

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

P.O. BOX 447, HASTINGS

"P O H O K U R A"

Bulletin No. 163

August 1986

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TUTAEKURI RIVER GORGE

Trip No. 1348

16 March 1986

We arrived at the Lakes Road carpark off Castle Rocks Road and decided that the fast party, under Dave Harrington's guidance, would do the upper Tutae kuri via Kaweka Track and the Rogue before coming out via the 3-wire bridge.

The main party made way up the Tutae kuri which was easy going for the first part, but became increasingly more difficult further upstream.

On reaching the first of the large waterfalls we decided...

to return to the Kaweka Track as planned, although I had hoped to meet up with Dave's Party by this stage. Back at the river and track junction we had a leisurely lunch while lounging in the sun, before tramping off up to Kaweka Hut. From here Karen Berry, Allan Mouat and I took off for Mackintosh Hut and the round trip, leaving the others to return by the way they had gone in. It wasn't until we were out on the plateau that we were able to pick up Randall's footprints. He had tramped up to Kiwi Saddle Hut, around the tops, then down to reach Mackintosh Hut before us. After a short break at the hut we dropped down into the gorge with light from the fast setting sun and did not reach the others until 7pm.

Thanks for bringing the truck around Peter, and also for helping with the driving.

G.R.

No. in Party. 13.

TUTAEKURI WATERFALLS

Trip 1348b

Leaving Geoff's main party at the Tutae kuri River, three of us followed the Kaweka Hut track to the Rogue Ridge which we climbed up with a cool breeze blowing. At the top we travelled west along an open ridge then down a spur with a mixture of shingle scree, bits of scrub, open ground and good bush travel. This took us over spot height 996 and down into the Tutae kuri River opposite the creek flowing from Kiwi Saddle arriving at 11am. Here we followed the river down with good but slippery going, stopping for lunch on the way. At G.R. 977019 we dropped over a small waterfall, then after a short gorgey stretch we arrived at a 15m waterfall. We decided against abseiling it being unsure if our rope was long enough, and once down it would have been impossible to climb out before reaching the next big waterfall a short distance below. We sidled the true right bank through good scrub for about 250m, passing about 6 more waterfalls. Then we dropped back into the river at G.R. 980017. From here the river is good going back to the Kaweka Hut Track, where we arrived at 2.15pm. Ross walked back to the Lakes Rd while Heather and I continued down river with good going at first, then more gorges. It's good going to the three wire bridge, then the climb up the track took us to Castle Rocks Road, arriving at 4.15pm. It was an excellent trip No. in Party. 3

David Harrington, Ross Berry, Heather McBride.

Geoff's Party.

Geoff Robinson, Hana Cotter, Allan Mouat, Karen Berry, Larry and Adam Freemantle, Sandy Elliott, Susan Holmes, Robyn Berry, Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, George Prebble

also Randall Goldfinch.

N.B. Trip No. 1349. See April 1986 issue of POHOKURA.

LONGVIEW HUT - AWATERE HUT

Trip No 1350

13th April 1986

At 6.15 am, in spite of the inclement weather forecast, 17 keen trampers left Holts carpark for Moorcock Forestry Base in the southern Ruahines. On the way, we dropped Randall off at the junction of Mill and Kashmir Roads, as he wanted to go into Howlett's Hut to install a new padlock. It was quite a sight to see a tramper with backpack and saw, astride a ten-speed bike on a back country road.

On arriving at the Forestry Base, we discovered to our delight, that vehicles can now drive in as far as Moorcock Saddle, thus saving a three mile uphill trudge on the homeward journey.

We divided into several parties, Dave leading the "fitter" lot to Back Gorge Hut while Geoff and George decided on a trek to Awatere Hut and back.

The main group consisting of eleven people set off up a spur, walking through open country scattered with scrub-like vegetation on the way to Longview Hut. As we climbed higher, so the wind grew in intensity, making walking difficult and finally arrived at the hut shortly after 10.00 am.

While we supped hot drinks, we decided against going to the Pohangina Saddle and instead when leaving the hut, dropped down onto a spur directly in front of the Longview Hut watertank.

We climbed down an oil-bearing shale scree to join the northern branch of the Makaretu River and continued onwards until a suitable lunch spot was found. We had an early lunch, on the banks of the river and for the first time that day, the sun streamed down through the clouds making it very pleasant. We continued down the Makaretu admiring the views and arriving at Awatere Hut, where Geoff and George had the fire going and the billy boiling.

After sunbathing outside the hut, we wandered 400 metres down stream to look at the now derelict Black Stag Hut, which could be used in dire emergencies as shelter.

