

P.O. BOX 14086 MAYFAIR, HASTINGS

"POHOKURA"

Bulletin No 203

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Patron
Jim Glass

President:	Anne Cantrick	844 8149
Vice President:	Mike Lusk	877 8328
Secretary:	Gloria Abraham	875 1152
Treasurer:	Lex Smith	877 4087
Club Captain:	David Heaps	875 0088
Editor :	Mike Malone	877 8332
Committee:	Peter Pryor	876 5666
	John Montgomerie	877 7358
	Glenda Hooper	877 4183
	Geoff Clibborn	844 6039
	Peggy Gulliver	879 7763
	Sandy Claudatos	835 2073
	Shirley Bathgate	877 8511

Sub Committees: (Spokesperson listed first)

- ◆ Environment: Shirley Bathgate, Mike Lusk, Glenda Hooper, Tina Godbert
- ◆ Truck: Geoff Clibborn, David Heaps
- ◆ Fixtures: Peter Pryor, Susan Lopdell, Rodger Burn, Gavin Scoble, John Montgomerie, David Heaps, Glenda Hooper
- ◆ Huts: David Heaps, Geoff Clibborn
- ◆ Training: John Montgomerie, Peter Pryor, Andrew Fowler, Christine Hardie, Dave Heaps, Anne Cantrick
- ◆ SAR: Eddie Holmes (844 6032) John Montgomerie & David Heaps
- ◆ Meetings: Sandy Claudatos, Peggy Gulliver
- ◆ Social: Mr Lyn Gentry, Peter Pryor, Gloria Abraham, Peter Berry
- ◆ Gear Hire: Dorothy Dallimore (877 7778)
- ◆ Family Tramps: Glenda Hooper & Sue Holmes
- ◆ Scrap Book: Jim Glass
- ◆ Supper: Jim Glass
- ◆ Album: Shirley Bathgate
- ◆ Library: Liz Pindar (870 0145)
- ◆ Junior Rep/Liaison Lex Smith
- ◆ Sales Rep Robyn Madden

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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

50 c donation gratefully accepted each meeting towards hall hire. (place in the old boot)

ANNUAL REPORTS

President's report

Our club can only be what it's members make it and thanks to your great support the final year of this century has been a boomer. The highlight would have to be the purchase of our new club truck, thanks to your fundraising efforts, careful fund management by our treasurer, Glenda and to the dedicated effort of Eddie and his highly skilled team. Driving is now more pleasurable and passenger comfort improved, with the added bonus of views of the passing vista. To our small pool of drivers, on whom we are totally reliant to ferry us to and fro, our hearty thanks.

Our magazine is looking a lot healthier with all those trip reports you are remembering to send in. Thanks to Mike for deciphering and decoding. Social functions have been well supported making them highly enjoyable occasions. The successful application for Hillary Commission funding enabled us to increase our range of climbing gear. A volunteer field day was held assisting DOC with the Pinus contorta battle in the Comet area, a programme on which we should offer continued involvement. We recently hosted the F.M.C. National Executive meeting and our catering efforts and club hospitality were very much appreciated.

My thanks to all the committee members for their support and commitment. Special thanks to club captain, Dave, for ensuring trips run smoothly and Chris for being such an efficient secretary and keeping me "on task". Also to Paul for organising excellent training activities, Sue, along with her sub-committee, for arranging adventures stretching from Cape Palliser to Mt Tarawera and to Mike Lusk for the variety of interesting speakers addressing our meetings. These have been well attended with an average audience of 39 and 13 new members have joined our ranks. Shirley's vigilance ensures we are recognised as being responsible and conscious of environmental issues.

We are very sorry to be losing Stephen and Paul, who have both gained positions outside this region. We wish you all the best to all those members standing down, thanks for your valued input, especially to Sue for "marathon" service.

Happy and safe tramping on to meet the excitement and challenges of a new millennium.

Anne Cantrick

Club Captain's report

Well this year has been an interesting one for me. I attended an alpine instructors course through the club, a team managers course through SAR and was part of the field control team at base, on our recent SAREX, which was all new ground to me. I also got around the countryside working with Eddie, building bridges on some of the D.O.C. tracks, from south of Dannevirke to Te Puia in the Kawekas, with a couple of helicopter flights to get gear to and from Te Puia. All in all with my home job as well its been a fairly busy time. I have enjoyed some good tramps this season especially Waikaremoana.

As for the trips, in general most have been fairly well attended, especially the B parties with newer members adding to the ranks. Some of the A party trips have been lacking in numbers and have been cancelled due to this. Maybe we need to promote the club more, targeting prospective fit A party types. The family day trips also had reasonable numbers. I think most people were happy with the choice of trips chosen by the fixtures committee, but as always, we need your continued input for trip choices so as to make them interesting and varied. We are always short of leaders for trips so please consider putting your name forward as there are other experienced members that will assist you in leading.

My thanks to the committee for their support especially Anne and Chris. I wish everyone a happy festive season and hope the new millennium will see us with more people with a passion for our back country areas.

