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Sub Committees:

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

Club Meetings

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

Website: www.htc.org.nz

Mail: P.O. Box 14 086, Mayfair, Hastings 4159

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COMMITTEE REPORT 2019 – 2020

It has been a funny old year but the club and the sports of tramping and recreational cycling have come through the past twelve months better than most. Covid-19 saw trips cancelled for a period of two months from late March until late May and we were denied the pleasure of catching up with one another at club meetings over the same period. However, everyone seems to agree that there has been an upsurge in outdoor activity both during and since the lockdown. It was wonderful to be able to walk or cycle down the middle of a road without worrying about traffic and lots of people did just that. Judging by the continuing hordes of mums and kids and dogs in our local parks and reserves, the populace seems to have caught on to the idea that outdoor activity has a lot going for it. That has got to be good. Despite the fact that most walkers seem to prefer unregulated wanderings, we have nevertheless seen a resurgence of interest in membership of the club during recent months. It was great to welcome five new members at last month's committee meeting and, from what we have already seen, those five include some capable trampers. There has been the odd retirement of course and club membership remains static at 102 current and life members plus 12 associate members. One of the features of the year has been the refurbishment of the club's memorial cairn on Kaweka J, the highest point in Hawke's Bay. This memorial to the ten members who lost their lives during the Second World War was originally built in 1946 and reconstructed in 1962 but had, sadly, become in need of repair. After some preliminary visits last year, John Montgomerie and his working party totally reconstructed the eastern face of the cairn early in 2020 and this monument should now withstand everything the weather on the tops can throw at it for many years to come. Our thanks go to DoC for providing materials and helping with the heavy lifting of gear, by helicopter this time!

A lot of work goes on in the background all the time, work that benefits all mountain users not just club members. All of our financial and life members are affiliated through the club to FMC, Federated Mountain Clubs, the body that represents the interests of trampers in the never-ending debate with governments over the use and management of our open spaces. At a regional level we participate in RUG, the Ruahine Users Group and work with the Backcountry Trust, Department of Conservation and Regional and District Councils, all the while trying to ensure that opportunities for public enjoyment of our back country are protected and enhanced.

The other major event of the year has been the decision to move away from our traditional truck transport to a 12-seater van. We expect to see one on the ground by the end of the year. [Note: it arrived before Xmas]. HTC members may no longer be youthful but they certainly know how to get things done. Collectively, we all owe a big thank you to the members who make things happen so that we can all enjoy our days out tramping the hills and cycling the paths. On behalf of all members, the committee would like to record its appreciation of the work of a few of those people: Glenda our secretary and general go-to person, Lex our treasurer, Randall the magazine editor, John Monty who fixes hut wrangles with DoC, Christine and Rodger who organise the Wednesday crew, Graeme who does anything and everything, the members who toil away at all sorts of jobs and the trampers/bikers who keep the club going by their participation.

Hang on – that must be just about every member. Which is how it should be. **Alan Berry**

SUB-COMMITTEES

Club Captain

This year saw bigger numbers on weekend and [weekend] day tramping trips which is very encouraging so hopefully the trend may continue. The Wednesday group with tramps and cycling trips continues to be well-patronised and comprises the larger number of ‘person days’ that are spent on club organised activities. There have been more numbers this year of new members some of whom just can’t get enough tramping - let’s encourage this trend! Long may it continue. As per last year almost all enquires for track/route/hut information have come from people outside our area and club.

Huts

Takings from hut donations have been steadily increasing which is commendable and helpful for maintenance. After the major upgrade to Waikamaka Hut a few years ago we can be proud to present quality huts for accommodation and I am sure this reflects in more users being likely to pay hut donations.

1] Howletts – we have agreed to buy 20 bags of coal for the hut and fly it in at the same time as the interior/exterior painting programme which is scheduled in the next six months. The paint for all this was procured under the DoC Dulux scheme and flown in last year with hunters. The interior door handles need replacement at the same time, as well as the recovering of chairs which were vandalised last autumn.

2] Waikamaka - a club trip in late August gave a chance to work out where the new toilet should be located; this will require a couple of smaller beech trees to be removed. This project will require a fly-in and out with tools and a chainsaw which will happen with funding from the Back Country Trust. Rat bait and granular weedkiller have been taken in to keep the rodents down and the weeds around the hut controlled. DoC is aware of the danger of the poled route down into Waikamaka Stream’s headwaters and will modify the access track.

3] Kiwi Saddle - a new axe and handsaw have been provided and the interior door handle has been repaired with two new springs. The gutters and down-piping need cleaning which will be done when the hut and toilet exteriors are cleaned down. Considering the hut use, the place is in good shape.

Tracks - DoC may look into its responsibility for track networks and the matter of the track down to Barlows from Parks Peak Ridge -it has become so overgrown that it is hard to fine.

Training - not enough has been done! The club has saved Mountain Safety videos from the internet onto the club computer which can be used at meetings. For newer members a session on gear and clothing may be appropriate to do. Suggestions on topics would be welcome.

Fixtures - the usual three meetings are convened to decide the fixtures for each four-month period. Little response is received from members for suggestions so the sub-committee plans a good cross-section of areas and trips that seem to meet with general approval. Covid messed up plans for a couple of months so some of these can be recycled.

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We plan to have a club trip to each HTC hut for each fixtures list.

John Montgomerie

Vehicle - another year with multiple truck carers but a continued thank you must go to Peter Berry for his share of the work in dealing with the COFs and general care. Our truck has now covered 158,500km, about 6,000km since the 2019 annual report and still a low reading for a 21-year old vehicle. After a big break I[?] have done 1600km of these in the last four months. It still gets a mix of mid-week outings, weekend trips but another year with no annual longer jaunt. Overall, the truck is showing signs of wear from sitting outdoors. It is otherwise well-maintained and serviced, and is in good running order although we need to attend to a number of small repairs. Major work would include removing all side windows and refitting with new seals plus some paint work but this will not now proceed as the future of the vehicle is now decided. We are grateful to our very small pool of drivers: Peter Berry, Christine Hardie, Lex Smith, David Blake, Murray Alderson and Peter Hewitt. Thanks also go to the team of ladies who continue to look after the interior including the mattresses and other fittings.

Operating costs are up this year:	\$3049
Insurance	\$579
Income: nett fares of	\$1749
leaves a deficit of	\$1879

This is due mainly to Covid-19 with reduced trips but fixed costs.

The debate by HTC Committee has continued this year on whether the truck still meets our needs at an acceptable cost and whether it is attractive to prospective members. Twelve-seater vans were trialled last year on three occasions and feedback sought from members.

Various members were on the lookout via the internet a few months ago and some good prospects came to light. We have progressed this activity and signed an agreement to purchase a 12-seater Ford Transit van from MS Ford in Nelson and will take ownership of this in early December 2020. It will be delivered to Wellington via Bluebridge Ferries and picked up from there. Overall costs for transport may not change despite dearer insurance as other costs may reduce. A larger driver pool may emerge but this will depend on prospective drivers being comfortable transporting passengers and vice versa. If a trailer is necessary this will add costs such as higher WOF/Registration and insurance. We will probably have two vehicles for a period pending finding a buyer for the truck, a work in progress. Our Kiwi Fuel cards (Mobil and BP) are giving us good discounts without fees. The truck continues to be stored at Peter and Glenda's Te Aute Road property and probably so will the new van be which warrants a very big thank you.

Lex Smith

Boots on Bikes

Wheels are still turning as the cycling brigade notches up another successful year, or perhaps we should say, part-year. As with everything this year, our programme was disrupted during the COVID-19 shutdown although a number of us kept up energetic personal biking routines during those months. The empty roads and fabulous weather at the time made these excursions memorable even though the wider circumstances were serious. Fortunately, we were back in action by the winter and carried out most of the rides that had been scheduled. The trends that were noted last year have continued such as the growth industry that is

modern cycling for the retired demographic, and the increase in the numbers of eBikes on the roads and trails. Some things didn't come to pass: cyclists do not yet rule the roads and Rodger didn't get a life membership of HTC as suggested in last year's report!! However, he did get a Leatherwood award for valuable contribution to HTC which he truly deserves. Mind you, he had to share it with Christine but neither of them minds that.

In December, BoB hit the big time.....as part of a feature article about cycle trails in the monthly issue of Wilderness magazine, two long-term Bobbers were interviewed and their opinions about cycling have been written up for all to admire. Christine waxed lyrical and at length about the technology of battery-assisted bicycles which have given her new life after 40 years of conventional riding. Graeme, on the other hand, staunchly defends the place of conventional cycles and personal stamina of which he has a big reservoir. Both groups have their followers and all are welcome to join us. The snippet is on page 59 of the December issue - we know you want to read it.

At the Annual General Meeting the following awards were made:

TRAMPER OF THE YEAR [Stan Woon Memorial Trophy]

Presented to Murry Alderson by John Montgomerie

I am pleased to confer this annual award to someone who has been a long-term member particularly on weekend trips. The most memorable trip with him was when Anne Cantrick and I were in the Urewera on a three-day club trip in the southern area a few years ago, a mission in that one day alone took us 14 hours to cover about 12km. We arrived at the lake on day two in the dark at 10pm and had to chase opossums away to pitch camp. Murry had a pound of butter, a lettuce and bread and seemed to effortlessly produce good-looking fresh sandwiches. Another trip was in an alpine southern Ruahine snow environment when he was in shorts and bare legs when all others were in storm gear and everything was encrusted with ice. He is a tough, unflappable guy and very pleasant company. Congratulations Murry.

LEATHERWOOD TROPHY [For valuable contribution to HTC]

Presented to Rodger Burn and Christine Hardie by Scott Campbell

Rodger's consummate organisational and communication skills have enabled a large group of people to share and enjoy the outdoors via walks and cycle rides for the last seventeen or so years each Wednesday. His diligence, coupled with his extensive area knowledge has resulted in a close-knit community of people being able to participate in mutually enjoyable activities. "Boots on Bikes" (our official title), may never have evolved into its present form had he not offered to "take up the reins". Christine, being possessed of much the same skills as Rodger, along with an innovative and imaginative "let's get it done" attitude, has been more than able to share the organisational load with Rodger as and when necessary. The knowledge and experience gained during her years as a school teacher and lecturer have stood her in good stead for this task. Christine also willingly serves as our truck driver to get us to our walking destinations, keeps the lines of communication open between

members, visits and offers support to those that have a need. Thanks to these two stalwarts, we have a well-organised group of people who work as a team and are able to take turns at leading various outings, along with the ability to adapt to change at short notice. The result has been an immense number of safe and enjoyable outings over the years – the whole system runs “on a shoestring” and functions like a well-oiled machine, thanks to the efforts and leadership of Rodger and Christine. Consequently, we feel that they are both eminently qualified and deserving to receive this award.