After some discussion amongst ourselves as whether to follow Geoff up stream, or to climb out onto the tops, the leader decided she had had enough of the river and that the wind couldn't get any worse, so upwards we climbed. The initial part through some good beech forest and regenerating bush backed up my decision. All good things come to an end and the higher we climbed the worse the wind became. As we climbed onto the ridge eleven bodies couldn't walk in a straight line, let alone keep upright, due to the velocity of the wind.

Amazingly we made our way out, and arrived back at the truck about 3.15 pm. Dave and Geoff arrived back at about 4.00 pm and we set off to Mill Farm to collect Randall.

Arrived back in Hastings about 6.30 pm and my thanks to Geoff for driving the truck.

Leader: Susan Lopdell

No in Party: 17

Geoff Robinson, Glenda Hooper, Sue Holmes, Karen Berry, Dave Harrington, Heather McBride, Jenny Lean, Andrew Doole, Jo Drager, Liz Pindar, David and Bob McIntyre, Hana Cotter, George Prebble, Randall Goldfinch and Judy Moss.

TOP GORGE HUT

Trip No. 1350 (b)

Leaving Sue's party at Moorcock Saddle, three of us travelled up the ridge track in cool windy conditions to Pohangina Saddle, taking 55 minutes. Here we dropped into the head of the Pohangina River and began to follow it down with reasonable going, encountering three waterfalls. The first, being 5m high, was steep but easy on the true right; the second, 7m high, involved standing near the edge and stretching around a rock face onto a deer track on the true right and the third was easy on the true left. After reaching the first stream on the right, it was flat easy going all the way, except for a short stretch of big boulder hopping. An hour from the Pohangina Saddle saw us at Top Gorge Hut, where we had a 1½ hour lunch break during a brief rain shower. In sunshine we climbed a good marked spur track opposite the hut, and in gale force winds arrived at trip point 14042 on Ngamoko Range. We battled against the wind travelling north along the range, down to Pohangina Saddle and back to the track at Moorcock Saddle, taking 3½ hours from Top Gorge Hut.

DH

Party: David Harrington, Andrew Doole, Heather McBride

MAKINO, BALLARDS, MIDDLE HILL

Trip No 1351

(a) Slow Party
23 - 25 April 1986

Robyn and I collected Gavin from Holts and then headed towards Napier. We met up with the others at Randall's by 6.30 am. A fairly leisurely drive was made to Ron Pink's Hut; via Puketitiri. Randall, who was doing a solo trip, ferried us and our packs up to the saddle on the road heading towards the Hot Springs. Dave, Jenny, Janet, Andrew and Gavin took off and left Robyn and me to slowly wander along the ridge towards Makino Hut. The weather was beautifully sunny and warm. The bird life was very abundant. We spent quite a lot of time watching the Tomtits flitter amongst the beech and regenerating rimus. We arrived at Makino in time to see Dave, Jenny, Andrew and Janet pack up and head up the track bound for Mangaturutu. Robyn, Gavin and I spent a

lazy afternoon sunbathing and working on the local library of five year old Readers Digests and Timber Industry magazines. Tea consisted of Boil-in-bags, self saucing spongy pud and custard. Yummy!!

Sunday morning dawned overcast and windy. We left Makino at 8.30 am and proceeded up towards Ballards. Near the bushline we came across some pig root and also heard a whistling Sika deer. The track was very windblown in some areas, although it has all been recut. The weather above the bush line was quite bitter. Very strong wind, luckily behind us, and horizontal rain. We eventually battled our way to the Whetu Trig and exclaimed delight upon seeing the sign "20 minutes to Ballards" Yippee, not far to go. Twenty minutes later, no hut and 10 minutes after that, a sign. "10 minutes to Ballards". Down, down, down and in another 20 minutes we walked in the door of Ballards Hut and found the billy brewed, a lovely warm hut and Randall. He had aborted his solo trip due to the weather conditions. After a drink and nibble we settled down to inspect the library. Another lovely dinner was cooked and consumed. Graham Thorp provided us with the latest news and weather via 2m Amateur Radios that he and Randall own. Three of us settled into our sleeping bags for the night, but Randall used some unusual sleeping equipment. We nodded off to sleep at about 8 pm.

Monday was just as wet and windy as the Sunday had been. We left the hut at 9 am and climbed and climbed up to the main divide before being blown back towards Whetu. Past the Trig and down to Middle Hill Hut we went. Soon after arriving at Middle Hill Hut Dave, Jenny, Janet and Andrew arrived having followed our footsteps from above Ballards. While they were eating and drinking we plodded off, and back to the cars beside Pink's Hut by about 3.30 pm. By now the wind had dropped and the sun emerged. Despite the unhelpful weather, we had a most enjoyable weekend. Not too energetic, but good fun.

RB

No. in party: 3

Ross and Robyn Berry and Gavin Mackay.

