

HTC Committee:

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Fixtures:	<u>John Montgomerie</u> , Janice Love, Brent Hickey, Rodger Burn (Mid-Week Group)
Huts:	<u>John Montgomerie</u> , Janice Love, Brent Hickey
Training:	<u>John Montgomerie</u> , Mike Bull.
Environment:	Penny Isherwood, Mike Lusk, Raewyn Ricketts
Meetings:	<u>Penny Isherwood</u> , Graeme Hare, Pat Hill
Social:	Joan Ruffell, Raewyn Ricketts,
Sales Rep:	Penny Isherwood
Scrap Book:	Janice Love
Library:	Liz Pindar
Editor's Assistant:	Christine Hardie
Supper:	Joan Ruffell, Alasdair Shaw
Photographic Records:	Glenda Hooper, Lex Smith
Membership Records:	Glenda Hooper
Web Editor:	Glenda Hooper

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

**Website: [www.htc.org.nz](http://www.htc.org.nz)**

Mail: P.O. Box 14086, Mayfair, Hastings 4159

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**Club Cellphone (held in the truck) 027 438 6474**

## The Front Page

Most of the world accepts that tramping/hiking is reasonably demanding - it is not often described as a quick or speedy activity nor does it provide instant gratification. It is certainly considered by most people to be healthy; it can be challenging; it requires considerable expenditure of energy over many hours and even days and/or nights on end. Tramping needs patience, practice, co-ordination, fitness, strength and stamina. So, why do we do it? It flies in the face of research that was published recently: humans have a strong evolutionary instinct to be lazy! Imagine this writer's delight to find out about a theory based on research put forward by Professor Lieberman, an expert in evolutionary biology - from Harvard University, no less - to state that our ancestors spent so much time expending energy in their hunter/gatherer lifestyle that they sought rest whenever they could. This trait has been passed down the generations and the esteemed professor says that we are still predisposed to want to conserve energy. He writes that it is "natural and normal to be physically lazy" - it is not really a result of technological or cultural conditioning.

This is wonderful news to those of us who are not inclined to commit over-exertion. We can relax literally and figuratively, and feel sorry for those who speed through their lives like energiser bunnies and don't appear to take time out to smell the flowers or whatever the current cliché is. Surely, there must be something wrong that makes them override their evolutionary heritage; does that mean that trampers have some kind of mutation in their genetic makeup? After all, tramping is not a matter of necessity these days. The old nature vs nurture debate continues undiminished.

Of course, physical laziness is not the only kind that humans are prone to. Intellectual laziness is also significant and seems to be widespread in the 21<sup>st</sup> century so far. The tendency to conserve energy which should be spent on thinking carefully may now be a hindrance; it is frustrating to find so many people who cannot be bothered to exercise their mental capacities and will not make any useful contributions to consideration of important matters. Even in our comparatively sheltered little corner of the world there are problems that seem to be in limbo as far as satisfactory outcomes are concerned: climate change is here and forecast to get stronger; resources and services are not equally shared among all sectors of society; demographic changes in populations are already storing up future economic and health challenges. In the tramping world our concerns are, not surprisingly, environmental because that is where we operate. Are we concerned enough to ensure that there will be enough unsullied environment in New Zealand for the future?

There are those among us who put a lot of time and energy into such things as pest control in the conservation estate, maintenance of huts and tracks, species recovery or outdoor education with the young. But there are many who do very little and seem happy to float along without making a useful contribution. Whose duty is it to address these wider issues? One of the most contentious is the rapidly expanding growth of outdoor tourism and the explosion of overseas visitors - in some iconic areas of the South Island it is estimated that now it is not uncommon for New Zealanders to form only 25-30% of the visitors. Most of us in HTC remember the days when other people were rarely seen on many tracks so it comes as something of a shock to find that places such as the Tongariro Crossing can have over 2000 walkers a day! Is this something that can be maintained? Of course we want to share our back country but is it too much too quickly? Latest figures show that \$14.5 billion a year comes into the country from tourists, 70% of whom come to see our natural wonders. So why is just a fraction of this allocated to DoC to manage and conserve what we trampers consider to be our birthright and heritage? Should there be limits? Should our leaders show the way? Or is it up to us? Maybe we need to encourage more of us to override our evolutionary heritage and expend energy where it is needed, in careful consideration of situations such as these.

CH

## 2016 Annual Reports

### Executive Committee

This year our club membership has remained steady with five new members and the loss of four. One of these four, Geoff Clibborn, passed away in May and was a big loss to the club. He gave many voluntary hours particularly to the truck and huts and, in recognition of this, his widow, Evelyn, has been granted Honorary Membership of HTC. Another major loss for the club was the use of Pernel Orchard's property for truck storage and pre-trip gatherings - we have still to find a suitable replacement for this.

The Hastings Harrier Clubroom [our meeting place] is now a very comfortable place - with the curtains now in, I believe the job is completed. Your committee has continued to implement the changes prescribed at our Club Futures meeting held in May 2015 which were outlined in the August Pohokura. Waikamaka Hut now has a verandah, various types of trips have been trialled, we had a great First Aid course in winter, work has been made on increasing the

## Pohokura

publicity for the club with an updated information booklet, on-going work is being done on the website and Facebook, and flyers are available to go out into the community.

The committee wishes to thank all of you who volunteer in some way to the club, be it on working bees for huts, track-clearing or river bank clean-ups, Hazmobile fund-raising, truck drivers, those who produce the Pohokura [not just Editor Randall but his proof-reader and all of you who contribute trip reports and articles], those who chair our meetings, those who lead tramps and those who lend a hand when they see a need. Thank you all. My final thank-you goes to all the members and visitors who entertained and/or informed us on the Wednesday night meetings. We have covered a diverse range of topics over the year and ventured away from the Hastings Harrier Hall at times. Our good relationship with the local Department of Conservation has been sorely challenged this year as we see the removal of our local hands-on people from Onga Onga to be based at Palmerston North. Concern was voiced by many clubs as well as the Ruahine User Group but to no avail. We are also concerned about the down-sizing and relocating of people at Boundary Stream and from Puketitiri Field Centre. We are in good communication with FMC through its Central Email Group and the National Executive has backed up many of our concerns. Our committee at HTC is small and it would be good to have some more people on it – so please, if you do have some spare time, how about joining us?

Glenda Hooper

### HTC Truck Committee

Regrettably we lost our principal truck carer with the passing of Geoff Clibborn in May 2016.

Our truck has now covered 139,000km, another 6,500km since the last annual report and a very low reading for a 17 year-old vehicle. It still gets a mix of mid-week outings, weekend trips but no annual nine-day jaunt this year. It is well maintained and serviced. We are grateful to our very small pool of drivers, primarily Christine and Lex, but also David Blake and Peter Berry, who are still able to do the job for us. Ross Berry has indicated a willingness to drive. Thanks also to the team who continue to look after the mattresses.

Operating costs would have been down in line with reduced mileage but for the one-off brake costs.

Certificate of fitness every six months	\$290
Insurance for year	\$580
Annual Service	\$560
Annual Registration	\$540
Road User Charges – 10 cents per km	\$520
Sundry	\$16
Fuel	\$1,085
Tyre/call out	\$204
Truck Storage	\$400
<u>Brake Service/overhaul</u>	<u>\$1,565</u>
TOTAL	\$5,760

Cost per week= \$110

The committee regularly considers whether the truck still meets our needs at an acceptable cost or if we should downsize to a smaller mini-bus. This may be cheaper to run and possibly allow more drivers to participate. Such vehicles may have some obvious advantages but they are light and some have low ground clearance which may limit our road end options. If a trailer was necessary this would add to costs, i.e. WOF/Registration and insurance. It may also limit our road end options! We keep an open mind as rules and regulations may catch up with us and dictate change. We lost our garaging in August with the sale of Pernel Orchard – a big thanks to Philip and David Mardon for that facility over the years.

Lex Smith

### Huts Committee

**HOWLETTTS:** mid-January during a trip, the usual clean-up and attention to the wooden dormer window, mattress cleaning and firewood gathering. Again in August a similar effort including taking out the above window, shaving the edge with a saw emulating a plane, so that it now closes without jamming against the frame. This was painted too and a long screw put through the sill as it had cracked, probably due to being stood on in past painting jobs. All interior window sills and facings painted. This was just after the big August snow drop - there was about half a metre of snow in most places. In the morning it was nearly crampons to get to the toilet! Heaps of wood found, most of which was brought back and sawn up as there was very little at the hut. All else in good order and condition but we need to get the 15 bags of coal that are now at Ken Mills' home, buy another 15 or 20 and fly them in next autumn. The coal bag count last August was three. At the same time a better and safer wooden bunk ladder needs to be made and taken in to replace the narrow, tricky one that is presently there.

**KIWI SADDLE:** hut has no doubt been visited by club members but no reports of anything untoward.

January 2017

## Pohokura

**WAIKAMAKA:** has had the recent focus. We were fortunate to get approval just before Christmas 2015 for \$7100 from the Outdoor Recreation Consortium for funding a deck, roof, covered-in portion for a woodshed and dry area, a new stainless steel bench top as well as a tank to be installed. The project was delayed from being done in the summer for various reasons, including a lot of to and fro with the Rangitikei District Council regarding the need or not for a building consent. In the end an exemption was granted, but of course as long as it was built according to building codes and plans submitted to them. A full report and photographs of strategic building stages will be sent to the Rangitikei DC and DoC. Once I had an idea of when Ed Holmes could attempt the work, the materials could be ordered, culminating in the weekend of 18/21 November being chosen for the job. Ed was accompanied by his leading man at Gemco, John Lock, so we had two key men on the job for us. It was fun working with them, quite hilarious at times ribbing each other. We have now the three club huts in great shape for the next decade hopefully. I have a concern now that in five to ten years hence with [even now] small numbers of regular members able to get to the huts [Ruahine huts especially] coupled with a lack of younger members to come through the ranks with experience and skills, that to continue the good work from those who have built and maintained these huts over past decades will be difficult. I hope I am wrong.

