

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC).

P.O. BOX 14086 MAYFAIR, HASTINGS

"POHOKURA"

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Club Meetings: These are held every second Wednesday (one before a tramp) at the Hastings Harrier Clubrooms in Sylvan Road, Hastings. Visitors are most welcome

TRIP REPORTS

Easter Trip – Ruahines – Trip 1710

10 – 12 April 1998

On 10th April, Good Friday, 9 of us left Pernel at 6 am for Mangleton. Arriving at around 8.15 a.m., 7 in my team left the truck plus Sue and Christine and headed off up Golden Crown. Aranga Hut was the lunch stop with hot cross buns all around, where Sue and Christine caught us up. Aranga is still a hovel.

On from there around the headwaters of the Makaroro River. The weather was fine with a cool wind blowing as we talked over mainly open tussock with the odd patch of bush.

We had a shower of rain at about 4 p.m. and Sue and Christine decided to make camp in a patch of bush in a saddle and my group carried on over a high point where we found a small saddle in the open but reasonably sheltered, and made camp there. We had a small tarn right beside us, so we were all set up for the night. The wind stopped in the middle of the night and got up again just as we broke camp at about 8.15 am. It was quite claggy as we climbed towards U trig, so we had to get good compass bearings from set high points so we didn't go down the wrong ridge after passing U trig. But lo and behold D.O.C. had put a sign pointing to Ruahine Corner which was where we were heading. We never saw Sue and Christine again and assumed they had turned back, which they had done.

Off the tops and in the bush, I managed to get a stag answering my roar which was neat because some of the party had never heard one before. Another was heard way down in the Ikawatea Valley. We climbed round under Potae and down to Ruahine Corner Hut for lunch. What a lovely spot. Views of Ruapehu, Ngaurahoe, behind tussock land from the hut porch.

From there, back to Potae where the track went between two huge pieces of rock. The rock had split in two with a little portion at the end broken off the main rock which was also split in two and the track turning and passing between them as well. There were other amazing formations as well as rocks packed with fossil shell as we went down into a side creek of the Mangatera river.

Colenso Hut was finally reached well after dark and found to be full, with tents behind it. So we went back across the river, and found a grassy flat where we pitched our tents and got a feed going. Easter Bunny came calling the next morning at breakfast, so we all had egg on our faces when we broke camp as about 8.15 am again. We went and had a quick look at Lake Colenso before setting off up the creek. We had lunch in the creek, (well beside it) and I went off into the bush to try and find the track that is marked on the older maps but not marked on the creek edge. I found it inside the bush being old blazes only, but quite discernible.

So we followed it up the side of the slip under Te Atu Mahuru. It got quite overgrown with leatherwood higher up, so we gave it bit of a trim on our way through. Other people had been using it probably to go down rather than up. Anyway we reached the top and proceeded along the tops with the clag coming in again towards Sparrowhawk Bivvy, which we reached at about 5 p.m. We pitched our tents on a small patch of grass and told jokes as we got going. A comfy night as it was so sheltered, and cosy with two ladies under my fly.

Next morning, we packed up and walked to the high point further south to take in the views before the clag came in again. We left Sparrowhawk at 9 am and came down the ridge to the Makaroro River where we all had a swim, then down to the old mill site and the truck. Sue and Christine were there early and had gone for a walk while waiting for us. Christine had made us muffins and a cake for lunch, which was great because we were hungry by then, which was about 1.15 p.m. We had another swim before piling into the truck and heading home at about 2.30 p.m. A great weekend with a great time and lots of laughs. Thanks everyone and thanks Christine for lunch and driving. D.H.

Party A: David Heaps, Anne Cantrick, Neil Mora, Sandy Claudatos, Lex Smith, Paul Madden, Anne Knegtman.

Herricks Spur – Trip 1711

19 April 1998

Eleven of us left Pernel at 6.15 and made good progress arriving at the Herricks Hut area about 8.15. Lew had checked with DOC and the local farmer and subsequently a new route was taken over farmland to climb up to the Herrick Trig as the track shown on Map U21 is overgrown up to the Trig.

This new route whilst not obvious is fairly easy to find (if you are looking for it) and in no time we were at the trig where Lew, Lew and Rodger did altimeter spot checks and Rodger discovered his lunch was still in fridge at home which resulted in a generous supply of donations plus plenty of comments.

The weather was ideal and as we climbed along the spur the views were magnificent as we could see the No Mans hut area from an entirely different aspect. The journey upward was steady but with a number of stops for some of the team to get their breath back. We stopped for lunch in a clearing at 12.15. Shortly after we reached the turn-off at 12.55. The track generally was quite easy to follow with plenty of experienced eyes looking for the truck signs.

Sally was experiencing problems with a tender knee going down, but we made steady progress passing through some magnificent beech groves with thick layers of autumn leaves carpeting the ground. There was plenty of bird life and deer signs abounded and Dead Dog Hut was reached at 2.30 p.m. which a brief inspection showed to be in good condition.