DEAD DOG HUT & CREEK, N. RUAHINES

Trip No. 1352

11 May 1986

The road across Thorn Flat, which is part of Kereru Station, is very steep but in good condition, and the eight of us had no trouble getting right up to Herrick's Hut in the Fiat 128 and Geoff's landcruiser. You walk across the paddock towards the creek, then the track sidles from fairly near the edge. Geoff, Andrew and Greg took off to go up Herrick's Spur at what we thought was the turnoff, but we were soon proved wrong as the track petered out (shades of Easter). However, brilliant

leadership by Glenda (bossing from behind) soon saw us right.

Funny! Footprints on the track can't have been Geoff's. Fantastic undergrowth everywhere, but even here right under the Ruahines plants were dying from lack of moisture, most unusual for this neck of the woods.

Footprints on track, footprints in river, footprints up to the hut door, footprints on Geoff's bootprints, and I thought we'd been lost!

Talk about stink! Dead Dog or Dead Rat or Rats with Bladder Problems Hut, it doesn't really make much difference - so we had lunch on the riverbed.

Geoff, Greg and Andrew went back via the river, climbing out at Herrick's without any trouble while we went back up the track. We started on our way home, at first uneventfully, then the blinkers stopped, finally about 200 yards short of Holt's, the entire vehicle gave up. Sue Lopedell kindly towed us home and we had tea and commiserated each other over having sold our other car the day before. Fortunately it turned out to be worn bushes in the alternator ("carboniferous electricis" for the botanically minded.)

P.B.

No. in party: 8

Greg Slui, Shirley Hunt, Andrew Doole, Geoff Robinson, Sue Holmes, Susan Lopedell, Glenda (Boss) and Peter Berry.

ANZAC ADVENTURE

Trip No. 1351(b)

23, 24, 25 April 1986

Eight bodies and three cars left Randall's at 6.30 am for the ranges, arriving at Pinks Hut at 8.30. Then 8 packs and 8 bodies jumped into Randall's car and he drove us up to the Makino track. After saying 'bye' to Randall, boot rubber bit the dust and we were off. We arrived at Makino Hut in 2½ hours, just in time for an early lunch, making sure it lasted the required hour. We then set off saying 'bye' to Ross and Robyn as they arrived and we headed for Mangaturutu Hut. The track heads up towards Ballards then branches off down a spur into the Makino River. It has recently been cleared and is easy to follow.

"Ahh, into the wilderness zone away from civilization!"

"Blimey, look at all those campsites! This place is busier than Woolwoths on a Friday night."

Deciding that we didn't want to be moving targets, our gummies were revved up and we zapped up to the Mangaturutu track.

After a bit of a climb we arrived at Mangaturutu, 2½ hours after leaving the river. This route is ¾-1 hour quicker than coming in through Te Puia.

Mangaturutu had 2 hunters and one lantern in residence. Janet Brown provided light entertainment by persistently banging the lantern head-on, winning the competition 10-0.

Saturday morning we were up and off by 8 am, heading for Te Puke in the mist. Talk about the joys of tramping! It was cold, misty (ie no views) and to make matters worse, I had burnt a hole in a new pair of socks.

We arrived at Te Puke at 10.45 and decided to have an early lunch with two forestry cullers and a warm fire. Relaxing in the hut we soon became lazy.

"I don't feel like going to Ngakawekaiti".

"Yeah, the weather doesn't look too hot".

"It's clear over there, the sun's shining".

"Lets go to Mangatainoka".

"That's the direction the cloud is coming from".

"Lets go to Vension Tops".

After much arguing and a few comments from the cullers, we decided upon going back to Vension Tops. Bidding farewell to the cullers and a warm hut we set off after providing them with 1½ hours free entertainment.

We arrived at Vension Tops in 4 hours after a straight forward plod, with the occasional comment like -

"See I told you it was sunny over there".

Settling into the lodge, Janet and I attempted to light the stove but without much success. This heralded the arrival of another forestry culler, who soon had the stove going without any trouble at all.

"Easy, eh".

"We should have poured kerosene on the fire as well, Janet".

Getting an early night, we slowly drifted to sleep with a bit of help from 93FM and Dire Straits. Up and away early we set off for Middle Hill in the mist. After an interesting trip along Ballard's Ridge (gazing at rocks) we arrived at Whetu. The route to the Ihaka spur is now snowpo led to the bushline.

Arriving at Middle Hill in time for lunch we met up with Ross and company but making ourselves at home in front of the fire was an incentive for Ross's party to leave. Lunch over we set off for Pink's and arrived at the cars - 1¼ hours later. An interesting trip but alas Ngakawekaiti still remains untrodden.

A.D.

