in the kitchen, but we did have, on a timer, solar lighting in the kitchen/sitting area, which ran for a period of 30 minutes. When this timed out the room would be plunged into darkness.

There were three other parties in the hut for the night, one of which included a seven-month old baby. Saturday night's evening sky was dulled with cloud. Those awake before sunrise on Sunday saw the beauty of the southern night sky. We set off from Waihohonu at 8:30am. There had been a frost overnight so it was rather crunchy underfoot. The beauty of the frost was that the mountains were now displayed without cloud, a truly magnificent vista. We were back at the van by 10:00. Derek, who had come in his own vehicle, left us there to return to Tauranga. It was now the van party's job to take the vehicle around to Mangatepopo Carpark in preparation to meet the A Party. We headed north up The Desert Road to Lake Rotoaira Road which we turned into and headed west to Mangatepopo Road. As it is not the season for the Tongariro Alpine Crossing we were able to park in the carpark – in summer there is a time limit. To continue our abridged journey on the Tongariro Northern Circuit we walked into Mangatepopo Hut (again a description of guest house in Google) with most, after lunch, walking on to Soda Springs. That was three huts bagged in the weekend. By 3:30pm with the luggage in the van, organised and both parties on board we started our journey back to Hawke's Bay.

AD

B Party: Murry Alderson (driver), Susan Lopdell (organizer), Janice Love, Jude Hay, Derek Boshier, Anne Doig

2526

Pourerere Beach

Wed 04 Aug 2021

This was the first time that Wednesday Walkers had had to use the new club van on a scheduled outing so the organiser and team arrived early to prepare for the day. What a circus! A big chunk of time was spent negotiating all the necessary steps that are now required: secret codes, multiple keys, hidden plastic containers, a very narrow doorway, unresponsive electronic commands, blocked access and so on and so on. Number One Driver, not the most patient creature at the best of times, went from being unimpressed to exasperated to rather pissed off but was not going to admit defeat in front of the patiently-waiting crowd. At last, all problems were overcome and the group set off towards SH2 and beyond. Mostly the journey went well: the van is certainly smooth and efficient with passengers being mostly positive about its performance. Even though NOD had driven the van before, there were still electronic quirks and over-rides that she was unaware of and which caused a few surprises but these became fewer as the day wore on. Rest assured that future trips will not be so fraught, that is as long as the dreaded traction control feature does not cut in. The van will never be as much fun as the truck to drive given its lack of distinct identity and familiar idiosyncracies but *de gustibus non est disputandum* as the ancients would tell us and the world is going to just move on.

Conditions were sunny with a cold southerly which moderated as the day went on. We trundled through Pourerere which is expanding into a township by the look of it with expensive new subdivisions popping up. There was no-one around and most of the houses looked empty, unsurprising given that it is not the holiday season. From the road we could see all the paddocks and camping areas where tractors are left to weather the winter, ready for the summer season when they are used as boat launchers. We parked at the southern reserve with the excellent toilet block and headed out for our first foray further south to where the beach meets the farmland – the distance between the two is shrinking as rising seas swallow more and more coastal land. This is where the first sheep station in Hawke's Bay

was established in 1847 by James Northwood and Henry Tiffen. Apparently, the local drovers used to love working along this coast back then because of the enormous numbers of shellfish, especially pipi, that could easily be obtained. Of course, Pourerere is still known for its seafood but it is not as easy to catch these days and there are limits on what can be taken.

Over the fence and along to Tuingara Point where we spotted a young seal resting in the sun. We paused at the headland while Anne clambered closer to get some photos although the seal was unimpressed. The tide was not in our favour for further walking so we turned back and headed north along wide sandy stretches to the mouth of Pourerere Stream where it enters into the sea. Christine was the only one who was not too timid to cross the rising waters which she did quite easily [although at the cost of wet trousers from a frisky incoming wave] and went on a little further to investigate the area near the dunes that is fenced off to protect breeding birds. We kept an eye out for the Moeraki-style boulders that had been reported in the media recently and saw them, half-sunk in the sand not far away.

From there it was back to the van for lunch before driving through to Aramoana and Te Angiangi Marine Reserve. We walked south along the beach front past all its charming houses and caravans to the four-wheel drive road that leads to Blackhead. Normally this is a straightforward walk of a couple of hours and we noted again how the sea has already claimed parts of the road so one has to climb above the trail. At one point in the walk a couple of dead seals were encountered. We could see the buildings at Aramoana and some of us got close to them but tide and time were against us and we had to turn back to base and face the drive home. After a restorative cuppa, of course! No problems were encountered and we enjoyed the scenic route from Omakere to Middle Road to be in Havelock North by 5pm. GS&CH

Party: Garry Smith [organizer], Anthea Chiappa, Lynn Walch, Anne Cantrick, Christine Hardie [driver], Rodger Burn, Peter Hansen in the van, Alasdair Shaw, Joan Ruffell, Layla in their car

2527	Parks Peak Hut – Ruahine FP	15 Aug 2021
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It was a 7:00 a.m. start from Havelock North in two vehicles as there were 13 in the party. Our destination was Mangerton Road to access Parks Peak Hut via Sentry Box Hill. When we arrived at the entrance to the track access we parked on the verge off the road. Peter and Glenda in their vehicle were off about a kilometre further on, to access Parks Peak Ridge via the old Kaumatua Track. Our climb started from Mangerton Road's Sentry Box entry by crossing a paddock divided by electric fencing. Once across the field we climbed a stile and were in the Ruahine Forest Park. The route passes historic Sentry Box Hut which is 10 minutes from the roadside. From Sentry Box Hut it is a 760 metre ascent to the junction with Parks Peak - No Mans Hut track which is gained in about two hours. DoC describes the track to Parks Peak Hut as a long, difficult climb.