John Montgomerie

**At the Annual General Meeting held at the Hastings Harrier Club rooms on Wednesday, 23rd November, 2016 the following awards were presented:**

**TRAMPER OF THE YEAR AWARD (Stan Woon Memorial Trophy)**

Presented to Anne Doig

**LEATHERWOOD TROPHY (For valuable contribution to HTC)**

Presented to John Montgomerie

### Mid-Week Group

One of our newer mid-week members recently commented how much she enjoyed her Wednesday outings because of the welcome she had received when she joined us and the enjoyment that everyone showed as they tramped or cycled along their way. Gratifying to hear that – we enjoy the compliments but we also are not afraid to hear complaints or suggestions as they come and do our best to accommodate them.

The good weather continued well into June this year and we had barely any cancellations until late winter/spring. The club truck remains available to us and members find it an enjoyable way to travel – the pool of drivers has even expanded as the two Peters have indicated their willingness to help out if needed. Numbers on trips have averaged out at 13 and it is becoming more common for the larger groups to subdivide, particularly when we are cycling. This means that people can go further and faster if they want to without putting pressure on slower folk [especially those who struggle to go quickly up steep hills]. We always catch up each other at lunchettes and rest stops.

We appreciate the efforts of those who organise and lead our trips, and also the small team that meets a couple of times a year to make up a programme. Of course this is generally very flexible and swapping of events can occur at any time. However, Rodger's weekly emails keep everyone up-to-date. One thing that would be helpful is more photos of our activities. Many of us don't bother any more, thinking that there is a surfeit in this digital world but it is fun to look back on these moments. Give it a go!

CH

## Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended 30 September 2016

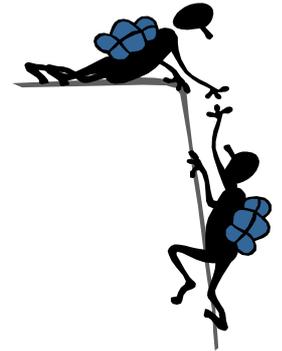
INCOME	NOTES	2016	2015
Subscriptions		\$ 1,958	\$ 2,401
Fares Received	1	\$ 3,640	\$ 4,982
Meeting Contributions		-	\$ 207
Donations			
Hut	2	\$ 1,496	\$ 1,110
General		\$ 34	-
Fund-raising		\$ 3,024	\$ 2,988
Auction	4	\$ 1,542	\$ 1,345
Interest Income		\$ 1,007	\$ 6,437
Sales		\$ 205	\$ 472
		<b>\$12,906</b>	<b>\$19,942</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Administration		\$ 250	\$ 203
Audit & Accountancy	3	\$ -	\$ 460
General Expenses		\$ 241	\$ 52
Donations	4	\$ 1,542	\$ 1,395
Insurance (huts & equipment)		\$ 911	\$ 932
Rent of Meeting Room		\$ 228	\$ 384
Supper & Social Expenses	5	\$ 117	\$ 1,686
Library & Photo Album		\$ 45	\$ -
FMC Capitation		\$ 1,020	\$ 1,000
Meetings		\$ 180	\$ 346
Pohokura (bulletin)		\$ 797	\$ 1,272
Hut Maintenance	6	\$ 67	\$ 1,158
Subscriptions		\$ 57	\$ 157
Training		\$ 440	\$ 271
Transport Costs		\$ 5,180	\$ 4,930
Truck Insurance		\$ 579	\$ 595
Equipment		\$ 304	\$ -
Telephone & Website		\$ 41	\$ 296
Write-Off	7	\$ -	\$ 381
Depreciation		\$ 477	\$ 520
		<b>\$12,476</b>	<b>\$16,038</b>
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS		<b>\$ 430</b>	<b>\$ 3,904</b>
<b>NOTES:</b>			
1. Fares – nine day Eastland Trip 2015 and regular midweek trips			
2. Hut Donations – steady income in response to hut notices			
3. Audit – 2015 fee paid early at reduced rate			
4. Donations – \$1542 Lowe Walker Helicopter Trust			
5. 80 <sup>th</sup> Club Birthday costs met by club \$1560 - 2015			
6. Reduced maintenance incurred this year.			
7. W/off – 1 EPERB, replaced in 2016			

Pohokura

		2016	2015
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Westpac Cheque Account		\$ 4,025	\$ 4,621
Accounts Receivable		\$ -	\$ -
		\$ 4,025	\$ 4,621
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Westpac	Term Deposit	\$ 18,350	\$ 17,597
	Term Deposit	\$ 28,780	\$ 27,738
	Term Deposit	\$ 11,101	\$ -
	Term Deposit	\$ 11,492	\$ 10,589
	Term Deposit	\$ -	\$ 11,075
HBS Bank	Term Deposit	\$ 17,436	\$ 16,636
(Truck Replacement)	Term Deposit	\$ 74,001	\$ 70,308
Fixed Assets	Term Deposit	\$ 2,929	\$ 3,694
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		\$168,115	\$162,259
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Sundry payables		\$ 250	\$ 250
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		\$ 250	\$ 250
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		\$167,865	\$162,009
<b>Represented by:</b>			
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>			
Balance at 1 October 2015		\$162,009	\$158,105
Surplus for the year		\$ 430	\$ 3,904
<b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		\$162,439	\$162,009
<b>AUDITOR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS OF THE HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)</b>			
I report that I have examined the financial records of the Club and have obtained all the information and explanations that I have required.			
With organisations such as this Club, it is not possible 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 preceding 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 2016 and of the financial position at that date.			
W.A. Stacey.	A.C.A.	J.A. Smith	HTC Treasurer

January 2017

# TRIP REPORTS



**#2344      Ruahine Corner Hut – Ruahine FP      Queens Birthday W/E 4 - 6 June 2016**

Three 4WDs headed off at 6am to the west containing 11 people for the long weekend. Care was needed on the way for some heavily frosted sections of the road. Stopped to visit the Otupae Station manager's house but no one home. Leaving the main gravel public road, we went in via a side track that meets up with the main farm route, and so through the station. Along the watershed ridge, then crossed through into Mangaohane Station, right through to their boundary with the Awarua Aorangi Trust private land. This is about a 12km across country route. Leaving the vehicles there, then plodded in the 7km route through to Ruahine Corner hut. The airstrip seems to have had a makeover and a windsock installed, last time there about three years ago it was all overgrown grass and hard to see where the strip had been. During the weekend a plane did land for a short time and departed again. This route is just magnificent, through rolling tussock easy slopes to the bush edge lined with Kaikawaka trees [Mountain Cedar]. It is a neat area for the variation in flora and the dolines or depressions that are scattered about, some very deep and almost dangerous to get down into. No text adjustment instructed.

Anne, Janice and self carried on after lunch at the hut, on south to the high point Potae and down Potae creek to meet up with the Mangatera River route that takes you to the tributary to turn up, the Remutupo Stream, to get to Colenso Hut. As the days are short in June, we did not have too much time before the day left us little daylight, but managed a quick look at the lake, and gathered firewood for the night. We expected from what we had been told that the hut may have had hunting parties there but fortunately we had it to ourselves. A really good frost overnight [ everything was white frosted] led to a chilly start to the next day, Sunday, so gloves on for the start were needed. I think we returned to Ruahine Corner hut just after lunch, got bunks sorted out and those camping outside. Some were away exploring the Black Hill or Te Rakauruiakura Hill 1331m area to the west, others the water courses near the hut that had some interesting features. A major firewood mission by those at the hut had produced masses of dead kaikawaka branches that almost filled the firewood shed right up, so the next occupants will benefit by that!

Another heavy frost that night so the tents and tussock were white as if it had almost been snowing.

Away about 9am on the Monday, those who had stayed the whole weekend at Ruahine Corner went straight out slowly to the vehicles, while Anne, Janice and self detoured over to the base of Black Hill for a looksee, then catching the main group just before getting to the vehicles. At the main gravel road we dispersed , but I called in to actually catch the manager of Otupae, introduce myself and have a good chat to him. We are welcome again so will probably visit again in the future. The Mangaohane manager is also very happy for us to have been able to use their access, so all in all is good for the future. Permission is of course needed for the traverse of the trust land too. Besides my 4WD, thanks to Gerald and Fred for providing theirs too. Going in early on Saturday all was frosted heavily and firm to drive on, but on the way out places were quite sloppy and slippery as the day had melted all. By chance today I met the Otupae owner who said in the recent big snow event that the snow was over half way up the gates on the top country. Would have been a longer weekend if it had happened while we were there! The weekend enjoyed by all so that was great. So lucky with the perfect weather too.

