

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB PO BOX 14086 MAYFAIR HASTINGS

POHUKURA – Bulletin No 219

April 2005

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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*).

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TRAINING BULLETIN

This training Bulletin is lifted from a 1954 trip report in Pohokura. I imagine that the leader who went to the trouble of writing it up would be pleased to think that we are still utilizing it to learn from past mistakes. It was most likely written by Norm Elder.

Double accident on S. Kaweka Range. 21 August 1954

A club party of 9 were going to Kiwi Saddle Hut on a hut maintenance job, intending to continue round the head of the Tutaekuri to the Kaweka Hut on Sunday. Snow was going after a couple of heavy falls. From Hastings most of Sunday's route was visible and snow was discontinuous. Saturday's route was not visible from Hastings but is lower and had been reported on by a party on the Inland Patea road since the last snowfall.

Equipment was discussed at the club meeting and ice axes were specifically mentioned. It was agreed with the leader that they would be unnecessary as snow appeared continuously only above 5,000' to the North. The highest point on Saturday was 4594', on Sunday Kaiarahi 4951'. The leader had several years' experience not only in the local ranges but also on Ruapehu, Egmont and in Otago. Another of the party had climbed 3 seasons at the Hermitage.

There was a heavy frost on Saturday morning. A party at the Kaweka Hut experienced heavy sleet on Friday night preceding a hard frost, but this was not known to the club party.

The route follows an old musterers' track along the ridge partly through bush. The final summit has been burnt and grazed and the pumice soil has been washed out into awkward 5-6 foot hummocks with scrub on top and clay hollows between, the usual route sidling through these.

A few drifts of soft snow were met along the ridge, only the final slope was under more or less continuous snow with scrub showing. This faces E.S.E. and at 2pm was just losing the sun.

The party went up the slope in three groups but owing to the hummocks, not in sight of the others. Near the top the first group started to sidle to the right, the usual route onto the ridge. The leading man, a young farmer wearing army boots with toe and heel plates, slipped and slid 200 feet down a snow chute, somersaulting over a bluff. After his pack broke free he was able to stop himself and though shaken and considerably grazed and cut assisted in the search for his pack.

The leader who was at the back heard the second man shout and saw the pack go down. Half the party went down to the fallen man and the leader told the remaining four to go on to the hut. One of these was the member with most alpine experience.

They had not seen the accident either and were not clear as to how it had happened but bore further to the left to avoid the spot. In this way they came to a similar clay hollow filled with hard snow facing S.E. The first three scrambled up onto the hummocks which were rough going but not dangerous; the fourth started to sidle tried to turn, slipped and slid down some 40 feet, when she hit a rock and started to roll, coming to rest in some tussock just before a steep rocky drop. She was also considerably cut and skinned.

There was no further difficulty, once the dangerous state of the clay washouts was realised, in getting to the top and down the sunny face to the hut where first aid was given and the casualties were put into sleeping bags and treated for shock. Next morning the

Pohokura

leader decided against attempting the round trip and no trouble was experienced going out, the face getting the morning sun.

In discussion on the leader's report by the committee the following points were made:-

1/ Ice axes should have been taken, even if only to give new members an opportunity to learn to use them.

2/ Inexperience of snow conditions. Although pretty well all the party had been on snow before, the sudden change in snow conditions at such a low altitude was completely unexpected. A very similar accident occurred in 1947, also in the Kawekas, at 3500 feet. The dangers of snow should be emphasised at club meetings.

3/ Control of parties, particularly on familiar routes is difficult. In this case a young, fit and comparatively inexperienced lad was in the lead at the time of the accident. The practice of having experienced persons at front and rear should be more generally observed.

4/ Equipment. The danger of heel and toe plates should be emphasised (although in the case of the second accident the girl was wearing new clinkered boots). It is difficult to expect a country member who only gets out occasionally to be fully equipped.

5/ The second accident happened through NOT following the footsteps of a more experienced leader, and trying to go what looked like an easier way. Again this points to the necessity of an experienced leader in difficult places and the following of that leader by the rest of the party.

6/ Further action. It was agreed that a copy of this report be sent to the accidents sub-committee of the F.M.C. and a summary published in the club bulletin. Also that short talks on matters affecting the safety and well-being of parties be given regularly at club meetings

There was however general agreement that correct practices can only be learnt on trips. Leaders should not take it for granted that newcomers will automatically learn to do things the right way, but be prepared to advise and instruct where this can be done.

TRIP REPORTS

#1888 Club Patron's Trip – Triplex

5 December, 2004

Jim Glass the Club's Patron has been a trumper for 50 years. Jim arrived in New Zealand on Labour Weekend in 1954 and had his first trip with the Heretaungas on the 27/28 November 1954 on a Waikamaka Working Bee. He has continued over all these years to have an active involvement in the club's affairs. Currently the annual Photo Competition is arranged by Jim and for many years he has been the club archivist. For the past 16 years Jim has been an active trumper with the Wednesday Amblers Group.

We were to have an assortment of trips in the Waipawa River, Waikamaka Hut, Sunrise Hut, Swamp Track to suit all levels of enthusiasm, culminating in an afternoon tea at Triplex Hut to celebrate this milestone. The very wet weather changed our plans so by Saturday I was calling everyone – "Meet at Mike and Ros' at 2pm on Sunday."

A bit of rain does not stop Pam, she went up to Sunrise Hut for Saturday night.

Even though it was still raining as we were arriving the afternoon was great. Happy trampers enjoying each others company. Mike welcomed us all, Alan Berry recounted stories of trips especially of Jim's uncanny ability to navigate by instinct. Jim replied and thanked all for coming.

Owen had notations on his old Pohokuras and Alan had his early Photo Albums.



Marion had made a marvellous cake that had a photo of Jim navigating in the Kaimanawas in 1956 etched into the icing. The afternoon tea was yummy.

Thanks to all who came on Jim's '50 years a Trumper Trip' to make it such a success.