The weather was kind to us although there was a chill in the wind; it was a fine day with good views of Hawke's Bay. There was snow across the tops and the photos Des took of the red chair at about 10:30 had frost on the frame. The red chair is fifteen minutes from the junction off to the right of the track. As well as being a desired photo spot there are views across to the western Ruahine Ranges. Nine of the party made it to the hut. Parks Peak Hut at

1320m altitude is in a beech forest setting with picturesque alpine plants in front of it. The hut was originally built in 1960 by the NZ Forest Service and replaced by DoC in 2008; it is named after Robert Park, first Surveyor-General in Hawke's Bay. We were back at the van and ready to leave Mangleton Road at 3:30pm We drove down to Peter and Glenda's vehicle and left a note. AD

Party: Murry Alderson (driver), Marie Taylor, Graeme Hare, Nicholas Walkerdine, Simon Whittam, Jude Hay, Paula Kasper, Vivian Wei, Susan Lopdell, Des Smith, Anne Doig (organizer)



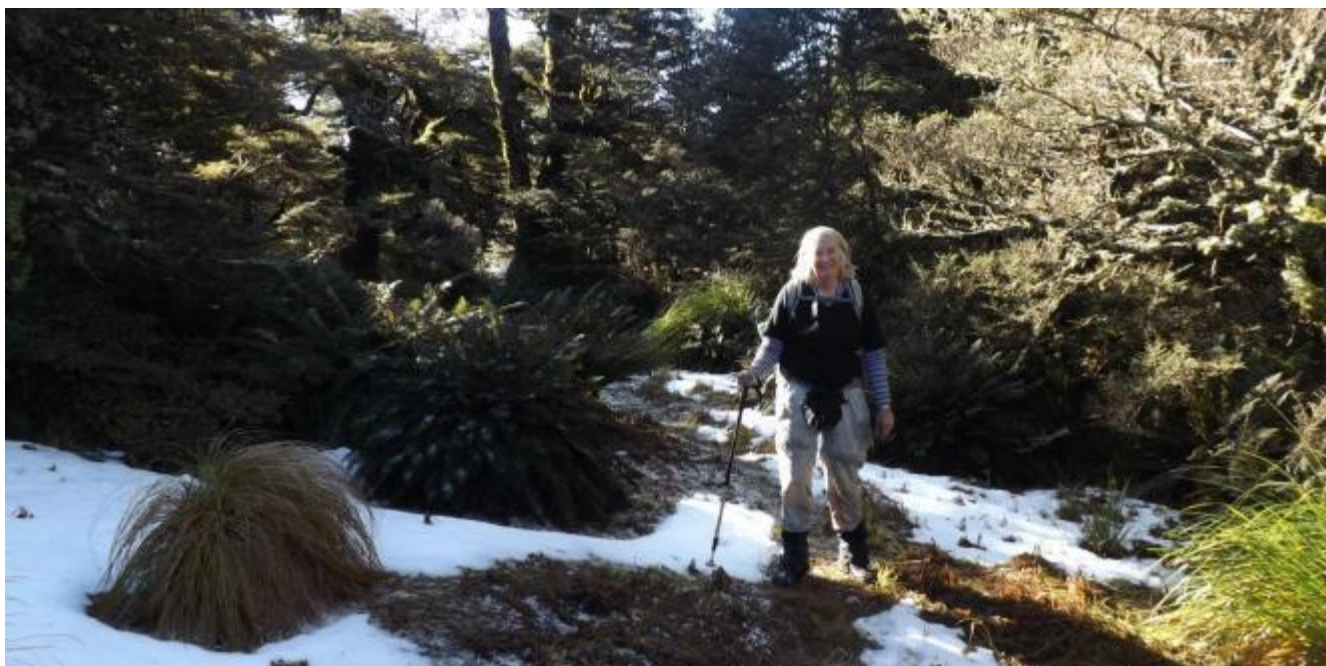
Des Smith seated on The Red Chair

Kaumatua Track

Since we were in our car, we decided to try and find the old Kaumatua Track as no-one would need to wait for us if we were late out. We said goodbye to the others at their drop-off spot and continued along the road to the legal access across farm land to the start of Kaumatua Track. There were cattle in the paddocks next to the bush and we were disappointed to see that the boundary gate was off its hinges and not fastened on either side. We tried to prop it up but there was nothing to attach the gate to the post on the hinge side. We followed the old 4WD track, heavily rutted with cattle hooves, until we reached the stream where we spied two more of the beasts foraging in our native forest. We skirted around them and found our first track marker, a red one at the end of the 4WD track.

Even though the map clearly indicated our track took off upstream of this marker (and did a zig and a zag before following the ridge up) Peter decided it looked easier from the downstream section. He was wrong! Finally, 40 minutes later, after a lot of bush bashing, climbing up and along steep slopes, we came to our second marker of the day, a pink ribbon. A GPS reading showed that we had missed the zig and zag completely and were now on the ridge-line section.

It is a reasonably broad ridgeline and, while we were able to follow markers in some sections (be they red, yellow, white permalate or pink ribbons), in other sections they hid from us completely even when we back-tracked to the previous marker. So, there was quite a bit of bush bashing and some concern as to when we would reach the top. The worst bush bashing was through rather dense turpentine bushes. However, the bush on this ridge is much more varied than that on the Sentry Box spur with podocarps (mainly totara, rimu and miro), beech and pink pine (a podocarp that looks a lot like kaikawaka) emerging from an undergrowth of regenerating podocarp and beech trees, ferns, turpentine plants and more.



Glenda Hooper looking for other kaumatua

Eventually, at about 1:45pm, we came to our first orange triangle and the main track to Parks Peak Hut. As we knew the rest of the group would be long gone we didn't take the detour to the hut. Instead, we headed north along the main track to the Sentry Box spur which we descended, reaching our car at about 4:30. GH

Peter's P.S. You should have seen Glenda hobble from the car to feed the chickens when we got home, though to be honest I did have broken finger syndrome for the next two days.

Party: Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry

2528	Te Ao Tupare Hut – Ruahine FP	12 Sept 2021
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Without our HTC Club meeting due to Covid restrictions, contact was made by Glenda and with thorough organisation by Anne we had more than a full van complement to head south to the Te Ao Tūpare Hut (A-Frame Hut) tramp. Additional trampers' travelled with Derek from Havelock North and from Dannevirke.

Simon ably drove our club van to our starting point at West Tamaki Road, which was already full with cars. Parking nearby, we had our tramp overview meeting with the opportunity of an A and B group to ascend the 700m up a steep track to Takapari Road, a 4WD track on top of the Ruahine Range.