After a stop we made our way down “Big Hill” stream and the party soon developed into two parties as the slower tired and we lost contact with the main bunch. Eventually darkness overtook us and torches were carried for the last hour or so and we eventually regrouped with the main party on the flats.

John and Lew then scouted ahead to find the track back to the farmland and we were all back on the road before 9 pm. A long trip on which we enjoyed great weather and views and definitely worth repeating earlier in the year.

A special thanks to John for driving and also with Lew acting as tail-end Charlie down Big Hill stream and a welcome back to tramping for Mandy.
Rodger Burn

Party: Jenny Lean, Scott Atkin, Mandy Leslie, Sally Hobson, Christine Kitchen, Leo Brunton, Randall Goldfinch, Gary Smith, John Berry Lew Harrison, Rodger Burn.

Southern Ruahines - Trip 1712

17 May 1998

Party A. Kumeti Rd, Keretaki Hut, Raparapawai Stream to Loveday Road

We left Kumeti Road at 8.20 am and went up a ridge on farmland to the bush edge to find that the track shown on the map no longer exists. We bush bashed along the top of the ridge until we hit the track up from Kumeti Hut to Matanginui Trig . A short distance before the trig we turned off onto the track to Keretaki Hut. Part way down towards Ourakeretaki Stream we could see the Keretaki Hut 300 metres up on the opposite ridge. After a steep descent we then climbed up the 300 metres to the huts to arrive just after 1. We had lunch and were intending to leave at 1.40 but we heard the B party calling out from below and within a few minutes they had joined us.

We all left together just after 2 realizing that some of the B party may need a hand in the river as it would be dark by then. Travelling at a slower pace now we stopped frequently to close up ranks and for one member to strap her knee on the final descent into the Raparapawai Stream. Stream travel was also slow although the last section along the stream side had a track newly cut. At last we reached farmland and then reached the truck just after 8 pm. Sorry if we had you worried Phillip.

Lew Harrison

Party: Lew Harrison, Sandy Claudatos, Lex Smith, Steven Anderson, Peter Pryor, Leo Brunton, Sue Holmes, Anne Cantrick and Garry Smith.

Party B. Southern Ruahines.

Having disposed of party A we left the truck at 9 am and proceeded across farmland as per "HB For the Happy Wanderer" soon entering the shady cold valley of the Oruakiritaki Stream. It had rained overnight but the stream was dropping so the many crossings were manageable if sometimes a bit slippery and slow. The track had been cut in the previous few days through toe-toe and regenerating bush.

Eventually we came to a small waterfall that looked a bit tricky so we followed Glenda's bearing up a steep spur, sometimes struggling with formidable tangles of supplejack. At a relatively flat area the decision was made to have a quick lunch and to press on for 30 minutes in the hope of finding the sidle track Eddie had mentioned. This we did quickly, fortunately as it turned out for we soon climbed into leatherwood country. This track had also just been cut and we were soon at Kiritaki Hut where the A party were lounging about, having obviously arrived the easy way.

A sign told us we would be in the Raparapawai Stream in 30 minutes - but this was very optimistic as the drop was steep and slippery. By then it was obvious that the combined party would be out after dark so we pressed on down the stream with many crossings and a fairly well defined track. Everyone had a torch and we eventually made it out to the truck about 8 pm without mishap, the track having become easier as the darkness fell.

Tramps that don't go according to plan are always more instructive than those that do. Various useful lessons emerged from this experience, amongst them:

- If someone tells you about a track not marked on a map, take careful note.
- Times in books and on DOC signs can be misleading for a variety of reasons
- Lots of small bottlenecks on a trip make for slow going, especially with a large group.
- 10 cm crepe bandages are not much use on knees, so carry a 15 cm one.
- The A party are wonderful, kind, helpful and forgiving.

Thanks to Phillip Mardon, our patient driver and to all members of the teams. A fully fit party would do the trip comfortably in a day but I would prefer to try it in summertime next time.

Mike Lusk

Party: Mike Lusk (Leader), Glenda Hooper, Ros Lusk, Mandy Leslie, Chris Kitchin and Jenny Lean.

Queens Birthday Weekend, Urewera's - Trip 1713

30 May 1998

Saturday 30 May - 5.30 am start intended from Pernell Orchard - departed 6.00. Picked up Leo Taradale, fuelled Onekawa and headed north. Comfort stop outside Wairoa, making National park Headquarters at 9.45 am. Completed 'intention sheet' discussed area with attendant Julia (had tramped with HTC previously).

Carried on to Manuoha track end and headed off for Manuoha Hut 11.00 am. Slow start with time discussing Leo's GPS monitor. Lunched about 1.00 pm and were passed by a group of five trampers from Auckland. We then passed them having lunch and arrived at Manuoha Hut 4.15 pm. Had been overcast and was misty by the time we arrived at the hut. The upper areas of the track had been like a goblin forest - heavily mossed trees in grotesque shapes.

Two trampers from the Toi Toi T/club south Auckland were settling in. We commandeered the bottom bunk then started getting tea ready. The other five arrived and we ended up with 10 in the hut (eight berth) and 2 outside in their tent. Some difficulty moving around the hut with 12 people cooking and eating. An early night by all.