Jim & Doreen Glass, daughters Karen Thurston & Sue Brown and husband, Geoff & grand daughter Heather Thurston, Peter Lattey, Dave Heaps, Gerald, Lynette, Christine & Jeremy Blackburn, Marion Nicholson, Gloria Abraham, Marjoleine Turel, Shirley Bathgate, Mike & Ros Lusk, Randall Goldfinch, Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, Pam Turner, Liz Pindar, Andy Fowler, Tina Godbert, Robyn Madden, Barbara Taylor, Max Neumegen, Lex & Anne Smith, Ayn Woodruff, Heather & Selwyn Hawthorne, John Berry, Alan Berry, Jenny Lean, Sue Lopdell, Sue Holmes, Judy McBride, Owen Brown, Anne Cantrick, John Montgomerie, Helen & Graeme Hare Amblers; Len Hewitt, Stuart Hislop, Don & Jo Whitfield, Murray Mills, Justine Strawbridge, Tony Keel, Sarah Singleton and June Herbert.

(We made it – 50 people came to acknowledge Jim's 50 years with HTC)

#1889 Xmas Social Trip – Boundary Stream**19 December, 2004**

A good day out at our local mainland island.

#1890 Kahurangi National Park**27 December - 5 January, 2005**A Party – Boulder Lake To Cobb Reservoir Via Douglas and Lockett Ranges

Monday 27th: Following a very early start from Hastings to catch the ferry we had a late night shuttling folk down to Takaka after dropping our other parties at the Whangapeka and Cobb Valley.

Tuesday: We crammed a Dragons Teeth crash course in after breakfast - Warwick Briggs, a local who has been over the route 21 times kindly came down to show us his photos and pass on tips about the route and it's Marshall Markers. The shuttle driver dragged us away and deposited us up the Aorere Valley at 'The Cow Shed' where we shouldered our 7 day packs and started trudging up to the Brown Cow Ridge. We passed black and white cattle as the track made its way upward under a warm blue sky. Breaks were the highlight of the first half of the day especially the one where Gerald produced Pink Marshmallow delight- yum thanks Christine! The route rises steadily through a variety of forest types. We admired the flowering Southern Rata and thrilled to the first large Dracophyllum which were to become a real feature of the trip. We had good views of the Lead Hills and from the top of the ridge a quick glimpse of Boulder Lake before the cloud came down bringing light drizzle. Boulder Lake Hut was fullish but a very pleasant family squeezed up and made room for 4 of us leaving just 3 in the wood shed/dog box/old hut a fine little building close to the waterfall.



Wednesday: The forecast was for wind and heavy rain. We woke to light rain and swam in the pool below the falls. Because our route would be along the ridge we chose to stay put and have a pit day eating as much weight out of our packs as we could. Chrissie made the brave and difficult decision to turn back and walked out in very wet conditions with the friendly family from the hut. The day was pleasantly and easily whiled away in sleeping, eating and playing 500. Meanwhile the rain really came down! There is a rain-gauge at the hut and at one stage we measured 500mm in 3 hours!!! The waterfall quickly became a roaring beast and the lake grew steadily.

Thursday: We woke to calm, mist lifting off the now much larger lake. We picked our way through glorious neck deep tussock up the valley and picked a path to Green Saddle. The worn route is cairned and leads from there along on and off the ridge to the



Needles Eye. We had exciting glimpses of the distant Dragons Teeth through the mist. The ridge route was mostly through beautiful Dracophyllum forest-magical. At the Needles Eye-a pass into the hanging valley of Adelaide Tarn, we celebrated our high point in the mist but saw 1 or 2 Dragons Teeth gnashing through the cloud as we dropped down to the beautiful tarn and tiny 4 bunk hut.

Gerald's ingenuity quickly converted a tarpaulin into a porch so that with packs outside but undercover we fitted 6 cosily into the hut for the night. Dave added to the conveniences by knocking up a stool from some handy wood, a rock and his hands! Before bed all but Annie (who was doctoring her horrendous blisters) took a wander up to the ridge above the hut where we climbed most of Douglas Peak in a quest for cell phone coverage to get a forecast update. Andy and Gerald went on to scramble around the first part of the Dragons Teeth high route while Monty, Dave and I did a reccy on the start of the alternative low route. Giant Celmisias entertained the photographers as did the landscape. This is a stunningly beautiful spot with the tarn, waterfalls, plunging valleys and jagged peaks around.

Friday: Despite reasonable weather the decision was made that due to wet rock and uncertain forecast, the whole party would take the low route to drunken sailors. This was a disappointment to some and a relief to others, I am grateful that the Mountain goats were prepared to forgo their altitudinal longings to keep the party together. The low route was not exactly an easy option and we had a 10 hour day starting with a descent of 500m in 500m- a 45 degree plummet on what started with a few cairns and ended in a small cliff. In between the front runners hastily built new cairns in an attempt to convince those of us at the back that we were still on a used route! Actually Dave, Gerald and Andy were brilliant, ranging ahead and out to the sides to find a best route down through awkward country. Our route went almost straight down to the river below 1435 with little sidling at the top. This was different from what we had read about but it dropped us nicely to the river where there was easy going in a mossy green world of large boulders. Following the river took us to the mythical point 714 where we gazed across a swamp at each other up to our knees in sphagnum moss and water. A good river crossing nearby took us to the 'obvious patch of dead beech' where we shared lunch with some robins and an army of ants took the opportunity to see what was under my shorts and shirt-owch! After some debate over a starting point we headed up the ridge through delightfully open beech forest. About 2 hours and a few Powelliphanta with beautiful stripes later we emerged exhausted but satisfied on a tussock ridge below Drunken Sailors. We had views of Anatoki Peak and the Needles Eye and the ridge we had left that morning, it didn't look far-as the crow flies. After sharing a dram with the drunken sailors we dropped down to Lonely Lake Hut, the valley filled with Bulbinella in flower. It was New Years Eve and we pulled a few drops out of our packs and declined to share any of our delicacies with a disappointed resident weka. One of our party squeezed so many drops out of his pack that he fell asleep promptly only waking some hours later to discover that he had neglected to inflate his poofta pad! Gerald and Dave fly camped while the other 4 of us squeezed into the 3 bunk shack.