Even before we started, the wind was blowing and circling strongly about us. It did lessen on occasions whilst in amongst the bush. That wasn't our only challenge, the track was quite

slippery underfoot with high step ups required on many occasions. (High, for short legged people!)

With regular breaks and catch up's we all made our way to the wind exposed Te Ao Tūpare Hut / A-Frame hut. The bushland surrounding the ridge line with the abundance of leatherwoods was aptly referred to in its Māori namesake. It had its distinctive roofline, new with the old corrugated iron and building materials still observable. The A-Frame had colourful Māori koru motif alongside a new DOC sign highlighting the name, meaning and work that has been done. The interior was simple but freshly painted with 2 refreshed bunk beds. We all sat and enjoyed our lunch indoors due to the high winds. The decision was made to return the way we ascended due to the windy weather. Prior to descending a few tramped briefly along the 4WD track to enjoy the clear views over the district. Quite impressive scenery!



Te Ao Tupare Hut with Paula

Heading down cautiously, some still actively connected with the track- by slipping. Not a deterrent as we all safely made our way back to the van, changing into our clean, comfortable van travelling attire. Abiding by the wearing of masks to kindly care for our fellow travellers we made our way back to HTC van headquarters. A really, enjoyable day of tramping for everyone.

Co-leading gives a chance to appreciate what is formally required to undertake a tramping trip, and it would be great for each member to have the experience to empathise and support those that regularly do this. Highly recommend for all to try.

Many thanks to Glenda and Anne for their behind-the-scenes organisation, Simon for driving and Janice and Joan for cleaning the van on our return.

Looking forward to our next tramp – thanks everyone. Tēnā kotou katoa.

PK

Party: Anne Doig (organizer), Paula Kasper (co-organizer), Murry Alderson, Derek Boshier, David Mulinder, Vivian Xie, Joan Ruffell, Janice Love, Simon Whittam, Susan Lopdell, Des Smith, Jude Hay, Nick Walkerdine, Anthea Chiappa.

HTC BIKE TRIPS



Cycle from Clive

Wed 2 June 2021

We decided to make this an open-to-all-ideas destination trip and eight of us met at Clive Bridge under rather cool conditions and eventually agreed that Hygge [formerly known as Clifton] Café would be our destination. Firstly, Pete had forgotten his gloves and had very cold hands as he had cycled from Havelock North. Fortunately, Rodger had a spare pair in his bag of tricks so all was well. The agreed route was to follow the cycle track past the picturesque lagoons with their resident ducks to Black Bridge and follow the cycleway on the eastern side of the Tuki Tuki to Moore Road then north to Raymond Road to regroup which we did.

Here we met up with Garry and Rodger who, after a short delay, had taken the more direct route and were waiting for us. Those two then carried on along the main road while the rest of us took a short cut through Te Awa vineyards, and then to Te Awanga and the cafe where we had a very relaxing mid-morning break which stretched on for quite a while. It was important to discuss various topical issues while noting the large number of eBikes around. Eventually we left and, while a couple of us look around the much-diminished Clifton Motor Camp, others spent some time inspecting the ongoing work on the flood barrier, i.e. placement of rocks on the foreshore to try and stop erosion by waves. Good luck with that, we thought as we watched the water suck in and out at the bottom of the barrier. It's a temporary reprieve that probably won't last more than a few big storms. We returned to Clive via the cycle paths.

Cyclist: Lynn Walch, Carolyn Catt, Christine Hardie, Garry Smith, Des Smith, Graeme Hare, Pete Hewitt, Rodger Burn

Flexi Ride to OngaOnga

Wed 16 June 2021

The Magnificent Seven [cue: DA da da DUM, DA da da da da DUM] met on the side of the road just south of Waipawa after battling fog and laden trucks from Hastings. It was still cloudy and very cool when we set off for the first hill but it eventually lifted to conditions that were mild and dry.

After negotiating the pass and then racing along the flat road we gathered at Swamp Road junction to have a really good look at the war memorial plus the information board about the relocated hall which GRH reckoned he could see in the distance. Whizzed along Swamp Road, hung a left into Plantation Road and meandered around the countryside until we eventually reached the great metropolis of Onga Onga. All was quiet and peaceful and by now it was sunnily gorgeous as it always is when we go to CHB.



An action shot of the midweekers outside OngaOnga's general store

We sat at bench tables next to the general store for a lunchette which, of course, is a therapeutic experience particularly with a pie or an ice-cream. All too soon, it was time to gird the loins. Des left us for another epic journey hither and thither and the rest of us did a tiki tour before heading back to the cars. Talk about good timing: it clouded over quite quickly and a shower began just as we completed our 34km ride and loaded our bikes. GS

Cyclists: Garry Smith [#1 organiser], Peter Hansen, Rodger Burn, Lynn Walch, Christine Hardie, Graeme Hare, Des Smith

Guppy Rd to Puketapu and Back

Wed 14 July 2021

Twelve cyclists set off from Guppy Rd on a cold crisp Wednesday morning to follow the stop bank alongside the Tutaekuri River heading for Puketapu. Part way along, we noticed we were four people short. A quick cycle back was unrevealing and, after an unanswered phone call attempt, it was surmised that they had taken the alternate route and would meet us at the Puketapu Bridge which proved to be the case. After a happy reunion, it was decided to keep to a sunny route viewing while heavily snow-capped ranges and cycle to the end of Moteo Road where we had a quick stop and snack before heading to the Puketapu Pub for coffee, scones and a chat. We all enjoyed the return ride on the other side of the river and back to Guppy Rd, a 2½ hour, 31kilometre ride with 44km for Taradale folk without cars. JR

Cyclists: Cheri Lowe, Carolyn Catt, Rodger Burn, Garry Smith, Lyn Gentry, Ray Manning, Christine Hardie, Peter Hewitt, Alasdair Shaw, Joan Ruffell (organiser) and a warm welcome to Karen and Jonathon Fry on their first outing with us

Cycle near Maraekakaho Area**Wed 28 July 2021**

A fine, dry day with no wind beckoned us westwards from Hastings. We gathered near the coffee cart in the fire station car park where we renewed our acquaintance with its operator. Rodger also struck up a conversation with another local on the premises who turned out to be chairman of the adjacent Maraekakaho Hall Trust, a most congenial gentleman who offered us the use of said hall on future occasions when we are cycling in the area. [Big attraction: it's got good toilets in it!!]. RB quickly squirrelled away his contact details to add to our list of useful and friendly people. After distributing a bucket of limes, CH persuaded him to give her a tour of the hall which is undergoing a complete refit. It has an interesting history being originally part of Sir Donald McLean's estate in the latter part of the 19th century so it is well over 100 years old. It is obvious that the local community is very keen to keep it as a going concern and the current modernisation will make it much more comfortable. We will be back to check it out.