No in party: 4

Andrew Doole, Janet Brown, Dave and Jenny Harrington

AWAHOHONU FOREST, WHAKAHU STREAM

Trip No 1353

25 May 1986
(Map used N114)

Leaving Napier at 7.00 in Russell's van, we travelled to, and through the Awahohonu Forest to Sika Hut, GR=958844. With a fine cool morning we headed off along an unmarked track following a ridge north to spot height 3400 then west along the ridge to a saddle at GR=928858. Up to this point the going was good, through open bush most of the way. Here we headed south and dropped into the head of the Whakahu Stream and started following it down to the first forks for lunch. The stream, being rather closed in with bush, was reasonably good going, except for three little waterfalls which gave no problems. After lunch we continued downstream, now with beautiful open bush and good travelling to the open road. We saw a fair bit of small bird life including a robin.

Instead of the long walk along the forestry road, or bash through pine trees to get back to Sika Hut, we back tracked to a stream at GR=955832, then climbed NW up a scrub spur, which is very steep in one place, to the 4WD track. We followed this up to Sika Hut arriving at 5.10 pm. Thanks Russell for driving.

No. in party: 8

D.H.

David Harrington, Heather McBride, Jenny Lean, John Berry, Roy Peacock, Tony Hansen, Russell Perry, Lindsay Going.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY, TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK

Trip No. 1354

31 May - 2nd June 1986

I was really looking forward to this Ruapehu trip. Sunny weather camping out by the crater, tranquility and lots of fun.

Unfortunately we didn't manage the sunny weather, or tranquility let alone the camping out bit.

The midweek forecast wasn't very hopeful but eight of us including three in Russell's car left Hastings at 7.00pm on the Friday night. We collected three more bodies in Napier, including seven from the Napier Tramping Club.

Midway over the Taupo Road, Russell joined us in the truck, to discuss the merits of carrying on to the mountain, due to the torrential rain that we were experiencing. The general agreement was to carry on to the Top of the Bruce. We stopped for burgers, chips and a drink of petrol at Turangi, before carrying on to the Bruce Road, where we arrives about 12.30am.

Russell decided that due to the weather conditions (rain) and the weather forecast (wind and rain), he would go home. With him went Edward who was nursing a badly sprained ankle, Susan, his nurse, and Heather. Soon after they left, the rain turned to snow.

Saturday dawned overcast and still snowing, with about 15cm of fresh dry powder underfoot. After breakfast in the Public Shelter, there was lots of discussion concerning where to go, and what to do. Eventually Nick, Dean and Mike set off bound for the crater. Soon after six of us set off up the Rockgarden for a walkabout, while most of the others walked down the road and across to Whakapapaiti Hut.

The six of us spent a couple of hours playing around in Honeymoon Valley, which is to the right of the Staircase. We ate lunch and had a brewup in the day shelter at the top of the Rockgarden Single Chairlift. The afternoon was spent playing cards, reading, eating, sleeping or just passing time. By this stage the falling snow had turned to drizzle and the fallen snow to slush.

Unfortunately Sunday morning wasn't to be the start of improving weather. The drizzle continued and most of us became a little disillusioned. Selwyn took the Napier guys to the Chateau so they could walk to the Tama Lakes. While they were away, Mike, Nick and Dean arrived back.

Once the others returned from the Chateau, we decided to pack up and head home. Below the Chateau we emerged from the cloud and into patches of sunshine. With Selwyn at the wheel we did a fairly uneventful trip back to Hawkes Bay, and arrived in Hastings about 7pm.

To cap off rather a disappointing weekend, Monday dawned beautiful and fine. Ruapehu could be seen sitting majestically without a cloud in sight. Oh well, maybe next year.

No in party; 23

R.B.

Sue Lopdell, Andrew Doole, Heather McBride, Susan and Edward Holmes, Hamish Tait, Clifford Holmes, Tony Hansen, Russell Perry, Gavin McKay, Nick Hay, Michael Heather and Selwyn Hawthorne, Ross Berry, Dean Staples and seven from the Napier Club.

KIWI SADDLE HUT

Trip No 1355

8 June 1986

After leaving a heavy frost in Hastings, we were surprised when we arrived at the carpark to find no frost, for it had dispersed with a warm wind. In an attempt to get some control over the party the fast group rushed off up the track. The rest of us soon split up into two groups. We slow ones made good time arriving on the open spur to find the sunshine creeping down to meet us.

This was the first time I had been up this way to climb "4100" and I was mildly surprised to find how much easier it was than the other two ways up from the water gauge or the old route up from the lakes.

It was a perfect day with sun and very little wind as we travelled that most pleasant bit of tramping country, skirting patches of bush that crept up the hill from either side to meet the ridge top, with the track winding in and out of the rocky tops, to finish up dropping down to Kiwi Saddle Hut.

We spent a pleasant hour and a half having lunch in the sun, cutting firewood and generally tidying up. We assessed what work needed to be done on the hut. I noticed that the bottom foot of some of the studs had completely rotted away.