David Heaps

Truck Report

Earlier this year the executive committee decided to purchase a new cab/chassis for our club truck. Eddie had negotiated prices with the dealers and soon we had a flash new cab/chassis with air conditioning, turbo, power steering etc, sitting in his shed ready to go.

The next step was to take the box, (the thing you sit in) off the old truck and put it on the new. So one weekend a bunch of blokes with a variety of trades, 2 beekeepers and our President the overseer and smoko lady, literally ripped into it. Some weekends later, we had the box in place with lots of improvements, i.e. the height lowered so as see out when sitting. Pack locker doors altered to give more space and a new locking system on them, lights in this locker space, new boot lockers, new upholstery in the back, along with new shelving and intercom system. In no time at all, it was back on the road again with a few jobs to be completed at a later date.

In the meantime, we had a certain club member who developed a serious love affair (don't tell his wife) with this new edition and has finished all the little extra jobs to be done and added a few inventions of his own. So many thanks to Geoff Clibborn for his efforts. All that's left is to do a paint job and a rehash of the locking system on the locker doors. It's a great asset for us and drives like a dream.

I'm sure it will give us many years of comfortable reliable motoring into our favourite haunts nation wide. A fine result of all our fund raising efforts over the years and Glenda's careful management of the club purse.

Thanks to all involved especially Eddie and Sue Holmes. Safe motoring to you all for 2000.

David Heaps
Truck Committee

Environment Report

Our mountains, lakes and rivers are precious assets. Hopefully at the end of the third millennium, some New Zealanders will remember those of us who are showing concern for these assets today.

Submissions

1. Most important issue throughout the year is the logging of the west coast forest by Timberland backed by the National Government and the P.M.
2. Letter to T. Ryall protesting his approval to log 98,000 ha of forest
3. Criticism to Mr Upton for Govt interference with R.M.A.
4. Study N.Z biodiversity on same - Mr Upton.
5. Letters protesting on behalf of club to Mr Hilliard, Timberland manager re logging rimu.
6. Ferrets: Dr Smith review of wildlife farming of unprotected wildlife. Priority mustelids. Financial input to poison same. Intensive control throughout country.
7. Boundary Stream. Robins doing well. Kiwi egg from Kaweka Forest incubated to go to Boundary Stream Reserve.
8. Review Dog Registration Act in Kaweka and Ruahine Forest. Notices on all main tracks.

Shirley Bathgate

TRIP REPORTS AUG – NOV 1999

Snowcraft Trip 1736

August 1999

Because I'm a slack bugger this trip report is being written in November (having been chased up by the Editor) the details have become somewhat scratchy but you'll get the gist of it.

Sunday morning as we departed Hastings was cold, claggy and drizzly, so as we approached Moorcocks road end we were psyched up for what was becoming typical snow conditions. We were delighted to be able to see the main range with no more than a light band of clag right on the top.

A snack at Longview hut and then on up towards Otumore looking for snow to do our craft in. Light patches of snow bare witness to what had been a heavy fall the previous week but rained off just before the weekend.

The tops were reached in mostly clear conditions but a biting southerly made us hide over the other side for lunch. From here a stroll up to the trig doing a little crampon and ice axe work on the way, then back to the truck arriving around 4.30 p.m.

A good day in all and thanks to those who come to improve their skills and make it yet another good tramp. Eddie Holmes.

Ruapehu Trip 1737

August 17 – 22 1999

This winters annual trip up the Mount started with 6 people meeting at the 'Top'o'the Bruce' carpark on Tuesday afternoon in weather that wasn't the best. Wednesday was better, enjoyed from within the Manawatu Tramping and Ski Club lodge looking longingly out as wet snow fell.

Thursday dawned a perfect day, so, due to a severe lack of snow at Whakapapa we drove around to Turoa ski-field where we all had an excellent day skiing. (ten people by now).

Friday once again was severely yuk! Ruapehu is a beautiful place to be in good weather with good snow but this year (not to mention the previous 4 years) it didn't happen. Around 11.00 p.m. we were joined by another 15 or so people from the club who I don't think enjoyed the ten minute walk to the hut in not so pleasant conditions.

Saturday - well it was still snowing, so once again very little happened other than some very basic snow instruction with a half dozen or so who wanted to test new storm gear.

Sunday - you guessed it - yuk! We left the gloom of the mountain about 2 p.m. but I think most of us were glad to have had a break away from home.

Thanks Geoff for driving the truck for the weekend crew. Ed Holmes

Party: Dave and Leonie Heaps, Karen Sargent, Peter and Nathan Pryor, Gerald, Jeremy and Matthew Blackburn, John Montgomerie, Stephen Anderson, Geoff Clibborn, Peggy Gulliver, Gail Harvey, Denise McBride, Chris Bennett, Graham and Gloria Abraham and Lawrence Taula, Ali Hollington.

PS

I am sure the other club members who attended this weekend would like to thank Eddie and Dave for their (ape like) pre dinner entertainment on Saturday night, pity about the sweat dripping on the dining tables! A few of us also trekked through the snow on Saturday evening to be entertained by Gary McCormack at the local pub.

