

**HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB PO BOX 14086 MAYFAIR HASTINGS**

**POHUKURA – Bulletin No 218**

**December 2004**

**HTC Committee:**

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Committee:	Shirley Bathgate	877 8511	
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	Anne Cantrick	844 8149	
	Lynette Blackburn	870 8494	
	Tina Godbert	835 0064	
	Susan Lopdell	844 6697	
	Alan Petersen	835 1082	

**Sub Committees:**

Environment:	Shirley Bathgate, Mike Lusk, Glenda Hooper, Tina Godbert
Truck:	Geoff Clibborn, Dave Heaps.
Fixtures:	Sue Lopdell, Roger Burn, Tina Godbert, Lex Smith, Dave Heaps, Glenda Hooper, Lynette Blackburn, Anne Cantrick.
Huts:	Dave Heaps, Geoff Clibborn, Randall Goldfinch.
Training:	Graham Thorp, Dave Heaps, Lynette Blackburn, Andy Fowler.
SAR:	Dave Heaps, John Montgomerie.
Meetings:	Glenda Hooper, Anne Cantrick, Lex Smith, Sue Lopdell.
Social:	Lynette Blackburn, Peter Berry, Mr Lyn Gentry, Graeme Hare,
Scrap Book:	Jim Glass
Supper:	Jenny Lean
Album:	Shirley Bathgate.
Library:	Liz Pindar, (870 0145)
Gear Hire:	Dave Heaps, climbing gear (875 0088); Glenda Hooper- gear registrar
Sales Rep:	Robyn Madden, (844 9661)

**Club Meetings:** These are held every second Wednesday (before a tramp) at the Hastings Harrier Clubrooms in Sylvan Road, Hastings. Doors open 7:25pm, visitors are most welcome.

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

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

Mail: Box 14086, Mayfair, Hastings

Enquiries: Mike Lusk 877 8328, Graeme Hare 844 8656 or David Heaps 875 0088

## President's Report 2003

One of the main reasons for this report is to summarise the activities of HTC as we come to the end of another year, and so to comment upon the state of the club's health. You will agree I feel sure, that we remain a strong and active group, changing no doubt, but maintaining the traditions which underpin our strength.

Crucial to this strength is the generous donation of the particular skills of each member. We are fortunate that HTC people come with a very wide range of talents and you may wish to reflect on some of the contributions which are highlighted as I speak.

Tramping is of course our main reason for being, and the fixtures committee have, as usual, devised a balanced selection to cater to all tastes.

Tradition remains strong and vital to our wellbeing. Regular features such as the photo competition, the club auction, and the Cairn trip flourish, and an old one, singing, has been reincarnated in the form of two successful singalongs, both with the help of Deborah Turner, one at a meeting and one at Pam's Puketitiri estate.

Our participation in the running of the Kaweka Challenge assures not only a busy weekend in February, but a major effort throughout the year from those on the organizing committee, to whom we express our gratitude. The distribution of the rubbish bags in Havelock North has ended but instead we are assisting with the collection of hazardous wastes both in Napier and Hastings. As a result of these fundraisers our finances remain in a healthy state.

Andy and Tina continue edit Pohokuras of a high standard have added useful additions to the baseline of trip reports and club information. Thanks to them, to their assistants and to the contributors.

There has been a more than usual contact with DOC because of the Department's wish to formalize our relationship in regard to the club huts and the maintenance of two tracks. A subcommittee has been working to sort out a sensible agreement and after some initial concern we are confident that one is not far off. We very much value the excellent relationship we have with DOC and I believe there is a similar appreciation from them.

During the year the decision was made at a club meeting and by a large majority not to replace Kaweka Hut. There is however a suggestion from Pat Sheridan of DOC that a memorial plaque be placed at the site, and the details of this need attention from the new committee.

Membership remains strong, and we have all particularly enjoyed the contributions of Jeremy Blackburn and Michelle Burden who have rapidly become capable trampers have lowered the average age of our club members.

As recorded in Pohokuka Mavis Davidson died recently. Her contribution to the outdoors went far beyond HTC but she was a major force in the club in its very earliest years and maintained a long term interest in our doings.

The murder of Jack Nicholas was a great shock. Jack was always a friend of the club, and of Search and Rescue, and had only shortly before his death helped us out when we were unable to cross the Makahu at the end of a trip. We hope that landowners will continue to be generous in the granting of access in spite of the heightened anxiety they all must feel.

Finally my thanks to the Committee members, who have all been diligent in managing our affairs. Graeme Hare has been particularly helpful and with a complete makeover would make somebody the perfect personal assistant.

Good Tramping to you all - Mike Lusk

## Club Captain's & Hut Report 2003

## Environmental Report 2004

Highlights during the Year:

- ✓ Boundary Stream
- ✓ Kiwi were released into the Kaweka Forest this year. They are being monitored.
- ✓ Three pairs of Kokako were released from Boundary Stream aviaries into the reserve. The first release of Kokako chicks in one hundred years took place.
- ✓ In September 37 Saddlebacks from north of Coromandel were released. Unfortunately a third of the release died due to a heavy snowfall. A recent survey revealed four nesting pairs.

A letter was sent to the Minister of Conservation relaying our concern of approval granted to Pike Coal Company mining on Conservation Land bordering on Paparoa National Park. Reassurance given that these areas will be protected.

Letters to FMC, Forest and Bird & DOC voicing our concern over Skyline Enterprises considering erecting a gondola over the Greenstone & Caples valleys. We were advised that the idea was reviled by RFB, FMC and other tramping clubs too.

The Minister of Conservation is to be congratulated on the following;

1. Birchwood Station Crown release on the northern side of Lindis Pass, Otago opening up great tramping country.
2. Torlesse Mountain Range, Canterbury.
3. Castle Hill Station, in from Arthurs Pass road, apart from beech forest and tussock contains enormous outcrops of limestone rocks that delight rock climbers and trampers

Our thanks to DOC, FMC, RF&B, for all their efforts without which these unique parks would never have eventuated.

It is of concern, the Government fast tracking under the proposed new Resource Management Act Bill. Further information will be obtained.