JM

**Party:** Andy Fowler, Terry Fowler, Tina Godbert, Gerald Blackburn, Lynette Blackburn, Susan Lopdell, Marion Nicholson, Fred Chesterman, Janice Love, Anne Cantrick, John Montgomerie

#2345

Lawrence to Lotkow – Kaweka Forest Park

14 August 2016

On the Wednesday trip the brake light was coming on, and the brake fluid was low so I checked the truck in to be looked at. A wise move as it turned out, although perhaps not as wise a move as postponing our trip up the Taihape road the previous weekend. So, one week later, nine of us set off in three cars for the Lawrence Road end. A quick stop at The Blowhard for Karen, who had never seen snow before, to have a play and then a few more kilometres with the road nicely ploughed and the fallen trees cut back out of the way to where it starts to go downhill (both literally and figuratively). At this point the snow on the now unploughed road got too deep for the two cars so we carried on in my four-wheel drive, ducking and diving through snow and around many fallen trees, none of which I enjoyed (he! he!).

Anyhow, after ferrying every one to the end of the road, we set off across the big, long, scary swing-bridge and forged our way on up the track. There was a bit of snow-break, but nothing too bad until we got to the bit that cuts down into the little stream - here it was very difficult to follow the track because of the damage: big kanuka had been snapped clean off and smaller trees and shrubs were all bent like hoops. As we got higher there was more snow about but it was mostly gone.

A cold wind had been blowing up where we parked the cars but when we stopped for a break at the track junction the sun was shining, and it was lovely and warm. We then carried on until we reached the stream that takes you up to the saddle and there we hit snow once again, as it is quite cold and shady. The stream was a real mess, with snow-break and hooped trees everywhere so we eventually gave it up as a bad joke and went back down to the track to eat our lunch in the sun before wandering on back to the Lawrence Road end.

Not one of those wildly adventurous trips, but very pleasant and very interesting seeing the devastation that nature can wreck with a good solid dump of wet snow. PB

Party: Glenda Hooper, Hansa Cotter, Peter Berry, Anne Doig, Karen Duplessis, Des Smith, Mike Bull, Anne Cantrick, Susan Lopdell

#2346

Onepoto – Lake Waikaremoana

17 – 18 September 2016

After a slight glitch (a good Samaritan having left the truck lights on overnight), the HTC wagon rumbled into Bay View to collect Susan and Des at the Mobil petrol station. It was a smooth trip along the Napier- Wairoa road and soon a loo stop was requested - what a comedy show!!! Men and women roaming about trying to find a private spot, men perched atop a very steep bank and the women behind a shingle pile and a very weeny bit of vegetation, providing those in the cab a lot of amusement. A quick head count: whew! We hadn't lost anyone and the journey continued, turning off at Awamate Road, now tar-sealed all the way to where it joins State Highway 38, and onwards to the lake. We detoured to the bach at Onepoto to drop off the chilly bins and collect Derek who had driven down that morning from the Mount. Onwards around the lake to the car park at the start of Ngamoko Track (near the site of the old THC hotel) where Kevin (from Auckland) was awaiting us. DoC has fixed up the very-eroded start to the track by strategically placing a number of wooden steps on the initial ascent to the water tank. An overcast day and the party motored along on a well-benched track to the 800 to 1000 year-old rata which is now fenced off. The route became a normal tramping track, climbing steeply through some splendid podocarp forest to the trig at 1100m – alas, once again it was very misty on top, and we just managed to glimpse Home Bay near the camping ground. Six of the party in two groups left to follow the track down towards Lake Kaitawa, diverting onto the old Maori trail which comes out at Rosies Bay. Somehow the second group beat the first group back to the truck! Strange, that!

We all settled in at the late Lou Dolman's bach at Onepoto (Lou was the local policeman based at Tuai for many years), arranging the sleeping areas and shifting furniture to accommodate us all. As the kitchen area was small, it was a shared meal with lovely ham soup followed by a beef casserole accompanied with rice and broccoli and, to top it all off, sweet home-made slices with tea and coffee. Then the majority stayed up to watch the delayed broadcast of the All Blacks game on Prime TV and all were tucked up in bed shortly after 11pm. Sunday a.m. was a joint effort with breakfast, all truck and personal gear loaded into the truck before a very short briefing on the day's activities.

Walked along the road to the entrance of the Great Walk, stopping to read the info panels before coming across a track closure sign and orange tape across the track.

(THE TRIP ORGANISER HAD TRIED TO RING ANIWANIWA ALL THROUGH THE WEEK AND NO-ONE ANSWERED AND THERE WAS NO WAY TO LEAVE A MESSAGE. EVEN RANG NAPIER OFFICE WHO SAID IT WAS UNDER THE GISBORNE OFFICE; RANG GISBORNE WHO SAID NO, THAT IS NOT CORRECT AND GAVE ME THREE NUMBERS TO RING! NO LUCK. THE ONLY TRACK ALERT WAS FOR THE FAR END OF THE GREAT WALK - HOPURUAHINE END - DUE TO ROCKFALLS AND THE PREVIOUS ALERT FOR THE PANEKIRI END HAD BEEN TAKEN OFF). We managed to find another 2-2.5 hour tramp visiting the graves, Lake Kiriopukae, the site of the old redoubt as well as wandering through the Onepoto Caves track with a small

## Pohokura

group climbing up to Lou's Lookout where we managed to see great views of the lake and Panekiri Bluff. After farewelling Kevin and Derek, who were returning via SH38, we set off for home (Derek's photo that he sent me later that night showed that he had a very wet trip home with some roadslips to deal with). As we neared Tutira the skies darkened and, just after Lex had commented on the difficult driving conditions, the rain thundered down.

Thank you, Lex, for driving and obtaining the bach for us once again, Greg and Des for the casserole and soup, to Janet, Derek and Anne for the baking and to the others who contributed items, to the cooks, dishwashers and cleaners – it made life so much easier. Derek (Mount Maunganui) and Kevin (Auckland): it was great to have to with us over the weekend and hope you had a safe if not adventurous trip home. SL

Party: Janet Titchener, Anne Doig, Lex and Greg Smith, Des Smith, Joan Ruffell, Alasdair Shaw, Glenda Hooper, Derek Boshier, Pat Hill, Brent Hickey, Kevin Gilbert, Susan Lopdell (organiser)

**#2347**

**Rogue Ridge Area – Kaweka Forest Park**

**5 October 2016**

When rain is forecast every second day it does not encourage 'mature' trampers to commit themselves. Well, that is what I suspect happened as only five pairs of boots boarded the truck at 7:00 a.m to head to Lakes Car Park. We expected windfalls on the tracks after seeing the damage to the production forest on Blowhard - mature trees without their upper thirds, broken off by heavy wet snows in August. Even the contorta pines were broken with numerous branches torn from trunks.



*Ex-Kaweka Hut Site*

Our small party departed at 9:30a.m. promising Peter we would return to the truck by 3:30pm as he was in a play that was opening that night. Only fair to co-operate with our driver. Our plan was to cross the Tutaekuri, go up Rogue Ridge and travel north towards the Tits or Kaiarahi depending on time available. On the open ridges the westerly winds were cold and strong. Our two small groups joined together on the descent to Kaweka Hut site which, like surrounding beech forest, has suffered from the heavy snows. A nice spot for lunch too. Many tracks will need attention to return them to the standard they were in prior to the snowstorm. In fact, we were back at the truck shortly after 2pm and home by 4pm. Grateful thanks to Peter for driving. GRH

Party: Janice Love, Mark Hutchison, Des Smith, Peter Berry, Graeme Hare

Special thanks to Susan Lopdell for organising this weekend; alas Susan was unable to join us so, armed with her forest park map, the old Carterton topo map and a DoC pdf, on Friday (Hawke's Bay Anniversary Day) a group of five set off for Otaki Forks. Otaki Gorge Road, south of Otaki township, gives access to the Forks and this road had been closed for about seven months because of slips. It opened again in July with the last five kilometres being unsealed, narrow and windy. We arrived at the carpark and, after a short walk around the area, we set off for Field Hut (a basic facilities, 20-bunk historic hut) which is at about 860 metres. We noted the DoC time of three to four hours. Access to Field Hut is across Waitauru Footbridge which is substantial with a maximum load of 15. Initially there is a very well formed track across open grassland then it goes up through re-generating forest. Once into the kamahi and beech forest it is a steady climb to the hut. We were blessed with a mild and overcast day. About 20 minutes from the hut we met the informative and chatty Otaki/Levin equivalent of our Wednesday group. On the trip up we discovered why one does not take useful items, e.g. boot laces (put there by their father) from the pack. Greg had a footwear malfunction with the sole coming away from the body of his shoe. Fortunately, Lex had a long white boot lace in his pack so Greg was able to cobble the shoe together and continue the tramp. The cobbling was to have a few additions and lasted the weekend. We were the first group to arrive at the hut so, after a look around which included the upper floor, we established ourselves on five mattresses in the main part of the hut, had lunch and then wandered on to Table Top (1047 metres) for the views. We were rewarded with views to the north-west of Horowhenua and out to Tasman Sea. As the wind was brisk and the views restricted we returned to Field Hut, collecting firewood as we went.



Our tenure of the hut was soon to be shared with an Englishman who stopped off for a bite to eat before continuing on to Kime Hut; he assured us that he would be there before dark and he had a torch. At about the same time a father and two sons arrived. Gosh, they were a well-oiled team: firewood was chopped, the upstairs was swept, dinner was cooked and no mess was too small to be tidied away. Bedtime for us was at about 8:30p.m. At about 11:00pm we were woken by the arrival of a number of night trampers. It was difficult to ascertain numbers but they were silhouetted by the light of their burners. In the morning Mary was woken to the unexpected appearance of her daughter, Judith, and grand-daughter, Tania. It was established that nine people had come in through the night and were setting off further into the Tararua Range. As our party was heading back to Parawai Lodge we breakfasted leisurely (allowing others to get on their journey), swept out the hut, packed and Janice arranged a group photo of our party.