MAKAHU – MIDDLE HILL - TE PUIA TRIP 1738

5 SEPTEMBER 1999

Party A

Leaving the truck full of the Makino-Te Puia party we had a head start from Leo's in Paul's car. After uplifting Deborah Turner and her stick from the roadside at Puketitiri, we pressed on to park by Pink's Hut on the Makahu Rd. We were pleased to be booted up and on the track by 8 am. Whetu looked rather a long way off at that stage. We had a fine morning; in fact the weather stayed bright and clear all day with a welcome wind from the west to stop us overheating.

It was a steady uphill climb to Middle Hill, time and elevation passed easily thanks to Debbie's tales of her recent trip to Nepal, the details of which enthralled us all day. Arriving at Middle Hill Hut ahead of schedule got the stamp of approval from Anne and we relaxed in heaps watering up and munching for half an hour. A comparison of different maps here cleaned up a source of confusion. My 1995 edition has Camp Spur marked as north of Koaro Stream. Both lead to Whetu. Apparently there has been debate about which was which over the years and Anne's 1995 edition has them named in the reverse order.

We proceeded though very pleasant mixed beech forest, pleased to see quite a few mountain cabbage trees alongside the track. Upwards – ever upwards on the northern spur currently called Camp! Indeed just before we popped out above the treeline there were a few campsites flattened out beside the track.

Above the treeline and enjoying the colours of the alpine plants, we puffed up a last steep bit, glad that the snow had mostly melted and that it wasn't iced. On reaching the top, Anne was disappointed to find no icy contours on the western side, having prudently carried her ice axe to cut steps for her flock – still it looked good Anne.

Such a nice day that after donning a few extra layers, we were able to lunch on the top in a shortened hollow. The view over miles of bush covered hills to the north and west to Hawke's Bay were superb and although Makahu Rd now looked a very long way away we strode happily down towards Makino. We twice heard Kaka muttering at us from the tree tops. Those who would know reckoned the bush lawyer was really increasing, it certainly reached out to grab us from the trackside in many places.

We took a third welcome break at Makino Hut and then headed down the last leg of Makino Ridge to Makahu Rd. We were a bit surprised at the enthusiastic work of the track cutters

who had recently been through, implementing a scorched earth policy a good meter each side of the track.

After a fine walk, we arrived back to the car 9.5 hrs after we had left it. We met by chance the club truck with the other party who had been up Makino and down via Te Puia. Tina Godbert

Party: Anne Cantrick (leader), Ali Hollington, Deborah Turner, Paul Handyside, Tina Godbert.

Party B

After much discussion the evening before, it was decided that Party B would travel by truck leaving the 5 A party members to travel by car and set off a little earlier.

The beautiful sky filled with stars made the early morning start worthwhile and indicated a good day ahead. With 3 pickups we had a party of 24. Our driver Philip Mardon didn't have time to be bored with the company in the cab as there were 3 or 4 changes on both trips because of people suffering motion sickness.

On arrival at the Makahu Rd saddle we sorted into 2 groups in the chilly wind. The plan was for 10 people to go on ahead as one group in attempt to keep the large party in 2 compact groups. 3 people went on with the truck to park at the Blue Gums and to walk along the river to meet us at Te Puia Hut

As we walked up the track, we were sheltered from the wind by the kanuka and soon became warm with the climb, welcoming the chance to admire the spectacular views of the Mohaka Valley and surrounding hills where the farm paddocks show up with startling greenness among the scrub. Soon we were in beautiful beech forest and admired the huge old trees there. There was quite a bit of birdsong, in particular several flocks of whitehead came to the bird call and a couple of tom-tits were a highlight.

We passed the old Makino Bivouac and decided if it was raining hard enough, maybe we could keep dry in it. Most of the party took the opportunity to walk from the track junction 10 minutes down the track to the very tidy Makino Hut set in a nice sunny spot in the trees. The day was heating up and a few knees played up and as we made our way down the steep and in places unstable Makino Spur. Our 2 Japanese visitors found the swing bridge an adventure and unbeknown to tail-end Charlie, 3 party members went on a small detour over the bridge.

On arrival at Te Puia Hut, head counting revealed 3 short, so it a was great relief when the wanderers returned and all 24 were present and correct. It was lovely sitting in the sun in front of Te Puia Hut for lunch - the temperature was 20 C. Quite a number of Welcome Swallows live at the hut and swooped over our head. When all were rested we set off for the Blue Gums, once again in 2 parties.

It was an uneventful trip along the river with plenty of time enjoy the magnificent views. We had been unsuccessful in contacting the A party by cellphone so were pleased to meet up with them just as they got to their car.

We all had a very enjoyable day and I would like to thank all in the party who assisted in some way. R. Madden

Party B: R. Madden, P. Mardon, C. Waldron, M. Fryer, B. Couchman, J. Hewes, S. Lopdell, B. Carter, J. Lean, S. Claudatos, G. Harvey, K. Sargent, J. McBride, R. Burn, G. Smith, B. Taylor, T. Oshia, Taka, L. Gentry, S. Gentry and partner, M. Friedeman, R. Goldfinch, S. Holmes.