**Scott
Campbell**

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS WERE GRANTED TO THE FOLLOWING:

GRAEME HARE

Graeme’s first tramping trip was a Waikamaka working party on 3rd- 4th March 1956 helping to carry in nine rolls of flat galvanised sheetmetal (15 lbs apiece) hammers, nails and other assorted builders’ sundries for renovations which the party did over the weekend. His sisters, Judy (McBride) and, later, Barbara (Taylor), had already joined HTC, becoming members of note in their own right so Graeme joined the club in July 1956 as a junior member so he didn’t miss out on the fun. He was a regular on tramping trips and working parties. In fact, he tramped so hard, so far, and so fast it interfered with his schooling! Graeme left the district to pursue a banking career in 1960 and in 1999, after a 39-year spell from the club, he started tramping with us again.

He was the instigator and organiser of a number of very popular extended trips: Wellington Wander and Taranaki Trundle both in 2009, Coromandel Capers, Auckland Affair, Ruapehu Rumble, Waikato Walk-a-bout and Northland No-mads in 2013.

Over the years held the following positions:

Social Sub-committee member Nov 1956 – Nov 1958

Executive Committee member Nov 1957 – 1959

Club Captain 1959 until leaving for Wellington in 1960

Social Sub-committee member Nov 2001 – Nov 2005

Secretary 2002 – 2011

Executive Committee member Nov 2011 – Nov 2012

Vice-President 2012 – 2014 and since then he has chaired many meetings.

That’s a total of 16 years on our club’s executive or social committees and, today, eight years later, he is on the meetings sub-committee! He has also served on the fixtures sub-committee and was on the 75th Jubilee sub-committee. Graeme has been our Hazmobile co-ordinator, a major fundraiser for 13 years. He assisted with The Cairn rebuild in January in very unpleasant weather while camping out on the open tops. Graeme shows his caring and concern for those struggling a bit, he has a unique ability to “pour oil on troubled waters” in times of conflict and his humourous bounding enthusiasm even in adverse conditions is legendary – all of these I have experienced as an observer. Sometimes his quick wit can lead him into difficulty and, equally, quickly get him out of it! I have said nice things BUT Graeme is not an Angel. I remember in 1958, this skinny youth with a mop of black curly hair, would rile the older members struggling up hill. He would go through all the

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appropriate noises and actions of double de-clutching a heavy truck, then power on ahead like a HARE on Steroids!

Then there is the snoring! Put his body horizontal and within 10 seconds the whole world knows he is asleep!

Graeme's enthusiasm and on-going commitment to the club has been a great asset and it is appropriate that he be awarded LIFE MEMBERSHIP BUT THAT IS NO REASON FOR YOU TO RETIRE!

Pam Turner

JOHN MONTGOMERIE

John's first tramp with the club was to Middle Stream/Waipawa River on 23 Feb 1990 and in June that year he was on a Matakuhia tramp. He joined the club in July 1990 and led his first tramp in 1991. He has been regularly leading since then. John went on the Huts sub-committee in 2014 and he has been the mainstay for our huts in the Ruahine Range since then. He has been the prime mover for regular painting, interior and exterior for both Waikamaka and Howletts Huts since 2014. John organised and participated in the installation of a new stove, stainless steel bench, water tank and verandah at Waikamaka and a new stainless steel bench at Howletts. Our Ruahine huts are much better because of him. John was also a regular on our track-cutting missions during the same period and participates in many of our other working bees.

Over the years he has held the following committee positions:

Executive Committee member Nov 1993 – Nov 1999

Assistant Club Captain Nov 2011 – Nov 2015

Club Captain Nov 2015 to the present day.

That's a total of 15 years on committee where (as well as huts) he was particularly active in training, Search and Rescue, Fixtures and Ruahine Users Group. He also served on the Kaweka Challenge Committee during 1993 and 1994. John's determination and "can do" attitude has been of great benefit to the club and is deserving of Life Membership. **Glenda**

Hooper

LEX SMITH

I was the organiser on Lex's first tramp in late September 1994 when 27 of us left Ngamoko Road end on a dampish day and headed up the Apiti track. Lex, with son Greg and 17 others, left the track to descend to Makaretu Stream which they followed to be picked up at Ellison Road. We obviously didn't put him off as the following month with Craig, another son, he came with us over the three-wire bridge to Mackintosh Hut and then came out via Lawrence. He joined the club later that month. Since then he has been a regular on our tramps except when illness, injuries or holidays precluded it. Lex has led numerous tramps and has assisted on many working bees. Much to my delight, in 1999 Lex accepted the role as Club Treasurer and has stayed in that role ever since – a total of 21 years (however, he still has two years to go to beat his namesake, Jackie Smith's 23-year record). As well as looking after the accounts Lex has served on fixtures, truck, meetings and social sub-committees and the 75th Jubilee committee. For many years he was one of our representatives on the Kaweka Challenge committee and for eight years from 2001, he represented us on FMC National Executive. When he can, he also attends the Ruahine User Group meetings on our behalf.

I think Lex started driving the club truck around 2004 and he has been one of our main drivers over many years. Graeme's extended trips would not have been possible if we had

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lacked drivers and Lex drove on most, if not all of them. Lex also went on to organise and drive two later long trips: South Island 2014 and Eastland 2015. Many tramps start and finish at different points which means that the drivers often don't get to do the tramp they might have wished to do and Lex has very generously accommodated us with this.

We have been lucky to have Lex's reliability and long-term commitment to the Club and he is very deserving of Life Membership.

Glenda Hooper

TRIP REPORTS

2487

Tutira Arboretum

18 - 19 July 2020

A small group of intrepid trampers departed for Lake Tutira in appalling weather conditions to have a social weekend away to recover from the lockdown. We arrived in the truck plus two vehicles where we were greeted by Kirsty Christison, one of the curators, who gave us a health and safety briefing before showing us around the accommodation.

After sorting out sleeping arrangements and depositing a massive amount of food, we all sat down to have a cuppa, chat, read papers and attempt crosswords. Outside light rain was falling and some were contemplating walking around the arboretum. Four hardy souls donned wet weather gear and wandered around the southern area, accompanied by a family of fantails feasting on the bugs we were disturbing. Some of the plants/trees were still in bloom and we had misty vistas of the lake and surrounds.

After lunching, a group walked to Guthrie Smith's plaque via the original rock garden and through The Hangar, a QE II listed area, wandering along different pathways and finally ending up at the memorial church. A communal dinner was enjoyed and games were played in front of the fire and still the rain came down. Sunday was much improved with sunshine, so five of us hopped in Murry's car and drove to the end of the camping ground. We wandered along the lake shore looking at the plantings, exploring the small peninsula (Oporae Pa site and Apu te Rangi) and finding a memorial seat acknowledging Sheila Cunningham. We walked along part of Galbraith and Kahikanui Tracks before crossing very waterlogged farmland back to the car. Meanwhile, in our absence, the rest of the group finally left the comfort of the lodge and explored the arboretum. After lunch we cleaned up the accommodation block and had a final chat with Kirsty before departing early afternoon. After some discussion in the truck canopy, we decided to stop off at White Pine Bush, wandering through this whilst Peter educated some of us with the different botanical species found here. A lazy weekend with like-minded folk; a true way to recover from the lock-down.

Party: Lex and Anne Smith, Murray Alderson, Dave Mulinder, Alan Peterson, Christine Snook, Peter Berry, Glenda Hooper, Anne Doig, Susan Lopdell

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Tutira Arboretum Accomodation

2488

Kaweka Flats Bivvy and Iron Whare

16 September 2020

On a very crisp morning we set off at 7:00am in the truck from Glenda and Peter's in Te Aute Road. Kaweka Flats Bivvy is located in the eastern Kaweka Forest Park. Lex was driving and did an incredible job as, in some parts, the windy twisty road was icy and pot-holey. Once we arrived at the carpark it was very low cloud and you couldn't see too much. However as the day progressed it became beautifully clear. The track was very well cut and marked. It sidles through beech forest, in and out of sidestream gullies in a northerly direction and follows an old stock route which was used when grazing was prevalent between the 1860s and early 1900s. The vegetation gradually changes to thick regenerating manuka. Along the way Kim (the potter), Lex, Derek and Simon cleared out traps and reset them. All up there were six dead rats and one stoat in the traps.

We stopped at the bivvy for a snack and a break, and then followed the track to Iron Whare, an historic hut built in the 1870s. Getting there from the bivvy was an easy hike and took about another 45 minutes. Whilst we were having our break at Iron Whare we had the company of a kaka. We then headed back to the carpark. All in all, a really great day out and enjoyed by everyone.



Party at Iron Whare.

Party: Jude Hay, Susan Lopdell, Janice Love, Paula Kasper, Simon Whitham, Anne Doig, Kim Morean, Deby Mills, Greg Smith, Lex Smith, Robyn Pohlenz, Derek Boshier

2489	Waikamaka Hut – Ruahine FP	29 - 30 August 2020
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Six of us arrived at the Waipawa River carpark in my ute, experiencing much stronger winds than anticipated. This was just the beginning! Up the river, not worrying about trying to keep dry feet and despite being August, most felt it was not too cold. Once out in the river bed after the Chalet track junction it was very windy, unusually, even if windy at the saddle it is not in the valley. But alas we were heading into it. A couple of stops, the last as you enter the little bush spur track that leads up to the basin and saddle. All assembled just under the saddle to mentally prepare for the expected westerly blast..and it was... 106.7km/hr peak on my windmeter. Again, usually once you descend the western side you are mostly out of it! It was still nearly as strong as on the saddle. I decided to go via the ‘new’ route down into the gully to the left of the DoC route on the spur, due to the wind; combined with having two new people in the group; and with my knowledge of where we were heading, then considered what the two new people might be thinking. It is steep gully with sparse footholds, and I pondered what was going through their heads...it looked like entering Hells Gate. The waterfall was mostly upside down as we went under it, and the last big rock step to negotiate was running with water, there was water and spray coming and going every which whataway! So I beckoned Kim to lead from the back up to the lower section on the DoC route. We assembled there still in probably 90km wind gusts, slowly and carefully descended to the safety of the ledge below. Even from there on in the Waikamaka River it was still quite gusty and cool. Arriving at the hut was reward for the hardships. We soon settled in, firewood gathered and a fire going. Kim had taken in rat bait which was immediately needed to replenish the bait station and I sprinkled granular weed killer I had taken in around the hut margins to keep it clear and let the breezes through. We all got a meal prepared despite one having a stove that wouldn’t light and another did not have a gas cylinder!