On our trip back down to Parawai Lodge we met a large number of trampers who were tramping far and wide. Kime Hut seemed a popular destination (a 20-bed hut with no heating). Parawai Lodge had been full to overflowing on Friday night. Saturday and Sunday night we shared it with a group of about eight others although most of them took mattresses and camped out in a tent or, in the case of one chap, under the stars. Susan's itinerary was to form our weekend plans. On Saturday, after descending back to Parawai Lodge, we deposited our overnight gear, from the truck we replenished our supplies, had lunch then wandered along the Waitewaewae track. The Waitewaewae goes across

## Pohokura

disused farmland and down to the Otaki River, which is crossed by swing bridge, then goes along through regenerating native forest up and along the side of the hill. We walked for about an hour when we decided that it was a track without much shade so turned back. On returning to the disused farmland Mary, Janice and I followed the track across grassland and down to the Otaki River.

On Sunday morning we woke to a frost which promised and delivered us a fine day. The itinerary was for us to walk past the caretaker's cottage to the start of the Waiotauru track. At Sheridan Creek there is a complete timber heritage site managed as a remote experience site. Restoration work includes log hauler and boiler plus two sections of tramway have been excavated, placed on new sleepers and the turntable rebuilt. If there is plenty of time you can wander to the swingbridge and return. We missed the instructions to go through the school house campsite so we walked up Waiotauru Track. Through the manuka and bush we came to a grassy river terrace where the boiler and other machinery that drove the Seed and O'Brien sawmill from 1929 to 1931 remain. Waiotauru Track gives good views of Waiotauru River but no access. The track in places showed the ravages of the harsh Tararua climate, and is well-used by hunters and trappers coming in from the south-west or completing a circuit on the Tararua Range plus day trappers. It was on this track we met the young Englishman who had stopped off at Field Hut on Friday evening.

The Otaki Forks area is very well used with a variety of tracks, campsites and Waiotauru River offering several safe swimming pools. Lex was the only one to go swimming; the rest of us washed there. Arcus Track is an easy 1-2 hour loop track going across river terraces, streams and gullies. There is a well-placed seat with a good view of Waiotauru River and river terraces. Lex and Greg walked this track on Sunday afternoon. Janice, Mary and I enjoyed an early morning walk on Monday. Our last track to walk was the Fenceline Loop so, with Parawai Lodge swept (thanks to Lex and Greg), we loaded our gear into the truck and drove up to the Waiotauru carpark. Fenceline Track is an easy to moderate 1½ - 2 hour track passing through regenerating forest with good views of the river valley including looking across the river and back to Parawai Lodge. We had a very enjoyable four days tramping in the central-western Tararua Range with fine weather. Our trip back to Havelock North included a comfort stop and lunch in Shannon, a visit to the Shannon Railway Museum and an ice cream in Waipawa. Thank you to all who made this trip possible. AD

**Party:** Lex Smith (driver), Greg Smith, Mary Gray, Janice Love, Anne Doig

#2349	Manawatu Gorge Track	Wed 19 October 2016
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Eleven people arrived at Peter's number two house in the morning, ready to head down to the gorge for a day's walk. It was great to see long-time HTC member, Geoff Robbie, joining us for the day and we could reminisce about amazing tramps of days gone by. The weather was mild with a little cloud about. Travelling down through Dannevirke we stopped to pick up Dave plus a comfort stop for many of us at the fun loo building in the main street – enough time for Mister Bull to equip himself with a breakfast pie.

As we approached the ranges the driver reported great masses of dark, rain-filled clouds which did not look very inviting. The Woodville end of the gorge track had been closed because of slips from earlier heavy rain so we carried on to the parking area at the western end. A number of vehicles were already there and a group of school children had set off ahead of us. We finally got going at about 10 o'clock and the weather was changing. For the worse.....with steadily increasing drizzle!

We ambled along the wide track with a side venture to the lookout platform where you can see the big slip that came down a few years ago. This engendered a debate about the merits of rail versus road through the gorge. Most of us then walked about halfway along the route before turning back to one of the junctions where this is a nice spot with picnic tables so we could have lunch. One or two people went further before turning back and some others had already returned to the truck for food and contemplation. The rest of us lurked in the bushes to consume our goodies. Fortunately the drizzle had eased off so we didn't get soaked. We were pleased to be under the watchful eye of the Maori warrior who stands about four metres high and has a fairly menacing look on his face.

We took the lower track back which has a spot with a seat and a view to Palmerston North over the green pastures of Manawatu. From there it was a straightforward walk back to the truck for a closer look at all the information panels there plus more sustenance for the drive home which we reached by 5pm.

**Party:** Garry Smith [organiser], Christine Hardie [driver], Rodger Burn, Mike Bull, Lynn Walch, Judy McBride, Anne Doig, Brent Hickey, Mark Hutchinson, Geoff Robinson, Roy Frost, Dave Mulinder

Pohokura



*Walkway under the main road with Geoff Robinson in the foreground, Rodger Burn next in-line.*



*Manawatu Gorge Track*

## Pohokura



*Manawatu Gorge Track with the railway line on the far side of the river*

<b>#2350</b>	<b>Iron Whare – Kaweka Forest Park</b>	<b>30 October 2016</b>
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Eight keen trampers headed up to the base of Makahu Spur on a typical spring day. We headed due north for the Kaweka Flats bivvy and straight away were noticing the damage of broken tree tops and snapped branches thanks to the heavy snow over winter. Mary had brought her kiwi radio-tracking equipment for the day and said how she hadn't seen so much in parts of the beech forest. After lunch we spent the afternoon clearing parts of the track so it would be useable for others in the seasons ahead. At the end of the day we didn't make it to Iron Whare Hut.

**Party:** Dave Blake with daughter Theresa, Peter Berry, Mike Bull, Anne Doig, Glenda Hooper, Mary Gray, Brent Hickey

<b>#2351</b>	<b>Beach Walk</b>	<b>Wed 2 November 2016</b>
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This Wednesday's outing ticked all the boxes and Peter B kindly offered to drive the truck. Most of us met up at Taradale before heading off to Waipataki Scenic Reserve. Here, Graeme May with Zinnie the faithful canine elected to drive on to the beach and follow the coastal walkway through to Aropanui and meet us there. Meanwhile the rest of us headed up the through the reserve and under the impressive archways formed by the fronds of nikau palms - a first for Des and Peter H. We then passed through large stands of kanuka near the tops adjacent to Aropanui Road where Graeme called for a smoko at a sunny spot at about 11.00am. We carried on down the road which seemed to go on for ever and Peter identified shining cuckoo and other treasures before joining up at the beach with Graeme May at about 1:00pm. We had to cross the bar which had a strong current and is to be avoided at high tide. We couldn't have asked for better weather and, with low tide at 2:30pm, we followed the track with its ups and downs below the limestone cliffs back to Waipataki Beach. This took 90 minutes for most and, once there, we scoffed the rest of our lunch. The track is a bit like a goat track in places but quite manageable and this circuit was a first for most of our party. Everybody was very happy with our day and we forgot about our sore feet. RB

**Party:** Des Smith, Anne Doig, Graeme and Zinnie May, Peter Berry, Garry Smith, Roy Frost, Peter Hewitt, Graeme Hare, Rodger Burn

We departed from our truck's new Home Depot opposite Glenda and Peter's residence in Te Aute Rd right on time at 6am. Just as we were heading off down the road we realized that Joan and Alasdair were not with us so we waited for another couple of minutes until they turned up. After a brief stop at Caltex Omaha Road to fuel up with diesel, we proceeded out towards Puketitiri Rd via Puketapu. Approaching the bridge at Puketapu we had to drive through some rubbish that had spilled off a trailer. Somehow a piece of stainless steel angle iron amongst the debris managed to flick up and penetrate the underside of one of the truck storage lockers. The resulting noise was quite alarming as we came to an enforced stop. Fortunately, on inspection of the underside of the truck, we were relieved to find that the damage to the truck storage locker was only minor. Moving on, we made good time and arrived at our pre-arranged pick-up point for our other passengers at the corner of Puketitiri and Whittle Roads by 7:30am. It was a full truck load with well over twenty people aboard who disembarked at Makahu carpark. After everyone had boots on and packs up, we had a brief team talk and then by 8:30 am moved off up the track towards Kaweka J.

The lovely fine weather had deteriorated somewhat by the time we reached Dominie Bivouac for our morning tea break. Everyone put on their wet weather jackets and warm extra clothing in anticipation of the freezing conditions to be encountered at the summit. The summit party encountered what at first glance appeared to be a yeti, but was in fact a reclining Randall, one of our advance HTC party members who had overnighted at Dominie Bivouac on Saturday and then moved on to camp out in the slightly more sheltered lee of the tussock ridge at the summit. We were a little disappointed he didn't have the kettle boiling for us as it was freezing cold while we waited for the tail-end trampers to arrive and start our wreath-laying ceremony by 11am.