Middle Stream Trip 1739

19 September 1999

We left Pernel's at the very reasonable time of 7 am. After all this was supposed to be another of Rodger's cruisy trips. We arrived at the Waipawa River carpark at 8.30 am. We had gained 2 additional trampers in Peter and Chris as their trip did not eventuate. The weather forecast was not too flash and parkas were necessary as we made our way up the 4 WD track to the start of the Ruahine park and then dropped down to the first stream at 9.30 am where we had smoko. Everybody was keen and we had plenty of time. The track through to Middle Stream gets a bit muddled at times with various options but Peter knew a track which led us above the gorge and then dropped down to Middle Stream. A large duck egg was found on the track and various ideas were forwarded to warm it up but there were no takers. Lunch was had at the stream at about 11.45 am.

The tops were quite clagged in and the drizzled persisted as we made our way up stream which started to get quite narrow and with some log jams thrown in for good measure which made for extra interest. The water was generally just above boot tops but quite cold and the wind was whistling down the stream and we now had a number of large boulders to get around which slowed us down. Nobody was complaining but people were getting cold and we decided to turn back about 20 mins from the hut leaving Peter and Chris to carry on and rejoin us later back at the Middle Stream Track junction.

Whirinaki Forest Trip 1740

3 October 1999

The truck collected everyone from Hastings at 6 am and Taradale at 6.30 am. Little did we know that this was going to be a 4 hr trip - "those forestry tracks all look the same you know." Actually, a particular old shack started to look pretty familiar though. We had gone round in a big circle. However Billy Connolly jokes kept us all amused. It was 10.45 am by the time we started the tramp. We split into 2 groups. Half went round the intended circle via Upper Whirinaki and the other half went to that same hut for lunch but returned via a shorter track.

It was a magnificent day, very sunny and calm and it was a shame that we who took the longer option could not afford the time to sit and enjoy such a day in such a beautiful part of the country. We heard a lot of bird life and had some surprisingly lovely views especially as we did not have to do much climbing. This is a very easy track and it's just lovely to walk along in the company of the stream which wanders serenely though some of the nicest bush you'll ever see. We enjoyed a brief lunch beside the river and continued along to where we met up with other party. The cave is only dirt but it is interesting to see the charcoaled tree trunks buried there many years ago.

We all walked back to the truck together and arriving there at 5.15 p.m. We got home at 8.30 p.m. Se we had travelled at total of 7 hr to do a 7 hr tramp but none was complaining because this is a truly lovely and worthwhile tramp. We all agreed we must go back there soon. Thanks to all those carried extra gear because of the split group and thanks to Geoff Robinson for driving.

Chris Waldron, Karen Sargent, Sandy Claudatos, Bobby Couchman, Susan Lopdell, Judy McBride, Jenny Lean, Debi Martin, Jeremy and Gerald Blackburn, Ken Nugent, Gloria Abraham, Graeme Hare, David Forward, Regan Hermansen, Joanna Giorgi, Leo Brunton, John Staff, Barbara Taylor, Bob Carter, Sue Holmes.

Taruarau and Shute's Hut Trip 1741

17 October 1999

We left the forlorn Comet Hut under grey skies, with fresh snow to the north on Kaweka J and to the south on the Ruahines, but the short grunt to the trig warmed us up. Contorta has almost buried the trig, and is overwhelming the tussock on the 2 km walk across the plateau to a small strip of Beech which marks the start of the descent to the Taruarau Stream 600m below. We halted there while Randall entertained us with an updated version of his encounters with crocodiles in Australia. The track is clear and not too steep, mainly passing through mature Kanuka forest. It was pleasing to see plenty of seedling Mahoe and Broadleaf almost unbrowsed, and the Green Hooded Orchids were just beginning to flower. The track skirts one of the enormous slips which scar the faces, and we had good views upstream to the green pastures of Timahunga Station.

The waters of the Taruarau are famous for their trout, but even with superb visibility only 2 fish were seen while we were in the riverbed, and I spotted one from 300m up, with binoculars, on the way out. Leaving Steven thrashing the water, the rest of us took the 45 min walk Shute's Hut. The track leaves the upstream end of the large grassy area dotted with Kanuka, and which demanded a return visit with tent. A special feature was the large numbers of Clematis plants smothered with small scented yellow flowers. The hut itself is fascinating not only for its stone construction, but for the well preserved hut books, which were avidly read while we lunched in the sun.

Picking Steven up back at the stream we girded our loins for the ascent. Mindful of my lack of fitness I decided to stop for 5 mins every 15, and this I think made for a much more pleasant climb, with the party staying together, and nobody becoming exhausted and dispirited. My thanks to Rodger for doing the timing at the front of the group. We made the 600m in 2 hrs and were back at the truck 3 hr 15 min after leaving the Taruarau.