Away by eight next morning but in quite cold temperatures so just kept moving. The Waikamaka had gone down a little from yesterday, not that it was difficult then though. Retracing our route of yesterday, now up into Hells gate again but in more friendly

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conditions. Up to the Saddle where it was only blowing 75km/hr! The plod down the Waipawa as you need to, to get out, was a tad more pleasant than yesterday. Times were taken precisely by Kim, 6hrs 7mins in and 5hrs 30mins out.

I must say congrats to Paula, she had not done much tramping and came on this trip as a first....I called it a baptism of fire....she survived and thrived on the challenges. She can't wait to get out again. Simon had likewise not done this trip either and did it with ease. Always good going in

to Waikamaka but it's mostly an all-rock bash now; the side tracks that were have been eroded and/or overgrown with tutu and buddlia.

Thanks to all for the great company and amusement.

Party: Kim Morgan, Paula Kasper, Simon Whittam, Anne Cantrick, Murry Alderson, John Montgomerie [organiser]



The weather forecast for the Tutira area was much better than that for North Block Road [where our weekend party had gone] so we decided we would not try and meet up with them but, instead, head for Pohokura Road. The four of us set off towards Boundary Stream, stopping on the left hand side of the road at Bellbird Bush where there is a stile at the start of Spooners Hill Track. The weather was fine but a little windy.



Bellbird Bush is a delightful patch of cut-over and regrowth lowland bush with a scattering of older trees. Before long we were heading up towards the viewpoint of Spooners Hill, enjoying the diversity of the bush but noticing the complete lack of any palatable regeneration. This was even more noticeable when we got to the top of the hill where there was a magnificent 360° degree view. However, the grass and what little shrubbery there was

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that has so far survived, was chewed to the nub with heaps of deer droppings everywhere. It was more reminiscent of a deer farm than a scenic reserve. We continued on the loop past the “danger tomos sign” and had a great time sticking our noses into some really interesting karst gullies and tomos. I didn’t find any caves but some of the tomo were too deep and steep to try without a rope. After arriving back at the start, we walked the short loop track and then drove down the road to Opouahi where we had a walk around the lake, spotting a skink and some dab chicks. We then drove home via the Tutira ice cream shop.

Party: Peter Berry, Glenda Hooper, Susan Lopdell, Anne Doig

2491

Napier Hill Walk

Wed 02 September 2020

Rain threatened. Nine WWs met at Hot Chick in Ahuriri then walked the streets past the new Iron Pot subdivision opposite Bayleys – yours for about a million – and over to Battery Road. Along past the former bowling club – also readying for development – and up the big steps to Chaucer Road. Admired all the little businesses that are being run from people’s homes: massage therapists, tax advisers, wellness workers, toy makers, electronic installers, lots of interesting activities. People in our group also like to look at for sale notices with all the interesting pictures of beautiful houses.

On to Napier Terrace, turn right to the Botanical Gardens and look at flowers, trees and graves. A quick trip to the restrooms at the bottom and down to Carlyle Street. Walk along the footpath then into Faraday Road past the old Salvation Army Centre, May Avenue and up the stairs to Central School neighbourhood. Paused for a squiz at Colenso’s house and cottage then down the steps to the rock marking the site where Bishop Selwyn preached in the early 1840s. That was enough sightseeing so we turned around and faced west to follow Milton Road up and over the hill back to Ahuriri where the cafes were still waiting. And it hadn’t rained at all.

CH

Party: Christine Hardie (organiser), Rodger Burn, Anne Doig, Joan Ruffell with Layla, Alasdair Shaw, Lynn Walch, Garry Smith, Pauline Mahoney, Heather Stephenson

2492

Golden Crown – Ruahine FP

Sun 13 September 2020

As 11 people stepped out of the truck and set off to Masters Shelter the cold wind became evident in the exposed paddocks. However, the shelter of the bush and the steady climb up Golden Crown Spur soon heated every one up. The early scrubby bush eventually led us into beech forest with patches of past storm damage. After 90 minutes a morning tea break was deemed necessary. Pete brought out enough food that looked like he was staying the night. The climb eased off as we approached the ridge. By this time, we had snow underfoot. Graeme had led a nice steady pace up the hill so eight people still had the energy to carry on towards Parks Peak. Or maybe they just didn’t want to experience going back down the same track (they didn’t know what Sentry Box Track is like). The remaining three came a bit later then went back down to collect the truck. The track gently undulated along the ridge with a carpet of snow covering it most of the way. The wind was strong but the foliage protected us all the way. Not far before the Te Aranga junction we stopped for lunch at the headwaters of Apia Creek which was nicely sheltered from the wind. Further on a few people side-tracked

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to Pohatuhaha peak, clinging onto the trig for photo shoots as the wind gusted up to 107km/hr.

The trip down to Sentry Box involved slipping and sliding down the snow-covered track testing one's knees. Graeme was not going to be bent by this terrain but his pole didn't fare so well, Kellie strolled down as if we hadn't even started the tramp. Peter still had plenty of food left over. We arrived at road end after five and a half hours tramping not long before Lex brought the truck around.

Party: Colin Jones, Jude Hay, Kellie M, Pete A, Brent Hickey, Kim Morgan, Daniel Haddock, Graeme Hare, Lex Smith, Anne Doig, Glenda Hooper

2493

Blowhard Bush

Wed 16 September 2020

Once again, our planned beach walk was put off until a later date due to unforeseen circumstances but we are an adaptable lot and instead we chose one of my old favourites for our Wednesday Wander, Blowhard Bush. This 63-hectare reserve was donated to Forest and Bird Protection Society by the well-known Lowry and Masters families in 1962, and is administered by the Hastings branch of Forest and Bird. Over the ensuing years their members have been maintaining tracks and controlling possums, mustelids and rodents to allow the birdlife to recover.

Ten of us, including new member Maggie, gathered at Peter and Glenda's at 8:15am. We bundled our gear into the truck and, once again, Christine drove us safely up the Taihape and the Lawrence Roads to Blowhard Bush carpark. While the weather was fine it was cold and very windy so most started the day in warm gear, some even donning beanies and gloves. After a lunchette in the shelter we headed out on Troglodyte Track, stopping to look at the limestone formations and, once again, bemoaning the fact that the stalactites in a small cave had been destroyed by mindless vandals. We also stopped to have a look at the larger cave on this track before heading on through the bush on Tui Track. The high winds we had encountered at the carpark had abated somewhat by the time we reached the lookout so we had a good look around before continuing. Next stop was the grassy clearing just behind Lowry Shelter where we sat in the sun and ate lunch while listening to the birdsong, which had been surprisingly scarce to this point, before wandering down to check out the shelter. Not too far past the shelter on we came across 'Patiki's Cave' which had been augmented to create a home for Patiki and his family in the 1800's. Patiki's story was provided to us by Theresa Hurst of Forest and Bird when she accompanied us on a trip last year, and it is reproduced here:

Patiki was one of the lowest members of the Waimarama tribe, said by some to be a slave. He had been found as a boy, wandering with a head injury by local women after they returned from the safety of their island stronghold, Motuokura, following a very savage raid on their kainga or village. They knew this boy of maybe ten or twelve did not come from the local area as his speech sounded strange and the knock on the head seemed to deprive him of any coherent family history or personal name. As he was found in a patch of bush and behaved like some primordial animal, they gave him a name that shortened into Patiki and put him to work with the women, cultivating their gardens. As time passed, Patiki recovered

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his health but had only fragmented memory of his childhood. Although a quick learner, Patiki was never trained as a warrior or taught the verbal history of the people although he picked up these skills in time. Among the skills absorbed was the art of trapping birds and Patiki's bird snares were in great demand as were the birds he trapped in the forest of the Maraetotara Plateau.

Passing puberty and with strenuous hunting in the forest, Patiki grew into a handsome man who was accepted by several of the women he worked with. However the woman he came to desire was the daughter of a warrior who had several suitors. Patiki's lowly position was not considered to be enough for him to be listed as a suitor and when an older man was chosen by the family, Patiki fought this seasoned warrior. The only known fact was that Patiki was forced to flee with this woman, now pregnant to him. For the next month or so they managed to avoid meeting any travellers or hunters as they crossed the Tukituki River and made their way up to Omahaki Valley. They found no sanctuary there and were forced to move up the valley to the forest of Blowhard Bush. With winter coming on and Patiki's woman approaching her confinement, they found a series of rock shelters in a burnt-over section of Blowhard Bush where the sun heated the rocks: Patiki dug out a dwelling under a great slab of rock and filled the openings with punga logs to keep the wind out. The child was born a few days later but died within hours.

The couple enlarged their home which was in an area not frequented by other people and a year later, a son was stillborn. With a good food supply in the area, the couple prospered although they lost several children with only two surviving. The years passed and Europeans came to Kuripapango to construct a hotel. Patiki's two surviving children were interested in the buildings under construction at Kuripapango and were seen by the new cook who, although unable to speak Maori, made contact with cakes. Before long, the girl was working in the kitchen and learning English while her brother helped in the stables. Once people from other parts of the world started to stay at the hotel for their health, the boy [who had by now mastered English] was leading riding parties up the surrounding mountains and answered to the name of McDonald. His sister in time became personal maid to one of the long-staying guests and was known as Mary of McDonald's until she married.

Following the burning of the last hotel, Mary and Jock travelled to Dunedin to work for one of the last hotel guests and prospered, each raising their own family. What happened to Patiki we do not know but he left a debt of a sack of flour with Rosie McDonald. It is interesting to note that a famous teller of tall tales, Dick Ensor, was correct about a family living in Blowhard Bush but maybe the number of children was overstated. The remains reburied after a cyclonic storm were of six infants and a mature person.

We wandered on, contemplating the hardships Patiki and his family must have endured especially after having lived in the warm climes of Waimarama for many years. After an enjoyable walk we arrived back at the shelter and indulged in one more lunchette before piling back into the truck and returning to town having had a really great day. Thank you to Christine for once again getting us safely to our destination.

Party: Rodger Burn, Ann Doig, Maggie Brown, Janice Love, Christine Hardie, Garry Smith, Pauline Mahoney, Roy Frost, Ann Cantrick, Heather Stephenson (organiser)

A Party: Longview Ridge

We were delivered by the club truck to the end of Kashmir Road with boots on at 8am. This trip required going in at Kashmir and out at Ngamoko Road to the south. The truck group wandered off over the hill to the Awatere area as we left. They would, after lunch, relocate to the Ngamoko roadend. Smoko and a break at Longview hut then the trek south on the Longview ridge in quite windy conditions but about halfway down had the protection of the leatherwood cut track. We got to the Makaretu hut turnoff at about 2pm and met two guys who had taken five hours to there from Leon Kinvig hut.