Saturday: Up behind the hut and onto the ridge. We found a disappointingly misty day and made our way in a small moving Island of colour through a world of white. Most of the way there is a well trodden track from here on the top of the ridge but where there are knobbly bits to be sidled the best route was less obvious. We were over Kakapo peak and chewing our lunch before the mist finally thinned allowing our itchy shutter fingers to go to work on views of the Waingaro Peaks and 2 curious Kea. The highlight of our trip was on reaching the saddle above Fenella Hut seeing our very own Chrissie soloing up the track towards us. It was a perfect place for a reunion and we were thrilled to see her. Chrissie led us down to the luxuries of Fenella hut and filled us in on her adventures. Celebrating the return to relative civilisation the whole party had a wash in the tarn and enjoyed the stunning setting.



Sunday: Back up to the ridge and we headed along the Lockett Range in perfect conditions. Views back to Kakapo Peak and over to the range on the other side of the valley and Cobb Lake sparkling below. The skills of Dave and Gerald in choosing the path of least resistance were useful in a number of places and we only came to slightly sticky bits on the ridge occasionally. Balloons were released in the vicinity of Mt Benson to celebrate how lucky we are to be able to reach such lovely places. After lunch we looked over the top to the enticing blue, blue, blue of the lakes below. Some team work was required to get us all down from the summit and onto the broader ridge between Ruby and Diamond Lakes. Our camp in sight we had a leisurely bask in the sun and a few phone calls home before wading through tussock and a fair few Spaniard to the shores of Diamond Lake. We found excellent flat soft grassy ground beside the lake, our camp sprung up followed by a brief plunge in the icy

waters of the lake. It was a perfect still evening for our last on the trip and a fine setting only slightly marred by our first real plague of sandflies.

Monday: Woke to frost on the tents and had a leisurely start to let it dry off. Morning tea and a swim in the crystal clear waters of Lake Lillie where we split the party. We released the most sprightly three of the Mountain goats to make their way up to Iron Hill and find a route down to the head of the reservoir in case B Party drivers had been held up by rain and swollen rivers (in fact they had almost no rain which was amazing considering our deluge). The rest of us followed old markers down to the stream that comes out of Iron Lake then ground our way up a tussock filled gully on the other side. From the top we saw little figures away in the distance on the ridge and it was so still that our Yahoos attracted the attention of the Goats who gave a wave before they plunged down a scree slope and down some very steep bush to Cobb Reservoir. We had a look at the smart new Bushline Hut before trudging down the four wheel drive track to the bottom of the reservoir and our rendezvous with a happy truck load of HTC.

Tuesday: Sadly rain detracted from our intended seaside sojourn but we all enjoyed the fleshpots of Takaka especially the pies and had a pleasant stroll around Puppu Springs. Monty and Annie left us for higher hills to the South and we wished them well but were sceptical about what they would achieve with both Annie's ankles raw with huge blisters. We should have known her better than that, after all she had just tramped 6 days with them in that state and apart from an occasional grimace and a quiet ½ hour when we set off each morning and they were at their most excruciating she never said a word about them. It is a real mark of both Monty and Annie's determination and solid grit that they achieved their objective of Copeland Pass.



The only camp site with room for us all was at Collingwood where many sensibly opted for cabins as the heavens opened again. We had a fun evening squeezed into the Courthouse Café for a nice meal.

Wednesday: The long trek home and I cannot thank our drivers Lex and Dave enough for the long haul they did to get us home that night- well the wee small hours of the morning.

Kahurangi is a fabulous area and each time we go there it just makes me want to go back again, this trip was no exception and I couldn't have hoped for a nicer and more supportive party than we had. There is such a range of opportunities in the area surrounding Cobb Valley that it lends itself well to a Club trip. I was really pleased to see a full truck and that a good cross section of the club took advantage of the options on offer. Especially pleasing to hear the truck party had made the most of pleasures of the Cobb Valley and Fenella Area. TG

Party: Andy Fowler, Chrissie Waldron, Dave Heaps, Gerald Blackburn, Anne Cantrick, John Montgomerie, Tina Godbert.

B Party – Wangapeka to the Cobb Reservoir via the Karamea

After an epic journey which began at 5.00am we arrived at our starting point on the Wangapeka track. Lifting heavy 7 day packs upon our backs we trudged for about an hour, setting up fly camp on a grassy river terrace with Mt Patriarch (1692m) benevolently watching over us. Wandering alongside the river through mainly beech forest, lunched at Kings Creek Hut before stopping at the historic Kings Hut built in the 1930's and had recently been reshingled. Followed the North Branch of the river climbing steadily to Stone Hut in very light drizzle. Michelle was the only one brave enough to wash in the stream in the rain (the rest heated up water in the hut's tin bowls).

Next morning we crossed a large area of earthquake debris (left half party to climb up the slip) and zigzagged up to the Wangapeka saddle. Waited 20 minutes to regroup and then we wandered our way down to the headwaters of the Karamea River, with 4 or 5 river crossings. Lunched on the track and continued on to site of Brough's Tabernacle – wonderful view up the Karamea valley. Very steep

descent past the noisy Saxon Falls, across remains of 1929 Murchison earthquake to the new Trevor Carter Hut (built on true right about ½ Km back from old Luna Hut). It was during the course of the evening that two of my party became very worried listening to other trampers comments of what we could expect next day!!! After a lot of talking, our group continued on past Kendall Creek and Moonstone Lake (formed by slips during the Murchison Earthquake) this area had a lot of boulders that were covered in moss and fungi. We crossed several major side streams (impassable in wet weather as unbridged) all named after Greek Gods. Whilst lunching at Thor Hut met 7-8 fellow trampers, first we had met since start of the track. Continued through magnificent beech forest and slowly climbed towards the “bluffs” (this was the area of the horror stories told by the woman at TC Hut). The “bluffs “ were a wide rocky ledge with a wire rope to assist one across, not high above the river (but only 4-5 feet) and no white water. It took the party of 8 10 minutes to cross and we were annoyed that some of the party had been unnecessarily terrified by another tramper’s comments. Midway across this ledge you could look down into the dark depths of the Karamea River and see three 4-6 lb trout swimming, alas no rods! We passed 4 more trampers arriving at Venus Hut. 5 ATC members were preparing to leave. The oldies slept upstairs and the “Family” downstairs. After Lex/Gary had stoked up the fire I almost joined the others. We managed to get Jeremy to have a wash in the river that night and I saw one of the infamous Karamea eels which came over to investigate the splashing.