Sunday 1 June - We needed an early start with an anticipated 8 hour day ahead of us. We started moving at 6.45 am and then everybody got up to create havoc cooking and packing. Departed the hut at 8.00 am with the weather claggy and windy so it was coats on. The first two hours was foggy in every direction. The forest changed as we dropped down from small moss covered trees to larger clean trees in more open areas. Lunched about 12.15 pm and arrived at Sandy Bay hut at 2.10 pm (6 hours). A good steady day.

Sandy Bay hut was full (18 people) but a group who had moved into the hut let us use their two fly set-up - plenty of room for the five of us. Up to 30 people in and around the hut. A wild and windy night but not noticeable in the fly.

Monday 2 June - a 6.45 am start again and away from the hut about 8.15 pm and a leisurely walk out in beautiful fine weather, lovely views of Waikarieti. Relaxed at southern boat shed end before heading for road end - arriving there at 12.00 noon just after Christine.

Changed and had lunch and waited till Park centre opened at 1.00 pm and checked in, chatted with Julia and had a look through the place. Departed for home about 1.30 pm stopping over in Wairoa for a snack and arrived back in Hastings 5.30 pm. A most enjoyable weekend with good company - Male bonding weekend!!

Lex Smith

Lex Smith (Leader), Leo Brunton, Paul Madden, Stephen and Neil Curtis.

Longview Hut, Top Gorge Hut, Ruahine Range. Trip 1714

14 June 1998

Only 16 brave people ignored the heavy rain warning and turned up at Pernel's at 6 am. We waited another 10 minutes to see if anyone else was going to show and then set off.

We arrived at the Ruahines to beautiful, unseasonably warm weather. Soon we were all tramping up the ridge-line to Longview Hut, stopping on many occasions for one of the most beautiful sights you could imagine. The entire Hawkes Bay/Wairarapa was enshrouded in fog and here we were, up the side of the ranges basking in warm sunshine looking over the world.

We arrived at Longview Hut in two hours. There we met a man and two boys who had camped out overnight unable to see the hut in the fog. All their gear was completely drenched and they were busy trying to dry it out. We hung out in the hut for a few minutes before breaking into the A and B parties.

The A party headed down the Pohangina River which we followed for two hours to Top Gorge Hut. There was only one waterfall we had to climb around, the remainder of the river being easy to traverse. Its a pretty little gorge that opens out quite quickly and we all managed to keep our feet dry for at least the first hour.

We made it to the hut just before it poured down and appreciated the shelter while we ate our lunch. I was flabbergasted at everyone pulling out thermos flasks from their packs as he proceeded to boil his billy! He believes that the club has become soft in the time he was away.

There was a fair bit of discussion as where to head to next. The boys all worked out a bearing to take up the ridge-line to try and make it to the tops. If this failed we would return via the river. The rain stopped just as they all agreed on a bearing and off we went. The first part was easy and we climbed very high very quickly before we found the first leatherwood bush. That was an omen. We soon discovered more and more until it was all there surrounding us. Now, I've never tramped through leatherwood and I don't think I'd be too keen to give it another go, but we bravely pushed, bashed, pulled, yanked and stumbled our way through. I would have found life a lot easier if Peter hadn't been holding his pack straps as he tried to pull himself through the thicker parts! Finally we all made it up to the top and joined up with a real track that took us back to Longview Hut. It started to rain again so we donned our parkas and trudged on knowing it was going to get dark pretty quickly and we had to get cracking.

We got back to the truck with about 2 minutes of light left, a very well planned arrival. We welcomed James on his first trip and hope that he had a really good day.

Party: Peter Berry, Bob Carter, James, Paul, Randall Goldfinch, Wayne Hatcher, Mike Lusk, Ros Lusk, and Sharon Hamilton.

Party B Awatere Hut.

The day started out clear below, a fresh wind across the tops, we separated from the A party at Longview hut. About half an hour down through sub-alpine vegetation, we dropped easily into the upper reaches of the North branch of the Makaretu river. The further we descended in the river bed the wider it became, choked with gravel. Initially we had a number of large boulders to clamber around and several small falls to negotiate. Before we reached Awatere hut we chose an area of bank by the river, with several logs for seating, to eat lunch. As we packed up rain showers passed through and chased us on to Awatere hut. A tidy building with open fire place, hot embers still glowing. About 5 minutes downstream we explored the derelict Black Stag hut. A stag's antlers adorned the apex of the roof. Sacking across the bunks was starting to rot, at a push you could have a comfortable night sheltered from the elements. Back up stream, a track up the spur and onto the ridge back to Moorcock saddle. A pleasant stroll with good views onto the main range. We'd just settled into the back of the truck appreciating Gails baking and it began to rain. Great day, good round trip.

Neil Mora

David Heaps, Chris Waldron, Gail Harvey, Rachael Corry, Bob Carter, Matthew Fryer, Neil Mora.