This is a most worthwhile tramp, and could be expanded to a very pleasant weekend trip, staying overnight at the stream or at Shute's hut. Thanks to Geoff for driving the truck, which has been further improved each time we use it, and to Philip for more of Pernel Orchard's fine fruit. Mike Lusk

Party. Steven Anderson, Graeme Hare, Christine Hardie, Bob Carter, Rodger Burn, Geoff Clibborn, Randall Goldfinch, Ken Nugent, Deena Hanson and 2 friends Dave and Kirsty, Mike Lusk

Fourteen of us went on this jaunt more of a tourist-type bus trip than a real HTC trip, but had a lot of variety and was fun for all. We covered 900 km by truck in the four days.

Friday 22 October 1999

We left the usual departure points early on Friday morning, being show day holiday for Hawke's Bay folk, but south of Dannevirke people were working as usual. Had a few comfort and food stops on the way down to Waikanae, then turned left and headed for the hills inland. It was a very interesting, narrow road similar to the road up to Makahu Saddle, but was sealed all the way. This led us to the Akatarawa Valley and the start of the Canon Point Walkway. We all went up to the Birchville Reservoir in a lush bush setting, the five of us went back to the truck while the rest walked on to the other end of the track in the Hutt Valley. By truck to meet them, then to the Kaitoke Regional Reserve a little farther up the valley. This is a well-developed area adjacent to the Hutt River, with a range of walks, bike trails, picnic areas and lovely grassy (mowed) camp areas. Majority opinion voted to stay there the night, instead of going on to Tunnel Gully as first planned. Our \$4 adult, \$2 children camp fee gave us roofed shelter, sinks, all in a very attractive setting. Food prep was soon under way and it was a luxury to be able to take so much high-living gear and gourmet groceries, yet not carry it on our backs. The younger children found a lost baby duckling and built it a house and tried hard to feed it. Later more ducks were found, so the orphan put to join them. We had very pleasant fine starlit night, and woke to the promise of a fine but windy day.

Saturday 23 October 1999

After more good food we packed up camp, then headed for various walks in the area. Six took the ridge track 3 hrs south to the bottom end of the reserve, while the rest of us went across to the other side of the Hutt Valley to Tunnel Gully Reserve to walks there. Four of us headed up Mt. Climie 860 m, extreme winds, but great views of the whole Hutt Valley and much of the Wairarapa to the east. The other four took shorter walks covering part of the lower end of the old Rimutaka railway route. We eight then went back to Kaitoke to meet the six ridge track walkers, and all lunched together beside the Kaitoke water treatment plant, which supplies half of Wellington's water needs. After lunch, we went to the start of the Rimutaka Railway Walkway, where nine set off on the 4 hr walk to the Wairarapa side. We five trucked up to the top to the Rimutaka road, intending to climb up to the trig 745 m, but the wind was far too strong to do it safely, so went down the other side to Featherston, turned right and followed the eastern flank of the range to Cross Creek carpark. We walked in to the old Cross Creek station, where the Fell engines which took trains over the Rimutaka Incline were relieved by standard locos. It was a settlement of thirty families in its day, but has been abandoned since the opening of the Rimutaka Tunnel in 1955. Those who walked through the incline met us there, then back down to the truck and on to a motor-camp at Lake Ferry on Palliser Bay for the night. We enjoyed the hot showers and camp facilities, but had a very wet, windy night and a lot damp gear in the morning.

Sunday 24 October 1999.

It was still wet but forecast to improve later. Stowed wet tents etc. and left the camp at 9 am to Ngawe, a fishing settlement towards Cape Palliser. We saw there a virtual "bulldozer museum" of ancient but clever machines used to launch and recover fishing boats from the gravel beach into the bay. We were able to get very close (less than 1 m!) to a huge elephant seal reclining on the beach, being barked at by a little puppy. On to the road end at Cape

Palliser lighthouse, lots of seals close by, and 252 steps up to fine views at the light. From there to Pitangarua Pinnacles Reserve, set up camp and put gear to dry, then walk up to the Pinnacles themselves, and back to prepare tea and walk the beach. The camp there is a basic DOC one, toilets only and stream water but plenty good enough for us.

Monday 25 October 1999

Left Pitangarua at 9 am and headed to Martinborough to explore this go-ahead tourist town and get info from the he tourist centre. From there to Featherston to the Fell Engine Museum, an excellent set of displays and video relating to the incline railway, including a real loco and brake-van restored to former glory.

The next stop was Mt. Bruce Wildlife Centre for lunch and walk though videos, displays, birds, eel-feeding, wildlife protection measures. We left there at 2.30 p.m. to be back in the bay soon after 5 p.m. having had a 4 day trip of interest and variety.

The Wellington Regional Council is to be congratulated for developing such a large number of very attractive recreational areas so close to town. We were able to visit only four but there are lots more. The southern Wairapapa has many gems of places to visit, and good quality publicity material is readily available for all these attractions.

The member of our party were - Glenda Hooper with Daniel, Donna and Natalie, Mike and Anthony Bull, Leo Brunton, Sue Lopdell, Karen Sargent, Alan Petersen, David Forward, Regan Hermansen, Garry Smith and Geoff Clibborn as leader/driver.