New Years Eve wandered up the Karamea Valley briefly climbing and then followed an old watercourse back to Karamea River. A wonderful day, stopping for lunch and swimming in a deep pool, sunbathing in the sunshine, alas we had to move on. Karamea Valley travels through beech forest opening out onto grassy river terraces with limestone bluffs on either side of the valley. No one was in residence in the Warden’s hut and after a short climb around to Karamea Bend Hut we dispersed to the Leslie River for another swim, only to be attacked by SANDFLIES!!! Had a special treat after dinner (no wonder the packs were heavy), played cards, chatted, books read and we saw in 2005.

New Years Day saw us following the Leslie River past the old Leslie Clearing Hut and gradually ascending to the Tablelands a climb of about 400m stopping briefly to lunch at Spludgeons Rock Shelter. The weather had set in, cold drizzle but that didn’t stop the birdlife- kakariki and kaka seen and heard on the way up. Once out on the tussocked tops it was head down in the mist to Salisbury Lodge. Here 5 of the party decided to spend the night at Dry Rock Shelter 20 minutes away and then continue out to the truck the next day. Three of us (the oldies) thought of the warmth and comfort of a hut and chatted to trampers from Auckland, Dunedin and Nelson. Lex, Gary and I wandered over to dry rock shelter in the morning and then to the potholes and Sphinx Creek (amazing limestone

features) before returning to have lunch. On with the packs, back up to the tops, stopping at Bishops Rock to look inside before continuing on to Balloon Hut. Met Marion and Bobby and caught up on their wet weather antics. Balloon Hut was full and Lex managed to close the door on a woman trumper's toe- her language drove the party's leader into the tablelands for a couple of hours!

Our last day was spent looking back at Mt Arthur, the Leslie Valley shrouded in mist as we ascended onto Peel Ridge, stopping for a while beside Lake Peel with Spaniards and other alpine flowers in abundance. With Cobb Reservoir in full view we descended into Cobb Valley lunching at Myton's Hut before joining the truck party.

We travelled 100Km through three river catchments, visited or stayed in 12 huts and two rock shelters, only ½ a day of inclement weather during the 7 days, sandflies, wasp stings and a slight dose of food poisoning (Leader) didn't detract from the varied and magnificent terrain we had traversed. The birdlife was abundant especially the South Island Robins and the fungi and flowers were sights to behold.

My thanks to the club for allowing me to do a trip I had wanted to attempt for years and to my fellow trampers for their camaraderie.



Party: Jeremy and Lynette Blackburn, Wendy and Caroline Atkinson, Lex Smith, Michelle Burdon, Gary Smith and Susan Lopdell

Beware The Savage Sandfly

While tramping in the bush one day
I came upon a sight
That would make the bravest person
Run away in fright.

Surrounded by a cloud of black
And leaping all around,
A young man did the sandfly dance
Upon a grassy mound.

He jumped and stamped and slapped himself
And shrieked in horrid pain,
And vowed that he would never step
Outside the hut again!

But, as I watched, those biting bugs
Began to eat me too,
And very soon I understood
Just what I'd have to do....

The Sandfly Dance; I learnt it fast
To keep my mind intact,
As every bit of skin
Was punctured front and back.



So if you're ever brave enough
To tramp the Kahurangi,
Be sure to learn the Sandfly Dance
From that brave young man called Jeremy!

By Wendy Atkinson (Gerald's sister)

C PARTY

The small group of six were taken up the Cobb Rd, in the dark and left on the side of the road in the Truck near the Trilobite Hut, and in the morning found we were in amongst the bulbinella flowers and the Cobb River nearby.

We packed up and headed for Fenella Hut. An easy track for a lot of the way, and plenty of alpine flowers to admire and the orchids were in flower. Later we went through forest and it became more rocky. The weather was mostly fine and we arrived at the hut and made ourselves at home. A very smart looking weka greeted us and there were a number of very friendly Robins around the hut. Pam spotted a Kiwi footprint and probes on the track.

The loo deserves a mention. It is situated down a rocky stairway with a handrail. Pam had an adventure there, (the wind blew the door shut, moving the bolt across and she became locked in.) After rattling the door for sometime she managed to get the door open.

The next day dawned wet with driving rain, so we did not venture far. Some very wet people arrived. We had a full house that night with the floor covered with bodies; 28 in a 12 bunk hut!

It cleared up the next day. Most of us had a dip in a nearby tarn. A group who headed for Kakapo had trouble as one girl showed signs of Hypothermia. They took 2 hrs to get to the top, where the trouble started, and 5 hours to get back to the hut. They were all very distressed. Pam took over and advised them what to do. She recovered and was able to come out in 3 days time. They were very grateful and Pam has since received a thank you card.



We came out the next day in fine weather. We spent a night in Myttons hut. Most went up the track to the Tablelands. Bobby and Marion had a long day exploring and even went to Asbestos Hut. The rest of the trampers arrived. Some of the A team came down the hill across the river and we picked up the rest further down.

Spent the night at the camping ground and then we headed for Collingwood and a welcome hot shower. We worked our way back to Picton and after a smooth crossing headed for home in pouring rain arriving back in the early hours of the morning.

B. T.

Shirley Bathgate, Pam Turner, Barbara Taylor, Judy McBride, Bobby Couchman, Marion Nicholson.