Cattle Hill To The Lizard - Trip 1715

28 June 1998

Party A

It is unquestionably true that my level of competency as a leader and guide was called into serious question when I managed to guide the truck into a branch that broke the back window. It was also called into question when I lost the track not five minutes after leaving the truck. Gail soon set us right by pointing out the broad and well worn track that we had just walked past and we walked off up the track through surprisingly lush regrowth bush. Cold wind kept us going out in the open but we soon branched off to look out at the view from the edge of the escarpment made by the seemingly vertical layers of limestone. From there it was more open up and over the top of the high point which is not the trig point. Resting in the shelter provided in the saddle between the two high points we split the party into two, with 6 of us heading off to the east down a watercourse.

Once we'd pushed through the thin belt of contorta we were in a completely different world, away from the exaggerated erosion of the top of cattle hill we first found easy going down a gut, then broke out into beautiful broadleaf forest that was very easy open going, with some patches of beech further down. All this was quite steep but no problem, but we could see the writing on the wall further down so we sidled around a bit and without too much difficulty managed to drop back into the stream further down. Gutty and full of toi toi this creek did not have a lot in its favour so in the finish we mostly just bashed our way through the pig fern arriving for a late lunch at the Omahaki stream.

Our aim at this point was to head on up to the Lizard coming out onto the grassy flat just to the north of it, so nothing daunted we set forth full of hope and confident of reaching the truck before dark. The going was tighter on this side of the stream but we made good progress except for the occasional fence, still in near perfect condition, which barred our way periodically. Time pressed on, we pressed on, following compass bearings and the rather obscure ridge system. To the great astonishment and I suspect chagrin of Mr Lyn we came out exactly in the right place and got back to the truck after a look around the Lizard with at least 10 minutes of daylight to spare.

Peter Berry

Party: Peter Berry (Leader), Randall Goldfinch, Lyn Gentry, Paul Madden, Paul Smith & Mike Lusk.

Party B

The B party climbed up to Cattle Hill along with the A party. We left them at the saddle between the two high points and tried to get to the second high point. However there was a lot of pinus contorta to go through and the inclination wasn't that great so we returned back to the rocky outcrops which are below the first high point and had lunch and a general laze.

After lunch we went back down the track to the truck and drove back down the Taihape Road to where the track to the Lizard takes off. We then went up to the Lizard and inspected the very interesting landscape and the views. There was no sign of the other party and we got back to the truck around 3. Some of us then walked back up the road to Blowhard Bush where some of this group went down to the tomo area of the reserve, visited the old site of Laurie Lodge and walked back to the truck. As we walked down the road we spied the A party up on the Lizard. The other half of the Blowhard group missed the turn off to the tomos and ended up nearly getting to the lookout at the top of the reserve before turning back. The last of us had just got back to the truck when the A party emerged from the bush. Gail Harvey
Party: Lyn Gentry, Glenda Hooper, Shirley Bathgate, Phillip Mardon, Peggy Gulliver, Bobbie Couchman, Robyn Madden, Bob Carter, Gail Harvey, Mandy Leslie, Marjoleine Friedeman, Sally Hodson, Leo Brunton, Garry Smith, Neil Curtis, Susan Lopdell, Liz Pindar, Judy McBride and Barbara Taylor.

Iron Whare - Trip 1716

12 July 1998

After contacting Doc and Deborah re the condition of the rivers and roads in the area and receiving a good report, my worries eased considerably, for it had been raining heavily in the Kawekas for the previous three days. We got out of the truck at the Quarry, with light drizzle and low temperatures welcoming us. We wandered along the clay pans for 10 mins and dropped onto the spur leading down to the Makahu River. The track was reasonably well worn and 2/3 of the way down we took the left hand taped route, finishing up at a well used campsite beside the river. River was slightly up, but we could see the shingly bottom crossing it and climbing up onto a beech terrace on the other side. We climbed up a spur keeping in the beech forest, the going very easy and soon we were at Iron Whare at 11.30 am.

This is a historic hut made from slab timber with DOC restoring it a few years ago and putting in 2 slat bunks. The temperature was very cold and during the 20 minute lunch break and our leader found that Telecom had placed a tollbar on the cell phone so we couldn't contact Phillip, our driver.

We wandered through the beech forest towards the Middle Hill Track, the bush devoid of bird life. At Kawaka Flats Hut we found a pair of gumboots and some edible looking lamb chops thrown into the bushes 2 days earlier. Tramping out towards Makahu Base we passed a couple and their dog, the only humans we saw all day.

Phillip met us halfway along the track and we were back at the truck by 3. 20 p.m. Although the forecast had predicted a cold wet day the weather was good and unlike a number of other parties and groups in Hawke's Bay with our map reading and navigation we found Iron Whare.

Party: Mike and Ros Lusk, Julie Mercer, Lyn Gentry (Mrs), Randall Goldfinch, Jenny Lean, Alison Hollington, Peggy Gulliver, Paul Madden, Gail Harvey, Susan Lopdell(leader), Phillip Mardon.