By this time the early birds, Anne and Graeme, were long gone as they wanted to get a head start with their manual pedal bikes along Whakapirau Road. Des took off in the opposite direction along Kereru Road – something to do with his bucket list!! The rest of us chugged smoothly up the big hill [usual impressive performances from Alasdair, Lynn and Peter who are never far behind on their penny farthings] and along the so-called plateau where we eventually joined the advance pair at Raukawa Road junction. Time for a lunchette, of course, this time serenaded by a restless young bull in the paddock behind us. A bunch of them were holed up waiting for.....something.

Everyone always enjoys this piece of countryside because the view to the Ruahine Range is fabulous and today there was snow decorating the tops. Great to look at! At road level there was plenty of wildlife: lambs, calves and ostriches interspersed with bunches of beautiful early daffodils. But it's always time to move on and move on we did. Downhill this time, all the way to the lower Raukawa crossroad. CH was disappointed at reaching only 56km/hr but that's better than going uphill at about 56 metres an hour!! Swooped to the left, past another rural fire station as well as the former school site; more prosperous-looking [and very green at present] farms. Up and over Valley Road, past the massive apple plantings, silage heaps and busy fencers to regroup at the corner with SH2. Great fun! From here it's a single-file ride back to the school with our waiting cars. It was more lounging in the sun, coffees for some of us and free lemons in another bucket for anyone who wanted them. We later discovered that, despite supposedly nursing stitches after minor surgery, Des had performed an epic odyssey to Kereru, Gwavas, and down the highway to Maraekakaho – we missed him by about quarter of an hour.

Cyclists: Christine Hardie [overseer], Rodger Burn, Garry Smith, Ray Manning, Joan Ruffell, Alasdair Shaw, Graeme Hare, Anne Cantrick, Des Smith, Carolyn Catt

THOUGHTS ON THE CLUB TRUCK

Heretaunga Tramping Club has provided shared transportation from its inception. A series of flat deck Bedfords and Fords with canvas canopies travelled the country from 1934 to 1969 and stories were told of dust, rain, snow and song en route. From 1969, luxury arrived in the form of more Bedfords [first the A model then the notorious TK] with attached canopies although not at first with solid back doors.

By 1990 HTC had moved into the Japanese era with an Isuzu. The first four-tonner operated for ten years and the second one gave faithful service from 1999 until a few months ago, making it the longest-serving truck the club has operated. Its canopy was home-made, so to speak, by a team of skilled tradespeople who were club members at the time under the guidance of Ed Holmes, sometime Club Captain and life member. With its distinctive interior design [which included mattresses and bedding], underfloor lockers, intercom system, boot boxes, awnings, and slide-down entrance steps it cruised both the main islands of New Zealand with a high level of reliability. The club was lucky to have undercover storage for this truck for many years courtesy of the Mardon brothers at Pernel Orchard – we owe those guys a lot for their stewardship. Many other people contributed to the care and upkeep of the truck but the most devoted was probably Geoff Clibborn who kept it in tip top shape after he retired.



However, nothing stays the same. Geoff died unexpectedly over five years ago and the Mardons sold their orchards so the truck was left without its keeper and its home. The Berry-Hooper family stepped into the breach and allowed the truck to be kept at their property but questions about its viability continued. Active club numbers suffered a huge drop while expenses didn't. Maintenance was erratic and the canopy suffered badly from being outdoors all the time. Questions about the legality of its operation returned although they were never definitively answered: in today's world of H & S regulations it seemed anomalous that a passenger service, albeit non-

commercial, could operate without restraints or licences. Finally, in 2020, a burst of energy in club management resulted in a decision to retire the truck and replace it with a modern vehicle. Some members with appropriate expertise were appointed to a group which researched and eventually sourced a Ford Transit van that was considered fit for purpose. The truck continued to be used until a buyer was identified and in July 2021 it trundled off to a new home. With fewer than 200,000km on the clock and in very good condition it will no doubt run for many years to come. Club members will have many memories of the part played by the truck in HTC's story: people have travelled in it, slept in it, had parties and sing-songs in it, packed construction gear into it, occasionally been sick in it. The club without its truck is a different beast these days but that's the nature of life, as they say, and the tramping will continue as keenly as ever, we hope.

Christine Hardie

HTC Truck Driver 1979-2021

CLUB/COMMITTEE NEWS

Membership has increased by six since the last Pohokura with Peter Hansen, Anthea Chiappa, Marie Taylor and Nic Walkerdine joining the club, and Chris Waldron and Andrew York rejoining it. Welcome to all of you and enjoy your times out tramping with us.

With the **AGM** not too far away (November 17) it is time for members to think about whether they are able to help HTC by coming on our committee. Some of us have been on it for far too long and would love to see some new blood.

Club Transport has changed: as most will be aware we have finally (sadly) dispensed with our truck - this was sold for \$11,500 to Deakin Motors. We donated the mattresses, pillows and most of the blankets to Flaxmere Resource Centre which will distribute them to needy people and the Clibbornette has returned home to the Clibborn family. We now have our 12-seater diesel van proudly displaying the HTC number plate and this is stored in a shed at Pukahu. The drivers have been informed of the key security details. There are shelves (to hold the packs) which will be installed in the luggage section while there are four fish bins to hold the boots. It is okay to wear your boots in the van on the way to a tramp (provided they are clean) but please change out of them for the trip home. Similarly, change out of any dirty tramping clothes prior to getting back into the van or at least sit on a pillowcase (which are stored in a Sistema container under the back seats) so as to keep seats clean. A First Aid kit is in the front left door and PLBs are also there or in the glove box. Maps and an emergency blanket are in the Sistema container.