#1891 Beach Trip – Mangakuri to Pourerere

9 January, 2005

It was a beautiful summer's morning when the main party set off in the early morning light from Mangakuri while I drove the truck round the road to Pourerere with Tina and Andy for company. After a short walk we stopped and had a dive for paua and crayfish, the sea conditions were beautiful and both Tina and Andy are accomplished free divers (unlike me) so we soon had a feed, taking only a few and leaving the rest for posterity. It was then a brisk walk down the beach

where we met up with the rest of the party just after lunch. The beach is quite varied; mostly sand but also areas of large round boulders and large areas of seagrass flats, these later areas in particular had large numbers of seabirds. It is not a long walk, but we all had a really good day.

Members of party: Lyn and Lyn Gentry, Bobby Couchman, Marion Nicholson, Jenny Lean, Paul Bostock, Glenda Hooper, Donna Berry, John Berry and Arthur and Mary Moody who were with us all the way from Canada. John Berry

#1892 Barlow and Colenso Track - Ruahines
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16 January, 2005

This was intended as a follow up on track maintenance we did last April on the overland track to Barlow's Hut.

We left Pernel's @ 6.30 and arrived at the old Mill site on the Makaroro river about 7.50 where we met up with Murray Alderton, a friend of Dave Mulinder. We split up into two parties with Ken Nugent leading a party of 5 up the River which was the easy option (Read Cooler Option) with the purpose of re cutting and remarking the last 200-300 metres from the Hut end up to meet where the track had become indistinct down the spur.

Our party left about 8.15 after the usual dithering with bods crossing the River barefoot to keep dry feet for a few more hours. The track up to the Parks Peak Ridge was in good condition and Randall soon disposed of a couple of smaller trees across the track. Progress was slow due to the high temperatures and we welcomed Mike's stops from time to time to photo Orchids.

It was no better when we arrived at the Barlow's turn off just before Midday and with no breeze it was quite energy sapping, fortunately we all had brought plenty of water but replenished with cool water from a stream just off the top. The walk to the top was the hardest part of our day and after lunch we followed down the track with Mike re siting or replacing just a few markers and only a light manicure on the undergrowth and bushes was needed as most of the work had been done last year. We met up with Ken and Selwyn plus team about 3.30 on the track and continued down to Barlow's on the excellent track that they had made.

We arrived at Barlow's just before 4pm and to cool off in the river was just bliss. After a bit of a chat we made our way back downstream to the truck and most of us had a swim as it was still very hot at 6.30pm.

Many thanks to all the willing workers including the 5 new guests and also to Selwyn for driving.

The only work required on this track will be some light maintenance from both ends next year but as it stands now it is very serviceable.
RB.

Party: Ayn Woodruff, Paul Bostock, Marion Nicholson, Ben Belchamber, Gerry Eyles, Ken Nugent, Bobby Couchman, Randall Goldfinch, Mike Lusk, Susan Lopdell, Gary Smith, Selwyn Hawthorne and Rodger Burn

#1893 Waikoau Gorge

23 January, 2005

A Party

It was an early 6 am start on a nice Sunday morning that we all gathered for a trip down the Waikoau gorge with some pack floating included. 6am seemed a slightly inhuman starting time for me, but then since moving to Palmerston North I seemed to have lost the tough, hardy attitude of a Hawkes Bayite. By the time we got up to Lake Opuahi it looked set to be a lovely day, and we dropped the 'B' party off to do their walk through Bellbird Bush.

Pohokura

It took a while to find the start of the track down the Gorge, and it took a very short time to lose that very same track further down. Once we hit the boulders it was a 'free for all', with lots of scrambling and backtracking, otherwise known as 'exploring the bush'. 3 hours later, after some beautiful rocky sections and close encounters with steep hills and sheer drops we stopped for lunch by a large overhanging rock, patterned with lovely lines and strata. Most party members had a refreshing swim, and I discovered that stick insects seem to have a peculiar fascination with Black hole physicist from the UK (Paul!). Three very large ones attached themselves to him within 10 minutes.

After lunch we set off again, going through a very tricky section where Dave looked quite pleased to be able to use the rope. We were pleased too, although few of us had made it through the Huge Canyon (not a Gorge any longer) without bearing the scars of Ongaonga. From there on it was a walk alongside the river, much flatter now, and then into the steep sheer walls surrounding the river where there was no option but to float it out. This was an amazing part of the river, with smooth slimy walls reaching up vertically beside us, and narrow pools of water that gently drifted downwards. And perfectly enough, it ended just when I was getting cold! Finally we got the bridge where some youthful members of the party had lots of fun sliding down the smooth stone of a natural hydroslide, before all the gooey sticky stuff that make it slippery was all gone. A great day all round, and one that I felt for the rest of the week with tingly arms and hands, invigorated by our natural circulation booster – Ongaonga.. Robyn Gulliver

B Party

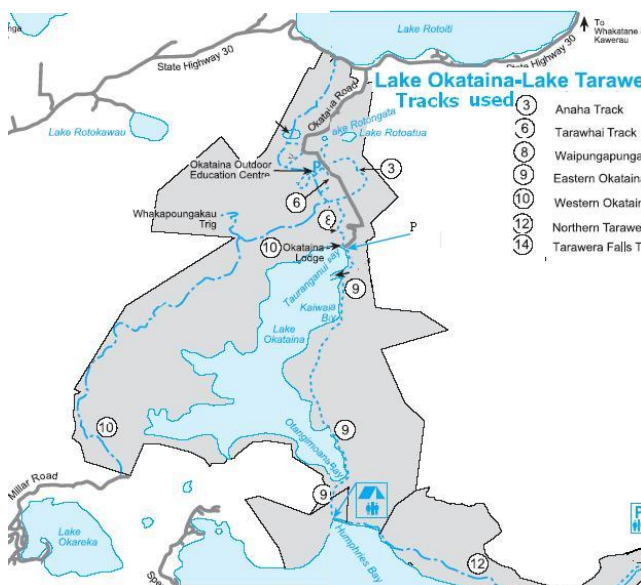
Opuahi to Thomas's Bush. Good weather, great views, few dead possums. Circumnavigated the lake!! Then up to Thomas's Bush, road walk back and waited return of the gorge exploration party. SBH

Marion Nicolson, Sue Lopdell, Shirley Bathgate.