Kawekas Trip - Trip 1717

July 25-26 1998

Party B

After leaving Pernel at around 6am and Leo Brunton's at 6.30 the truck headed for the Kawekas with a gloomy, grey sky making its appearance as the day dawned. Everyone was on the track by 8.30 in light drizzle with, in the end, Gavin bringing up the rear and last to Dominic Bivvy on his first tramp in months.

A food and drink stop here was followed by a climb to the top of the range in worsening conditions. One party member (not me this time) was slow up here which meant by the time we regrouped at 11.00am some of the main bunch were getting cold as conditions on top were not good with cold winds, sleet and mist.

We started off across the tops and not too far further on the A group split off as they had much further to go. About 11.45 the B party stopped to find some longjohns and leggings for Neil. The slow progress and stops had led to Gary Smith getting very cold.

It had already been decided to ditch Ballards and head for Middle Hill via Camp Spur but when Gary began to show early signs of hypothermia it was decided at about midday to retreat for safety's sake.

Sharon and Leo headed back with Gary while Paul and Gavin walked back with Neil. We regrouped at Dominic, where after a brew-up Gary was fine with colour in his face and some spring back in his stride. During the trip down Trials Spur Gavin's small radio was able to bring in the rugby test commentary.

Makahu Hut was full and while checking the Makahu Base for shelter we found the hut unlocked - great! By 4 p.m. everyone was changed and listening to the final minutes of the test.

While rain continued to fall we wished we were up on the tops with the A party (didn't!), had dinner, and then played cards for a couple of hours. In the course of the evening Sharon was made an honorary bloke, and the guys were seriously considering taking up the offer of becoming honorary girls, but weren't sure quite what that meant.

Everyone was in their bags by about 9 p.m. and that was that until the first person spoke at 8.45 a.m. and the first person got up at 9.45 - such decadence. Meanwhile the rain continued to fall, and as the day wore on more food was eaten, more jokes were told, powers of deduction tested with puzzles, and more cards played.

Dave arrived right on time at 3 p.m. and once the soggy As got back about an hour later and warmed up we headed back to the city. Certainly a different trip. Thanks to Christine and Dave for driving and everyone for working together well in what were for a while trying circumstances.

Gavin Scoble

Party: Gavin Scoble (leader), Leo Brunton, Neil Curtis, Sharon Hamilton, Gary Smith, Paul Smith.

LOCAL DAY TRIPS.

KAWEKA J

12 April.

On Sunday the 12 April the tramping party drove up in private cars to Makahu Saddle where they found a number of family trampers (the Holmes family and Grandma Barbara and the Boland Bristows and Granddad Sam) just setting off to the J. As my party was still getting their boots on I joined up with the family trampers for the trip up to the top. It was very foggy on the way up and we found small Easter eggs on the track (it being Easter Sunday) and there were a lot of wasps in the contorta pines. We found quite a few toadstools and other fungi on the way.

At the top we waiting about 20 minutes for the tramping party, and while we were waiting we went up to the ruined trig and took some photos. When the rest got there we took some more photos, we all had lunch and then we went down to the spring.

On the way back the two parties split up with the family trampers going straight down whilst the rest (this time including me) went up to North Kaweka. It turned out that I was the only one to go to the top the others just stood and watched from the saddle above the tarns. The mist still covered the eastern side of the range and it looked just like an unfinished picture. We then went back down, this time via Makahu Spur. The track on this spur is not obvious in places and at the bottom we had to do a little bush bashing, ending up on the track which goes to the Donald River.

It was a good day with a lot of people making their very first trip to the highest point in the Kawekas.

DB

Party: Lyn Gentry (Leader), Peggy Gulliver, Marjoleine Friedeman, Di Callaghan, Bob Carter, Rodger Burn, Glynis Moletta, Dorothy Dallimore, Glenda Hooper and Daniel Berry.

LOCAL DAY TRIP

31 MAY 1998

LAWRENCE SWING BRIDGE, LOTKOW TRACK RETURNING DONALD RIVER

The plan was to extend the day trip to incorporate a walk up into the McIntosh Plateau and back down again in a circuit of approximately three hours thus extending the trip to make it a little more challenging. Knowing that we did have plenty of time it was agreed that we would meet at Pernel Orchard at 7 am on Sunday morning and departed using three cars. We arrived at Lawrence Road car park about an hour later. After a wander down the hill to the foot bridge we started on our way at 8.30 am.

We took the northerly route up the track to Lotkow Hut and after half an hour of tramping we had covered approximately one and a half kilometres up to the first turn off where a large sign showed that it was three and a half hours to McIntosh Hut. This was not what we intended and therefore we continued down to Cable Creek, across the creek up round the opposite hills and dropped down into the next river valley where we hoped to take a track south-easterly up into the ridge, along the ridge and down to the Donald. However while this track is well marked on the map a half hour search failed to reveal any sign of the track and feeling rather disappointed we decided to head back to Cable Creek and follow this down to the Donald River. This we did and it was about 12 o'clock when we arrived at the junction of the two waterways, we had a brief bite to eat and headed north-east up the river to join the lost track and head up into the McIntosh Plateau. While we found where the track came down into the Donald we were unable to find the track heading up into the Plato. Again a thorough search was made and there was no sign. The party was rather disappointed especially when we saw that the only alternative at this stage was to continue down the Donald River and head out to Lawrence Hut. We contemplated bush bashing up the ridge to the McIntosh Plateau but given the general feelings of the group this option was not considered seriously and down the river we went. We arrived at the Lawrence footbridge feeling very fresh and disappointed.