This caused concern with some as to how long it would then take us to get to LK hut. It was considered that they must have been very slow, left late and based on this wondered what time they may have made Longview ! I assured those concerned that we had ample time to get to LK hut. From this point on we checked the 100m spaced rodent traps to the LK drop off ridge, about 30 traps in total.



I had spoken to Ben Douglas who set up the trap line, who arranged for and I collected rabbit bait blocks he left at the Mobil Waipukurau, on our way through. Each trap was opened, rebaited and any victims evicted...in total, four stoats [two in one trap] and a rat.

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Leon Kinvig Hut

On down the long spur to Leon Kinvig Hut, arriving at about 4pm, realising that we had the climb back out tomorrow! One other person there, he markets the In Reach satellite communicator units. A look around the river area and noted what looked like a fair climb if one went up to Toka Biv on the Ngamoko range. We did not light the fire but the hut was reeking of smoke, to the extent that my gear at home definitely smelt smoky! Having set our timepieces to daylight saving, we got under way at the new 8am, surprisingly getting to the Aptit track turnoff in 1½ hours. Rain and strong winds were predicted. It did rain intermittently on the way up and the wind for the last km or so on the top was gusty to about 90km or so. We were relieved to get into the bush at the Apiti track turnoff, as it was by no means warm! Snow was predicted that night. The map from there looks like it could be done more quickly than in reality, which was about 5½ hours. It was slow going, wet and greasy a lot of the time. Out to the waiting truck at about 3pm and soon on our way home. According to Greg's phone gps, we had travelled just on 30km so it had been a reasonably grunty trip! My estimates were about upper 20's, he did the trip with ease, he needs his handbrake on a couple of notches! We were all a little tired [except Greg] and felt good removing our boots. Youth is wasted on the young [Churchill?] Straight home, no goodie stops, the quite relaxed and rested B group after their strenuous weekend had no sympathy! Thanks to all in our small group, most of whom had not been there before, a good experience was had. Many thanks for Lex for driving as the trip loop is only possible with relocated transport.

JM

Party: Janice Love, Robyn Pohlenz, Simon Whittam, Greg Smith,
John Montgomerie [organiser]



Longview Hut – Simon Whittam, Greg Smith, Robyn Pohlenz

The A Party was doing a major weekend tramp from Moorcocks Saddle and planned to come out via Apiti Track at Ngamoko the next day. We, the truck party, watched them start up the track to Longview before making our way along the track to Awatere Hut which follows the ridge to the south of Moorcock Saddle. There was a little bit of wind on the higher sections of the ridge track but nothing like the others experienced on the tops.



Awatere Hut – Susan Lopdell and Anne Doig

We were at Awatere Hut by about 9.15am where we found a couple of hunters who had just got back from a morning's hunt. We walked downstream a little way to a lovely sunny sheltered spot where we stopped for morning tea. Refreshed, we crossed Makaretu Stream and soon came to the dilapidated Black Stag Hut. As the river level was pretty low we decided to carry on walking downstream for an hour or so and, when we came to a crossing that looked like we would get our boots completely wet, we all agreed it was time to retrace our steps. An early lunch was had in another sunny spot on the river bank after which we quickly made our way back to Awatere Hut where a family was now in residence, crossed the river and made our way along the ridge track to Moorcock Saddle.

We got back to the truck at around 1:15pm then started on the journey back to Highway 50 and Norsewood, detouring just a short distance to visit A'Dean's Bush to walk the 20-minute loop track there. We stopped at ANZAC Park, which is just north of Norsewood, and walked the tracks there before driving into Norsewood itself. Here we had a delicious meal at the Crown Hotel, watched some rugby and were entertained by live music. Dave joined us at the hotel and at around 8pm we all returned to ANZAC Park to camp for the night.

Sunday dawned damp and windy so, before travelling to Apiti Track carpark, where our A Party was headed, we stayed dry and checked out the trees on Glenda and Peter's patch at Ormondville as well as the historic Ormondville railway station. John had thought his party

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would make the carpark at around 1:30pm so we arrived there just after 12pm. Only Dave was keen enough to brave the weather to go and meet them. He returned at around 1:30pm while the last of John's party got out at about 3:00pm.

B Party: Lex Smith, Susan Lopdell, Anne Doig, Glenda Hooper, Dave Mulinder

2495

Bell Rock

Wed 30 September 2020

Our party of eleven left at 8:30am, picked up the Napierites and had a smooth trip to Tutira. Turning into Pohokura Road we were detained for fifteen minutes or so by a fallen pine that road workers were clearing away with large machinery. Setting off again, we availed ourselves of the "facilities" at Boundary Stream before commencing our walk further up the road. After a quick morning tea, we set off through the bush. We did hear some birdlife but saw very little. As it was school holiday time, the track was quite busy. A group of young teenagers and their carers and teachers set off at the same time as us and we took turns passing each other. They were in training for an upcoming trip to Sunrise Hut and, despite some frustration and protestation by a couple of them on the way up, they were all very pleased to arrive at their destination.

We noticed that the top of Bell Rock has flattened off substantially since our last visit but the views were spectacular and the weather great: calm and sunny. After a leisurely lunch we set off for the return trip - half went back through the bush, the others along the ridge to enjoy the views. Meeting up back at the truck, we decided to have our cuppa at Lake Tutira. This proved to be a quick stop as the promised sou-wester had arrived so on home we went. Thanks to all participants for a most enjoyable day; Maggie's first visit to Bell Rock.

Party: Carolyn Catt, Barbara Phillips, Lynn Walch, Rodger Burn, Garry Smith, Maggie Brown, Roy Frost, Graeme Hare, Susan Lopdell, Christine Hardie (driver), Joan Ruffell (organiser)

2496

Te Iringa and Mt Cameron – Kaweka FP

Sun 11 October 2020

With permission gained from the Owahaoka C Trust which owns much of the land area we crossed, we tramped to Te Iringa and Mount Cameron from Gentle Annie on the Taihape Road. We left Havelock North at 7am and were ready to start tramping at around 8:30am. The day was overcast and the wind that was forecast was not an issue until we neared Te Iringa. Up there it was very cold

The party kept together as we climbed up the spur through scrubby vegetation onto the main ridge at which stage we split into a fast party and the rest. On the ridge the vegetation was mainly tussock, monowai and hebes with the odd patch of beech forest and we were thus able to get good views in all directions. There are no markers on the track but constant use means that in most places it was fairly easy to follow. We had a few stops in sheltered areas and by 11:45 all had reached Te Iringa with the faster party returning from Mount Cameron. The cold wind meant no-one lingered long up there.



Taihape Road where a white HTC truck is parked – Paula Kasper and Kim Smith

Lunch was had in the shelter of some beech trees after which we returned to the truck, getting to it before 3:00pm which is just as well as Cecil the Ram, our driver, needed to be back in town for rehearsals at 4:30pm.

Party: Glenda Hooper (organiser), Peter Berry, Susan Lopdell, Jude Hay, Paula Kasper, Deby Mills, Daniel Haddock, Kim Morgan, Anne Doig, Randall Goldfinch, Kim Smith, Dale Barnard, Des Smith, Graeme Hare

2497

Te Mata Park

Wed 14 October 2020

It had been a while since our group ventured into the park due to parts being off-limits but the predicted good weather brought 16 members out. Initially we had a wander around Rongoa Garden by the main car park with its plants that are used in Maori traditional medicine and weaving. We had an overview of the work in progress on the new block commonly known as Jacks Block.

This was always going to be a slow trip and we made our way up and down towards the main redwood grove, stopping to view the changing landscapes that have been revealed. Some 12 hectares of old pines have been removed over the last year and an extensive replanting of native shrubs and trees undertaken. A lot of this is being done by voluntary labour of which our Mike Lusk is very much involved as are some of our club members. Some 15,000 trees have been already planted with a further 45,000 to be planted over the next three years. Huge mounds of mulch dotted the area beyond the redwoods which will be used around the plantings. Graeme called for a smoko stop in the redwoods before we slowly made our way along Te Hau Valley past the grove of karaka trees. In dribs and drabs we then walked up through the bluffs of Farnworth Ridge with their limestone composition visible to the car park by the water towers.

There was little interest in going to the top so we made our way downwards on a track to find an ideal east-facing spot for lunch - very sunny and affording a great view of The Bay before eventually making our way back to our cars at the main car park. An easy day enjoyed by all and full of interest of the work in progress. RB

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Party: Anne Doig, Joan Ruffell, Raewyn Ricketts, Janice Love, Christine Hardie, Carolynn Catt, Lynn Walsh, Heather Stephenson, Alan Berry, Peter Hansen, Roy Frost, Graeme Hare, Des Smith, Kurt Fenton, Scott Campbell, Rodger Burn

2498

Southern Pureora Forest Park

Labour W/e 23 - 26 October 2020

Friday: a party of nine left Te Aute Road at 7:00 am bound for Pureora Forest Park. Our morning tea break was held in very chilly conditions at Four Mile Bay, Lake Taupo, whilst we watched a lone fisher-woman attempting to catch a trout. We drove the scenic route around the lake, turning right at Turangi and making our way to Taumarunui. We stopped at Waituhi Lookout where we had splendid views of the three snow-capped mountains in Tongariro National Park. Just short of Taumarunui, we drove about 20 minutes south along SH4 to Owhanga, our destination being the Ohinetonga walk. At the second car-park, near the concrete bridge over Whakapapa River, we had lunch while watching a pair of who navigating the massive rocks and turbulent cataracts where the river tumbles through the valley. A well-formed track with boardwalks winds its way uphill through native bush. Near the top a huge totara, protected by a platform, had our party trying to estimate its age. The track descends to a small lagoon where the filtered sunlight forms some reflections. As we walked across the boardwalk we noticed how the algae is starting to overtake this waterway. We crossed over the road and, as we neared the river, there was quite a diversity of vegetation. Birdlife was plentiful during this two-hour wander.

Back on board we headed into Taumarunui and Mount Peka Reserve which overlooks the township and Whanganui River. Some of the group decided to walk the trails leading down to the river while Lex, Fred and Marion brought the truck around. The local community has cleared, planted native trees and constucted tracks in this small reserve but it has not been maintained. Before heading to Taumarunui Holiday Park, there was some supermarket shopping for the evening meal to do. Lex then drove us 4km out of town to our cabins. This proved to be a good base for the weekend with good showers, kitchen facilities and outdoor tables which easily catered for the very full holiday park which is bordered by the river and a patch of native bush.