Shirley Bathgate

## Truck Report 2003

My thanks to those who have looked after the truck during my Big O.E. Registration, Cert.of Fitness, and Road User Charges payments were all kept up to date in my absence. Thanks also to the drivers who filled in. The truck, now five years old, has covered 46,000km, and is still like new (well, almost!). New rear tyres earlier this year were a necessity. We fitted fairly expensive Michelins, but the originals gave good life under widely varied service conditions, so we used the same as replacements. Two front tyres also needed replacement during a trip, so now we are well shod all round. Mechanically the truck is A1, and the body is well-used, but in good order.

A reminder to drivers:- Please check oil, water and tyres before departure on a trip, and before leaving the road-end for return home.

Geoff Clibborn (Truck's parent!)

**TREASURERS REPORT - Lex Smith**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>NOTES</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
Subscriptions		\$2,298	\$1,889
Equipment hire			\$65
Fares received	1	\$5,092	\$3,528
Meeting Contributions		\$393	\$393
Donations			
Hut		\$625	\$540
General		\$238	\$95
Motere trust		\$200	\$200
Fund-raising	2	\$10,486	\$12,591
Interest Income	3	\$3,178	\$1,145
Insurance Claim	Kaweka Hut	\$8,240	\$0
Sales		\$142	-\$64
		<b>\$30,892</b>	<b>\$20,381</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Administration	4	\$451	\$317
Audit & Accountancy		\$265	\$250
General Expenses		\$25	\$115
Donations	5	\$828	\$397
Insurance (huts & equipment)	6	\$987	\$566
Rent of meeting room		\$300	\$144
Supper & social expenses	7	\$649	\$192
Library & photo album		\$55	\$180
FMC Capitation		\$900	\$900
Bulletin		\$775	\$1,454
Training		\$0	\$0
Hut maintenance		\$74	\$708
Subscriptions		\$82	\$82
Transport costs	8	\$4,721	\$2,998
Truck Insurance		\$582	\$582
Equipment	9	\$491	
Write off Crampons - 1 Pair		\$96	
Depreciation		\$5,259	\$5,236
		<b>\$16,539</b>	<b>\$14,121</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR TRANSFERRED</b>			
<b>TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		<b>\$14,353</b>	<b>\$6,260</b>
<b>NOTES:</b>			
1. Includes deposits \$1979 for Christmas Trip / Paid \$489			
2.. Different mix of fundraising - lost r/bags but did two leaflet drops (one offs)			
3. Increased funds on deposit / rates / timing of deposit terms			
4. Administration previously Stationary etc			
5. Donations - Helicopter Trust \$328, Kidnappers Trust \$500			
6. Increase insurance policy costs \$705 / Registered Valuers costs \$282			
7. Christmas social \$318 / BBQ / Guest speakers			
8. New tyres back \$1733 (3/4 yearly)			
9. Crampon - covers / bags / straps			

	2004	2003
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Kaweke Challenge deposit	\$600	\$600
Cash on hand	\$0	\$0
Westpac Cheque Account	\$9,213	\$913
Accounts receivable	\$0	\$0
	<u>\$9,813</u>	<u>\$1,513</u>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Westpac Term Deposits	\$12,877	\$12,000
Hastings Building Society Term Deposit	\$37,045	\$35,000
Hastings Building Society Term Deposit	\$8,629	
Hastings Building Society	\$0	\$132
Fixed Assets	\$42,805	\$48,171
	<u>\$111,169</u>	<u>\$96,816</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Sundry payables	\$250	\$250
	<u>\$250</u>	<u>\$250</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		
	<u>\$110,919</u>	<u>\$96,566</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Represented by:</b>		
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		
Balance at 1 October 2003	\$96,566	\$90,306
Surplus for the year	\$14,353	\$6,260
	<u>\$110,919</u>	<u>\$96,566</u>
<b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		
AUDITOR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS OF THE HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC.)		
I report that I have examined the books and records of the Club and have obtained all the information and explanations that I have required.		
With organisations such as the Club, it is not possible for the auditors to verify all cash received during the year and my examination of income has accordingly been limited to a comparison of recorded receipts with bank deposits. I did not however note anything that would indicate the existence of receipts not banked.		
Subject to the possible effect of the limited control over income referred to in the proceeding paragraph, in my opinion the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet show respectively a fair view of the Club's activities for the year ended 30 September 2004 and of the financial position at that date.		
W.A. Stacey. ACA(Retired)	J.A. Smith Treasurer	

## **TRAINING BULLETIN**

### **GOOD PARTY**

- ✓ Adjust pace to slowest member (put slowest near front).
- ✓ Have an experienced member at the back.
- ✓ Keep together – do not split the party.
- ✓ Count heads frequently. All must be present:
  - Prior to and after river crossings
  - At track junctions or direction change points.
- ✓ Watch the weather. If doubtful be prepared to turn back, seek shelter, or if necessary not go at all.
- ✓ Keep an eye on all members of the party, their behaviour and clothing. It is easier to prevent exposure, snowblindness and sunburn than to cure them.
- ✓ Check that all party gear is packed when leaving a campsite.
- ✓ See that all eat and drink well and regularly.
- ✓ Maintain morale.
- ✓ Never persuade a person to exceed their capability

### **PARTY MEMBERS SEPARATED**

#### **STAY CALM**

MAIN PARTY STOP – ALL THINK – LISTEN

- Make a brew and lots of noise.
- Brief search – two members back along the track.
- Depending on experience and number of missing allow some time to elapse. Then send two members with information to Police.
- If experienced in Search and Rescue techniques start organised search.
- Remainder should camp – if missing persons found send further party to advise the authorities.
- If people sending for help are travelling off track – mark route to assist searchers.

MEMBERS MISSING STOP – THINK – LISTEN – CALL OUT - USE WHISTLE

- Stop as soon as you realise you are separated.
- Back track if possible to last position you saw other members, marking your route as you go. Look for signs of others.
- If no sign of others then:
  - Find shelter (leave ample signs if you go off the route).
  - Conserve food.
  - Stay put – do not wander aimlessly around.
  - Build a fire if safe to do so (a good friend).
- Keep busy without expending too much energy.