We were a bit worried that Stan wasn't there as planned; as it turned out he had gone home the night before. We had good radio contact with Napier and I considered getting them to ring Kath Woon but thought better of it in case he had changed his mind and gone to Kaweka.

We came out the same way we went in as far as "4100" sighting a number of birds along the ridge tops; tuis, bellbirds and tomtits. In the morning I noticed flocks of birds flying from the pine trees into the ranges and late in the afternoon I noticed them flying back again.

Some of the group returned to the track via the shingle slide and even had a swim in the lakes - in June - Crazy. Good trip. Many thanks to Geoff and Peter for driving.

No in party; 23

Jim Glass

Geoff Robinson, Peter Berry, Stuart Hills, Clive and Karen Thirston, Tony Alexander, Glenda Hooper, Mike Bull, Colin Tibbenham, Lyn Kindburg, Heather McBride, Judy McBride, John and Karen Berry, Allan Mouat, George Prebble, Hamish Tait, Paul Handyside, Carole Tanner, Tony Hansen, Ted Safford, Clifford Holmes

PARK'S PEAK - CENTRAL RUAHINES

Trip No 1356

21-22 June 1986

We arrived at Yeomans Mill at 7.45 am in drizzling rain. The original intention had been to have an easy trip to Sparrowhawk Bivvy, but due to the weather conditions we decided to have an easy trip to Park's Peak Hut instead.

On setting out at 0800 hours we had decided to split into two parties, Allan and I to follow the track, while Dave and Gavin were to follow Yeomans track and then to bush-bash up a spur to the tops, then along to the hut. The track to Park's Peak was generally very easy going except for one area which was overgrown with toi-toi or blocked by the occasional waterfall.

We arrived at the hut in about four hours and settled in for the afternoon. The rest of the day passed quickly with Dave and Gavin arriving about 1500 hours, swearing they would never do that trip again. The rest of the afternoon we spent in front of the pot belly stove which seemed to go through logs faster than we could cut them.

We had a sleep in on Sunday morning and we didn't get going until 9.30 hours. We followed the track back towards Yeomans Mill till we reached the Centre Makaroro Track. We followed the track to GR:U21 867 607. From here we followed the spur down to the Makaroro River. The spur was very easy to follow but by the look of my legs it was covered in undergrowth. We reached the Makaroro River at 15.10 hours and then we had an easy walk back to the cars by 1600 hours.

A great trip although it was a pity the number who turned out for the trip was so low.

Andrew Doole, Dave Harrington, Gavin McKay, Allan Mouat.

MACINTOSH HUT

Trip no. 1357

6 th July 1986

A party of twenty met at Holts at the very respectable hour of 7 am. As we reached Sherenden Station, looking out to our left we could see right up the Waipawa River to the snow clad saddle with Rangī and Sixty Six making it look very inviting.

On sighting the Kawekas we could see the snow on Studholmes up to the trig and beyond. Peter and Hamish decided to go into Kaweka Hut and attempt to get into some snow.

Eighteen climbed off the truck at the MacIntosh carpark and headed down the hill to the wire bridge where sixteen crossed and two made the river crossing. The reason why Alva and the leader made the river crossing was to rescue anybody who may have fallen into the river and possibly have needed mouth to mouth. We sent two off to the hut to get the billy boiling. Some must have galloped, others just strolled and at least one staggered to the hut. It was great to arrive to a good hot cuppa - very much appreciated. The last arrived about 11 am and by 11.30 a party of fifteen headed off to Kaweka Hut. Liz, George and Stan decided that the greatest challenge was to go back the way we came in. After eating, drinking and sleeping until 2 pm we headed back to the road head. We all crossed over the wire - it wasn't that bad. After a long struggle we reached the top. Just as we were heading down the road to the Kaweka Carpark, Pete and Steve arrived in the truck; great timing Pete. By this time it was raining and after a short time some wet but happy trampers started to arrive. Thanks to Peter and John Berry for their driving, we arrived home about 8 pm. Once again I said that this trip was my last, but by Thursday the body was coming right so I will return. Thanks to everyone for your attendance. I thoroughly enjoyed your company. This was an area I had often looked down on from the tops but never ever made it, but now I can say I have been there and done that but there is still a lot more to see.

Leader: Stan Woon

Glenn Hooper, Shirley Hunt, Sue Potter, Jenny Lean, John Berry, Peter Berry, Rachel Hamilton, Sue Lopdell, Ted & Rowan Sapsford, Nigel & Adrain Brown, Hamish Tait, Alva McAdam, Alan Mouat, Liz Pindar, Steve Leed, George Prebble and S Charters

LEON KINVIG, MAKARETU ETC

19-20 July 1986

Trip no. 1358

Saturday morning saw six sleepy trampers and packs packed like sardines into and onto the ute and heading for the hills.

Turning off highway two at Norsewood, we headed west towards the inviting hills and soon parked along side the barn at the Ngamoka Road carpark.