#1894 Okataina Lake & Walkway

29 - 30 January, 2005

We travelled on the Friday night leaving Hastings by 6 and parking in a parking area at Gisborne Point on the road to Whakatane just past the turnoff to Lake Okataina at about 10:30 for the nights sleep. The next morning we had to wait at the Kawerau town centre until 9 am before the Info centre opened and we could collect our permit to travel through the Tarawera Forest to the DOC camp ground at the Lake Tarawera Outlet (permit cost \$2.50). As we were a "big" truck we had to be escorted through the forest so that we didn't bang into any logging trucks – the trip through the forest took about 30 minutes. By 10 am we had shouldered our packs and were walking along the Northern Tarawera Track towards Humphries Bay in brilliantly fine, warm weather.



After 45 minutes the truck party turned round and headed back towards the truck and took the track up to the Tarawera Falls. It took about an hours walking to get to the falls but we added another 20 minutes to that for a lunch stop. On the track we were lucky enough to spot a wallaby although it hopped away before Donna could get a photo of it. The track follows the Tarawera River down to the falls, passing a few smaller cascades on the way – there were a number of people returning along this track some of which had tubed down the river. About 15 minutes before the falls is a lovely swimming spot but a little bit further down stream people are warned not to swim because this is where the water disappears underground on route to its exit half way down the rock face of the falls. After viewing the falls we went back to the truck and drove round to the Okataina Road not requiring an escort this time because logging had stopped for the day.

We arrived at the Lake side just after the first of the through party arrived and had a swim with them before heading off to the Lake Rotoma camp ground for the night. Just down the camp grounds side road is the Soda Springs which had it not been such a lovely warm day would have been lovely to sit in.

Sunday saw us back down Okataina Road to drop of the through party at the Outdoor Education Centre. Here we walked along some of the smaller loop tracks for about 90 minutes before driving round to the Miller Road end of the Western Walkway. I walked for about an hour along this end of the track hoping to meet the others but returned to the truck without them. However they were all back at the truck by 1.30 where by we drove down the road to Lake Orakea for a swim before turning back towards Hawkes Bay.

GH

Party: Geoff Clibborn, Donna Berry, Glenda Hooper, Natalie Berry, Judy McBride, Peggy Gulliver, Robyn Gulliver, Bobby Couchman, Rodger Burn, Garry Smith, Susan Lopdell,

#1895 Tutaekuri River Trip

13 February, 2005

A Party

To think I used to be the tramping club's enforcer of trip reports but no, I have no shame and yes, Glenda has threatened me - so here it is: After wandering down to the soon to be replaced 3 wire bridge we discussed the mountain marathon entrant (we presumed) who had passed us at high speed with no warning, apology or even hello – so up him. Then we split up with the whusses crossing and the keen and/or under-informed following me downstream.

I avoided the first pool that everyone else swum through and what a bunch of complaining pansies they were. Then I had to get in - well talk about cold Trevor. We had the usual obstacles to negotiate, the nasty climb around the shute where the river funnels in under the bank and then the swim through the pool with the current going against us and the waterfall. In my day we used to jump off it, but we are all getting older and wiser (well most are getting wiser) and used Alan's rope instead. Lots of long pack floats too, including a new one caused by a big slip – no current and still freezing.

After a lifetime of discomfort we ended up at the hot spring and tried out the “new” bathtub. – My advice check out their plumber and find a different one.

*Climb frozen cold, from out the stream
Climb up the hill, follow the steam
Ooze and mud and water unclean,
Somehow it doesn't match the dream*

Marvellous fun! In this over sanitized world a good mud wallow in hot water? is just magic.

At this point after eating lunch and watching the water slide across the surface I left the others and took the track opposite the spring which goes straight up to the road above, (just add sweat, and puffing) and walked back to the truck, drove around to Lawrence and walked up the Donald to meet Glenda and co.

The rest of my party arrived 20 minutes after we got back to the truck.

*Gorgeous gorgeous unclimbable cliffs
Fabulous falls - trampers frozen stiff*

See you in the hills soon. And remember I never yet failed to return home with at least some of my party.

PB

Party: Peter Berry, John Winters, John Berry, Alan Petersen, Christine Snook, Paul Bostock,

B Party Macintosh – Lawrence.

After a slightly delayed start 6 of us began our trip at the MacIntosh carpark along with the hardy group that were to venture down the Tutaekuri River. After a brief stop at the 3 wire bridge our party carried on the climb out of the gorge up to MacIntosh Hut, thankful we weren't going down the river after hearing the shrieks when the A party went into the cold water.

It was great to have 4 fairly new people to the Tramping Club on this trip and to have the opportunity to show them some of the Kaweka country that this trip covered on such a lovely summer day.

After a snack at MacIntosh Hut, we carried on down the MacIntosh spur towards the Donald River. The crystal clear day provided for great views along this section back over the Bay and back up to the main range. On this section of the track we were passed by a group on mountain bikes.

After a brief stop on the track for a lunch break, we eventually reached the Donald River and had a number of refreshing dips in the river on the way back to the Tutaekuri River. Peter Berry met us part way along and we arrived back at the Truck around 3pm.

LB

Party: Gillian & Richard Oswald, Kerri Johnstone, Nancy Grant, Glenda Hooper, Lynette Blackburn

#1896 Kaweka Challenge	26 - 27 February, 2005
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This year the weather for the 16th Kaweka Challenge turned out to be much kinder than for the previous year. Except for some rain late Saturday afternoon and evening the weather was excellent. In fact competitors for the Saturday events were more concerned about water and its availability than trying to dodge the rain as had happened the previous year.

Not surprising, the KC seems to be the "gathering place" where friends/competitors meet on an annual basis to compete against each other, and of course to experience the rugged fauna and terrain of New Zealand's highest mountain race. The first competitors started arriving late Friday morning/early afternoon and by sundown the majority had pitched their tents, so that the Reserve looked more like a camping ground. Stragglers kept arriving during the night and well into the early hours of Saturday morning. Some had horrific tales to tell of breakdowns, blowouts, etc.