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Saturday: the route to Ongarue end of the Timber Trail from our base at Taumarunui Motor Camp was on SH4 to Ngakonui-Ongarue Road then on to Bennett Road carpark all of which is excellently sign posted. Bennett Road carpark is in two sections: the first, where we parked, is for general public while the other section is for transfer operators who shuttle customers up to Piropiro then return to Ongarue. This section appears to be locked at night. Outside the carpark there is a very informative map of the Timber Trail which starts on the right a short way down Bennett Road and across the road bridge. The first trail marker reads 85km and from there it is an undulating track, skirting the edge of farmland and plantation pine forest. This section is through private land.

At the 77km marker the trail crosses a road and the climb up to Ongarue Spiral begins. Here the trail becomes more scenic with bush to the left and some very substantial cliffs to the right. At approximately the 76km marker a sign warns of no stopping with the potential for rock falls over the next 1500 metres.



Ongarua Spiral

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There are a number of information boards detailing Ongarue Spiral at the 75km marker. The spiral is a loop in the main tram line that is completed by way of a tunnel (a torch is advised for this section). It was at a bridge before the spiral that we met our first cyclist. Walking through the tunnel we had to marvel at the workmanship through the rocks. The tunnel was shorter than I had anticipated but this ingenious engineering solution eased the grade for the timber trams that made the 43m climb achievable. Once we reached the second bridge of the spiral it was interesting to see the path we had travelled. It was a tad confusing until we realised that the bridge below us was the one we had crossed prior to entering the tunnel. At the 72km marker we found a spot out of the drizzle (there had been light rain off and on throughout the tramp) and sat to have lunch. At this spot the trail had two paths. One rounded a corner and the other went up the hill past our lunch spot. At the top of the steeper path was a sign stating “mobile phone reception”. Janice tested this and rang her family. It was decided that, after lunch, we would return to the truck. The return journey was down hill (it is understandable why the cyclists ride from Piropiro). Once we crossed the road we were again on the undulating eight-kilometre track which would take us back to the truck. As we walked back a number of us pulled up wilding pines which were in abundance.

Sunday: everyone was up early and we set off at 7:45am, stopping to refuel in Taumarunui and get directions. It was straightforward travelling, initially on the Taumarunui-Ngapuke Road, then Ngakonui - Ongarue Road before turning off onto the very narrow Mangakau Road, about an hour’s travel. It was fortunate there was only one vehicle at the road-end, allowing the truck to turn and park on the roadside as there was no other available carpark. Someone had scratched an alteration on the DoC sign, adding another 30 minutes to the time to Hauhungaroa Hut!



Hauhungaroa

Hut

Three locked gates saw us clambering over wooden railings and looking out for track markers, a good 10 minutes wasted before eventually finding a Te Araroa Trail marker partly hidden by vegetation. The first couple of kilometres is along a boggy four-wheel drive track, passing a dwelling nestled in the scrub, before crossing a tributary of Mangakau Stream. A

Pohokura

nice gentle uphill, then it became steeper with log bridges, tree root handholds but the occasional flat area giving some respite to the uphill grind. The forest is predominately tawa with the odd podocarp and punga present. The party split into two groups, each with a locator beacon. Our group took 3.5 to four hours to reach the hut where we met up with Simon, Janice, Jude and Brent. The hut was built in 2007 with six bunks and a coal/wood burner. It is nestled on the top of the spur and we found it in a neat and tidy condition. After lunch we retraced our footsteps, returning to the truck where Fred and Marion were waiting for us. It was a good eight-hour day in an area none of the party had been to.

Monday: we left Taumarunui, turned onto Western Bays Road and stopped at the Great Trails carpark beside Waihaha River. No-one seemed in a great hurry to rush off this morning and everyone was advised to stop at about 11:00am, have lunch and start back to the truck so we could leave at about 1-1.30 pm. Waihaha Track follows the northern side of Waihaha River through scrub to the confluence of Mangatu Stream, sidling through regenerating tanekaha. There are good viewpoints enabling views back across the forest and farmland. We regrouped to have lunch just before the track drops down to the frost flats at Pokaiora Clearing before retracing our steps to the truck. We met several groups who had overnighted at Waihaha Hut, stopping to chat before they walked out to their vehicles.

An uneventful trip back to The Bay after an enjoyable weekend away in a delightful forest setting. Lex, our thanks and our gratitude for all your driving - it was a lot of kilometres travelled. Thanks also to the club members who came along, I hope the trip has given you plenty of memories.

SL & AD

Party: Susan Lopdell (organiser), Lex Smith, Janice Love, Fred Chesterman, Marion Nicholson, Simon Whittam, Anne Doig, Jude Hay, Brent Hickey

2499

Cairn Trip 2020

8 November 2020

If The Cairn service is to be held at 11am it is sensible to be away from Hastings at 6am. It was pleasing that our party of thirteen was away from Makahu car park before 8:30am and commenced the service on time. As usual in recent years, the wind was strong and vicious. In fact, two packs were snatched by the wind and flicked over the ridge on the way up, leaving their owners to climb down to retrieve them. It was the same conditions on the top as we had last year - poor visibility and strong cold winds. To escape the wind, we gathered on the eastern side of the cairn using the gabion seats and the flat wall for protection during the Remembrance Service for our club's World War II dead. Carlee placed the beautiful wreath that Pam had made to commemorate the eleven club members named on the plaque. We had planned to attach the North, South, East, West formica signs on the last gabion and fill it in to complete the cairn refurbishment but that will wait for a better day. I hope it is soon. Would you believe it, the same as last year: as we descended, the sun came out! Again, we had been invited to Pam's place for afternoon tea. A magnificent feast. As usual many plates had goodies still on them when our team pushed their chairs back from the table. Special thanks to Lex for driving. Thank you to all who came to our Cairn Service 2020 to acknowledge our Second World War dead.

GRH

Pohokura



Carlee Eggers, Simon Whittam, Paula Kasper, Anne Cantrick, Des Smith, Deby Mills, Robyn Pohlenz, Jude Hay, Brian Smith, Anne Doig, Lex Smith, Cathy Eggers, (kneeling) Graeme Hare (organiser; behind the camera)

2500

Ballard Hut – Northern Kaweka FP

21 - 22 November 2020

With a 6am start in the truck at Te Aute Road, we were prepared for a good long day in the hills to come. Arriving in good time at the carpark on Makahu Road, we set off for the lunch stop destination – Middle Hill Hut. All seven of us made the stroll up with good scenery in

Pohokura

fair conditions and the odd grey warbler shrilling in the back-ground. Always good to finally see an orange hut to mark the beginning of a lunch break there at Middle Hut. Then in the early afternoon, it was time to make the ascent through the beautiful beech forest and towards the treeline milestone. This track was quite a grind with a relentless incline. Although a B party had not been planned for, it did take formation on this part of the track. Surprisingly, Simon endured a dizzy spell and so Anne escorted him back to our lunch-time hut and eventually Lex followed suit.

The remaining four of us duly arrived at the treeline and prepared ourselves by donning up for the wind. Such a very different feel up there with the scree that requires more care to tread and the gusty wind to boot. But what a great site when we got to see the Central Plateau so clearly. A bit perplexing to make out familiar Hawkes Bay land marks from this unfamiliar high perspective. Colin had his GPS measuring gadget and was able to let us know how many hundreds of metres in height we were still to manage. As this tramp had been discussed back at the Wednesday meeting, there had been a loose plan to spend overnight at Tira [aka Kelvinator] Lodge. While I had been quite confident in going to Ballard Hut, I was wondering if any one of us would really get as far as Tira seeing that we still had quite a bit of a walk left before even arriving at the junction point for the track there.

Thus, it was even without much discussion that we were in reality all happy to be heading to Ballard given the distance to go and the conditions up there on the tops. Paula was new to this scree scenario and her first impressions of it were not so favourable. I think that by the time we made it down to Ballard Hut which is a fairly steep and gnarly scree slope, we were all quite relieved to be able to call it a day and enjoy some good hearty dining before being wearily ensconced in sleeping bags while still some light outside. Such a great little hut for four. In the guest book, some had stayed for as long as four nights. It was attractive as the views not far away were great and yet it was tucked away within the beech canopy. Sunday saw us leave the hut by 7:30am with a round trip in mind and a lunchtime visit to Makino Hut. This was a much better track to descend on as it was more of a gentle, even decline. The weather was still mostly good with some cloud cover.

After some time back below the treeline, a bag of sweets was handed around. This turned out to be a great way to move us on to our eventual arrival at Makino Hut. There were some undesirable discoveries found on toes in boots from the effects of hours of decline - discomfort meant a slower pace for some. A round of billy tea and lunch on the Makino Hut deck and a quick conversation with some day walkers. A little bit of rain on this last leg, enough for the rainwear for a few minutes only. Later also on this track we met more day walkers and one of them took us by surprise as she jumped out behind a tree when we least expected it! Good on you Anne, a bit of encouragement at this point was most welcome. Back to the truck to hear about how good the soak in the hot pools had been. Such a great outing with a few pics to prove it. When's the next trip up there? RP

Party: Anne Cantrick, Simon Whittam, Lex Smith, Colin Jones, Paula Kasper,
Murry Alderson, Robyn Pohlentz

Once again, we'd like to thank the Halls of Glenny Road for allowing us to cross their farm to get to the start of the Gold Creek Hut track. For our road trip, Lex was the driver and we set off from Te Aute Road with 11 other trampers. We were to collect another passenger at the Otane turnoff. Welcome, Jo and Barbara to your first tramp with the Heretaunga Tramping Club.

After crossing the farm and on gaining the ridge line there was an excellent view of the Makaroro River which Gold Creek flows into. At the ridge line we split into two groups with a further split happening at the hut: Des, Kim and Simon were to return down Gold Creek; Glenda and I made up the rear. The track along Gold Creek Ridge is on the true right of the creek and follows a long gentle climb through beech forest. There had been recent rain; the bush and mossy ground cover were verdant. Nine of our party made it down to Gold Creek Hut and lunch was had on the banks of the creek. The reports are that it is a difficult 200 metre climb down, being steep, slippery and with many tree roots to negotiate. The climb back up to the ridge line was considered much easier. As Liz was tramping in her work footwear, she didn't want wet boots the next day so took them off to cross the creek.

We were not the only trampers on the track; seven members of the Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club were about half an hour behind us. When their group met up with our group at the hut it was established that Daniel had taught with one of the party and Lex had driven two of them.

Des, Kim and Simon followed their plan and returned to the truck via Gold Creek. Both Kim and Des reported that the tramp down the creek was straightforward with some deep holes. There were numerous log jams - many of them were easy to negotiate yet others required a diversion out of the creek with straightforward exits. The creek narrowed in places yet the deepest water was only just above the knees. In the past several shingle screes have come down presenting a bit of a challenge to negotiate but with care they were a doable. It was a picturesque journey down the creek with a number of small waterfalls, bush to the water's edge, sizeable boulders, shingle screes and a couple of false exits which could have been the Makarora River. It was a steady trip down the creek to a swiftly flowing Makarora River taking about 2½ hours with a 15-minute walk to the start of the farm track and then 40 minutes over farmland back to the truck.