As we all huddled around the memorial cairn trying to take shelter behind one another, the readings by Derek and Joan were very moving indeed. Our small wreath added a poignant reminder to us all of just how much was sacrificed by our young men from HTC all those years ago.

#### TO THE CAIRN

No more to tramp these ranges high  
Where rock and snow meets wind and sky,  
These strong young men, adventure seeking,  
To foreign lands went unsuspecting  
of the horror that awaits them -  
hunger, sickness, death and destruction.

Their families would question why  
so many of them had to die.  
For war is such a futile thing  
And so today, remembering -  
We raise them up and hold them high  
Here where "The Cairn" meets wind and sky.  
*J Ruffell*

The trip back down the ridge to the truck was unfortunately marred by an accident on a very treacherous section of wet, narrow, clay-pan track. Glenda lost her footing and slid off it, falling several metres down a very steep clay face before coming to a halt at the bottom with a damaged and very painful shoulder. By 2:30pm we had arrived at Pam's farm house for our much-anticipated and legendary post tramp afternoon tea. The ladies had yet again excelled themselves with an amazing selection of home baking which was enjoyed by one and all. As we drove home everyone was feeling very content, having had another rewarding day in the hills. Many thanks to Lex who delivered us all safely back to home base at Te Aute Road at around 5pm. DS

**Party:** Lex Smith (driver), Des Smith (organiser), Greg Smith, Janice Love, Mike Bull, Derek Boshier, Alasdair Shaw, Joan Ruffell, Anne Doig, Mark Hutchinson, Glenda Hooper, Natalie Berry, Peter Hewitt, Randall Goldfinch, Kathy Eggers + four children, Ali and friends

For a few years now we have been offering our time to the Regional Council on one Wednesday to do any job that would assist them. We have gathered up lots of rubbish, usually around road access to stopbanks and beaches but this time we gathered at Crosses Road Bridge to clean up new plantings and spread oak and walnut wood chips over the planted areas. The big old trees stopped any understory growth. Stevie Smidt of HBRC met us at Crosses Road, Havelock North with his ute and a well set-up covered trailer, with the necessary equipment stored in it. In three hours at Karamu Stream our team of 18 stalwarts completed the job that Stevie had hoped to achieve using mainly spades,

## Pohokura

shovels and wheelbarrows. It all looked very tidy too when we finished. Thank you to everyone who came to assist.  
GRH

**Party:** Barbara Phillips, Scott Campbell, Alasdair Shaw, Joan Ruffell, Anne Cantrick, Judy McBride, Brent Hickey, Dennis Beets, Christine Snook, Anne Doig, Graeme May, Des Smith, Peter Hewitt, Penny Isherwood, Marion Nicholson, Roy Frost, Pam Turner, Graeme Hare

<b>#2354</b>	<b>Tangoio Walkway and White Pine Bush</b>	<b>11 December 2016</b>
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A great turn-out of trampers (17 all up) for what promised to be a beautiful sunny day. The truck left its new home in Te Aute Road promptly at 8a.m. with 2/3rds of the party – another five squeezed into the truck at Taradale and the final member of the party, Susan, joined us at the parking lot at White Pine Bush. The larger loop of White Pine Bush had us admiring the low morning sun shining through the redwoods and an 800 year-old kahikatea. We then crossed the Napier-Wairoa state highway and headed onto the Tangoio Walkway. The track was a little boggy in places but really very easy going as it passed through bush and some open grassy areas. A viewing platform provided a great view of the Tangoio Falls with the walk eventually ending up at the Te Ana Falls. Two of us (Yulia and Janet) braved the body-numbing cold water for a swim before we all headed back to Napier for our lunch on the beach and at the cafes. Many thanks to Peter for the driving.

**Party:** Brent Hickey, Andrew McClunnie with daughter Yulia, Susan Lopdell, Anne Doig, Janice Love, Marion Nicholson, Fred Chesterman, Janet Titchener, Michael and Robyn Pohlenz, Joan Ruffell, Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, Bruce Houghton, Des Smith, Natalie Berry

<b>#2355</b>	<b>Waimarama Beach</b>	<b>Wed 14 December 2016</b>
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Our last midweek walk for the year and we exchanged the mountains for the seaside. As always, beach walks are popular so we had a good turnout. Our party of 19 plus numerous canines met up at the carpark next to the new Waimarama Surf Lifesaving Club Lookout Tower where Dennis Beets had kindly arranged for us to have an escorted tour around the club's facilities with Bella, a young club member. This proved to be a real eye-opener with Bella explaining club activities which totalled about 1000 interactions with the public last summer – this included rescues, patrols, warnings, first aid applications and observations – goes to show how valuable the service is throughout the country. The professional lifeguards were due to start the season's work three days after our visit and they are supplemented by the volunteers for the summer. We were impressed with the large range of expensive equipment that the club uses such as surf boats, inflatables, quad bikes, surf skis and paddle boards and we enjoyed pretending that we were lifeguards even though it was the views from the watch tower that were the best part. [An interesting piece of information was found on the topo map in the tower: a small rock off the southern end of the beach was labelled Poo Rock! No-one we asked seemed to know why but maybe we will find out one day].

After all this education we had a long beach walk heading north over Puhokio Stream to Putaranui Point. The day was overcast at first but gradually cleared and warmed up as time went on. At the northern end we noted the evidence of eroding hillsides which Lynn confirmed. Like a lot of the east coast there is plenty of evidence of the effects of rising seas and heavy storms which wear away at the land. A handful of people and dogs elected to have lunch at this point but the rest of us headed back over the sandy stretches to the park to eat. By the time we got there our legs and feet were feeling the effects of the long trudge – even the dogs were comparatively subdued. Alasdair and Christine braved the sea for a bracing swim – the choppy waves certainly made it a bit lively. Nats also had a dip when she got back. Everyone swapped tales of their Xmas plans and we gave Rodger a bottle of wine in appreciation of another year's sterling work. Hasta la vista, baby; we'll be back! A great day, close to home and thanks again to Christine for driving the truck.  
RB

**Party:** Rodger Burn [organiser], Brent Hickey, Margaret Graham, Anne Doig, Liz Pindar, Christine Hardie, Lynn Walch, Judy McBride, Marion Nicholson, Glenda Hooper, Natalie Berry, Scott Campbell, Des Smith, Alasdair Shaw, Joan Ruffell, Pat Hill with grandson Fenton, Graeme and Tracy May



Waimarama Surf lifesaving Equipment

# HTC Bike Trips



## Cycle Trails near Napier

**Wed 17 August 2016**

Eleven riders met at Wharangi Reserve gates to ride out to Bay View – Rodger saw us off and then followed Graeme's map to Knightsbridge to drop off one of the club bike racks. The rest of us set off along the Water Ride, biking around Poraiti Hill and making our way to the estuary where we were greeted at the bridge by a white heron. Graeme raced off to the northern end of the bridge to take photos leaving the strung-out party to follow more slowly. We ducked back under the road and re-joined the trail which goes around the airport. As a result we somehow lost Graeme who continued to the Westshore Hotel near where he, fortunately, later found us. Des had gone back when we discovered the absence but a search was not needed!

The weather was perfect with glorious sunshine and a light breeze that did not impede our pedalling. North of the airport we had a snack break before continuing on to Snapper Park where Rodger was parked at the beach waiting for us. A few folk went to the café but the majority sat on the gravel amidst the wildflowers to eat their lunches. The cycle back was a straightforward ride down the waterfront and on to the trail that goes through Lagoon Farm. We noted the new shorter route that leads directly to Prebensen Drive – we hope that it is an alternative and not a prelude to closure of the original trail.

CH

**Cyclists:** Des Smith, Judy McBride, Lynn Walch, Jim Hewes, Graeme Hare, Christine Hardie,  
Peggy Gulliver, Pauline Mahoney, Heather Stephenson, Rodger Burn, Garry Smith

## Waimarama/Maraetotora Circuit

**Wed 12 October 2016**

We met at the Trading post by Lake Lopez and split into two parties. The real cyclists elected to do the full circuit then took off at speed on a hilly route, stopping near the beach for lunch before tackling the tough grunt up Okaihau Road. They then joined up with Maraetotora Road and the relatively easy downhill cruise back to the cars at the Trading Post. Meanwhile the B party cycled along Maraetotora Road for about 9km to Fred Chesterman's farm where he and Marion had put on a wonderful smoko for us which we didn't really deserve. Reluctantly leaving, we made our way back to Waimarama Road and then down Ocean Beach Road to Haupouri Station to investigate the road resealing before returning back to our cars and lunch. A great day had by all.

RB

**Cyclists:** Rodger Burn, Judy McBride, Christine Hardie, Lynn Walch, Graeme Hare, Dick Waterer,  
Heather Stephenson, Alasdair Shaw

### Ohiti Road Circuit

Wed 23 November 2016

Ten keen cyclists completed the Ohiti-Taihape Road circuit in sweltering conditions. We were lucky with the wind though because we seemed to have a tail wind all the way! We all met at my place on Highway 50 at 9:15a.m. Joan, Alasdair, Des, Heather and Scott decided to bike from there and meet the remainder of us at the Ohiti Road farm where we would park. That effectively added 14 more kilometres onto their 27 km circuit. Such strong cyclists!