(from the FMC Safety in the Mountains field guide)

## **PARTY MEMBERS ABDUCTED BY UFO**

1. **DO NOT PANIC**

The extraterrestrial biological entity (EBE) may sense your fear and act rashly.



2. **CONTROL YOUR THOUGHTS**

Do not think of anything violent or upsetting – the EBE may have the ability to read your mind. Try to avoid mental images of abduction (boarding the saucer, body probes); such images may encourage them to take you.



3. **RESIST VERBALLY**

Firmly tell the EBE to leave you alone.

4. **RESIST MENTALLY**

Picture yourself enveloped in a protective shield of white light, or in a safe place. Telepathic EBEs may get the message.

5. **RESIST PHYSICALLY**

Physical resistance should be used only as a last resort. Go for the EBE's eyes (if they have any) – you will not know what its other, more sensitive areas are.

(from the Worst Case Scenario Survival handbook)

# TRIP REPORTS

**#1881 Tongariro Snow Trip**
**28, 29 August, 2004**

## The Crossing Party

### The truck party

We walked in with the main party from the desert road, past Waihohonu Hut. The forecast had been pretty grim, but the mountain was doing its great trick of providing a rain shadow, there was a window of blue above us. We got to within 3 kms of Oturere Hut then bid the others farewell and headed off track down towards Waihohonu springs. After a bit of fun finding a dry foot crossing we had a look at the springs then climbed up onto the ridge and followed it down to the hut. It was a blustery day with the snow fairly low down on Ngauruhoe. It was just getting dark when we got back to the truck.

We headed for the flesh pots of Turangi but carried on through and onto Tokaanu, which is blessed with some VERY warm hot springs. Heavenly, a hot soak, it was goooooood. Infact so hot that when I got out I had to lie on the cold concrete before I could stand up without my head spinning. As we came out of the pools we asked at the front desk about food, to be told "There's a Korean place down the road but you want to go to the place over there, those Aunties can cook, they drain it and everything". Those Aunties certainly could cook – huge burgers, fantastic.

We spent the night at the Mangatepopo road-end and got up at 6am. Stars were still glittering, so



excitedly we harboured hopes of getting up Ngauruhoe in clear weather. We strapped on crampons halfway up the staircase then up onto the South Crater. Still clear, sun glistening on the white upper slopes. Tina was goading Dave and I to plough on but we were enjoying ourselves and wanted to stick together. The snow conditions were ideal, hard with a light covering on the top. The slope up is bigger than it looks, but we were spurned on when clouds started appearing around the top.

We got into the crater and crossed toward the south side. It was a bit alarming when whole sheets of snow and ice would suddenly collapse under your feet, expecting to drop into a gapping hidden fumarole, but only stepping onto hot rocks. We got up to the south side of the crater to just catch great views of Ruapehu coming and going through the cloud. It was blowing strongly and VERY cold. Dave and I carried on round the outer crater and re-met up with Tina at the inner crater. We headed back down out of the wind and continued to get spectacular views out over Tongariro and Lake Taupo. We could just make out some people on the ridge down from Red crater and hoped it was the rest of the party. Back at the South crater we snuggled into a shelter hole behind a boulder and ate our lunch in the sun, a little later the rest arrived after having a good crossing. Reunited we slid most of the way back down the staircase and were back at the car park by late afternoon.

Many thanks to Dave for driving. AF



Party: Dave Heaps, Andy Fowler, Tina Godbert.

<b>#1882 Kaweka Flats</b>	<b>29 August, 2004</b>
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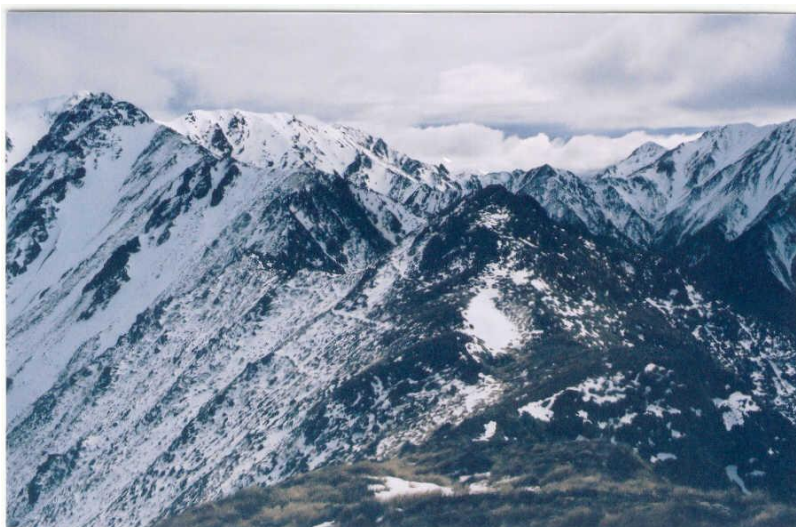
Local day trip

<b>#1883 Ruahines</b>	<b>12 September, 2004</b>
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A Party – Hinerua and Paemutu

Dave had done well to negotiate access along Alder Road. After an impressive farm track route (no Judy don't look out the window now) we arrived at the "airstrip" (A small field on a 15 degree angle!). The suggested route was to go up onto the Hinerua ridge, up onto the main range, head north across the head of Smith Stream then down to Smith Stream hut and back to the truck, but it looked like an 11 hour day – so after a bit of humming and haa-ing I'd decided to make it shorter and do a return route up to Paemutu.

The track from the airstrip goes up a ridge through fields to the bush edge, the track then branches off left and onto Hinerua Ridge. We came out into a clearing and got views of the cirque of mountains surrounding Smith Stream, in fact you could see the top of Paemutu in the distance. Harried by the B party hounds behind us we briefly stopped at Hinerua hut for a bite then up onto the tussock ridge. There was snow in the hollows and the white ridge in front beckoned us on.