Photos: Janice has produced another great **photo book**, this one spanning the 2020 tramping year. These photo books are held in the club library so have a look at them on an open night.

Mid-Winter function at "Off The Track" was enjoyed by about 20 members - are there any suggestions for our next social gathering?

We have received quite a few **donations** from people using our huts; recently we had a sizeable one from Takapau Lions Club which takes Year 8 classes from Takapau schools up to Howletts.

Pat Hill: sadly, past member Pat Hill passed away in late August after a long illness and a lot of treatment. Pat joined HTC in 2015 and for a while was quite active on both the weekend and Sunday tramps and the Wednesday tramps. She was a committee member in 2016/17 but because of an injured foot that wouldn't come right she resigned in 2019. Many of you will remember her very entertaining talk on her trip canoeing in Zimbabwe and her encounter with a hippopotamus. The family will have a private ceremony for Pat when covid levels allow.



DoC Request: it was mentioned in the last Club News that DoC has asked us to see if any HTC member wishes to spend time as hut/camp warden at Te Puia Lodge or at The Gums campground over the warmer months. (See Pohokura #266 for more details). If you are interested or need more information please contact Louise at lmcnamara@doc.govt.nz or phone 027 5396972.

Accessing Club Reports On-line:

To make life easy for people who “don’t do Facebook” we now put snapshots of any of our Facebook trip posts on to our web-site, <https://htc.org.nz/trip-reports/> This will just show one of the pictures in a post; if you wish to see the rest of the photos click on the photo which will open Facebook page for that report (and nothing else). A full report of a trip will be uploaded to <https://htc.org.nz/2021-tramps/> once it has been received. As these are read by the wider public a lot of the personal information is removed from these reports before publishing them.

Another section of our web-site that should be of interest to members is the Members Blog <https://htc.org.nz/blog/>. which recently has had the photo competition winners added to it. Contact Glenda if you need the password to access it. It would be great if members could send Glenda items to add to this blog.

ITEMS for SALE

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

New Topo 50 Maps:	\$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

Order 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.

Privacy Act 2020:

HTC collects a certain amount of member information for administration purposes and to also allow us to manage the safety of those who take part in trips. We have your name and address, phone number and email address and we ask for an emergency contact number when you go out on a trip. Some of that information is published from time to time. For example, we may advise names, phone numbers and email addresses of trip organizers in the Pohokura or by email; the names of party members are published in Pohokura trip reports and we send out an occasional phone list. We are obliged to inform members that we have this record and to give you the opportunity to ask what information we are holding about you and to also ask that we do not publish particular information about yourself or information that would identify you in reports. The club secretary is also the Privacy Officer so you should contact The Secretary if you have any questions about the information we are holding or if you wish to give instructions about how that information may be used.

HTC CALENDARS

THANK YOU to those who have supported the annual calendar project over the years - it has built up to a circulation exceeding one hundred and has been enjoyed in at least five overseas countries. HTC Calendar has become quite a club icon.

However, after ten years of production, **THE CURRENT TEAM IS NOW RETIRING.**

Thanks, in particular, go to Pam Turner, Brian Smith and Janice Love for keeping this going. To have held the cost at \$10 per copy has been due entirely to Brian's perfectionist work with editing, compiling and liaising. From nights spent bent over his computer, to journeys across Wellington, to double checking captions and contributors, to boxing up and couriering, Brian has given OUTSTANDING SERVICE to make it all happen. Now, in his words, he "doesn't want to be seen as the grumpy old man in Wellington who monopolises the calendar!"

Big thanks also, to Janice who stepped up with her photographic skills and who has greatly assisted with sub-editing [plus chasing up contributors!] and is still smiling!!

So, to keep a calendar going, here is the challenge: up-and-coming photographers/organisers, here is an opportunity to expand your hobby – 2023 is not far away! Brian and Janice would share knowledge and guidance. Let's not break the circle.

Keep the Calendar Going

Pam Turner

St John Ambulance – Three Steps for Life

1. Calling 111

2. Starting CPR

3. Using an AED

In August, a volunteer from St John, Andrew Hedge, came to our meeting to spend time explaining and, more importantly, giving us confidence to perform CPR – Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and to use an AED - Automatic External Defibrillator.

CPR is a life-saving technique that's useful in many emergencies such as heart attack or near drowning when someone's breathing or heartbeat has stopped. We were able to use mannequins to practise on. It was surprising how much body force/weight was needed to give the necessary chest compressions. Andrew, an excellent teacher, encouraged us all to practise CPR using straight arm, body weight chest pushes on the sternum. It requires a bit of grunt. We were able to learn how to use a defibrillator as well.