The circuit is undulating with three very challenging hills. After the second one, the advance group decided to have a rest stop. The others did not appear for some time and cell phone communication was unsuccessful. Just as Christine was venturing back to try and locate them, the errant cyclists hove into view - it turned out that Roy had got a puncture so it was lucky that they had three strapping men to repair the damage out in the hot hot sun while the rest of us had sat in the shade having morning tea. Once we got onto Matapiro Road and then Taihape Road, it was mostly flat and a little downhill. The heat was a major energy-sapping factor though and I think we were all glad to get back to our cars for lunch at about 12:15pm.

PG

**Cyclists:** Rodger Burn, Christine Hardie, Joan Ruffell, Alasdair Shaw, Roy Frost, Des Smith, Scott Campbell, Anne Cantrick, Heather Stephenson, Peggy Gulliver

### Pakowhai to Fernhill

Wed 7 December 2016

Our last cycle ride for the year and another good turnout. After leaving the park and deftly avoiding the 1000's of dogs being exercised [not to mention the coffee drinkers at the mobile café] we followed the cycle paths along the stop banks towards Fernhill, noticing lots of activity in the orchards and horticultural blocks on the way. Smoko was had by the gravel pit at the riverside near Fernhill Bridge before continuing south over the bridge, down SH50 on the cycle paths, a quick duck-in to the cherry farm and on past Roys Hill Scenic Reserve to Ngatarawa Road where we all regrouped. The temperatures had reached the predicted 29°C by now but we still cruised smoothly and reasonably swiftly to the Hastings Golf Club at Bridge Pa where, as planned, we were welcomed by Mr Lyn Gentry, fresh from his recent knee replacement surgery and a picture of healthy recovery. Once inside we had a leisurely lunch. Eventually we dragged ourselves away, headed east then carried on down Stock Road and through Flaxmere to Ormond Road (Oak Avenue). From there it was back to the stop banks and our cars.

A fun day which ended another year of popular cycling for the Boots on Bikes fraternity.

RB

**Cyclists:** Joan Ruffell, Lyn Walch, Pam Pike, Sharon Wellwood, Judy McBride, Anne Cantrick, Heather Stephenson, Margaret Graham, Christine Hardie, Alasdair Shaw, Des Smith, Roy Frost, Dennis Beets, Peter Hewitt, Graeme Hare, Scott Campbell, Richard Waterer, Capt. Rodger Burn

## CLUB NEWS:

### Committee News

- FMC Affiliation fees have increased from \$10 to \$15, a move that our Club supported to ensure that FMC can remain an effective voice for our back country. We have not increased the HTC subs in line with this but may have to do in a year or so.
- Truck Drivers and Others Please Note: we now have a small note book stored in the cab where any problems (big or small) with the truck should be noted. However, if the problem is a major one please also contact someone on the truck committee.
- A **Social** 10 Pin Bowling was held in November – while the turnout was small we all had a great time and will be repeated at some time in the future.
- The Department of Conservation has decided to close its base at Onga Onga. We, along with many other Clubs and FMC wrote letters to Maggie Barry and Lou Sanson asking them to reconsider but to no avail. This has resulted in Ken Mills resigning from DOC which is a great loss to the Ruahines.

## Pohokura

- Photo Competition – FMC are changing their dates for the photo competition to later in the year so we have also delayed our competition which will probably be held in the April to June period
- Finally the Club sends its condolences to Maureen Broad on the loss of her son, Cameron to Joan Ruffell who lost her mother before Christmas and to Anne and Lex Smith on the recent passing of their brother-in-law.

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### New Members

Welcome to Allan Russell and Andreas Zender who have recently joined the club.

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### Interclub Challenge

The 13<sup>th</sup> November was lucky for HTC. In a challenge of Superstrike (Indoor Bowling) against Napier Tramping Club we were victorious and eleven competitors claimed back the challenge trophy. The evening was enjoyed by all and the general consensus is that we will hold this more often. Congratulations go to Lex who was our top scorer.

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### Mountain Biking

The club is a member of HBMTB Club; if anyone wants to use its trail network in the Esk Forest north of Napier please contact Rodger Burn for information and permits. Ph 8776322

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### Personal Contact Information:

If you change your mailing address, home phone number or e-mail address please inform the Club Editor Phone 845 4913. Otherwise, we could lose contact with you.

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### ITEMS for SALE

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

<b>New</b> Topo 50 Maps:	\$5.00
Large blue survival bags	\$5.00
Smaller white pack liners	\$2.50
Metal HTC club badges	\$8.00
Blue HTC caps	\$17.00
Bushcraft books	\$12.00
Safety in the Mountains	\$5.00
Revised Safety in the Mountains book	\$12.00

These can all be ordered from **Penny Isherwood** Ph 844 9994 or Email [p.isherwood@orcon.net.nz](mailto:p.isherwood@orcon.net.nz)

Orders are collated in batches to save on courier charges so you may not get your maps straight away.

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### HazMobile Waste Collection

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

Once again we were invited to assist the local councils at the 2016 Hazmobile Collection. Our members, as usual, were generous with their time and both days were busy as more than 900 vehicles came over the weekend to dispose of hazardous waste. Thank you to all who came to assist, especially those who came for both days.

GRH

**Hastings:** John Montgomerie, Peter Berry, Pam Turner, Marion Nicholson, Anne Smith, Anne Doig, Fred Chesterman, Lex Smith, Brent Hickey, Annetta Keys, Janice Love, Rodger Burn, Glenda Hooper

**Napier:** John Montgomerie, John Berry, Pam Turner, Marion Nicholson, Liz Pindar, Fred Chesterton, Susan Lopdell, Ray Manning, Des Smith, Scott Campbell, Heather Stephenson, Peter Brown, Frank Gulliver, Bob Carter, Penny Isherwood

January 2017

## **SPECIAL REPORT**

### **Waikamaka Hut Upgrade**

**16 – 21 November 2016**

I had many trips to Ed's workplace at the new Delegates winery construction site with materials and making up pallet bases for this and actually making up composite lots that would fly in. Close to the date it was all assembled on Ed's large flat deck trailer so that each load could be lifted straight from the trailer. NTA/16

It was very handy and valuable to have this facility to safely store materials in the lead up to the job, and for Ed to be able to do the quantity surveying to establish the material requirements and order it all in. I took care of the tank, plumbing components, guttering, soldering and the stainless steel bench top. As well, planning and detailing the needs with Helicopters HB and the final arrangements and with the help of Mountain radio contacts were able to be changed/rearranged.

I walked in in foul conditions on the afternoon of Wednesday 16 Nov to start to wreck the old porch/woodshed, remove the stone floor and dig out to get the levels we needed. I was living in hope that the forecast was going to show improvement; which it did later on Saturday. Also pleased to see Dave Heaps walk in [in even worse conditions] at midday Thursday, his help was surely appreciated as there was a lot to achieve to save time once the builders and materials arrived. During the day working we had gales, rain hail, snow – miserable conditions. He had to go out on Friday too. The next day Friday 18th at 8.30 was the time expected for the flying in. Due to weather [wind and cloud] this happened from between 2.30 until 4pm instead – the builders and food first load, followed by five more of the materials including Ed's 'flybox' containing all our personal tools as well as a generator, dropsaw, kango hammer [to help through the rocks in the post holes and crack open the old step] and a wheelbarrow to mix the concrete in.. Due to the wind conditions loads were split up to make them lighter and safer to deliver, even though this cost about \$1k more than expected. This then gave Dave the means to get away as well. We as quickly as possible worked out the profile, prepared and dug the holes for the four veranda poles which were stayed and concreted in before dark.

Next day Sat was raining and mud everywhere from our prior site preparations stirring up of the ground [which was already wet from recent weather]. The next stage was to get the beams attached to the poles and the hut piles to support and then build the deck to work on. By nightfall the deck was well done, most of the porch roof was in place and the covered in area clad. Sunday had all the main work done, just the finer finishing jobs and the foundations for the tankstand concreted in. A ladder was also made and put up for access to the top bunks, which it never had, so will be appreciated by all.

On my Sunday night radio sked I had arranged for the chopper to come in at 3.30pm Monday. The tank was mounted, tied down and tap set up, as well as the guttering installed along with the downpipe to the tank and the drain from the tank overflow. The old materials and rubbish were packed into a one tonne fertilizer bag I had got from Balance Agri Nutrients so that everything was left tidy. All done, cleaned up, ready for 3.30. 4.30, 5.30, 6.30 nothing. Fortunately I had asked for a radio sked at 7.30 Monday evening just in case, it was then we found the chopper could not get in due to winds on the east side of the range. We were given a hopeful fly time of 6am Tuesday – at 5.55 in the big bird came, took the three of us out followed by the fly box with all the tools and equipment and the rubbish. It took 2 mins 52 seconds to fly out, but 4½ for me to get in with 23kg of three days food, radio gear and wrecking tools. While we waited for the chopper on Monday we progressively made a stone path along the front of the hut to the tank, and further, carried up very heavy buckets of finer gravel from the river to go in between the stones, so we now have a neat pathway.

Fortunately Ed Holmes and John Lock had been able to commit to the Friday before the weekend, and had allowed for the fact that they may need Monday as well. The club is very appreciative of the time and skills they provided. John Lock had not been in this environment before so was very keen to be part of it and was stoked that he had done so. Since we had a 2kw generator for the electric tools, it was only fitting that Ed had put a toaster in the tool box, so the smell of fresh toast was memorable. He also had a double burner gas cooker, so making meals was a breeze, steak for dinner, bacon and eggs for brekkie, what more could we want ! Oh, yes we had a beer each night too.

A magnificent result that takes the hut into the 21st century.