There were magnificent views of Black ridge, Sawtooth ridge and Daphne ridge. A lunch stop was made in a hollow where we left a few snowman makers behind and headed into the snow proper. Wielding ice axes we enjoyed some narrow steep sections of the ridge, particularly the last section where we popped out onto the main range. We inspected the cornices as we walked round to Paemutu. The views to the west were threatening, dark, black thick clouds looming towards us. A quick turn around saw us chased back to Hinerua ridge by mist and drizzle. On the way back we were impressed by the snowman left to look out over the tremendous vista of central Hawke's Bay.

It wasn't too late when our large happy gang arrived back at the truck. I'd like to do the proposed route sometime, but would need more day light, or a day before start.

Thanks to Dave for a great job behind the wheel. *Andy Fowler*

Party : Michelle Burden, Sue Holmes, Chris Waldron, Gerald Blackburn, Sandy Claudatos, Ed Holmes, Tina Godbert, Dave Heaps, Anne Cantrick, Murray Tonks, Robin Heath, Nick H.

B Party

Dave with his skilled driving delivered us safely on to the airstrip where we were greeted by a splendid view of the surrounding country side. At the height of 720m. we could see the Khyber Pass,

Tukituki river, Black ridge, part of the sawtooth and snow capped tops to the west, what a impressive view on such a lovely morning. As the B party of 10 made their way up to the bushline to join the Hinerua Ridge track we had more splendid views of the country side. We had a pleasant walk to the hut, on the way our parties botanist Mike pointed out plants, trees, fungi & toadstools of interest. Looked for the old track to Smith Stream Hut but could not find it, on arriving at Hinerua Hut we had a short break and discussed our next move.

A flash looking sign post pointed the way to Smith Stream hut but looking at the map I was not happy to lead all of the party down, as it would be a steep drop into a stream bed and there would be a good chance we would strike water falls, so it was decided Ken, Peter & myself would try for Smith Stream & Mike would lead the rest of the party up on to the open tussock tops above. The start of the track to Hinerua was well marked for a short distance then nothing so we dropped into the head waters of the stream which soon started to become steep, a bad sign, it was not long before we were in a gut. We found a spot we could climb up and get a bit of a view of what was ahead it did not look too good, I think we would have found water falls ahead, we decided it would be best to turn back as we would be late out and hold up the rest of the party. We surprised ourselves how soon we climbed back to the track above and met the rest of our party and then had a slow tramp back to the truck.

Thank you all for a very pleasant Day

*Lewis Harrison.*

Party: Mike & Ros Lusk, Bobby Couchman, Marion Nickolson, Ray Manning, Ken Nugent, Peter Brown, Joan Ruffel, Judy McBride.

<b>#1884 Tararuas</b>
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<b>25,26 September, 2004</b>
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A Party

Arriving at Holdsworth carpark around mid morning ten sleepy bods surfaced and donned their kit. Leaving the B party of three, the rest of us continued on up the track stopping for brief snack at the new Mountain house. A small shelter offering sufficient room to get out of the rain although with a resident party already there we were forced to stay out in calm but drizzly conditions to refuel. Powell hut was a welcome sight as we were by now hanging out for a somewhat late lunch. This hut is near new and sits on the same site as its predecessor which was destroyed by fire. On a good day it commands views over the Atiwhakato river valley and the tops heading north towards Jumbo. But our views were a familiar sea of mist.

Calm and pleasant conditions lured us on upwards towards Mt. Holdsworth even though we could see nothing. A quick photo pose at the trig and on towards Jumbo. We were all heavily armed with axes and crampons but to our, (well mine anyway), disappointment there was virtually no snow. Gentle rolling tussock tops soon saw us atop Jumbo and then dropping down to the bushline to an overflowing 22 bunk Jumbo hut. We normally would enjoy an uneventful evening with the highlight being dehy food with a flavour of cardboard, but not this time.

One young girl from another party needed medivac, with severe stomach pain. This proved exciting for those in the hut to watch the rescue helicopter come out of the night, land in what was now the most beautiful frosty clear night and take on board father and daughter before flying off into the darkness.

Sunday dawned a stunning day as had hoped. Breakfasted and on the tops again shortly after seven. A good steady pace was set with plenty of brief stops to take in a perfect day, Mt. Taranaki off in the distance, Cape Palliser the opposite. Progress was slowed somewhat as we hit the Broken Axe

Pinnacles. Scrambling, fighting for handholds and the occasional bit of “pass the pack”.



Fortunately time was on our side and a very leisurely lunch stop was had adjacent to a patch of snow for the children. Still a long way to go so we set off down the ridge towards Baldy, then into the bush, descending steeply through very stunted forest, quite different to what we see in our patch. Finally we reached the valley floor which we followed down a short distance until reaching the Atiwhakatu river and a swimming hole for the keen ones. After a while we came across a traditional forest service hut where we once again refuelled, adjusted boots, undies and what ever else you do at a pit stop then resumed the long plod on a well formed bench track, arriving at the truck at 4.45pm.

Thanks to all for a very memorable tramp in a place we rarely visit. *Ed Holmes*

Party: Michelle Burden, Sandy Claudatos, Tina Godbert, Andy Fowler, Dave Heaps Gerald Blackburn, Ed Holmes.

### B Party

Arrived at Mnt Holdsworth carpark about 9.30am and persuading my fellow trampers to allow me to lighten my load, we set off at a leisurely pace across the Atiwhakatu River and onto the Gentle Annie track (not so gentle) and soon the A party passed us. We stopped at the rocky lookout and had views back/across to Masterton.

About 20 mins later, we reached the junction and set off a descent of about 200metres, quite steep and tree roots galore. Stopped at Totara stream for a breather and to our amazement quietly grazing on a river terrace was a large black pig! As soon as it saw us, it initially came towards us (thus giving me a fright, I had strategically placed myself between the blokes) it then scampered into the bush.

Followed Totara stream for about

## Pohokura



Party:

**#1885 Bonnie Mary**

**26 September, 2004**

Local day trip

**#1886 Southern Ruahine**

**10 October, 2004**

Didn't run?