MacIntosh Plateau Trip 1742

31 October 1999

Party A:

A group of 12 happy looking souls left Pernel at 6 am bound for Lawrence Road end of the A party and Macintosh carpark for the B party. Four a team members departed the truck at about 4. 40 and set off across the Lawrence Bridge, up, over and down into the Donald river. (We could have gone up the river but decide on the scenic route.) The water temperature was just right and it was really pleasant walking with a balmy breeze in our faces.

Many crossing later, we came to the junction of Matauria Ridge and Black Birch Range on the true left. My plan was to go up a ridge on the true right side opposite, as I'd seen what I'd thought may have been an old Hunters track marked with plastic tape on a previous trip in the area. Not finding a marker we headed up stream for 5 minutes to the start of another ridge, thinking it may further up stream, but no marker either, we decided what the heck, this one will do. Climbing off the river was steep for 50 or 60 metres, then it was go into rambo mode on had and knees through thick scrub for most of the climb to the plateau.

We emerged from the scrub at the top at 12. 25 p.m. all looking like we'd been dragged through a blackberry bush with cuts and scratches all over. A short jaunt to Macintosh Hut missing the other party by a few minutes, as we found out later. From the hit to carpark in 1.5 hours then taking the truck around to pick up the other party form Lawrence. A cracker of a day and a neat stroll. D.H.

Party A: Anne Cantrick, Sandy Claudatos, Peter Prior, David Heaps (Leader/driver)

Party B:

After seeing the "A" party off over the footbridge at Lawrence we made our way back out to the Taihape Road and along to Lakes Road. Saw a number of rabbits and hares on the way in and even two deer skipped across the road whilst we were still in the pine area. The northern end of Lakes road is completely different now that most of the pines have been felled. Roads have been changed and even some added with sign names bearing no relation to our map. However after some initial confusion we soon located the old Macintosh carpark or what is left of it and were on our way down the gorge to the three wire bridge. Good progress was made in great conditions and we arrived at Macintosh hut around 11 am for an early lunch in the shade.

Soon after our arrival a couple and a dog came in from the Makahu track. Kerry and Bruce Popplewell from Wellington. Kerry had been a member of the Heretaunga Tramping Club many years ago and knew several members of our party so a great chin wag commenced. Both had competed in the Macpac Kaweka Challenge so they knew the area well. We left them to have their lunch and we headed off across the Plateau stopping where the track overlooks the Donald River gorge for a scheduled cell phone call to the "A" party at 12.30 p.m. No luck. As it turned out they couldn't have away as they came out on to the track about 20 mins later and the Popplewells who were following us out.

Not far down the track to the Donald is the remains of an old fence reminding us that the area was once farmed. Hard to believe now with the regrowth of manuka, kanuka and pine both contorta and radiata. The track down to the river seemed to go on for ever and we were very pleased to reach the cooling waters of the river as conditions had become very hot and humid. The Popplewells had caught up to us on this section and after a brief discussion at the river it was decided to opt for the river travel out and not go over the hill back to the bridge. It was very pleasant walking along the river valley through patches of lupins and some bush and river crossings soon brought us back to the picnic area by the swing bridge. More reminiscing with the Popplewells and the Hare family members (Barbara Taylor, Judy McBride and Graeme Hare) before they set off up the hill to their car which was at the top carpark. I was trying to get the party up and away after we had eaten and rested when we heard the truck coming down the hill so the resting continued till it appeared. Home to Hastings by just after 5 p.m. after a very pleasant day. "B" party had a mixture of 'older' folk with three younger ladies. In spite of the age difference these three seemed to enjoy our company. We even had a short German lesson Hanna who is here on a rural exchange scheme. Great to catch up with Graeme Hare again. I had tramped with him and Barbara way back in the fifties. Graeme is off to the Himalayas early next year so has come back into tramping again doubt in preparation for this coming trip. Philip Mardon

Party B: Leader Philip Mardon, Jim Hewes, Karen Sargent, Gail Harvey, Hannela Mangold, Judy McBride, Bobbi Couchman, Barbara Taylor, Graeme Hare.



FAMILY TRAMPS

September to November 1999.

There were two family tramps during this period. The first was to Cattle Hill on a lovely Spring day with just 3 families in attendance. The walk in to "our play ground", which was situated on the northern grassy slopes just below the pine infested top was accomplished with relative ease even with the youngest of us. Here we had a long and enjoyable lunch and for a period afterwards great use was made of the natural clay slides which provided a safe thrill to all those willing to try it. Later, as the adults watched the younger ones play at the bottom of these slides there was a transformation from children to lions. These small beasts bounded around carefree in the tussocks below us until one small male lion was heard to proclaim to the other small male lion, "we are the dominant males you know". This was too much for the somewhat larger and more hairy beings up above who rapidly also transformed into Lions and proceeded down to reclaim their territory. For the next half hour or so there was great activity in the bowl below us more sedate female type creatures and when most of their energy was spent we gathered them all in and headed back down to the cars. An excellent day play.