The tramp was enjoyed by all the participants and thanks to Lex for driving us, yet another pleasurable trip in the club truck. AD

Party: Lex Smith (driver), Jude Hay, Daniel Haddock, Deby Mills, Robyn Pohlenz, Kim Morgan, Simon Whittam, Janice Love, Glenda Hooper, Jo Petty, Barbara Hamilton, Des Smith, Anne Doig (organiser)

HTC BIKE TRIPS



Apley Road Circuit

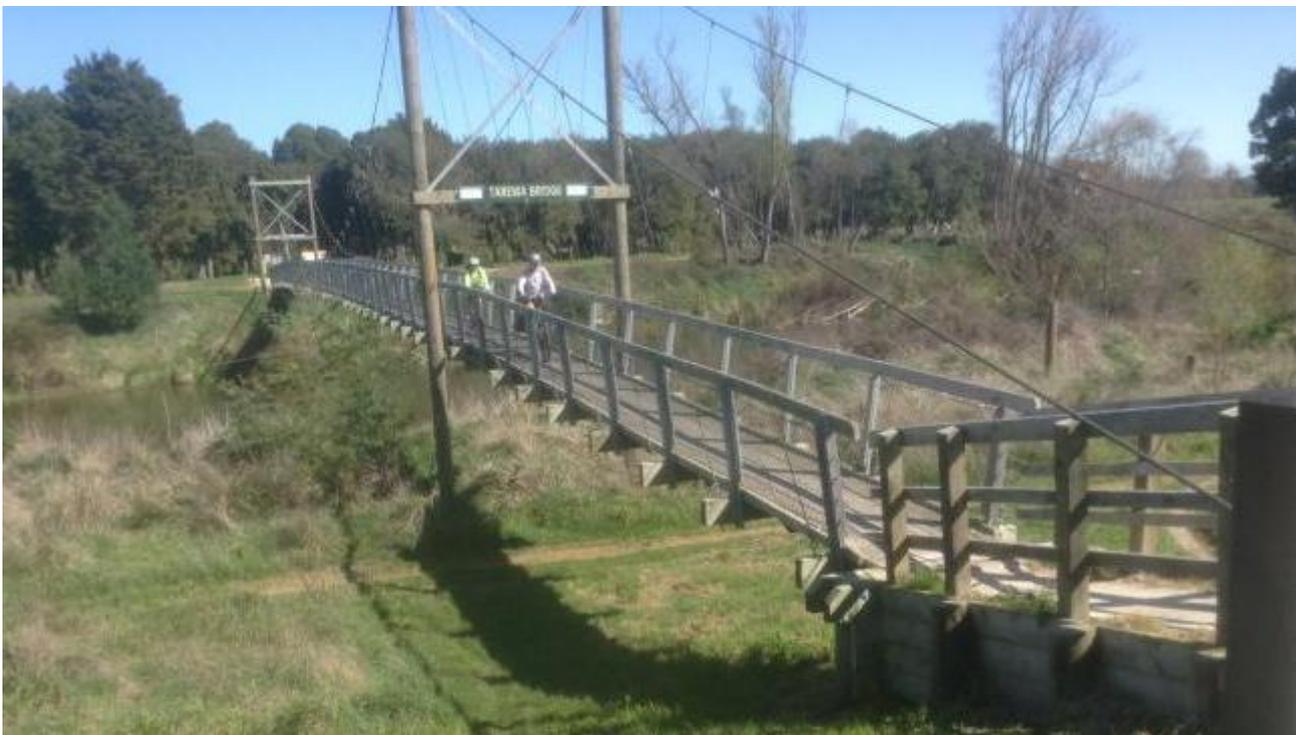
Sat 26 August 2020

Boots on Bikes met at Park Island: seven of us on a coldish day so we were away smartly. First of all, up through Wharerangi Cemetery to Fryers Road with the constantly expanding Hohepa Home School. On to Puketitiri Road where the next part is downhill. Along the flat section; after that to Bayliss Bros Welldrillers at the bottom of the big hill which we all achieved quickly. Then it was past Seafield Road turn-off which we didn't turn down this time. More ups, downs, big corners and logging trucks coming back from the forests with their loads. At the top of Apley Road we waited at the gravel dump for everyone to catch up. Someone wanted to carry on to Glengarry Road and the Naturalists Club property but we said it's a long way back so everyone kept together and cruised along Apley with its ups and downs. The shoe fence is still there and there are big new orchard plantings at the Dartmoor Road end. This is where the speedsters break out and it's onward at a great rate. People then had to decide whether to eat indoors or outside at the park. However, it was still cool so we all went to the pub!

CH

Cycle in Central Hawkes Bay

Wed 9 September 2020



Lynn chasing Des across Waipawa River

This ride was listed for 4th November but we brought it forward to suit leader availability. It had been a while since we as a group had ventured into CHB - before the pandemic, in fact, so buoyed by the opportunity and a good weather forecast 17 of us (eight on eBikes) met at

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the start of the Waipawa cycle trail to be joined by Bruce and Christine who were to lead us on from Waipukurau. The trail follows the true left of the Tukituki river with farms on the other side for five kilometres before reaching the bridge at Waipukurau where we crossed over and into Russell Park where Graeme inevitably called for a smoko stop.

After everyone was suitably refreshed Bruce and Christine took over and we set off down Farm Road. We started to experience head winds which continued as we turned into Middleton Road with its many ups and downs; we sympathised with those who don't yet have Epower. The group had got quite spread out by now but regrouped at the junction with Porangahau Road from where we enjoyed a deserved tail wind back to Russell Park for lunch. Bruce and Christine left us at this stage and we followed the river's true right along the cycle trail back to our cars. A total of about 38km for most. No incidents other than a chain coming off and someone hitting a bollard on the trail and a most enjoyable day had by all.

CHB rides are always very popular.

RB

Cyclists: Christine Hardie, Heather Stephenson, Bruce and Christine Turner, Pam Pike, Sharron Wellwood, Joan Ruffell, Anne Cantrick, Lynn Walch, Raewyn Ricketts, Graeme Hare, Garry Smith, Des Smith, Ray Manning, Jim Hewes, Roy Frost, Rodger Burn

Old Tour of the Bays Course

Wed 23 September 2020

Despite NW gales with showers being predicted followed by a southerly change, a good group of cyclists assembled at Hastings Golf Club, all eager to challenge the weather man and go around the course. This took us down SH50 into a stiff breeze to Valley Road and along the hills and dales to Raukawa Hall, where we had morning tea and solved the world's problems yet again. From there it was up Raukawa Road to Bridge Pa, back to the golf course and our cars plus a full quota of golf players. A distance of about 40km....and the weather was very much in our favour...even though the cloud came down as the day progressed the v wind was tolerable and there was no rain.

Enjoyed the hospitality of HGC and so ended a very pleasant day.

Cyclists: Scott Campbell, Raewyn Ricketts, Carolyn Catt, Lynn Walch, Peter Hansen, Christine Hardie, Joan Ruffell, Alasdair Shaw, Garry Smith, Pam Pike, Graeme Hare, Sharron Wellwood, Rodger Burn

Cycling to Camp David

Wed 07 October 2020

It was a cloudy, mild day with a steady breeze as we headed south from Birdwood's carpark on Middle Road just out of Havelock North. Fortunately, the road was not very busy at this time and the first part is straightforward. We skirted the lush fields with supposedly happy animals and went past Webster's Lime Co which has been operating at this site since 1963 although the company itself started in 1946. It has the distinction of being the first place in NZ that produced burnt lime and, a few years later, the first bulk tankers to carry products.

Four kilometres on is the quaint little Drovers Memorial Hut where a plaque in front of the building commemorates Trooper James Edward Oliver who had been a drover in Hawke's

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Bay before serving in the cavalry during WW2, Sadly, he was killed in 1942 and this hut is one of three in the province dedicated to drovers who died while serving overseas.

We trundled on with the wind rising a little which made Raewyn turn back to get to her appointment in town. The road became hillier but the e-riders moved on confidently, Those in the group without eBikes are impressive performers, however, and they were never far away. Everyone made it up Chocolate Fish Hill [and is still owed a choc fish as promised – ed] and from there the views improved. It is an attractive vista from a height looking north and east along the Tukituki Valley. Others find this situation appealing also and there are many smart looking houses/lifestyle blocks evident as you carry on.

By the time we got to Aratika Lodge [the former Camp David] we were looking for shelter from the storm, so to speak. The lodge is advertised as a conference and accommodation venue but, as far as we could determine, is closed up. We peered through windows in a couple of buildings to find that they were empty and dusty. There were plenty of plants that had gone wild and were growing through cracks and gaps. Graeme went looking and found parked cars plus other signs of habitation but no people answered his calls! We invited ourselves to sit on a convenient porch to eat our lunches, drink our thermos drinks and tell tall stories.

Back on the bikes and everyone decided to cycle the 22+ km back to town. No-one wanted to go to Patangata, not even Graeme or Des!! The wind had died down somewhat and it was a good trip with the downhill sections. At one part we paused to watch a man in a paddock next to the road trying to get a group of stropy young bulls into a coherent group through a copse of big trees and into a nearby field. Some of the animals were being very unco-operative and having little play fights with a bit of bellowing added. Of course, the drover wasn't going to get out of his vehicle and the dog was being cautious so I wonder how long it took him? A little further on a guardian magpie dive-bombed some of us – yes, it was that time of year! Those of us with eyes or aials on the tops of our helmets were not actually hit and the others found that there was safety in a group.

Fortunately, the traffic was sparse until we got back to Birdwood's which was chocka to overflowing. We had originally planned to go in for a coffee and to thank the owners for letting us use their carpark but we had forgotten that it was school holidays and this is a very popular place. Some of the group had other commitments so left for home while five of us went back to HN to have a drink at Alasdair's favourite quirky café near the library. CH

Cyclists: Rodger Burn, Christine Hardie [organiser], Garry Smith, Scott Campbell, Joan Ruffell, Alasdair Shaw, Raewyn Ricketts, Graeme Hare, Ray Manning, Des Smith

Mystery Cycle

Wed 21 October 2020

A local mystery cycle ride always attracts interest especially as it was promised to be mainly flat and a good weather forecast brought 17 cyclists ♀ out of the woodwork. Setting off from Pam Burn's house we followed the cycle paths in a circular route to the junction of St George's Road South and Havelock Road which we crossed with care.