Party:



**#1887 Ureweras – Labour Weekend****22 - 24 October, 2004**

Party:

**#1888 Cairn Trip****7 November, 2004**

As usual there was a good turnout for our annual climb to the memorial cairn on Kaweka J, there to remember with respect the 11 HTC men killed on, or as a result of, active service in WW2. Early mist promised a fine day and we arrived at Makahu carpark in sunshine. There we found a note to let us know that Tony Gates had hurt his back near Castle Camp the day before, and that he and friends were camped at Makahu Base. He walked towards us with a spectacular lean to the right, but the advice he had received before we arrived seemed very sound, so apart from some laughter therapy from Randall we didn't have much new to offer.

The whole troop elected to take the zigzag track up Trial Spur where the felled contorta looked even more dead than it did last year. Looking north we admired the lingering mist about the successive lines of ranges, and we chatted until a brisk westerly made the last grunt before Dominie Biv one for stern and speechless effort. Beyond the Biv the yellow flowers of the mountain buttercups were dotted frequently amongst the other alpine plants, and there were regular breaks to admire and photograph them. Progress was excellent and we were assembled in the lee of a short slope near our objective 45 mins early, which allowed us time to convert a forward lean on the plaque to a slight backward one, and to remove some of the rocks that were partly obscuring the lower names. In the course of this

renovation Gerald Blackburn unearthed an ancient khaki undergarment no doubt of historic significance, and he replaced it with due reverence.

The traditional service followed, with readings of Kim Bathgate's and Lester Master's writings, and young Corbin ... laid Robyn Berry's beautiful wreath with the confidence of one whose family have a long tradition of being on top of The J.

As we ate our lunch we knew we needed to leave space for the sumptuous afternoon tea being prepared at Pam Turner's, and so intent were the majority to be there as soon as possible, that they hurried back the way they had come, leaving only 5 to find their way down the unnamed spur immediately to the north. There we were taunted by a long-tailed cuckoo which allowed us to approach tantalisingly close before flying off ahead of us. We failed to see him in the trees, but were able to watch a couple of the flights. A brief drama occurred in a patch of bush about 10 metres square when Bobbie got comprehensively lost, but Gerald Isles gallantly rescued her. It appeared to be one of those days when the Gerald's of the world were attempting to prove that they do have a place in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Tony was awaiting us crookedly at the carpark, but we soon had him at Pam's where the dreamed-about scones with jam and cream were rapidly engulfed. One G Hare showed complete disdain for his continued existence by adding cream and a grape to the top of an already extremely unhealthy chocolate confection, his only anxiety being that Helen shouldn't be told. Eventually the eating had to cease and once again the HTC truck took us back to the real world, which had recently seemed so far away.

Thanks to Geoff for driving, to Philip Mardon for raiding his CA stores for excellent pipfruit, and of course to Pam for putting the icing on a perfect day. ML

Party: Roger Burn, Robyn Madden, Gerald, Lynette and Jeremy Blackburn, Sue Holmes, Graeme Hare, Judy McBride, Joan Ruffell, Bobbi Couchman, Peggy Gulliver, Marion Nicholson, Geoff Clibborn, Ken Nugent, Gerry Eyles, Jenny Lean, Chris Brown, Gary Smith, Randall Goldfinch, Kerri Johnstone, Graeme Thorp, Anne and Dave O'Mundsen, Murray Tonks, Robyn Heath, Gloria Abraham, Tina Godbert Andy Fowler, Kathy Manhire, Ros and Mike Lusk, Kathy Darryl and Korbin Eggers.

## **#1889 Ruahines – Colenso Crossing**

**20, 21 November, 2004**

### A Bunch

Having been thwarted from doing this trip previously by torrential rain washing the roads away it was with some trepidation that we tried again. A 5am start saw Geoff take us smoothly over Gentle Annie to Taihape. The roads into Kawhatau Base have certainly been ravaged by slips and have taken a lot of earth moving to uncover them. A dead horse being devoured by dogs in a pen certainly made us realize we were heading into wild country. Our large party left Kawhatau Base at just after 9 and headed up towards Colenso. Misty conditions made for a comfortable temperature during the climb up and the compass came out as we headed across the unmarked tops towards the Mokai Patea tops. The cloud just kept lifting and it was with joy that we could see out to the east and make out McKinnon hut to the west. It was quite hard going along the Mokai Patea range as the deep moss was like walking through snow, but still lovely and open.

By late afternoon we were on Rongotea admiring the last of the views before plunging down to Wakelings hut. Meeting a hunter on the trip down we learnt there were 3 hunters in the hut. It was a lovely afternoon so instead of pushing on until 7.30 to go up and over to Maropea Forks we decided to stay put and enjoy the sun and dip in the refreshing Waikamaka River. The camp city was erected and diner cooked on a fire. We toasted marshmallows then had a very early night.

Away before 7.30am the next morning with a strong wind and drizzly conditions we climbed onto the ridge and enjoyed some lovely mossy bush before dropping down to Maropea Forks hut two and a half hours later. Morning smoko was enjoyed as the cloud lifted and the sun came out. The next

## Pohokura

section was steep climb onto the main range and the keen ones headed off to get a head start. We climbed up and stopped above the bushline when we realized the advance party weren't in front of us. A quick sprint part way back down sorted out the mystery, they'd missed the turn in the river, we'd passed them and they were behind us having lunch in a sunny clearing. Back up and we went onto the windy main range in two groups. We reunited at Sparrowhawk and dropped down the long ridge to the Makaroro where most enjoyed a dip in Gold creek. It was just after 6pm when we got to the truck, and there were some tired bodies.

A great crossing, many thanks to Geoff for doing such a long drive before he headed off to his second home on the Chathams. *Andy Fowler*

Party: Tina Godbert, Michelle Burden, Jeremy, Lyn and Gerald Blackburn, Chris Waldron, Ed Holmes, Sandy Claudatos, Peter Brown, Murray Tonks, Robin Heath, Murray Alderson, Andy Fowler

### B Bunch

From Heritage Lodge headed up to Iron Gate hut for the night. Back the same way.