Entries this year totalled 414+ a record, as compared with about 360 last year.....so we must be doing something right. These were mainly New Zealanders and perhaps a feature of this year's event, the number of overseas entrants. Mainly visitors to NZ who have an interest in adventure running and who heard about the event from friends, our website, or entry forms in various outlets.

The range of courses suits most abilities, although a good degree of fitness is required. If one takes note of those who enter the events, all full of hope and anticipation of finishing, friendly rivalry and competition,...the adrenalin flows, the finish line beckons..and its all over. Life is good...thats the KC.

This event doesn't just happen. For 16 years a KC Committee has grappled with organising, obtaining Sponsors, and 1001 things that need attending to. Safety for the competitors/helpers has become more important; the increased numbers have meant that we maybe are starting to bulge at the seams a bit, more/better facilities may be required...and so the challenges go on.

What would we do without the Sponsors? We had a new major one this year in Kaweka Seriously Good Meals (very nice to) who sponsored course five. The other main Sponsors, Platypus, Silva, Icebug, Marmot, plus the other 20+ other sponsors who all helped in their own way. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the organising committee and competitors.

Finally the helpers. The KC committee must say a big thankyou...for whatever part you played, big or small. We work very hard to achieve a good result, but without helpers there would not be an event.

The de-brief is to be held at Pernel Orchard on 21st March and afterwards the Sponsors will be thanked at a social function.

Jim Hewes.

This year it WAS “J Heaven” up at the top (at least until the rain set in that afternoon) and our team of four was able to display the angel costumes which had been put on hold from last year, after their original appearance in “CarousAI”, and welcome the runners from courses 1 and 2 with heavenly food (ie marshmallows). It was John Winter’s first experience as a member of our summit team but he proved an able replacement for Andy and donned his halo and diaphanous robes with enthusiasm. (John Berry made an especially eyecatching heavenly figure!) After a damp start to Saturday night those competitors camping at Makahu had dried out by morning and the rivers posed no problems. As I greeted people at the finish next day there was not one who was not enthusiastic about the whole experience. In fact one runner suggested we should hold another 3 or 4 races over the terrain during the year!

The Challenge was one of the most successful ever. For the first time in 16 years there were over 400 competitors, with 138 on course 5 alone. On course 1 there were for a change no previous winners running. This left the race wide open, to be won finally by Heath de Garnham, one of a strong Auckland contingent which grows in number every year. There was one record broken by Karen Brabant from Whakatane who took almost 20 minutes off course 3. It was very encouraging that the rise in entry numbers was matched by a rise in the amount of sponsorship. The goodies received by every competitor at the finish were as usual much appreciated and a large percentage went away with some sort of prize.

Thank you very much to those members of the club who helped the committee run another highly successful event. With more trampers and orienteers keen to compete themselves it is getting harder to find enough personnel so please think about helping next year as the Challenge does raise significant funds for the club. Many comments were made by competitors this year on the efficiency of the organisation and I certainly came away having once again thoroughly enjoyed being a part of it all. *Deborah Turner*

#1897 Wakararas

13 March, 2005

Because of the hot dry weather we have been having, permission to use the private roads through Gwavas Forests was declined. Our trip instead went to Yeomans Mill, crossed the Makaroro River and walked up Wakarara Road to Leatherwood Road, a short access road heading east into the southwest Wakararas. After crossing a creek by walking over a felled pine tree, this recently cut track starts climbing immediately up to the radio repeater station on the trig. The views west to the Ruahines were magnificent, a 180 degree sweep that improved with every metre of height gained. Part of the track down to Poutaki Hut was not so obvious but our 20 strong party joined together for lunch in the grassy hut basin.

On the return trip some decided to have a look at the beech forest in the headwaters of an unnamed creek on the eastern side. And beautiful beech it was too. A party of eight encouraged by Peter B decided to continue down the creek to the Makaroro River while the balance returned by conventional means.

Exploratory journeys led by Peter easily develop into expeditions! Short lengths of creek, sidetracks, creek beds, water shutes, waterfalls, sidles, we had them all. A very interesting way to spend an afternoon. I was very pleased to see farm fences and gates at 5.30pm. Our

speed improved as we neared the river for the plod up to the truck in the dusk. The others had been waiting since 4.30pm.

Thank you to Geoff Robbie for driving, especially when he did not come on the walk, Philip for the apples, and the great party of twenty who made my first trip in the Wakararas an enjoyable experience. GH

Party: Geoff Robinson, Driver, Kerri Johnstone, Marion Nicholson, Garry Smith, Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, Ros Lusk, Mike Lusk, Peggy Gulliver, Jenny Lean, Judy McBride, Nancy Grant, Mrs Lyn Gentry, Mr Lyn Gentry, Roger Burn, Lynette Blackburn, Ken Nugent, Alan Peterson, Christine Snooks, Chris Waldron, Graeme Hare.

#1898 Easter - Urewera Forest Park

25 - 28 March, 2005

We left on the Thursday night with Geoff at the wheel and despite a bleak weather forecast for the area decided to continue with the tramp as advertised. It was a slow trip to Wairoa as there were many cars heading Gisborne way but we eventually arrived at Papuni Station and parked on a grassy stretch beside the Ruakituri River about 10:30. There were 14 of us, I slept in the cab, Judy slept in her bivvy bag on the grass underneath the truck, Michelle slept in the pack lockers and the rest played sardines inside the truck. It rained during the night and the Ruakituri looked muddy and up a bit but after breakfast we drove the last 8 kilometres to the end of the road, parked the truck and started off for a day trip to the falls.

For the first 2 hours we followed alongside the river over farmland and through blackberry with a couple of detours uphill to get above bluffs. By now there was intermittent rain and we were continually taking our parkas on and off. We finally came to the end of the farmland where Geoff decided he would stay until we returned. We had to cross a small stream which was running at about mid calf and then climbed up a ridge through the bush. At this stage it started to rain persistently, shortly to be followed by a full blown thunderstorm and very strong winds. At several stages we thought we were above the waterfall only to find out that the loud noise was the wind. After a while 4 of us decided to return back to Geoff while the rest were determined to make the waterfall – which they duly did and were suitably impressed.