At approximately 8.00 o'clock we set off along the well worn and fast disappearing 4 wheel drive track which petered out into a normal walking track winding in and out, slowly but steadily climbing toward the distant Ruahine Range.

Two and a half hours later we reached the Makaretu track junction, recharged our tummies and turned once again in the general direction of up. Twenty minutes saw us at the Birch Whare junction with some four hundred metres still to climb.

We reached the track at the top of the main range where the Leon Kinvig track takes off straight down the ridge to the hut, and that was when the extended discussions began. Although we were supposed to drop down to Kinvig Hut we didn't see why we should waste a good half day's tramping and so without deciding where we were going we set off north along the range.

The track along the range was extremely painful as the leatherwood on either side was trying to become one as no doubt it once was. The track passes quite low on the eastern side of Te Pohatu and comes out onto a slip where it runs right to the top centre of the slip and disappears again into the leatherwood. Fifteen minutes north is a junction which leads North to Longview 2 to 3 hours away or East to Makaretu.

On our left (westwards) lay the Ngamoka Range with a good coating of snow and plenty of ice. Down below us, on our left was the Pohangina River with Ngamoka Hut, Leon Kinvig Hut, Top Gorge Hut at our disposal, or Longview, Makaretu, Happydaze or Birch Whare. Well where the heck should we go after all, it was only three o'clock, still three hours of daylight left.

Thirty minutes of heated discussion saw absolutely no change of position; we still didn't know where to go so somebody set off towards Makaretu and five others followed. Two hunters were in residence when we arrived, so Dave and Andrew opted to camp out which left the four others to a mattress each.

About 8.00am Sunday bods started to stir and Dave and Andrew burst in from the frosty outdoors to cook breakfast. 9.15 am saw us back on the track heading upstream and an hour later standing once again on the junction of Ngamoko Rd track. We turned toward the road end and travelled some twenty minutes until we came to an open spot on a ridge, then headed down the ridge, bashing our way to Birch Whare. It seems there was once an old track there because it was nearly all marked on the lower levels. The ridge broke out onto a razor back which dropped steeply into the Mangatewainui River directly opposite Birch Whare.

Approximately 200 metres from Birch Whare, which sits on a plateau above the river, is another hut, believed to be called Pete's Hut but whether or not it is within the park boundary we aren't certain. However it is sign posted. There we had lunch and on leaving discovered a bulldozed track leading from the river up into the hills. Tell-tale signs of logging left us feeling cheated so we turned and headed down river. Further down we discovered a set of steps which lead to what looked like a school or scout camp, then we passed the musterer's hut and around the corner was the farm track leading out. We followed it out for some distance along the straight and near the fence line in the corner, we turned across the paddock heading towards the hills and crossing a fence at the end of a hedge on the western side until it brought us out onto Ngamoko road end. We walked the road for about two kilometres until we reached the shed where the ute was parked.

By three o'clock we were driving towards Norsewood and were home well before 5.00pm. The weather although threatening to rain all weekend, stayed fine and warm just as I had forecasted at the meeting the previous Wednesday.

E A H

Heather McBride, Andrew Doole, Dave Harington, Clifford Holmes
Allan Mouat, Edward Holmes.

SOCIAL NEWS

Peter McBride ties the knot on 15th August.

Resignations: Monica Brown, Alan & Wendy Holden, Lance Pearson
Jean Morris

PRIVATE TRIPS

SUNRISE HUT AND THE (NON) VIEWING OF HALLEYS

22 - 23 March 1986

The idea emerged from the fellowship at Ross and Robyn's wedding. - "How about the oldies taking a trip to Sunrise, where we could even catch a glimpse of Halley's Comet as it flashes accross the crystal clear mountain skies?" And so it came to pass.

A number on the trip could remember riding in the old 1934 Bedford and even the trip in the club's present truck was a first for some. The day was clear and the air warm as we wended our way past Triplex and on up Shuteye Ridge. The party soon became well strung out, the younger members galloping ahead while the veterans found plenty of excuses to pause and admire the bush flowers beside the track, the bird life, the view and failing all else, to just sit in the sun. In fact, I do not recall having ever seen the number of birds that now abound on the Shuteye Ridge. Nor indeed, the number of people who were running around the Triplex-Sunrise-Armstrong Saddle area. There was a school party, a group of Scouts from Dannevirke, some German tourists and several groups of hunters, all enjoying a beautiful day on the tops. Our arrival though successfully scared most of them away and left the hut to the Scouts and ourselves.

Traditional feeding arrangements prevailed. Out with the boil-in-the-bag, dehyd and independently cooked primus meals. In with the mince, steak, kidney, potatoes, carrots, onions and all the miscellaneous sundries that go to make a good old fashioned billy stew. The carbonette fired pot-belly at Sunrise spared the oldies the embarrassment of having their stew stick to the bottom of the billy and everyone declared that the good old communal stew does have something going for it.