Party: Sue Lopdell, Judy McBride and Marion Nicholson. Geoff Clibborn checked out Heritage and the surrounds.

<b>#1890 Club Patron's Trip – Triplex</b>
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<b>5 December, 2004</b>
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**PRIVATE TRIPS****Tussock Suckers****21 - 24 October, 2004**

Desert Road, Defence Corridor, Rangitikei River, Gold Creek, Tussock, Mangatanoka, Hot springs

It started with those darn girls – a girls trip – well it had to be balanced with a boys trip so with a cry of “just do it” an idea was born. At first a mission from the Taupo road through to Waikaremoana was proposed but discounted when it looked all too much like a five day bush bash so in its place came the tussock route. An off track, straight line from the Desert road high point through to the Mohaka hot springs. Labour weekend was chosen and the team got stuck into panic fitness training.

On the Thursday morning Sandy kindly dropped us off on the Desert road and fuelled us up with cake. There's a poled route that lies right on the northern edge of the Waikaremoana army training area – the Defence corridor. “Which way do we go?” “Just follow the fence”

It was a beautiful day as we set Ruapehu at our backs and followed rough 4 wheel drive scars across the rolling tussock. Lunch was next to a crystal clear stream then up onto the tops to look down into an amazing tussock basin. As we headed down we were spotted by three mares who came trotting to within 100 metres before turning tail and galloping with manes flying – a fantastic sight to see. We had got permission to cross the army land where the DOC land turns north, and we were soon insight of the deep valley that holds the Rangitikei river. We dropped into a tussock and bush basin overlooking the next days toil on the other side of the Rangitikei. Another seven horses inspected us before we dropped down to find a creek and a flat spot to pitch the fly. Gerald and I had “gone light” taking only 200 gram sleeping bags, so we got dressed in all our clothes and went to bed satisfied after a 25 k day. It was a clear night and the temperature plummeted, at dawn Gerald and I creaked out of our pits and sneaked off into the frost to have a look around. There was no sign of anything moving so after a good scout we were back.

We packed up and had an hour and a half's manuka bush bash down to the confluence of the Rangitikei and Mangemaire. I pulled out the rod and had a good size one on after 3 casts but it leapt off. Cursing I headed upstream to return 15 minutes later with a nice 4 pounder. We climbed up the 500 metres onto the tops, no real tracks but some open bits, had lunch and enjoyed walking along the open tops with great views all round along to Prominent Cone. We then headed for an old, derelict hut site, finding it eventually about 6pm. A long day, but worth it to get to this lovely camp site. A good fire and a feast of fish was a fitting end to a great day.

It was another glorious day as we headed up the valley through monowai that racked the legs. Gerald entertained us with his efforts to hassle a trout that zoomed behind a rock, but it sneaked off. At the top of the valley two deer bolted away in front of us and vanished. Eddie and I headed round by the rocky tops while Dave and Gerald dropped into the valley. It was relief that we got down later for a swim. Crossing the Ngaruroro river we headed for Tussock hut where we met a lone hunter who had flown in, the first person we had met. Luckily Ed had organised a food drop so we had a good bit of belly timber.





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It started raining in the night and with jackets on we set off to climb over into the Mangatainoka River. Dave did well leading as he followed the odd track marker and after 2 hours we were in the river. Lunch was a brief stop at Mangatainoka hut, where 3 hunters were keeping dry, then on down the river. Legs got progressively colder as we kept crossing the river and negotiating big windfalls. We had one false search for a route over a saddle before finding the gorge and unseen waterfall and scrambled up over a saddle to rejoin the river below, we couldn't see any markers although Gerald remembered some. At 8pm we flopped thankfully into the hot springs and then headed to Te Puia Lodge after a debate whether to camp – it wasn't a mistake, there was a party in full swing and after offerings of cake and wine we were feeling much better.

Lynette, Chris, Michelle and Sandy came into meet us the next day and we had a pleasant walk back to the gums. Many thanks to Eddie, Dave and Gerald for making such a great trip. *Andy Fowler*

**From the Archives – Fifty years ago in the Pohokura.**

Bulletin No 67, August, 1954.

Article by Dr. D. A. Bathgate

THE ROAD TO TAIHAPE VIA KURIPAPONGA

Kuripaponga. This was a well-known ford across the Ngaruroro River in old Maori times and was an outpost of the Ngati Hotu tribe who inhabited the district known as the "Inland Patea" - the "Inland" being used to distinguish it from the well-known coastal district and town of Patea in Taranaki.

The Ngati Hotu were driven back from this outpost by a strong raiding party from the East Coast tribes. The leading chiefs on the attacking party wore cloaks of dark brown or black dog skins and hence the scene of the fight was named, in Maori fashion after this incident, Kuri Papango.

The Hawke's Bay Maoris claim that the name "Patea" commemorates a well-known local chief of that name who stayed away from home on a bird hunting trip for a lot longer time than his wife believed to be necessary. He did not improve his standing with the aforesaid lady by arriving home with a very poor "bag" of potted birds, especially as his wife had managed in his absence to fill up the family pataka (storehouse) to overflowing. This particular lady was noted for her scolding tongue and her incessant nagging. When Patea took her for a walk, she fell over a cliff and was killed. To save having to appear at the tribal inquest, Patea fled up-country back into the district now known as the Inland Patea, where it is claimed he left many descendants.

The old Maori track from Heretaunga to the Inland Patea was by way of the Ngaruroro River as far as Whanawhana, then up the Omahaki stream and over the range to come out at the back of Lumsden's homestead and across the ford at Kuripapango.

The thousands of acres of open tussocky country of the Inland Patea made a strong appeal to the sheep men of Hawke's Bay and, in 1879, Mr G.P. Donnelly took some of the first sheep from Hawke's Bay to the Inland Patea - the forerunners of many thousands of sheep which were to be grazed there for their wool clip. In the early days of settlement all of the wool from the Inland Patea came out to the Port of Napier and of course all the supplies for the stations came from Hawke's Bay. Mention of certain of the stations and flocks during the "good old days" of the Inland Patea will give us some idea of the magnitude of the transport problems. For instance, there was Erewhon Station with 40,000 sheep, Karioi and Waiouru with 40,000, Owahaika (Ngamatea) 60,000, Moawhango 30,000, Mangahane 30,000, etc.