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The group had instructions to keep together as this was a mystery trip and we continued along St Georges Road for a couple of kms before joining onto a fairly new track which runs parallel to the orchards and the Southland drain stream before we crossed over Norton Road and regained the track in Park Road. This was all new to most of our team so we added to the BoB repertoire. We then cut across Hastings to Windsor Park and down the back streets to Hawke's Bay Showgrounds.

We were on familiar ground now and followed the tracks along to Ruahapia Road, crossed the railway lines and rode down to Pakowhai Park where Graeme spotted an ideal spot for morning smoko. Sitting on the grass and smelling the flowers [just like Ferdinand] it was time for a general catch-up cum gossip. I noted that we had nine Ebikes in the group today. And also, that the coffee cart was not there!

Eventually we carried on, following the cycle paths and arriving at Clive where we had a coffee stop a - Rodger's suggestion this time. We eventually tore ourselves away and carried on to Black Bridge to follow the cycle path back to Havelock North. A most enjoyable day full of interest and adventure! A distance of 41 kms for most of us. RB

Cyclists: Heather Stephenson, Maggie Brown, Christine Hardie, Lynn Walsh, Joan Ruffell, Pam Pike, Sharron Wellwood, Anne Cantrick, Raewyn Ricketts, Peter Hansen, Des Smith, Garry Smith, Graeme Hare, Alasdair Shaw, Pete Hewitt, Scott Campbell, Rodger Burn [organiser]

Cycle Apley Road

Wed 18 November 2020

Our Boots on Bikes team tries to include something a little different every now and then so we had 11 cyclists meet at Red Bridge Container Cafe on the Waimarama junction at 9:30am. After crossing the bridge east, we cycled along undulating Matangi Road, admiring the views of the Tukituki to one side and Te Mata Peak with farmlands below on the other side. It all looked very green at this moment. We carried on past the historic Chambers family homestead to the end of the road where stands the entrance to Matangi Station.

A suggestion by Alasdair for morning coffee back at the cafe was immediately seconded by Graeme and we returned along the quiet route for said refreshments for after which Joan and Alasdair had to leave us. We then continued south along Kahuranaki Road for quite a while taking in the various hills and new lifestyle developments before arriving at Rochfort Road and the extensive equestrian centre. Down to the river flats and the farm with the friendly goose which came to beg for snacks where we sat for lunchette by the fence.

Next to us was club member, Kim Morgan's, pottery which he runs from an attractive cottage by a small lake and a giant gum tree. Graeme decided he would like to visit him but no-one seemed to be home. A mobile phone call was made and GH discovered that, unfortunately, Kim was away in the South Island on R and R. However, it's a nice spot to rest and soon the local farmer wandered up. It turned out that he and some of our group members had many acquaintances in common so a good chat ensued about local history [sparked by the old farm buildings nearby] and personalities.

Mindful of the weather forecast and some approaching dark clouds we reluctantly beat a retreat with some speed back to our cars. The heavens opened just as we were loading up

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although some of us were sheltered under huge plane trees where we had parked and weren't badly affected. We heard later that Peter and Rodger were soaked as they cycled back to town.

RB

Cyclists: Heather Stephenson, Christine Hardie, Pam Pike, Sharron Wellwood, Joan Ruffell, Peter Hewitt, Graeme Hare, Alasdair Shaw, Garry Smith, Peter Hansen, Rodger Burn [organiser]

End of 2020 Cycle Ride

Wed 16 December 2020

We met at Evers-Swindell Reserve under the bridge in Clive in perfect weather: sunny and calm. Fourteen of us followed the stopbank out to Haumoana and then headed via Black Bridge to Clifton. Along the way we spotted several water bird families, particularly swans and mallards, so it must have been a good breeding year. Lots of little bird bottoms could be seen as they all upended themselves to dredge for tasty morsels on the lagoon floor.

At Hygge we decided it was necessary to stop for refreshments – the new owners have a good selection of food and drinks so we lolled about under the trees with our drinks and chat. There was more socialising to come because Gentry and Gentry had invited us to an end-of-year bbq lunch at their country estate. We tore ourselves away from the café and cycled back along the main road, through Clearview Vineyard and swept into the party venue under the trees at the Lyns' place.

Mister had the barbecue already fired up and Mrs had tables laid out with hot and cold drinks plus snacks that included lemon cake. Other Boots on Bikes members had brought food and soon there was a variety of items sizzling on the hotplate. After plenty of shared food and drink and a toast to Rodger for another year of facilitating BoB, Mr Lyn invited us all to participate in some games of skill such as horse-shoe throwing. Alasdair won that contest and then we were treated to a viewing and driving of some of Mr Lyn's mechanical marvels. Over the last decade or more he has invented and created a number of vehicles in his workshop, most of them mobile. He allowed us to have a go on some of them which caused great hilarity as we tried driving his bulldozer, three-wheeled motorised trike/reclining bike, his circular motorbike [very hard to balance on that one] and his battery-powered dinosaur. This kept us amused for some time but eventually we had to go. On to the bicycles and back to Clive where we dispersed. What a wonderful day. Thanks, Gentrys and Happy Xmas to all.

GS

Cyclists: Scott Campbell, Christine Hardie, Garry Smith [organiser], Ray Manning, Rodger Burn, Lynn Walch, Des Smith, Heather Stephenson, Roy Frost, Peter Hewitt, Anne Cantrick, Graeme Hare, Joan Ruffell, Alasdair Shaw plus Mine Hosts, Lyn and Lyn Gentry

Hazardous Waste Collection – Working Bee

Sunday 15 November 2020

In February 2020 Danny McClure from Hastings District Council asked if we could assist at the Hazardous Waste Collection again. We soon had the volunteers required but Covid-19 cancelled all the arrangements. In August, as the Covid-19 ratings reduced, the date of the collection at the Regional Sports Park, in Hastings was set for 15 November. Once again, our members stepped up and agreed to help. This was our 17th time as volunteers.

Hazmobile was again taking place for Hastings and Napier combined at the Sports Park on a Sunday but we were required to be on site by 7:00am until 4:30pm as vehicles would be arriving from 8:00am at appointed times.



It was a long, hot day this time especially for the paint department which didn't have enough gazebos for shade. The councils were happy with the nearly 600 cars who came to deliver waste. My thanks go to all who worked this day in the hot HB sun. GRH

Working Party: Graeme Hare [organiser], Peter Berry, Brent Hickey, Marion Nicholson, Fred Chesterman, Anne Cantrick, Susan Lopdell, Daniel Haddock, Philip Mardon, Pam Turner, Anne Doig, Scott Campbell, Des Smith

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Our new transport, a Ford 12-seater van next to HTC Isuzu truck that has done 21 years



10 Jan 2021: the new van on its first trip, Ohara Stream, with ten on board

ITEMS for SALE

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

New 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
Safety in the Mountains	\$5.00

These can all be ordered from **Penny Isherwood** Ph 844 9994 or
email p.isherwood@orcon.net.nz

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

CLUB NEWS

- Welcome to our new member, Maggie Brown, who has been out with the Wednesday group a few times and also attended our Mohi Bush pre-Christmas walk. She plans to come out on some of our Sunday tramps.
- At the AGM the Leatherwood and Trampler of the Year awards were announced:

Trampler of the Year - Murry Alderson

Leatherwood Trophy - Christine Hardie and Rodger Burn [for running the Wednesday group].

- Congratulations to our three new Life Members: Graeme Hare, John Montgomerie and Lex Smith. These life memberships were endorsed at the AGM and it was great to see a lot of members there (including their wives) to support this.
- At the AGM Joan Ruffell stood down from committee while Daniel Haddock joined it. Many thanks go to Joan for all the work she has done over her six years on committee. The new committee had its first meeting on December 10th and the following sub-committee positions were allocated as per page one of this Pohokura Jan 2021.
- The results of the Judge's Choice for the 2020 photo competition are shown on the next page; photographers are (clockwise from top left)
Historic: Alan Berry
Above Bush Line (with people): Andy Fowler
Native Flora and Fauna: Tina Godbert
Above Bush Line (No people): Alan Berry
Club Character: Andy Fowler
Below Bush Line (No people): Alan Berry
Below Bush Line (with people): Kathy Turner
- Tina's photo of marine life was selected as runner up in the FMC competition so, well done Tina and, well done Claire Holmes, our judge, for selecting it.
- We now have our new van – it is stored in a shed at 316 Te Aute Road. Our first trip in it was to Ohara Stream and everyone said it was a big step up from the vans we hired, much quieter and more roomy than they were.

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Heretaunga Tramping Club Meeting and Trip Information

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Chairperson	Speaker and Topic	Host/Supper
2021			
13 Jan	Daniel Haddock	Open Night – Happy New Year	H – Graeme Hare S – Anne Doig
27 Jan	John Montgomerie	A Little Slice of HTC	H – Pam Turner S – Marion Nicholson
10 Feb	Anne Cantrick	Wilding Pines – Alan Lee	H – Colin Jones S – Christine Snook
24 Feb	Susan Lopdell	Auction – General Goods Proceeds to Rescue Helicopter	H – Des Smith S – Deby Mills
10 Mar	Lex Smith	Visit to HB Rescue Helicopter Hangar	H – Philip Mardon S – Randall Goldfinch
24 Mar	Pam Turner	Auction – General Goods Proceeds to Rescue Helicopter	H – Scott Campbell S – Jo Petty
7 April	Anne Doig	Open Night	H – Simon Whittam S – Alan Petersen
21 Apr	Jude Hay	What to Put in Your Pack - Training John Montgomerie and Lex Smith	H – Philip Mardon S – Marion Nicholson
5 May	Brent Hickey	Colenso's Journeys Alan Berry	H – Raewyn Ricketts S – Kim Morgan
19 May	Robyn Pohlenz	Open Night	H – Fred Chesterman S – Marion Nicholson
02 June			

Meetings Sub-Committee: Graeme Hare, Philip Mardon

We want ideas for club night speakers and activities.

Supper: Put out cups, wash dishes, leave kitchen clean and tidy, and generally help Joan and Alasdair. Sweep floors and check that heaters and lights are off at the end of the meeting. Don't drag the furniture as it marks the floor.

ARE YOU FIT ENOUGH TO TRAMP?

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 specified an “A” trip would have a HARD grading and a “B” trip a MEDIUM grading.

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

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

OVERDUE TRAMPERS

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

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



TRIP LIST 2021

Although the area for the trip is generally adhered to, the suggested objectives may change for a number of reasons. For pre-trip enquiries contact the organiser or John Montgomerie, Ph 877 7358. Please email trip requests to tramphtc@gmail.com

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

Sat 23 Jan 2021 Top Maropea Hut – Ruahine FP \$15 Map BK36

In via Sunrise Track and over Armstrong Saddle to the hut for lunch. Return to Sunrise and keen people might go via the shingle slide down into the north branch of Waipawa River. The rest will return directly to Triplex Hut.