We wondered up to the car park, finished our lunch and then looked to move on to maybe filling in the day around the Mohi bush area or maybe the lakes

It began to be quite windy and looked like rain, the parties enthusiasm started to wane. It was further encouraged when a hunter came along in his ute and advised that there was a tree across the road. All we had was a tomahawk and a telephone which we used to good effect having called DOC for help and used the tomahawk to remove some of the branches from the tree. A rope and a very strong ute was then used to move the end of the tree so that we could drive past. This little exercise took over three quarters of an hour and by this time it had got quite cold and we decided we would head home.

We did notice that the fire at Kereru had only just been put out and as we all saw from the headlines in the Herald Tribune the following day there had been quite a fire.

Jocelyn and I dropped off Bob Carter who was in our car and then headed round past the Showgrounds only to find out that a corrugated iron shed had been blown over and this was sitting beside a fence at the Showgrounds. Again the front page of the newspaper the following day showed this damage.

It was interesting to note that while we did not have a lot of adventure while we were tramping we did catch up with some of the interesting events on the way home. It proved to be an interesting day for all that.

DWC

Party: Sharon Hamilton, Peggy Gulliver, David Cormack, Jocelyn Hall, Julie Mercer, Darryl Eggers, Kathy Turner, Gail Harvey, Bob Carter and Gemma Turner-Eggers, the dog.

BIG DARK SCARY HOLES

When we went on a caving trip,
And it was time, to go down underground.
There was one member of the party,
who just wasn't to be found.

He wouldn't enter underground,
To see the stalactmites.
Seems that he was mortally afraid,
That something, would go crawling up his tights.

And bite him on his pecker,
Were it was sure to hurt like hell.
As if his wife, she would complain,
If the bite caused the thing to fall off.

He stood steadfast on the surface
Like his feet were caught in fetters,
And all because he was terrified
Of little bitty wetas.

Just because when caving,
Groups of them cluster on the ceiling.
Then when they see your light they drop,
And its a kind of creepy feeling.

When they're dropping from the ceiling,
And landing on your clothes.
Then start looking for the nearest hiding place,
Which turns out to be your nose.

It's not as if they'd fit there,
With there long spindly legs and feelers.
But they just love to climb inside the mouths,
of the schemers and the squealers.

So if you are on a caving trip,
And there is someone standing by the entry,
You will know that it is no other
Than our old mate Lynn Gentry.

FAMILY TRAMPS

Two trips during this period were either blown out or washed out but we were successful with the following ones:

Little's Clearing 26 April.

It was a lovely fine morning as we left Little's Clearing and walked through the lush bush along the track that leads up on to the Black Birch Range. On the ridge proper we scampered up through the pine trees and then took the track down to Black Birch Bivvy for a photo stop. After this we carried on back up the ridge to the Clover Patch where we had lunch. After lunch we drew straws to determine who were to carry on with the children down the steep track to LOTKOW Road and who were to return back for the cars. As we were coming down the last stretch of the track to the road we could see the cars winding around the road below and were soon inside them and heading for home.

The Lizard 24 May:

The sky was clear but the wind was cool as the four families left their cars parked on the Taihape Road and walked up the side road where the track to the Lizard leaves. After a quick chat we started off up this track, losing and refinding it in places. Lunch was had where the track opens up into the clay pan valley below the rocky ridge that makes up the Lizard profile. The children enjoyed climbing and playing amongst the rocky outcrops and after lunch they all ran to the top of the eastern ridge and walked along it to the saddle that overlooks the Ngaruroro valley. The rest of us walked up the valley to the saddle. After a good look round we all returned back to the cars and went back to the Holmes for scones.

The Te Mata Walkway. 21 June:

Four families and Petals left the Waimarama Road and started the walkway towards Te Mata Park. It was another lovely day and we amused ourselves with the thought that some of the other halves were wasting it down some caves by Tutira. It only took an hour to get up to the Park and it was a very interesting walk giving a totally different perspective of Te Mata Park. As we approached the transmission station on the edge of the Park we could see two figures sitting there and guessed correctly that this was a sighting of the local fauna - *Homo sapien TeMataea*.[#] We approached with due caution (these animals are known to collect vast amounts of pine-cones and disappear at great speed up the slopes of Te Mata Peak with them strapped to their backs when excited) and finding them to be in a quiescent mood were able to say hello and discuss the weather with them. However, their quiescence was short lived and they were soon seen speeding off up the slopes of Te Mata.