It was necessary for all the Stations even as far as Karioi and Waiouru to be supplied from the East Coast because of the mantle of bush extending up through the King Country.

It was not until the main track railway opened in 1905 that much of the trade went out via the main trunk and Taihape.

The first road to Inland Patea was by way of Puketapu and the Tutaekuri River which had to be crossed and recrossed en route. The road at first went up as far as Kouini where there was a hotel and stables - about 30 miles from Napier.

If you were to turn off along the Flag Range road to its end, you would get on to the old road a few miles below the site of the old Kouini Hotel.

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Later on the road went to Willowford where there was a big Accommodation House and stables. The wool from the Stations was brought out to the road-head from the Inland Patea by pack horses. It was first scoured on the Stations to wash out the dirt and so lighten the weight of the woolpacks for the horses. Nevertheless, it meant the employment of large numbers of pack horses - it has been said up to 300 in numbers - which must have entailed an enormous amount of equipment and food for men and horses.

In 1885 the road over the Blowhards was opened as far as Kuripapango. It is interesting to note that there was no scrub on the Blowhards at the time, only fern. This was burned off and grass was sown on the burn and sheep grazed on the new pastures. This disastrous policy was repeated until in ten to fifteen years the soil was destroyed and erosion followed, with nature attempting to cover up man's destruction by growing a mantle of manuka scrub. Now the Forest Department has taken over this area in a praiseworthy attempt to correct the mistakes of the early settlers by tree-planting.

As the road was pushed through a low level bridge was built across the ford at Kuripapango upstream from the present high level bridge and a narrow swing bridge was constructed for pedestrian traffic.

In 1880 Macdonalds built an Accomodation House across the river and Kinross built a licensed hotel this side of the river. Macdonald finally bought out Kinross and ran the Kuripapango Hotel and Guest House together with the Post Office, general store and blacksmith's shop, stables, etc. on this side of the river.

The first dog trials for the North Island were held at Kuripapango in 1889.

In 1890 the road was opened as far as Moawhango.

The high level bridge at present crossing the Ngaruroro was built in 1897. For some years prior to this, coach services had been run from Puketapu to the road-end which was first at Kouini, then Willowford, Kuripapango and finally at Moawhango. The journey from Puketapu to Moawhango was a two day trip with a night at the Kuripapango Hotel.

The six-horse woolwagons with their high loads of wool bails must have made an impressive sight, as must also the coaches with their five-horse teams and skilful drivers. A story is told of one of the coach drivers having turned his coach and five-horse team on Gentle Annie - he must have picked a good corner and a quiet team.

Kuripapango has seen some exciting times, for not only was it the distributing centre for the Inland Patea but it was also a very popular tourist resort with tennis parties, riding parties, picnics, etc. where fun and hospitality were the order of the day.

What a succession of events Kuripapango has seen from the days of the Maori outposts, intertribal raids and ambushes at the ford, to the days of explorers like Colenso who used it as one of his three routes to the Inland Patea. These days were followed by the influx of sheep, dogs and packhorses with musterers, shearers, cooks, rouseabouts and the Station tradesmen and packmen. Then came the coaches and the wool wagons with their horse teams, travellers and tourists - an exciting, busy period.

Next came the opening of the Main Trunk in 1905 which sounded the deathknell of the hotels and accommodation houses along the road to the Inland Patea.

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This, together with the advent of motor traffic, finished them off completely.

Now in summer time there is a limited transport service to and from Taihape and this, together with the summer carting of wool and the odd private car, is all that disturbs the peace and serenity of the old road. For a while after the 1931 Hawke's Bay earthquake, old times seemed to have come again because all roads to and from the North had been closed by disastrous slips and all the motor vehicles travelling to and from Hawke's Bay from the North had to use this Gentle Annie road - or else go right down south and go through the Manawatu Gorge. It would be interesting to know what concentration of motor traffic there was on that historic and difficult road in February, 1931. The writer saw some of the people who had come through at that time and the general opinion was "never again" except in such a case of emergency.

Some day no doubt it will be declared a main highway and improved quite a lot. It has been suggested that the road will run on a new route from the top of the Blowhards and strike the Ngaruroro River opposite the mouth of the Kakekino stream, proceeding up its bed to rejoin the present road. This would of course cut out "Gentle Annie" altogether. It will be a long time before this is accomplished and by that time some, but not all, of the old romance will have gone.

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The following came from Shirley Bathgate and gives a wonderful tribute to her father Dr. Bathgate:

### Dr Bathgate

Those of us who are among the original membership of the club, have a special tribute to pay to Dr. D.A. Bathgate for his early enthusiasm and help in getting the Club off the ground.

The idea of forming a tramping club arose out of the coming together of a group of interested people during the search for Hamish Armstrong's plane crash and the "Doc" was appropriately convenor of the "birth" meeting. Subsequently he was elected the first President and served in this office for some years.

His personal friendship with many back-country settlers and owners was invaluable in those early days in opening the way for the new Club to have welcome access to so many areas and routes.

And so, for us oldies, it will always be that the mention or thought of Heretaunga Tramping Club calls up a memory of the Doc as stalwart part of the foundation on which the club rests, May the young members pause now and then and think of this man who loved the mountains and the bush and helped so many others to share these joys.

P.L.

[Editor - I would like to put together a few pages on stories about Dr. Bathgate next year. If anyone has any good material please pass it on to me.]



### **FOR SALE**

#### **BLANK GREETING CARDS, By Leatherwood Lenz.**

Leatherwood Lenz has produced a number of blank cards, each with a quality colour digital image of a tramping scene. (Well, there is one black and white). These are designed for Christmas, birthday, and general use, to show people the enjoyment and scenery of tramping. A variety of tramping themes and areas throughout the Ruahines and Tararuas are presented. New cards can be customized to your request.