John Montgomerie (Hut Committee Sopkesperson)

**Construction Team:** Edward Holmes, David Heaps, John Lock, John Mongomerie

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*Original-look Waikakamaka Hut with old lean-to porch*



*Old porch and concrete step removed; Dave Heaps in doorway*

Pohokura



*Edward Holmes and John Lock with completed verandah, seat along hut exterior wall and water tank fed from the new porch roof; the large red tool box (bottom right) contains tools and was referred to as the Flybox.*

### **OBITUARY – Ted Sapsford**

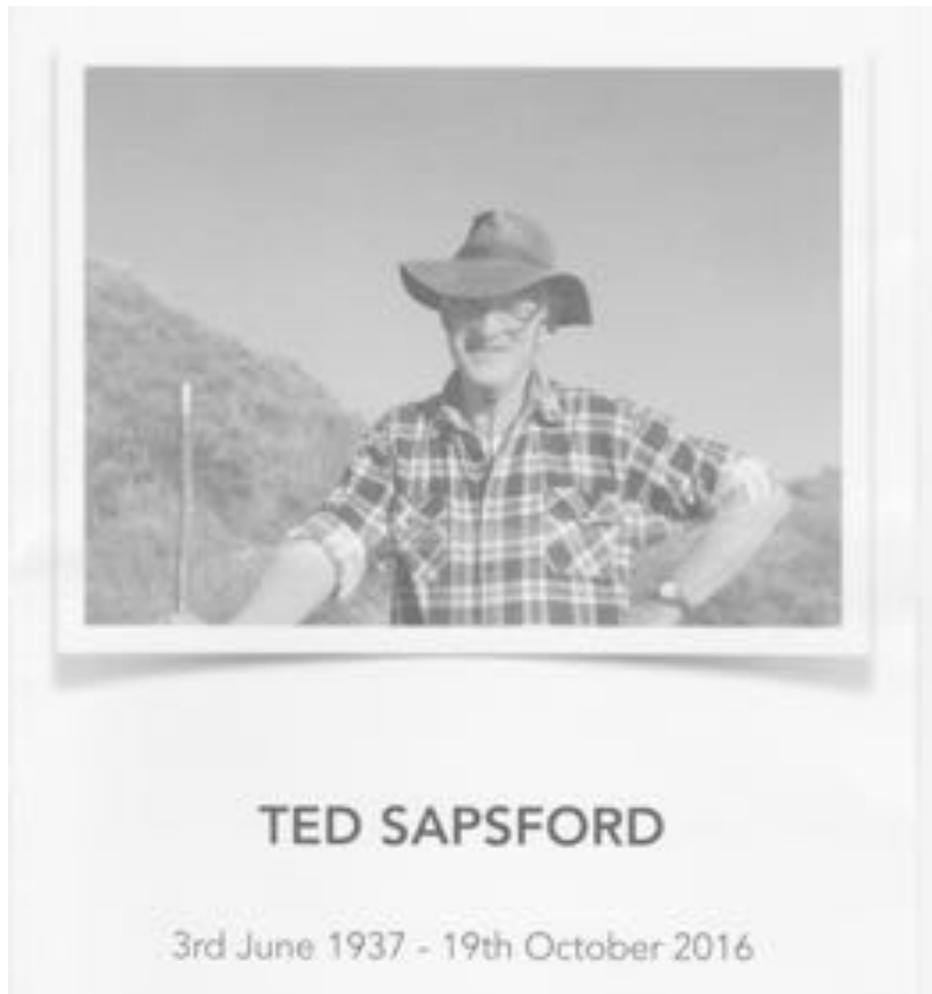
It must be at least 35 years since we first met the Sapsford family: our first venture into orienteering occurred one hot Sunday afternoon in January and this started a long and happy association with both orienteering and the Sapsfords. Our families were also keen on tramping and joined HTC at about the same time. Ted became an expert on navigation and map reading, and also led many tramps, a number of which I had the privilege of joining.

On one memorable occasion Ted, the late Deborah Turner and I did an exploratory recce of an area in the Black Birch Range. We bush-bashed through difficult country, marking a possible route as we went. Eventually we emerged onto Lotkow-Lawrence Track but it was badly overgrown. Darkness fell and so did our ability to find any markers – I felt sure that we would be there for the night! Ted had a good torch, mine ran out and Deborah couldn't find hers. Ted's navigation skills came to the fore and, with his map-reading excellence, we duly reached Lotkow Road. Needless to say, we gave up on that route for a future tramp. Ted, of course, was the instigator of the Kaweka Challenge and the three clubs [HTC, HB Orienteering and HB Amateur Radio] owe such a lot to him for his vision and enthusiasm in setting up the event. They certainly gained financially from his foresight. Sadly, the Kaweka Challenge is run no longer but I, for one, miss the friendship and camaraderie we had over 21 years or so.

After retiring Ted joined me with a small group of older men [including Al Moffett, another former HTC identity] and, under my guidance, they picked out 'bits and pieces' – varieties of young trees which we grew for shop and local sale on our orchard, Pernel. We had a great little team and I know he enjoyed the company of like-minded people. Both of Ted's children, Rowan and Fiona, worked at Pernel at various times such as university summer breaks so we got to know them well over those years. Sadly Ted's eyesight started to fail and then his wife Anne's health began to cause concern – during her final illness Ted nursed her at home for as long as he could. He never really recovered from her death in May 2014 and succumbed himself to pancreatic cancer in October. So ended a wonderful friendship – he has left Sharon and me with many memories of orienteering events both here and away, tramping trips and being involved with him during the Kaweka Challenge. Ted was a wonderful sportsman, much-loved husband and father; it was a privilege to have known him.

**PHILIP MARDON**

*Editorial Note: for an account of the development of the Kaweka Challenge there is an article by Ted in Pohokura 239 [2012].*



## Heretaunga Tramping Club Meeting and Trip Information

### Coming Meetings:

Date	Chair	Speaker	Topic	Host/Supper
2017				
18 Jan	Pam Turner	All Members	BBQ on the Lawn	Marion Nicholson
01 Feb	Graeme Hare	HBRC TK [Te Kaha] Pollution Response Staff	What Happens?!!!	Anne Doig
15 Feb	Lex Smith	All Members		John Montgomerie
01 Mar	Graeme Hare	Auction - Produce	Proceeds to Westpac Rescue Helicopter	Raewyn Ricketts
15 Mar	Pam Turner	Dominic Salmon HBDC	Waste Minimisation	Janice Love
29 Mar	Penny Isherwood	Auction - Bric a Brac	Proceeds to Westpac Rescue Helicopter	Graeme Hare
12 Apr	Pat Hill	Sandy Haidekker	Stream Ecology	Janet Titchener
26 Apr	Lex Smith	All Members		Penny Isherwood
10 May	John Montgomerie	George Spiers	Rainforests and Cycling in Costa Rica	Marion Nicholson
24 May	Brent Hickey	All Members		Anne Doig
07 June	Susan Lopdell	Alan Berry Raewyn Ricketts	Antarctica and Sub-Antarctic Islands	John Montgomerie
21 June	Alan Berry	All Members		Pam Turner
05 July	Janet Titchener	Audrey Talua	Heart Foundation	Brent Hickey

**Meetings Sub-Committee:** Lex Smith, Penny Isherwood, Graeme Hare

We want ideas for club night speakers and activities.

**Supper:**

Put out cups, wash dishes, leave kitchen clean and tidy, and generally help Joan. Sweep floors and check that heaters and lights are off at the end of the meeting.

**Club Meetings:** These are held every second Wednesday (the one before a weekend tramp) at the Harrier Clubrooms in Sylvan Road, Hastings. Doors open at 7.30 pm; visitors are welcome.

## ARE YOU FIT ENOUGH TO TRAMP?

Even the easiest of club trips requires a reasonable degree of fitness and, from time to time, tramps have been seriously delayed by unfit party members. While individuals may have varying degrees of basic fitness it is unlikely that a person who has a sedentary job or who plays no sport will manage an average B Party trip. The best preparation for tramping is tramping and there are hilly places in Napier and close to Hastings which make excellent training areas. For example, a walk from the cattle-stop car park in Te Mata Park to the top of the peak via the big redwoods and back to the cattle-stop via the roadside track with an eight kilogram pack should take about 70 - 80 minutes. Further, this pace should be able to be maintained for five to six hours.

### TRIP GRADINGS

**EASY:** 4-6 hours tramping - suitable for beginners.

**MEDIUM:** 6-8 hours tramping - suitable for those with some experience.

**HARD:** 7 hrs+ tramping - experience and a high level of fitness necessary.

**Unless otherwise specified** an "A" trip would have a **HARD** grading and a "B" trip a **MEDIUM** grading.

<b>GEAR LIST FOR DAY &amp; WEEKEND TRAMPS</b>		
<b>DAY TRIPS</b>		<b>WEEKEND TRIPS</b>
<b>Wear/Carry</b>	<b>Carry</b>	<b>All items listed for day trip plus</b>
Pack and pack liner	Map & compass	Sleeping bag
Boots and gaiters	High energy snacks	Sleeping mat
Socks	At least a litre of water	Food for three additional meals
Parka and over-trou	Lunch	Cooker, billy and matches or lighter
Fast-drying shorts	First aid kit	Extra snacks
Fleece or woollen jumper	Torch, spare batteries and bulb	Toilet gear, small towel and toilet paper
Long-johns & singlet	Sunscreen	Additional warm clothes
Sunhat & warm hat	Emergency food	Plate, mug, cutlery
Gloves/mittens	Survival kit (whistle, cord, matches, pencil, paper)	Tent/fly if required
Overmitts		
Whistle	Complete set of spare warm clothing	

**Leave at truck/car:** Complete set of clothing for the return trip and a mug with tea / coffee / sugar or whatever to have a hot drink from the Clibbornette.