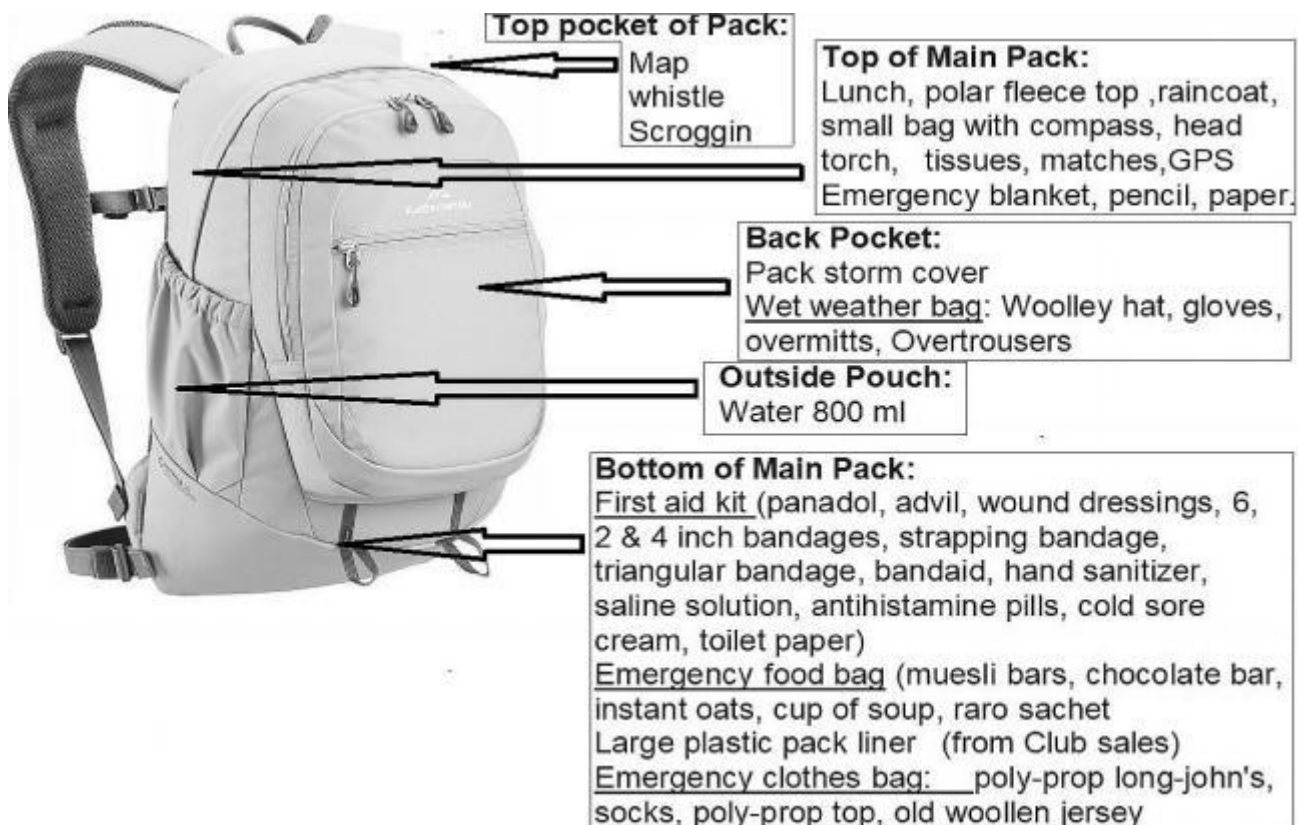
I would recommend you downloading from your phone's APP STORE the combined St John CPR and AED app. It is a very straightforward step-by-step tutorial to be used if ever you come across a person whose heartbeat or breathing has stopped. The information is simple and clear, beeping the compression speed. This app could be a lifesaver. Look up the location of AEDs in your area and put the NZ AED app on your phone too. GH

[Ed – another useful app to have: First Aid [from Red Cross] which I have used – a couple of times for real - for at least the last five years. It covers all types of illnesses/medical emergencies much as the old Mountain Safety manuals did and is calibrated for NZ, even in the backcountry where wi-fi is obviously not available].

What's in Glenda's Day Pack?

Not carrying adequate gear on a tramp can seriously compromise your safety and the safety of others on the tramp - this is why we have a gear list itemising what every member should take. It doesn't have to be expensive to have the right gear. You can get adequate wet weather gear at reasonable prices from farming stores while warm wool or polyprop gear can be bought from second-hand stores or even at the annual club auction. Talk to other club members and see what they recommend.

From time to time at a club meeting someone brings along their pack to show members what they have in their pack and where in the pack they carry it. This is good training for those who come to meetings but because not everyone can make these meetings here is the same information in diagram form based on what Glenda carries. Note that items that hopefully will not be used (such as first aid and emergency food and gear) are stored at the bottom of the pack while items that will be used during the day are stored near the top of the pack or in the pockets on the outside.



The total weight of the pack plus all of these items is 5.5 to 6kg.

Heretaunga Tramping Club Meeting and Trip Information

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Chairperson	Speaker and Topic	Host/Supper
2021			
22 Sept	Daniel Haddock	Quiz Night	H – Kurt Fenton S – Randall Goldfinch
06 Oct	Anne Doig	Alan Berry Alan's Choice of Topic	H – Janice Love S – Graeme Hare
20 Oct	Jude Hay	Alan Petersen Ex 2021 Mountain Film Festival “In the Theatre of the Gogs” In the wilds of Stewart Island. An exceptional feast of Photography.	H – Fred Chesterman S – Anne Doig
03 Nov	Graeme Hare	Peter Abbot and DoC Staffer Work as a DoC Officer	H – Simon Whittam S – Brent Hickey
17 Nov	Lex Smith	HTC - Annual General Meeting	H – Paula Kasper S – Raewyn Ricketts
01 Dec	Randall Goldfinch	Club Captain John Montgomerie What's in my Pack and More	H – Daniel Haddock S – Kim Morgan
15 Dec	Pam Turner	Xmas – Shared Meal Gift Under \$10	H – Janice Love S – Rodger Burn
2022			
12 Jan	Colin Jones	Happy New Year – Open Night	H – Scott Campbell S – Susan Lopdell
26 Jan	Alan Petersen	Photographic/Geographic Quiz Alan Berry	H – Liz Pindar S – Christine Snook

Meetings Sub-Committee: 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.

ARE YOU FIT ENOUGH TO TRAMP ?

If we are going to enjoy our weekend tramping and not hold up the rest of the party we need a reasonable level of fitness, even at the B Party level – the sort of fitness that would allow us to wander around on Te Mata Peak or the Taradale hills for five to six hours with an eight kilogram pack. If you take a few hill walks you will soon recognise whether you have the core fitness to manage a trip into the ranges, or whether you would be better to do some training beforehand. Wednesday walks are not so serious but again, you need a moderate level of fitness to keep up with the team.

It is important too that we all acknowledge any health issues that might cause problems on a trip. If in doubt, we should talk with the trip leader or Club Captain beforehand to understand the level of difficulty on the trip and make sure they are aware of possible issues.

MEDICATION

If we strike trouble in the ranges and need to call for assistance, it may be important that para-medics know what medication we are on. A very useful idea is to have a permanent note inside your first aid kit giving details of medication or even the fact that we are on no medication. If everyone does this, fellow members on the trip will know where the paramedics should look.

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 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	
*Charged Cell Phone	Money and Credit Card	

*If you are injured and get evacuated via rescue helicopter to some distant town the cellphone, money and credit card will enable you to contact your family and get you back home.