Cards are \$2.50 each, or \$20.00 for ten.

For details, contact [leatherwood@pcconnect.co.nz](mailto:leatherwood@pcconnect.co.nz)  
Tony Gates, 025 246 1901, 06 357 7439 (H).

## **CLUB NEWS:**

### **Social News**

- ❖ **Congratulations to Jeremy Blackburn and Michelle Burden who jointly won the Trampler of the Year trophy.**
- ❖ **Congratulations to Susan Lopdell who won the Leatherwood Trophy for all her dedication and work for the club over the years.**



## Coming Meetings:

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER/COMMENTS	Hosts	Supper Help

### Duties of those on Supper and Host:

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

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



### ARE YOU FIT ENOUGH TO TRAMP ?

Even the easiest of club trips require 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 cattlestop via the road-side track with an 8 kg pack should take about 70- 80 minutes. Further, this pace should be able to be maintained for 5 to 6 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 & a high level of fitness necessary.

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

### GEAR LIST FOR DAY & WEEKEND TRAMPS

<u>Wear/Carry</u>	<u>DAY TRIPS</u> <u>Carry</u>	<u>WEEKEND TRIPS</u> <u>All items listed for day trip plus</u>
Pack & pack liner	Map & Compass	Sleeping bag
Boots & gaiters	High energy snacks	Sleeping mat
Socks	At least 1 litre water	Food for 3 additional meals
Parka & over trousers	Lunch	Cooker & Billy & matches
Fast drying shorts	First aid kit	Extra snacks
Fleece or wool Jumper	Torch, spare batteries & bulb	Toilet gear, small towel & toilet paper
Longjohns & singlet	Sunscreen	Additional warm clothes
Sunhat & warm hat	Emergency food	Plate, mug, knife, fork , spoons etc
Gloves/mittens & overmitts	Survival kit (whistle, cord, matches etc, pencil, paper)	Tent/Fly if required
Whistle	Complete set of spare warm clothing	

**Leave at truck/car:** Complete set of clothing for the return trip and a mug with something to flavour hot water from the Clibbornette.

**TRIP LIST February – April 2005**



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 leader or Dave Heaps 875 0088

**19<sup>th</sup> Dec Xmas Social Trip – Boundary Stream \$10 Map**

Boundry Stream with BBQ to follow at Shines Falls Carpark.

Organiser: Lynette Blackburn 877 2340

Driver:

**27 Dec – 5 Jan Kahurangi National Park \$160 Map M26,M27,M28**

**A:** Aorere Valley to Boulder Lake, Green Saddle, Lonely Lake, Needles Eye, Dragons Teeth, Douglas and Lockett Ranges to Cobb Reservoir

**B:** Wangapeka Track, up Karamea Valley to Karamea Bend, Mt Arthur Tablelands to Cobb Reservoir.

**C:** Mt Arthur Tablelands, Fenella Hut & Sylvester Lakes.

A: Tina Godbert 835 0064 & Dave Heaps 875 0088 B: Susan Lopdell 844 6697

Driver: Dave Heaps, would like a B or C party driver as well.

**9 Jan Beach Trip - Pourerere to Mangakuri \$10 Maps**

Enjoy a summers day walking from Pourerere to Mangakuri. Good variety of beaches, from rocky foreshore to sand.

Organiser & Driver: John Berry 877 6205

**16 Jan Barlow and Colenso Track - Ruahines \$10 Map U21**

Working bee on our latest projects, the Barlow and Colenso Tracks.

Organiser: Rodger Burn 877 6322

Driver:

**23 Jan Waikoau Gorge + Caving \$10 Map**

**A:** Follow this spectacular hidden gorge down to Blue Lake or continue and pack float through the lower section. Or go through “G-string”, the cave that HTC found, an amazing 2 hour underground expedition.

**B:** Go down the upper gorge, or explore Bell Bird bush.

Organisers: A: Gerald Blackburn 877 2340 B:

Driver:



**29-30 Jan Okataina Lake & Walkway**

**\$25 Map**

Travel to the area on Friday. On Saturday drive to Road end through Kawarau Forest park and walk back to outdoor Education Centre via Tarawera Track and E Okataina Walkway (6-8hrs). Sunday walk from outdoor Education Centre to Millar Rd via E. Okataina Walkway (5-7hrs)

Organisers: Glenda Hooper 877 4183

Driver:

**13 Feb Tutaekuri River Trip**

**\$10 Map U20**

**A:** From 3 wire bridge pack float down the Tutaekuri to Lawrence Rd.

**B:** MacIntosh – Lawrence swingbridge via tracks.

Organisers: A: Peter Berry 877 4183

B:

Driver: Peter Berry

**OVERDUE TRAMPERS**

Although returning parties plan to be out of the bush before dark, safety considerations must come first. This may mean that parties are late returning to transport. Even after arriving back at the transport, it may take 2 hours or more to return to the embarkation point. Beginners should make sure that anyone who might worry about them is informed of this. Leaders will try to get a message through to one of the “overdue contacts” if return seems likely to be later than 10 PM. All newcomers should ensure that their own emergency number is noted in the party list that the leader leaves in town. For all inquiries about overdue trampers please ring one of the following:

**Dave Heaps 875 0088**

**Jim Glass 877 8748**

**Glenda Hooper 877 4183**

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

# HTC Contact List

Nov 2004

## LIFE MEMBERS

Alan Berry	8777223	12 Woodford Heights, Havelock North
George Lowe		Cl- R W Lowe,, 76 Poraiti Rd, R.d. 5, Napier
Jackie Smith	8768249	1009e Heretaunga Street, Hastings
Jim Glass	8778748	13 Tanner Street, Havelock North
Liz Pindar	8700145	Station Road, R.d.2, Hastings
Pam Turner	8768995	414w Lyndon Road, Hastings

## ACTIVE MEMBERS

Alan & Christine Petersen/ Snook	8351082	18 Seapoint Rd,, Napier
Alice Lorenz	8343808	165/A Wellesley Rd, Napier
Alison Hollington	8441780	5 Ranfurly St, Napier