From the transmission tower we walked down the track past Peak House and to the main carpark where we had lunch and then went home. The Department of Conservation is at the moment considering closing this walkway. This will be a great shame as it really is a lovely walk up to the peak. So if you haven't done it yet, get out and do it before it is too late! (Although not during the lambing season).

Families participating during this period: Hamish Thurston, Katrina Berry, Steven and Kimberley Dodd with Lucy MacMillan, Daniel, Donna & Natalie Berry, Claire & Glen Holmes, Avril Turvey, Issac and Tama Kingi, Erika & Conal Boland Bristow plus Mums, Dads and Petals.

[#] Common name: Mike and Ros

Family Tramp Fixtures List:

13 September: Napier Hill Walks (Contact Josie Boland 8351805).

11 October: Makahu Saddle to Kaweka Flats Bivvy.

22 November: Go up Dutch Creek from the Makaroro to Yeomans track and back out by the track.

20 December: Te Angi Angi Marine Reserve - Blackhead Beach.

New Year: Overnight trip to Cape Kidnappers.

Contact people for these trips: Susan Holmes 8446032 or Glenda Hooper 8774183

CLUB NEWS

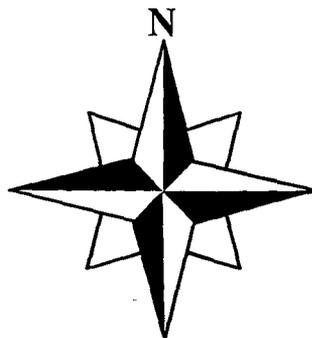
A big welcome to the following new members: Leonie Heaps, Peggy Gulliver, Bob Carter, Dorothy Dallimore, Scott Aitken, Stephen Anderson, Sally Hobson, Rachael Corry and Ali Hollington.

Jim Glass has now been appointed Club Patron and in line with the "tradition" set by our previous Patron, the late Arch Lowe is also helping out the Club with the supper after the fortnightly meeting. Many thanks and congratulations Jim.

Early in August 21 Club Members took part in a leadership skills course held at the Wakarara Outdoor Education Centre. It was a good course with plenty of topics covered and was lots of fun. Many thanks to chefs extraordinaire, Eddie & Dave and to course convenor Ross.

Earlier on, during Queens Birthday weekend, more Club members, namely Eddie Holmes, Anne Cantrick and Peter Pryor attended a FMC Snowcraft Instructors Course.

It was with sadness that the Club learnt of the death of Geoff Holmes earlier on in Winter. Many of the Clubs older members will remember Geoff who was actively tramping with the Club during the late 1970s/early 1980s and was one of our truck drivers at the time. More recently he had been living in the Coromandel with his wife Marcine and their 3 children and our condolences go out to them and to Eddie & Sue Holmes and the rest of the Holmes family.



DUTIES

DATE	HOSTS		SUPPER	
16/9	John Montgomerie	Anne Cantrick	Alison Hollington	Gavin Scoble
30/9	Randall Goldfinch	Julie Mercer	Stephen Anderson	Chris Waldron
14/10	Paul Madden	Mandy Leslie	Bob Carter	Jenny Lean
28/10	Mike Lusk	Shirley Bathgate	Peggy Gulliver	Phillip Mardon
11/11(A GM)	Peter Pryor	Christine Hardie	Sally Hobson	Leo Brunton
25/11	Lyn Gentry A	Neil Mora	Rachael Corry	Lyn Gentry B
9/12	Wayne Hatcher	Gail Harvey	Dorothy Dallimore	Garry Smith
13/1	Ros Lusk	David Cormack	Alistair Moffitt	Sandy Claudatos

Duties of those on Supper and Host:

HOSTS: Greet visitors and fill in visitors book. Sweep floors and check that heaters and lights are off at the end of the meeting.

SUPPER: Put zip on, cups etc out, wash dishes and leave kitchen clean and tidy at end of evening and generally help Jim.

AGM

The Heretaunga Tramping Club AGM is to be held on Wednesday 11 November immediately after the general meeting which starts at 7.30 pm at the Hastings Harrier Club Hall, Sylvan Road, Hastings.



Barn Dance 30 October

To be held at Leo Brunton's brother's place at Raupunga.
Arrive at the farm anytime on the Saturday, have a barbecue
tea followed by a barn dance then camp the night there. On
Sunday there is a tramp down the Anaura Stream (see
fixtures lists) or there are also walks on the farm to do.

PHOTO COMPETITION



Many thanks to all those members who entered photos to make the evening such a success.
Jim Glass

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB TRIP LIST

The trips listed below are designed to cater for people of average fitness. Although the area for the trip is generally adhered to the suggested objectives may change for a number of reasons. For pre trip inquiries contact the leader or David Heaps 8750088

September 19-20. Southern Kaweka range.	Map U20.
Party A: Lakes carpark, up the Rogue to Kaiarahi, camp in Studholme saddle. Castlecamp, Kiwisaddle, Lakes carpark	
Leader: David Cormack 8775903	
Party B: Lakes carpark, Kiwisaddle, Castlecamp overnight. Kaiarahi, down the Rogue, Lakes carpark	
Leader: Christine Hardie 8433953	
Driver:	
Extra Day: 20 September: Khyber Pass, Ruahine Range	
Map U22	
Leaving from Mill Road will walk across to the Tukituki River, then down stream in the section known as the Khyber Pass.	