The second outing coincided with the FMC trip to Boundary Stream - so we too choose that area for our tramp. For the morning we walked up the grassy ridge that heads to Bell Rock until we got to the first trig. From there we could see the FMC group heading to Bell Rock. We took in the view before heading back down to the road this time through the bush route where we passed Mike Lusk and a couple of FMC men who had spent a bit of time fishing at Lake Tutira and were now in pursuit of the rest of their party. Back at the cars we drove down to the car park for Boundary Stream where we found the Turvey and Dodds cars who had already started this track. After a bite to eat we also started on this track taking in the lush undergrowth that is now evident. The children spent a long time playing in the stream on the loop track before we managed to get them moving up and along the loop track and back to the cars where we finally caught up with the Turveys & Dodds as well as the FMC group. After a bit of a chat all round we drove down to Lake Tutira where, because of the beautifully warm day, the young ones took their first swim of the year.

Families participating during this period: Claire & Glen Holmes, Sarah & Katrina Berry, Jessica, Steven, Kimberley & Russell Dodds, Avril & Blair Turvey and Daniel, Donna & Natalie Berry, Conal & Erika BolandBristow plus Mums & Dads.

FIXTURES LIST

4 Jan (Tuesday) : Esk River: A watery walk down the Esk River from Island Farm. Bring your togs and a raft if you have one.

29-30 Jan: The annual family tramp into Kaweka Hut to camp out beside the hut.

26-27 Feb: Camp Saturday evening at Triplex Hut then on Sunday head into Waipawa Chalet via the Sunrise Track, back out to Triplex via the Waipawa River.

26 Mar: Mohi Bush and Waimarama Beach.

9 Apr: Climb up the slope above the Te Ngaru Stream just upstream of SH 2 onto forestry tracks and then walk out to the Pakarutahi Valley. A visit to the waterfalls in the Tangoio Reserve may also be possible.

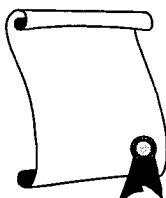


Club News

TRAMPER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Congratulations to Paul Madden and Robyn Madden – this years joint recipients.

SPECIAL AWARDS



Certificate of appreciation

Awarded to **Sue Lopdell** for all her work over many years. Happy retirement.

President's Award –

To **Karen Sargent** -for her enthusiasm and good company on the many tramps she has been on during the 9 month period with us. We are sorry you are leaving us. Good luck and farewell.

Notable club personalities – the Bathgates feature in the latest Wilderness magazine (Nov 1999 pg 6) written by Selina Gentry.

Many thanks to the Gentrys for the successful evening on 20 November.

Have a joyous restful festive season.



Entertainment

Jan 19. George Lowe on Everest. Not to be missed.

Please bring a plate

Feb 2. Truck and Awning Familiarization.

Feb 16. Compass Exercise with Peter Pryor. 7.30 start, with your Compass.

Mar 1. Tales of the Macpac.

Mar 15. The Infamous Club Auction, with Lord Lynn. Proceeds to the Rescue Helicopter.

Mar 28. Owen Brown on an FMC trip to The Rockies.

Apr 12. Superb South Island Slides from FMC. Christine Hardy.

Apr 26. Tramping Quiz and Native Plant ID, in Groups.

HOST AND SUPPER ROSTERS.

Date	HOSTS		SUPPER	
19/1	Ros Lusk,	Mike Lusk.	Randall Goldfinch,	Sandy Claudatos.
2/2	Peter Pryor,	Sue Lopdell.	Pam Turner,	Robyn Madden.
16/2	Lew Harrison,	Gary Smith.	Jenny Lean,	Glenda Hooper.
1/3	Jim Glass,	Eddie Holmes.	John Montgomerie,	Owen Brown.
15/3	Peter Berry,	Judy McBride.	Gail Harvey,	Chris Waldron.
28/3	Dave Heaps,	John Berry.	Shirley Bathgate,	Gavin Scoble.
12/4	Leo Brunton,	Geoff Clibborn.	Dorothy Dallimore,	Neil Curtis.
26/4	Alli Hollington,	Philip Mardon.	Al Moffitt,	Peggy Gulliver.



How to Promote / Cater for Youth Members

The lack of youth members (secondary school to 25 years) is a problem the club needs to address. There is presently only 2 to 3 secondary students and up to 5 under 25 years olds, actively involved in the club. At present I would estimated the mean age of club members to be around 50 years of age.

For the club to prosper it needs a strong youth base to develop on. The ideal club environment would involve younger inexperienced members learning the ropes from old hands. A higher proportion of youth member could be expected to be involved in more strenuous A party trips.

Results from a survey of youth club members:

Question 1) How did you here about HTC?

Friends

Relations, uncle, aunt

Question 2) How do you find the meetings?

Long, have to leave early at half time (travel back to Napier)

Transport problems (need car)

Like the map / photo projector

Question 3) What sort of activities would you like to see offered more?

Snowcraft (skiing, snowboarding)

Overnight trips

Adventure based activities...

Strategies for promoting the club:

Carryout an advertising push in relation to an upcoming event of major interest to youth i.e. Snowcraft courses at Ruapehu or Rock climbing (Salty rock gym or Karamu High School). The target audience would be senior secondary students from Hastings schools and tertiary students from EIT. A good promotional contact would be Outdoor Ed / PE teacher from local high schools.