Leave at vehicle: Complete set of clothing for the return.

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

TRIP LIST 2021

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 organizer or John Montgomerie, Ph 877 7358
Please email trip requests to tramphtc@gmail.com



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

PLB on every trip: organizers need to ensure a PLB is included for each tramping group.

Wed 15 Sept Spooner's Hill

Lovely bush to walk through near Tutira with a moderate climb to the top among the tomos.

Organizer: Joan Ruffell Ph 877 6225

Wed 22 Sept Wheeling in Central Hawkes Bay

Start at Otane, go east and south along Racecourse Road before venturing further afield.

Organizer: Des Smith Ph 022 370 6118

W/e 25-26 Sept Western Tararua Range

The above stated trip will not be possible due to a slip still causing access problems to the Otaki Forks roadend. Now to the Eastern side.

Eastern Tararua Range

\$35

Maps BP33/34

Starting from Holdsworth Lodge roadend, up the Mt Holdsworth track and before the Mountain House Shelter, head south down the track to Totara Flats Hut for the night. On the Sunday retrace steps to the ridge, head north west to the Shelter and down a track to the Atiwhakatu valley, then down to Donnelly Flat and out to the roadend.

Organizer: Susan Lopdell Ph 844 6697

Wed 29 Sept Gold Creek – Ruahine FP

Another favourite, walking along this ridge in the beech forests of eastern Ruahine FP. Go to the hut down in the valley or stop at the top before returning the same way.

Organizer: Scott Campbell Ph 879 8554

Wed 06 Oct Clifton Cycle

Head from River Road along the new trail beside Waimarama Road and then out to the coast or vice-versa.

Organizer: Alasdair Shaw Ph 877 6225

Sun 10 Oct Makairo Track – Waewaepa Range \$25 Map BM36

Makairo Track was once a road joining the Pahiatua and Coonoor areas but it fell into disrepair in the 1970s. It is currently being upgraded by the 4WD fraternity and is used by mountain bikers as well as trampers and hunters. In late 2019 we walked to the high point on this track from the Pahiatua end so this time it is planned to leave from the Coonoor end. It is only a kilometre from the quarry at the end of Coonoor Road to the high point and at this stage we will leave the road and head south along the tops to high point 789 about two kms away. We will return the same way and some may find time to explore further.

Organizer: Glenda Hooper Ph 877 4183

Wed 13 Oct Boundary Stream

Walk right through or do the section from Shine Falls to look at the limestone formations and waterfall.

Organizer: Peter Hewitt Ph 877 5188

Wed 20 Oct Cycle to Mohi Bush

Up and down Maraetotara Road to the reserve overlooking the valley; check on pest control traps that we helped install some years ago.

Organizer: Garry Smith Ph 844 9931

Labour W/e 22-25 Oct Mt Egmont/Taranaki \$?? Map BH29/BJ28/29

Fri: drive to Egmont National Park, arrive early afternoon and walk Maketawa Loop Track.

Sat: from the visitor center at North Egmont, follow round-the-mountain circuit, past the towering lava columns of Dieffenbach Cliffs, over Boomerang Slip to the 32-bunk Holly Hut. Side trip from here to the impressive Bells Falls [one hour return].

Sun: back to track junction and boardwalk through Ahukawakawa Swamp; ascend through mountain cedars to the top of the range and the 16-bunk Pouakai Hut, with views of the

mountain, New Plymouth and Pacific Ocean.

BOOKINGS REQUIRED

Mon: traverse the top of the range to the lookout on Henry Peak (great place for photo shots of the mountain) and follow the boardwalk past Kaiauai Hut to Egmont Road (about 4-5 hrs).

Organizer: Susan Lopdell Ph 844 6697

AND POSSIBLY

Labour W/e 22-25 Oct Kaimanawa Forest Park Loop \$20 Map BJ28/29
A Party: Poronui – Oamaru – Boyds – Cascade – Clements Roadend

The above trip is not practical as the van will be at Mt Egmont area. A possible loop may be investigated for any interested...Poronui, Oamaru, Boyds, McNutts [North Arm], Cascade, Oamaru and out.

Organizer: John Montgomerie Ph 877 7358

Wed 27 Oct Ex-Kaweka Hut Site

An attractive bush-walk to where HTC's earliest hut was sited until burnt down in 2003. Or you can go in another direction to The Lakes or even 4100.

Organizer: Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322

Wed 03 Nov Apley Road Circuit

From Awatoto to the hills around Puketapu and back along the cycleways.

Organizer: Christine Hardie Ph 844 9590

Sun 07 Nov Cairn Trip – Kaweka FP \$15 Map BJ37

Our annual trip to remember those club members who did not come home from WW2. A short service of remembrance at 11.00am at the rebuilt Memorial Cairn. Hopefully it may be a clear calm and pleasant day. Maybe a light afternoon tea at Pam's !

Organizer: Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656 or 027 4735 328

Wed 10 Nov Blue Lake

Inland from Tutira Store, past Opouahi then over farmland to this interesting spot.

Organizer: Susan Lopdell Ph 844 6697

Wed 17 Nov Biking in Central Hawkes Bay

Start on the Waipawa to Waipukurau trail then beyond the town, maybe south, maybe west as the organizer sees fit.

Organizer: Des Smith Ph 022 370 6118

Sat 20 Nov Old Kaweka Hut site \$15 Map BM37

This is an easy Saturday trip so people can tramp one day and assist at the Hazmobile the following day. A visit to the old Kaweka Hut site. For those unaware, this historic hut was built by the HTC in 1936 but burnt down in 2003. A memorial plaque is attached to the fireplace concrete structure. A medium stroll from the Lakes Road carpark.

Organizer: Jude Hay Ph 027 5174 275 & Glenda Hooper Ph 877 4183

Sun 21 Nov Hazmobile – Hazardous Waste Collection

Once again, the HBRC have asked us to help at the Hazmobile Collection, Mitre 10 Regional Sports Park, Percival Road, Hastings on Sunday 21 November. Your assistance at this fundraiser will be appreciated. Full details closer to the date.

Organizer: Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656 or 027 4735 328

Wed 24 Nov Longview Hut – Ruahine FP

We didn't make it earlier in the year so let's have another try for this great location in the Ruahine Range. No wind wanted.