The hut was pretty crowded and sleeping arrangements depended upon the (fool) hardiness of the individuals concerned. Some hitched up a plastic lean-to and only suffered a few drips. Others thought they would sleep under the stars but when the mists came down, the stars disappeared - and so did the outdoor types, into the hut. Tenting on the rocks outside the hut, with a thin carry mat is definately for someone else. And after all that, Halley's was a dead loss. We could scarcely see the top of the trees, let alone the Milky Way.

On Sunday, four of the party came out by way of the screes into the north Waipawa while the rest of us wandered down by various routes, some direct to Triplex while the rest of us diverted to the Waipawa Chalet.

A delightful trip and an opportunity to renew old associations
No in party: 15
Hana Cotter; Stan Woon; Judy, Heather & Karen McBride; Graeme, Barbara, Helen & Judy Hare; Susan & Edward Holmes; Kath, Robyn, Ross, John, Karen & Alan Berry; Barbara, Robyn & Susan Taylor.

KIWI RIDGE

14 June 1986

The club was going into Kiwi Hut for a day trip on the Sunday. After working on Saturday morning my mate Bill and I decided to go in on Saturday afternoon and spend the night. Well the trip up 4100 went okay. We sat down for a few minutes rest and I started day dreaming, looking back to some previous trips we had had up to Kiwi...to my first weekend we had had with the Club - Queen's Birthday 1949 at the ripe old age of 18 years, along with Janet Lloyd our Patron, her husband Lyn, Norm Elder, Angus Russell, George Lowe, Des O'Neil, and Shirley Single. Yes, it was Shirley who burned the tomato soup that day but we all drank it! Coming out that Monday the fog was that thick we practically had to hang on to the person in front. We reached the top of 4100, no-one had a compass and everyone wanted to go in different directions Hell, I thought, if this is tramping I won't even get home from my first trip. However we eventually made it.

I was soon woken out of my dreams by old Willie and we started along Kiwi Ridge. It was as clear as a bell looking south into the Northern Ruahines, then up the Pohokura Valley to the Otupae Range, then around to Ruapehu.

Up the Kiwi Ridge there are more hills on this ridge than there used to be - it used to be flat years ago and 4100 is now over 5000 ft.

Around to our right was Tutaekuri Basin, the ridge around to Kaweka, Kaiarohi, the Tits, and the knob where we used to drop down to the hut. Then a bit closer to us was the Rogue and instead of going down the Rogue we went straight on down the spur to the river for a boil up, then straight up Kiwi Saddle. However I was soon woken out of my dreams again, by Willie lying writhing on the ground in agony. He had cramp. We struggled along the ridge with me old mate hitting the ground every 50 yards. So after a while we decided to head back. With a fair bit of double packing and plenty of abuse, we finally reached 4100 in the dark. After a fair bit of searching we finally found a couple of rock cairns and the track - beauty! Sat down for a spell and a bit to eat and immediately I developed cramp in my left leg. After half an hour of some very vigorous massage we stumbled down the hill and finally arrived at the car disappointed about not reaching the hut but quite satisfied with our climb up 4100. I will get to Kiwi Hut - OR BUST -before Christmas 1986 as it is the only club hut I have not visited in recent years.

Jim Glass had to boil his own billy - sorry Jim.

Party: Bill (Willie) Jones around sixty and Stan Woon

PHOTO COMPETITION

WOOD 1986

Overall winner: Nick Hayes

Slides: First, Nick Hayes - waterfall Ruapehu

Second, Nick Hayes - Skiing below Pinnacles

Third, Anon - untitled

Print: Liz Pindar - "Sore feet and no choc left"

Humourous print: Nick Hayes - Mike, rear view uphill

(Ed's note; PLEASE name your entries)

* * * * *

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING November 5th 1986

following ordinary meeting Hastings Boys' High School 7.30pm

FOUND

One Instamatic camera - no identifying name, or identifiable film; please contact Pam Turner if you know whose it is - Phone 68995

OVERDUE TRAMPERS

Although returning parties usually plan to be out of the bush well before dark, safety considerations must always come first. Even after arriving back at the transport, it may take two or more hours, plus any unexpected delays, to return to town. Beginners should ensure that any who may worry about them know this. Leaders will try to get a message through to one of the OVERDUE CONTACTS if the return seems likely to be later than 10 p.m. In case of concern, all newcomers should ensure that their parent's/contact's phone number is included with the list the leader leaves in town. For enquiries about OVERDUE parties, please contact one of the following:

BERRY 777 223, THORP 434 238, PLOWMAN 54 303, PERRY (0728) 68 313

FARE, CONFIRMATION & CANCELLATION

Local: \$10 Senior, \$5 Junior member, \$8 Junior non-member
Other: Fare set by trip leader to cover costs. Usually \$15-\$20.