Meeting structure:

Youth will find it hard to attend a meeting if they know of no one in the meeting.

Youth may not be prepared for the relatively formal structure of the meetings ie having to sit down for an hour and a half, and listen 90% of the time.

It is quite possible they may find their first meeting a bore and be put off from coming.

Activities likely to appeal to youth:

Caving, Snowcraft, Rock climbing

Tops travel, overnight trips

Mountain Biking (carry in truck)

Hunting & fly fishing (team up with experienced club members)

Canoeing / rafting

Obituary

Brian Culpan

Brian joined the Tramping Club in the Autumn of 1987 and immediately became a regular on our tramps. I have memories of tramping with Brian from Poporangi Stream in the Ruahines all the way to Vampire Ally campsite in Nelson Lakes. He was with us that night at Waikamaka, when Stan the Rat provided us all with unwelcome entertainment, off and on for what seemed like most of the night. A year after Brian joined so too did Mitch and the two of them were great company to us all.

My favorite story about Brian dates from about twelve years ago, when we were down South in the Nelson Lakes National Park. Brian and Maurice were off on a side trip somewhere (looking at all that timber), when having just past two trampers on the track going the other way, Brian turns to Maurice and says, "DID YOU SEE THAT?" "What, did I see what?", says Maurice. "Those two female type trampers, that we just past, didn't you notice something different about them?" "Like what?" "Like that they were topless". At this point, a general consensus on the best course of action was reached and they both set off at racing speed, bush bashing back the way that they had just come, parallel to the track. This maneuver enabling them to pass the two previously mentioned young ladies for a second time. It took us two days to get the smiles of their faces.

Brian was our friend, with his wonderful smile, the twinkle in his eye and sense of humour he was a great person to tramp and socialize with and while Brian and Mitch moved away from Hawkes Bay to Taihape about 10 years ago, many of us kept up contact with them both. It was great to see them both come up to join in the fun for Lyn's 50th birthday.

Brian died in August this year after a long illness. To Mitch and the rest of Brian's family we offer our condolences on the loss of a neat guy.

DISCOUNTED SUBSCRIPTION FOR 1999-2000:

Subs are now due: Please select the appropriate amount from the listing below and send to the Treasurer (Box 14086, Mayfair, Hastings) along with your name and any change in address etc. The amount given below is the discounted amount and applies up till the end of January. From February 2000 please add \$5 more.

ACTIVE - SENIOR - \$25 - This sub is for all active trampers (i.e. attend 1 or more Club trip in a year) who are not covered by the FAMILY or JUNIOR category. This sub entitles you to 1 FMC card (which can give you substantial discounts e.g. for Annual hut passes and travel) and 1 set of the Pohokura. Non active members who would like to get an FMC card can also join as an Active Senior.

ACTIVE FAMILY - \$38 - This is the sub for a couple or one parent and one child who are both active. It entitles you to 2 FMC cards and 1 set of the Pohokura.

ACTIVE - JUNIOR - \$13 - This is the sub for an active trumper who is still at school. It entitles you to one FMC card and 1 set of Pohokura.

YOUNG FAMILY - \$25 - This sub is for families whose only involvement with the Club is on the tramps which are designed for the children as described in the Family Tramps section. It entitles the family to 1 FMC card and 1 set of Pohokura.

ASSOCIATE - \$10 - This is the sub for past active members of the Club who still want to keep in touch, it is also the sub for non members wishing to obtain a copy of the Pohokura. The sub entitles you to one set of Pohokura for the year.

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC). BALANCE SHEET.

AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 1999.

	1999	1998
CURRENT ASSETS		
2000 MACPAC deposit	\$600	
Cash on hand	\$10	\$7
Trustbank Cheque Account	\$3,349	\$3,725
Accounts receivable	\$234	\$144
	<u>\$4,193</u>	<u>\$3,876</u>
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Trustbank term deposits	\$8,817	\$12,379
Hastings Building Society	\$132	\$30,841
Fixed Assets	\$68,064	\$29,207
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$81,206</u>	<u>\$76,302</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry payables	\$289	\$250
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$289</u>	<u>\$250</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>\$80,917</u>	<u>\$76,052</u>
Represented by:		
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance at 1 October 1998	\$76,052	\$71,979
Surplus for the year	\$4,865	\$4,073
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	<u>\$80,917</u>	<u>\$76,052</u>
AUDITOR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS OF THE HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)		
I report that I have examined the books and records of the Club and have obtained all the information and explanations that I have required.		
With organisations such as the Club, it is not possible for the auditors to verify all cash received during the year and my examination of income has accordingly been limited to a comparison of recorded receipts with bank deposits. I did not however note anything that would indicate the existence of receipts not banked.		
Subject to the possible effect of the limited control over income referred to in the proceeding paragraph, in my opinion the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet show respectively a fair view of the Club's activities for the year ended 30 September 1999 and of the financial position at that date.		
W.A. Stacey. ACA(Retired)		