Organizer: Janice Love Ph 877 5442

Wed 01 Dec Crownthorpe Circuit

Cycle through lovely countryside from Pukehamoamo – a couple of moderate hills.

Organizer: Lynn Walch Ph 650 6965

W/e 4/5 Dec Longview to Top Gorge and back \$15 Map BL36

To the end of Kashmir road, up to Longview Hut, down the Pohangina river headwaters route to Top Gorge Hut, then southeast to ridge, up past Rocky Knob, Longview and back down to carpark. It is a long time since the club visited Top Gorge Hut, which was recently given a facelift ! Other easier 'B' possibilities are overnighting at Longview or Awatere Huts.

Organizer: John Montgomerie Ph 877 7358

Wed 08 Dec Mount Erin Ramble

A new walk up to one of the local mountain tops with great views over Hawke's Bay.

Organizer:

Sun 19 Dec Christmas Social event \$15 Map BK36

A trip to North Block Road, Wakarara. There are numerous possibilities; a stroll to Sunrise Hut or up to Waipawa Chalet via the Waipawa river; or the Swamp Track and back to Triplex Hut for a Christmas social event.

Organizer: Anne Doig Ph 878 8694

Sun 02 Jan Waipatiki Beach, Reserve and beyond \$10/\$15 Map BJ39
 Leave the Napier – Taupo Road and follow Waipatiki Road to the beach. Option to do the reserve only or if tide allows, along the beach track to Aropaoanui and return via the scenic reserve. Cost \$10? (just short hop to this area)
No organizer as yet: Email tramphtc@gmail.com for update.

Sun 9 Jan Happy Daze to Makaretu Hut or Awatere Hut \$15 Map BL36
 With permission from land owners it is about an hours walk along a farm track to Happy Daze Hut. From the hut a short track takes you down to the Makaretu River slightly downstream of the confluence of the North and South branches and a choice; **take** the true right (South) branch and walk upstream for just over an hour to Makaretu Hut or **take** the true left (North) branch and around 2 hours of upstream travel later visit Awatere Hut. Either way it is a return trip back to Happy Daze Hut and out via the farm track. A great tramp for a hot summer's day.
No organizer as yet: Email tramphtc@gmail.com for update.

W/e 15/16 Jan Maungataniwha Lizard survey and overnigher \$15 Map BH39
 In 2013 the Club installed some traps to monitor lizards in the Maungataniwha Forest which is inland from Kotemaori beside the Waiau River. We have been returning there every so often to set these traps and see if any lizards are caught to get an idea as to whether the change from an exotic forest to a native forest has resulted in an increase in lizard numbers. This is best done in the warmer months, so on a date that is acceptable to the forest managers, we will drive there on the Saturday, set up the traps and enjoy a night in the accommodation there. On Sunday we will check and then unset the traps after which there is usually time for a bit of a tramp before returning to town.
Organizer: Mike Lusk Ph 877 8328

Sun 16 Jan Te Puia Hut to Makino Hut \$15 Map BJ37
 In via the Mohaka river from Makahu Road, to Te Puia Lodge, up the ridge to Makino hut and return down the ridge past the derelict Makino Bivi. Hopefully the vehicle could be relocated from the “Bluegums” to the road saddle to save a 2km road bash.
No organizer as yet: Email tramphtc@gmail.com for update.

W/e 22/23 Jan Howletts Hut – Ruahine FP \$15 Map BL36
 To our club hut in the summer this time. Assuming normal river levels, in via the Tukituki River route probably through Kashmir Farm. Back out via the tops through the Oroua and Pohangina saddles past Longview Hut. The trip could be done in reverse to suit weather conditions expected.
Organizer: Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656 or 027 4735 328

Sun 30 Jan Waikoau Gorge or Thomas's Bush (if river is up) \$15 Map BJ39

The Waikoau Stream headwaters drain a section of the Maungaharuru Range just south of Bell Rock, an area with a lot of limestone. Access to the Waikoau Gorge is along a farm track not far past Lake Opouahi. Once at the stream some may wish to get wet and follow the river down through the gorge to near Blue Lake then climb up the hillside to Lake Opouahi (the gorge section could be quite deep and can be bypassed by walking over farmland on the true right).

Those not wanting to go down the river can spend their time exploring the limestone formations along one section of the stream then travel back to Lake Opouahi for a walk around the lake. The Thomas Bush Track, the wet weather option for this day starts at the far end of Lake Opouahi and runs up through Thomas Bush. It used to be a loop track but last time we were there the loop had not been maintained and was hard to follow.

Organizer: Peter Berry Ph 877 4183

W/e 5/6/7 Feb Ruahine Corner Hut 4WD Trip \$25 Map BK36

Over the Gentle Annie on the Taihape Road, down to Otupae station, through and onto the tops of Mangaohane station and to the Aorangi Awarua Trust boundary, about a 10 km cross country trip to where we stop. Then a 7 km walk to Ruahine Corner Hut. There is an option by those keen; to continue on to Lake Colenso and hut for the night. The quiet and serene atmosphere at the lake is quite magic. Then back up to Ruahine Corner on the Sunday, stay at Ruahine Corner and out with those staying there. Lots of exploring can be done here, forests of Kaikawaka (Mountain Cedar), tussock lands, dolines and more.

This will be in 4WD vehicles and so a van fare \$20 + \$5.

Organizer: John Montgomerie Ph 877 7358

Sun 13 Feb Khyber Pass \$15 Map BL36

Leave from Mill Road end and walk down the Tukituki River, in an easterly direction, to the picturesque Khyber Pass. This is a pleasant way to enjoy a summer's day wading in and out of the river.

Organizer: Anne Doig Ph 878 8694

W/e 26/27 Feb Cameron Hut river trip – Kaweka FP \$15 Map BJ37

Ngaruroro river levels permitting, walk upriver to Cameron Hut for the night, returning the same way. A longer but rewarding version could be into Kiwi Mouth Hut via Kiwi Saddle Hut, for the night, or camp downriver. The next day down the river to the Taihape road to the van.

No organizer as yet: Email tramphtc@gmail.com for update.