### OVERDUE TRAMPERS

Although returning parties plan to be out of the bush before dark safety considerations must come first. This may mean that parties are late returning to transport. Even after arriving back at the transport, it may take two hours or more to return to the embarkation point. Beginners should make sure that anyone who might worry about them is informed of this. Leaders will try to get a message through to one of the "overdue contact" people listed below if a trip return seems likely to be later than 10:00 pm. All newcomers should ensure that their own emergency number is noted in the party list that the leader leaves in town. For all enquiries about overdue trampers please ring one of the following:

**John Montgomerie 877 7358**

**Graeme Hare 844 8656**

**Glenda Hooper 877 4183**

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

## TRIP LIST 2017



Although the area for the trip is generally adhered to, the suggested objectives may change for a number of reasons. For pre-trip enquiries contact the organiser or John Montgomerie, Ph 877 7358. Please email trip requests to [htc@orcon.net.nz](mailto:htc@orcon.net.nz)

**14 - 15 Jan Waipawa Saddle Track Clearing \$Free Map: BL36**  
 Particularly the upper valley area from above the patch of beech trees where the river gravel ends. This route goes through the leatherwood area and needs a good prune back with maybe re-routing for a short distance after it crosses the now small stream headwaters. Could use the Waipawa Chalet for overnight or the keen types go over to Waikamaka Hut for the night - or just overnights to the Waipawa Forks Chalet.  
**Organiser:** John Montgomerie Ph 877 7358

**22 Jan Waikoau Stream \$15 Map: BH 39**  
 Spend the day walking down the Waikoau Stream from the airstrip on Pohokura Road to Blue Lake or, for an easier option, have a walk through the limestone formations beside the stream and then go down to Lake Opouahi and walk to Thomas' Bush. A very interesting area no matter which trip you choose.

**28 - 29 Jan Te Wae Wae \$20 Map: BH 39**  
 We will leave town after lunch and travel north along SH2. On Saturday afternoon we will visit the Anaura Falls (or something similar) before travelling on to Te Wae Wae to camp for the night. On Sunday we will walk a loop route through a private QE2 reserve on Te Wae Wae; lovely bush and interesting limestone formations.

**01 Feb Wed The Gums, Mangatutu Hot Springs**  
 Help demolish the broom plants.  
**Organiser:** Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656

**4/5/6 Feb [Waitangi Weekend] Southern Kaweka FP \$ 15 Maps: BJ37**  
 In to Kiwi Saddle or down to Kiwi Mouth on day one. Day two down-river to Cameron Hut or out to Kuripapango. Variations on this to use for night stays over the three days [?] otherwise in and out to Kiwi Saddle Hut or day trips from the truck. Maybe in to Cameron via Kiwi Saddle [Smith Russell] track and out on day two or three. There's even a chance for a day trip to Manson Hut from Kiwi Mouth on the Sunday and out down the river on Monday.  
**Organiser:** A Party - John Montgomerie Ph 877 7358

**08 Feb Wed Cycle Fernhill to Sacred Hill and Beyond**  
 Two parties are likely.  
**Organiser:** Alasdair Shaw Ph 877 6225

**15 Feb Wed Spooners Hill, Bellbird Bush**  
**Organiser:** Roy Frost Ph 875 0128

**19 Feb Sparrowhawk Gold Creek \$15 Maps: BK36 BK37**  
 Wakarara Road wander up the wide river flats to where Gold Creek flows into the Makaroro river. Options are to wander up the creek or climb the ridge on the true right, both will lead you to the four bunk hut.  
**Organiser:** Anne Doig Ph 878 8694

**22 Feb Wed Cycle Tour of the Bays**  
 Start at Hastings Golf Club.  
**Organiser:** Jim Hewes Ph 877 6784

Pohokura

**01 March Wed Water Sports at Pandora Pond**

**Organiser:** Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656

**04/05 March Maungataniwha \$20 Maps: BP33, BN33**

Join Mike Lusk at Maungataniwha to explore the area, botanise, look for wetas and reptiles and see the good work in restoring the area to native bush.

**Organiser:** Mike Lusk Ph 877 8328

**08 March Wed Cycle CHB**

Tikokino - Wakarara Road circuit; probably with two parties.

**Organiser:** Des Smith Ph 022 3706118 or email: alertd@gmail.com

**15 March Wed Tramp Tutira Area**

**Organiser:** Garry Smith Ph 844 9931

**19 March Hogget/Te Iringa \$ 15 Map: BJ37**

In from Taruarau Bridge on the Taihape Road, up to The Hogget, across the tops to Te Iringa and Mt Cameron thence down to the top of the Gentle Annie carpark. Great views in all directions from up there.

**22 March Wed Cycle Tukituki Circuit**

Start from Chalk & Cheese on Te Mata Road.

**Organiser:** Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322

**29 March Wed Bell Rock, Maungaharuru Range**

**Organiser:** Judy McBride Ph 876 9756

**02 April Daphne Hut \$15 Map BL36**

Access through Kashmir Farm on the old track to Daphne Hut including the compulsory wet boots for 20 minutes in the Tukituki River. Options for the keen up to Tarn Biv and back down Rosvalls Track but would need a pick up at Mill Roadend.

**05 April Wed Cycle Havelock and Hastings Circuit**

**Organiser:** Christine Hardie Ph 844 9590

**8/9 April. No Mans Area via Big Hill Station \$15 Map: BK37**

We have been successful in the ballot to get this weekend allocated. Many choices for return or loop trips: No Mans, Diane's Hut, Taruarau Biv, Shutes and Ikawatea Forks are all overnight hut options. Or camp as desired with day options as well. The club has not been in here for probably 25 years!

**Organiser:** John Montgomerie Ph 877 7358

**12 April Wed Clover Patch or Matauria Ridge,**

A familiar place in Kaweka Forest Park.

**Organiser:** Scott Campbell Ph 879 8554

**14/15/16/17 April [Easter] Whakatane River Area \$30 Maps: BG39 & BF39**

Drive up on Friday morning to Mataatua carpark, north-west of Ruatahuna, and the start of the Whakatane River Track- an area the club rarely visits. Tracks weave through picturesque river valleys and forested hill country in the heart of Tuhoe country with many huts and good bridges.

**Organiser:** Susan Lopdell Ph 844 6697

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**19 April Wed     Cycle Park Island to Seafield Road**

Two parties are likely and Snapper Jacks [HB Seafoods] is in the mix.

**Organiser:** Dennis Beets Ph 874 6555

**26 April Wed     A Walk in Esk Forest**

**Organiser:** Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322

**30 April**

**Galbraith Hut**

**\$10**

**Maps: BJ38 BH38**

From the Napier-Taupo road walk over farmland to historic Galbraith Hut, nestled amongst the trees under the Mangahururu Range. There is an option to climb up to the Taraponui Trig and return the same way.

**Organiser:** Janet Titchener Ph 875 0805

**03 May Wed     Cycle from Maraekakaho Memorial**

More than one way to go.

**Organiser:** Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322

**10 May Wed     Kaweka Hut Site**

Have a look at the memorial plaque and maybe wander up Rogue Ridge Track.

**Organiser:** Christine Hardie Ph 844 9590

**13/14 May**

**Longview to Leon Kinvig**

**\$20**

**Map: BL36**

A Party: with enough numbers, in via Kashmir Road end via Longview Hut and south along the ridge checking and re-baiting the traps; stay at Leon Kinvig Hut for the night. If numbers are insufficient then a return via Longview to Moorcocks Saddle carpark would be required.

B Trip: the truck could move to Ngamoko Road end to allow over-nighters to go to Leon Kinvig or Makaretu Hut; day trips up Apiti Track possible.

**Organiser:** John Montgomerie Ph 877 7358

**17 May Wed     Cycle in Central Hawkes Bay**

**Organiser:** Alasdair Shaw Ph 877 6225

**24 May Wed     Sunrise Hut**

Enjoy the view from high up in the Ruahines.

**Organiser:** Joan Ruffell Ph 877 6225

**28 May     Te Kooti's Lookout**

**\$15**

**Map: BH39**

In from Tutira to the end of the road at Waitara Station; cross the Mohaka River via the forestry bridge and on up the spur to Te Kooti's lookout. An historic spot from colonial history, notably Whai o te Motu.

**Organiser:** Brent Hickey Ph 876 5873

**31 May Wed     Cycle Local Stop Banks**

**Organiser:** Scott Campbell Ph 879 8554

**3/4/5 June [Queens Birthday]     Zekes Hut, Castle Rock     \$30     Maps: BK35 BJ35 BH35**

Maybe a morning fish at the Rangitikei River before continuing on to Hihitahi Forest to walk in to Zekes Hut for the night....just south of Waiouru. Next day up the Desert Road to the Army Corridor carpark to ascend to Castle Rock high point and return to camping area on Kaimanawa Road. The Pillars of Hercules and Tree Trunk Gorge can be taken in on the way home or maybe a quick jaunt up to Urchin Trig as well as a possible hot pool at Tokaanu.