Organiser: Janice Love Ph 877 5442

W/e 30-31 Jan 2021 Cameron Hut - Kawekas \$15 Map BJ37

A few options here: up Ngaruroro River to the hut or from Lakes Roadend via Smith Russell Track and drop down the notorious track to Cameron. The keen ones could go via Kiwi Saddle Hut down to Kiwi Mouth Hut for the night then all the way down river to the Taihape Road carpark.

Organiser: Robyn Pohlenz Ph 281 2131

Wed 27 Jan Graeme May Memorial Cycle

Start at Guppy Road, Taradale and go along the Stop-banks to Puketapu and maybe Moteo.

Organiser: Christine Hardie Ph 844 9590

Wed 03 Feb Lake Opouahi Sanctuary Working Bee

Bring your tools especially trimming ones to help at Lake Opouahi Sanctuary where HB Kiwi Recovery Programme operates.

Organiser: Anne Cantrick Ph 844 8149

W/e 6-7-8 Feb Waikaremoana Area \$30 Maps BK36+BG40

Option A Organiser: A - Susan Lopdell Ph 844 6697

Day One - walk up Bald Knob then the more adventurous can go to Panekiri Hut (1185m) from Onepoto Bay and return.

Day Two - from the old hotel site on Lake Road, ascend Ngamoko Track to the summit and either return via the loop track or walk out to Rosie Bay.

Day Three - walk the track into Lake Waikareiti to meet up with the overnight party.

Option B

A three-day trip staying in two huts or tenting. From the bridge, ascend track to Manuoha Hut (1392 metres) for Sat night. Sunday, walk through goblin forest, passing Kaipō Lagoon

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to Sandy Bay Hut on the shores of Lake Waikareiti for the night. Monday walk around this lake before descending to the vehicle.

Wed 10 Feb Cycle Round Hastings

Start at Pakowhai Park, go along the stop-banks past Fernhill to our favourite scone spot at the golf club.

Organiser: Scott Campbell Ph 879 8554

Sun 14 Feb Makaroro River and Barlows Hut \$15 Map BK37

From Yeomans Mill site, up Makaroro River to Barlows Hut. If people were willing to take a pruner they could do some track trimming upstream from the hut on the route to Parks Peak ridgeline. Colenso Monument is there at the bottom of Colenso Spur not long before the hut.

Organiser: Glenda Hooper Ph 877 4183

Wed 17 Feb Longview Hut

Into Ruahine FP and hope that the wind has gone somewhere else.

Organiser: Janice Love Ph 877 5442

Wed 24 Feb Rodger's Ride

Cycle through Havelock and Hastings.

Organiser: Rodger Burn Ph 8776322

W/e 27/28 Feb 2021 Maungataniwha Lizard Hunt \$15 Map BH39

In 2013 the Club installed some traps to monitor lizards in Maungataniwha Forest which is inland from Kotemaori beside the Waiau River. We have been returning there every so often to re-set these traps and see if any lizards are caught to thus get an idea as to whether the change from an exotic forest to a native forest has resulted in an increase in lizard numbers. This is best done in the warmer months so we will drive there on the Saturday, set up the traps and enjoy a night in the accommodation there. On Sunday we will check and then unset the traps after which there is usually time for a bit of a tramp before returning to town.

Organiser: Mike Lusk Ph 877 8328

Wed 03 March Galbraith Hut

Off Waitara Road in the Mangaharuru area; a new destination for the mid-weekers to an interesting historical building off the Napier-Taupo highway.

Organiser: Anne Doig Ph 878 8694

Wed 10 March Mystery Ride

Mr Lyn will have some fun cycling arranged for us.

Organiser: Lyn Gentry Ph 875 0542

Sun 14 March Te Iringa - Kaimanawa FP \$30 Map BH37

This Te Iringa is a high point in the north-eastern Kaimanawa range and is accessed from Clements Mill Road. It is an easy tramp through lovely bush to the spot where Te Iringa Hut once stood. Some of the party might wish to carry on down from there towards Tikitiki

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Stream but all will be returning along the same track.

Organiser: Anne Doig Ph 878 8694

Wed 17 March Kaweka Forest Park

Up to 4100 and along the ridge to Kiwi Saddle; Lakes walks are available if you don't feel like climbing a hill.

Organiser: Christine Hardie Ph 844 9590

Wed 24 March Cycle in Central Hawkes Bay

Some interesting roads in the Tikokino area.

Organiser: Des Smith Ph 022 370 6118

W/e 27-28 March Waikamaka Hut – Ruahine FP \$15 Map BJ36

Over Waipawa Saddle to our club hut; a re-enactment to celebrate the 65th anniversary of Graeme Hare's first tramp with HTC – to this hut, no less; an enviable record. Maybe a retro clothing and gear opportunity?

Organiser: Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656

Wed 31 March Havelock North Reserves

Walk through a series of lovely gardens and stands of bush.

Organiser: Barbara Phillips Ph 877 5459

Easter 2/3/4/5 April Howletts Hut – Ruahines FP \$15 Map BL36

In to our hut in a pristine spot above the bushline. Probably in via the original but still useable track: down to the Tukituki, wet feet for half an hour to Daphne Hut, then the gentle climb up Daphne Spur to our destination! There may still be some jobs to do but hopefully the repainting will be finished. Options to break the tramp could be to stop the first night at Daphne and then trundle up to Howletts or to go from Daphne up to Black Ridge and stop at Tarn Bivvy before returning. Coming out from Howletts could also be via the tops and Longview Hut as there are four days to use up

Organiser: John Montgomerie Ph 877 7358

Wed 07 April Cycle Near Raukawa

On country roads with hills to tackle today; start at Maraekakaho and go up Whakapirau to the high ground; could also go to Aorangi Road.

Organiser: Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322

Sun 11 April Lotkow Road Area \$15 Map BJ37

We last did this tramp in the south-west corner of the Kaweka ranges in winter 2019 so it should be a bit warmer this time. We will drive to the end of Lotkow Road and do the 90-minute return walk to Don Juan trig before driving back two km to Black Birch Track. Here, some will leave our transport to climb 300 metres to the range, then follow the track down to Littles Clearing. The rest will drive to the clearing and walk in to meet the through-group.

Organiser: Glenda Hooper Ph 877 4183

Wed 14 April Fred's Farm

We hope to get a look at plantings and maybe caves at Fred Chesterman's place in lower Maraetotara Valley.

Organiser: Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656

Wed 21 April Cycle Seafield Road

Ride up and down to Bay View or go along the estuary flatlands.

Organiser: Christine Hardie Ph 844 9590

W/e 24-26 April Whirinaki (Minginui Area) \$30 Map BG38

Drive around to River Road carpark via Reporoa to begin this three-day circuit. On Saturday follow the main Whirinaki track to the junction with Mangamate Stream, crisscrossing this with a gentle climb to the hut. On Sunday our destination is Central Whirinaki Hut either via Taumutu Stream Track or, for the fitter group, via Whirinaki Hut. On Monday exit to vehicle following the lower Whirinaki track. Other options are available

Organiser: Susan Lopdell Ph 844 6697

Wed 28 April Ex-Kaweka Hut Site

An attractive bush walk from The Lakes to check where HTC's earliest hut stood until 2003.

Organiser: Susan Lopdell Ph 844 6697

Wed 05 May Local Cycle

Somewhere around the cycleways and roads of Napier/Hastings.

Organiser: Ray Manning Ph 845 1316

Sun 9 May The Hogget – Kaweka FP \$15 Map BJ36

Via the old logging track through Timahanga Station; The Hogget is a high point on the Tahuhunui Range about five km west of the other Te Iringa Trig we visited last October. Like Te Iringa #1 it is on tussock tops. We will drive through private land [Timahanga Station] to old Boyds Homestead where we start the walk. We start off through lush bush before ascending Tahuhunui Range. The Hogget is about two kilometres further north along the range. We will all return the same way

Organiser: Peter Berry Ph 877 4183

Wed 12 May Happy Daze Hut

Over farmland to lovely bush in the Ruahine foothills.

Organiser: Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322

Wed 19 May Central Hawkes Bay Cycle

Another country ride probably near Waipukurau or Otane.

Organiser: Alasdair Shaw Ph 877 6225

W/e 22-23 May Smith Stream Hut \$15 Map BL36
From Mill Road carpark, drop down to the Tukituki and head upriver for a short distance. Go up a spur to come to Hinerua Track. Up to Hinerua Hut for smoko before dropping down to Smith Stream Hut for the night. Next morning across to Middle Stream and then out to Waipawa River.
Organiser: Des Smith Ph 022 370 6118

Wed 26 May Golden Crown
Climb this Ruahine ridge as far as we like.
Organiser: Christine Hardie Ph 844 9590

Wed 02 June Cycle from Clive
Head out to Clifton or maybe along the stopbanks from the Black Bridge.
Organiser: Heather Stephenson Ph 843 9157

Wed 09 June Sunrise Hut
Up to the #1 hut in the Ruahine Range through different forest levels. Shorter trips available on the Swamp Track or even over to the Waipawa Forks Hut.
Organiser: Janice Love Ph 877 5442

Wed 16 June Rodger's Ride
Cycle through Havelock North and Hastings.
Organiser: Rodger Burn Ph 877 6322

Wed 23 June Te Mata Park
Another look at the treasured reserve in Havelock North.
Organiser: Peter Hewitt Ph 877 5188

Wed 30 June Tukituki Cycle
A second expedition south along the Tuki Valley to Horsey Rochford Valley or beyond.
Organiser: Graeme Hare Ph 844 8656

Recommended Mountain Safety Training Video's

These are from the Mountain Safety website. <https://www.mountainsafety.org.nz/videos/>

They are youtube videos and this is the link

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLeLnlpLtcBkodTaLnO-53RmTNscUHjlx>

- River crossing (3 minutes) 16 June
- Reading a map (4 minutes)
- Using a compass (4 minutes)
- Give a grid reference (1 1/2 min)
- First aid kit (2 minutes)
- Pack for a tramp (3 minutes)
- Hypothermia (5 1/2 minutes) 16 June
- Weather (3 minutes) & predict changes (3 minutes)
- Travel as a group (1 minute)

Rodger would like to share this Link with the Cyclist Group

Just open the attached link from the Hastings District Council.

This is great news for our cycling group and will make a great circuit much safer and extend our options for extended rides.

<https://cdn.hbapp.co.nz/news/inapp/work-to-start-on-waimarama-road-cycle-trail>

Cheers
Rodger Burn