October 3. Kuripapango.	Map U20.
Navigation exercise, Robson lodge area.	
Leader: Training Committee Driver	
Driver:	
\$10.00 .	

October 17-18. Northern Kaweka Range	Map U20.
Party A: Pinks, Middle hill, Ihaka through 1379, down into Makino R., camp. Makino hut, road end	
Leader: D. Heaps. 8750088	
Party B: Pinks, Middle hill, Makino hut overnight. Te Puia lodge, Mohaka R., track. Gums carpark.	
Leader: G. Scoble 8444350	
Driver:.	
\$10.00 .	
Extra Day: 18 October: Wakarara Range, Mangleton	
Map U21.	
Leave from the end of Mangleton Road, cross farmland to the Ohara Stream. Cross the stream then follow old track to Ellis's Hut. and then along Yeomans Track. Back out the same way.	

October 23-26. Egmont National Park	
Map U20.	
Round the mountain track. Summit climbs. Fanthams peak. Pouakai ranges.	
Leaders: Eddie Holmes 8446032	
Driver: Eddie Holmes	
\$25.00 .	

31 October: Anauro Stream, Kotemaori	Map V19.
The track leaves from Skudder Road, which is off Willowflat Road, and leads to a grove of Kahikatea. The return route, via the stream passes a number of waterfalls. - This trip is on the morning after the Barn Dance.	

November 15. Kaweka Range	Map U20.
Our annual Cairn trip which leaves from Makahu Saddle and goes up to Kaweka J, the highest point in the Kaweka Range.	
Leader: Club President	
Driver: P. Mardon	
\$10.00	

November 28-29. Pureroa Forest. Map T18.	
Party A: Kakaho Rd, Bog End hut, Weraroa, campsite at Mangatu strm. Waihaha hut, river track to Western bay bridge.	
Leader: S. Lopdell. 8446697	
Party B: Waihaha hut from Western bay bridge and return overnight.	
Leader: Leo Brunton	
Driver:	
\$20.00	
Extra Day: 29 November: Colenso Spur & Barlows Hut, Ruahine Range.	
Map U22.	

Leaving from Yeomans, cross the Makaroro River and take the track past Craigs hut to the Makaroro River, up river to Colenso Spur, up spur until track down to Barlows, then back out via the river.

December 13. Kaweka Range **Map U20.**
Party A: Te Kowhai, Don Juan, Gorge stream, Te Kowhai.
Leader: Peter Berry 8774183
Party B: Te Kowhai, Taipo, Gorge stream, Te Kowhai.
Co-Leaders: Sue Holmes 8446032 Ros Lusk
Driver: P. Mardon(?) **\$10.00 .**

Christmas trip. Kahurangi National Park. 27-Dec. to 10-Jan.
Heaphy track, to Karamea, Wangapeka-Karamea/Leslie to the Cobb.
Boulder Lake to Fenella and the Cobb or Fenella, Roaring Lion, Mt Garibaldi.(Wilderness area).
Register interest immediately with Christine Hardie. 8433953
Or Hikurangi, East Cape?

January 10. Taupo Road **Map V20.**
Party A: Waipunga River, from double crossing. (Pack floating).
Co- Leaders: John Berry 8776205 & Mandy Leslie 8766752
Party B: Stoney Creek: Up one of the branches then up and over the low spur to come out down the other branch.
Co-Leaders: Glenda Hooper 8774183 & Robyn Madden 8449661
Driver: P. Berry. **\$10.00 .**

January 23-24. Map U22.
Party A: TripleX hut, Top Maroepa, Maroepa forks, Wakelings overnight. Waikamaka hut, Waipawa saddle, Waipawa R..
Leader: P. Pryor. 8765666
Party B: Waipawa R., Waipawa saddle, Waikamaka hut, Rangi saddle, Waterfall hut, overnight. Return .
Leader: Rodger Burns. 8776322
Driver: **\$10.00 .**
Extra Day: 24 January: Sunrise Hut & Waipawa River, Ruahine Range. **Map U22.**
Leaving from the Triplex carpark up to Sunrise to view the mountain flowers and have lunch. The return after lunch will be down to the saddle and out via the Waipawa River.taking the Swamp Track back to the cars.

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 2 hours or more to return to the embarkation point. Beginners should make sure that anyone who might worry about them is informed of this. Leaders will try to get a message through to one of the "overdue contacts" if return seems likely to be later than 10 PM. All newcomers should ensure that their own emergency number is noted in the party list that the leader leaves in town. For all inquiries about overdue trampers please ring one of the following:

Ross Berry 8774436

Jim Glass 8778748

Glenda Hooper 8774183

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

Club Meetings: These are held every second Wednesday (the one before a tramp) at the Hastings Harrier Clubrooms in Sylvan Road, Hastings. Doors open 7.25 PM, visitors are welcome.