You must confirm your intention to take part in the trip by paying the fare NOT LATER THAN THE THURSDAY PRIOR TO THE TRIP. (Meeting night payment is preferred.)

If you are unable to make the trip, notify the Leader beforehand and your fare will be refunded. On long trips a portion may be retained if costs have already been incurred. Rarely does the Club cancel the trip. If in doubt, contact the leader or check at the embarkation point, opposite the Hastings Railway Station, at 5.45 a.m.

FIXTURE LIST

The trips listed below are designed to cater for people of average fitness. Those people who want to cover more ground should get together on the Wednesday night prior to the trip and work out their route. For pre-trip enquiries contact:

Glenda Hooper or Peter Berry 774 183, Jim Glass 778 748,
Geoff Robinson 87863, Russell Perry 68 313 Otane.

AUGUST 31: RUAHINES Another really easy trip. To Sunrise Hut from Triplex carpark. The track rises through a variety of forest types and alpine herbs abound by the hut.

Map U22 or N140 Leader: Russell Perry 68 313 Otane, 69 671(Bus)

SEPT 13-14: RUAHINES Along the lower levels of the Ruahine Range through an assortment of bush cover. Going in at the Waipawa River, tramp to Smiths Stream Hut for the night, out at Mill Farm via Hinerua Hut.

Map U22 or N140 Leader: Susan Lopdell 448 763

SEPT 28: AHIMANAWAS Day trip to a lovely bush area off the Taupo Rd. Dave promises no more than three crossings of the Okoeke Stream then up the ridge track to the Kaimatangi trig.

Map N104 and N 114 Leader: Dave Harrington 439 999

OCT 11-12: KAWEKAS In from the Lakes Road, overnight at Studholme Hut, then out via Mackintosh Spur. A variety of landscapes.

Map U20 or N123 Leader: Randall Goldfinch 439 163

LABOUR WEEKEND, OCT 24-27: MANSON COUNTRY, KAWEKAS The route is yet to be finalised but will be mainly through open, tussock country.

Map U20 or N123 Leader: Andrew Doole 53 132

NOV 9: CAIRN TRIP Our annual pilgrimage to the cairn on Kaweka J.J. to remember Club members fallen in World War II. A popular trip. Map U20 or N123 Leader: Russell Perry 68 3130tane

NOV 22-23: NTH RUAHINE From end of Glenny Rd, tramp up through the Flounder, on to Patiki, thence to Top Maropea Hut. Map U22 or N140 Leader: Heather McBride 69 756

DEC 7: CENTRAL RUAHINE From Mill Rd, tramp a short distance up the Tukituki R. then up to explore the streams and spurs between Government Spur and Rosvalls Track to Tarn Bivvy. Come along to wish the leader 'Happy Birthday'. Map U22 or N140 Leader: Edward Holmes 700299

DEC 21: CHRISTMAS TRIP The location is to be decided by the Social Committee - a place suited to the enjoyment of all members. Organised by Social Committee

NEW YEAR: We intend doing a series of small tramps on a travel circuit of Waitomo, Kaimai Range and Mt Tarawera. Suggestions??? Thoughts to Club Captain.

JAN 17-18: SHUTES HUT From the end of a private road off the Taihape Rd just past Timahanga Stn, we will walk to Shutes Hut to spend a leisurely weekend camping and fishing. Map U21 or N123 & N133 Leader: Ross Berry 750 532

FEB 1: RAFT TRIP On the Mohaka R. entering at Fisherman's Hut on Waitara Rd and emerging at Woodstock. Non-rafters can spend an enjoyable day lazing or visiting the goldmine. Map N114 Leader: Peter Berry 774 183

FEB 6-8: NTH KAWEKA The bush and rivers of the Makino-Mangatainoka - Mangaturutu are beautiful. From Pink's Hut on the Hot Springs Road. Map N113 or U20 Leader: Andrew Doole 53 132

FEB 15: BEACH TRIP Suggest an interesting beach. Leader: Glenda Hooper 774 183

MAR 1: NORTH RUAHINE Up Golden Crown to Apias Creek through regenerating bush, monowai and golden tussock. Map U21 or N133 Leader: Clive Thurston 89 900

EASTER 1987 We plan to spend this Easter in the central Ruahine Range so if anyone has any particular preference, let your Club Captain know.

MEETING DATES

The regular fortnightly meetings of the Heretaunga Tramping Club will be held at Hastings Boys' High School, Karamu Rd S, Hastings (in the first rooms you see coming up the 'In' drive) at 7.30 p.m. on the following Wednesdays:

August 27	November 5 (also A.G.M.)
September 10	November 19
September 24	December 3
October 8	December 17
October 22	