The stream had risen a bit while we were away and immediately after we had crossed it the rain stopped. After a quick lunch we retraced our steps – half way back along the farmland we found a poled route away from the river which we followed back to the truck. At the truck the sun came out and we were able to dry our gear as we waited for the others to return.

That night Dave was able to organize us accommodation in one of the local's shearers quarters -hot showers and all which was just great. As soon as we settled in the neighbouring cats introduced themselves and slept that night in the truck on Marion who woke up in the morning complaining that she was unable to move her legs – incidentally Marion does not like cats. At 7 we all headed to Waikaremoana via the back roads getting there about 8.30 at which stage Dave's party of 4 took off for a 3 day round the



Pohokura

lake tramp. The rest of us had a very easy day, firstly visiting the 3 little lakes near Onepoto – the recent rain had meant that they had all merged to be one lake but they were still very picturesque. After this Geoff drove us round to Rosie Bay from which we took the Old Maori Trail over to Lake Kaitawa. This is a lovely track and was a botanical delight with such a large diversity of plants – many of which were bearing their berries. We got to Lake Kaitawa for late lunch and then did a quick circuit round this lake to view the fairy springs – which had we known were only about 100 metres away from our lunch spot.

That night we were able to have yet another hot shower as we decided to stay at the motor camp (which costs the same as camping at Waihururu Camp site). The next morning we caught the water taxi to the Korokoro camp site (\$20/head) where half the party took the detour to the Korokoro Falls. The rest of us had seen them before and headed off towards Marauiti Hut in lovely weather. Three hours later we were at the hut shortly to be joined by Dave's party and 90 minutes later the other half of our party. It took another 2 hours to walk through to the Waihururu Campsite by which time we had had enough walking for the day and quickly put up tents and had a swim – it was very refreshing. Apart from a warden there was only one other person at our camp site a young South African fellow and the hut didn't look very populated either.



After another good nights sleep we were hurried onwards by our leader as the maps in the huts had indicated it would take almost 6 hours to get to the truck at Hoporuahine. However by the time we got to Wanganui Hut (2 hours after leaving) it was obvious that it was going to be a much shorter day than this so we started taking our time again. The day was fine yet again and there were good views of the lake and we could see the predator proof fence which protects the kiwi on the Wanganui peninsula.

We were all back at the truck by 11:45 with the South African hitching a lift to Big Bush with us and so after a quick visit to the Aniwanuiwa DOC office we carried on to have lunch at Wairoa and were back at Pernell by 4.30.

A great trip. Many thanks to Susan for organizing it and Geoff and Dave for driving. Well done to youngsters, Christine and Natalie, who both coped well with the very wet Friday and their weekend packs

GH

Party: Susan Lopdell, Garry Smith, Ken Nugent, Lynette and Christine Blackburn, Judy McBride, Marion Nicholson, Geoff Robinson, Natalie Berry and Glenda Hooper.

A Party: Dave & Leonie Heaps, Michelle Burden, Gerald Blackburn

#1899 Golden Crown - Ruahines

10 April, 2005

Having endured some pretty bleak weather over the previous few weeks we deserved a good day west of the Wakararas, and so it proved, being mostly sunny and still all day. We passed Masters' Shelter and were pleased to find it largely unvandalized, and set off on the long climb up Golden Crown, first in low Manuka/Kanuka scrub bursting with many other small natives, then up a long rocky slope at the top of which we rested in warm sunshine. The final climb is in Mountain Beech and the ground becomes wetter as one approaches the ridge track.

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Along that are many boggy patches but all were easily negotiable. Just before the Aranga hut turnoff is an area of thick fine rushes and we had a long lunch in comfort there. As we dined, Ken spotted a Powelliphanta snail shell, one of two found on the day. Soon after starting again we were able to see Pohatuhaha and imagined we could see Geoff and Rodger sitting on top. They were long gone by the time we arrived but we spent about 30min admiring the view across to the Wakararas, and striking poses on the rocky outcrops. A brief wander took us along to the top of Sentry Box spur, rather steeper than Golden Crown but still perfectly manageable, and very soon we were back at the truck enjoying tea and a second go at the Pernel orchard fruit. A pleasant, relatively easy and uneventful trip, but as one of the group observed as we moved along the top, “Don’t hurry, I hate it when a day like this ends.” Thanks to Geoff for managing truck and to Rodger for accompanying him. ML



Party: Geoff Clibborn, Rodger Burn, Christine Snookes, Alan Peterson, Joan Ruffel, Bobby Couchman, Ken Nugent, Robyn Madden, Graeme Hare, Marion Nicholson, Ray Manning, Ros and Mike Lusk

PRIVATE TRIPS**Copland Pass****January, 2005**

We farewelled the Kahurangi National Park H T C group at Takaka and caught a bus to Nelson to collect our cheap rental car, getting away late afternoon, and after driving through [more] rain we arrived at Hamner Springs and stayed in the camping grounds there. After fixing the flat tyre next morning, motored on to Christchurch where I bought a spare memory card for my camera and set off in the direction of Mount Cook at which we arrived late afternoon and found lodgings at the Alpine Club.

Next morning seemed to bring a good day except for cloud cover above about 1500 metres and then we needed to call at DOC and find out latest details and current best route and assemble our considerable gear, both weighing in at the low to mid 20 kg mark! After all we needed to survive any alpine situation and had tentage, a rope, harnesses and hardware, stakes, crampons and ice axes, but we were fit ? from a week in the Kahurangi tops! We got away late morning and up the Hooker valley and left the tourists at the creek before the glacier lake and took the route up the true right along side the lake- there was just a route along the many varied sized rocks for a couple of kilometres until past the terminal ice face and on to the real glacier and guess what, more rocks [surprise].

We had to go one gully past the Copland creek to get access to the top of the moraine wall, the first stage was up about a 60 degree rock face to the first terrace [after filling all water bottles as we were not sure of the water situation up there] and then surveyed the next ugly part on to the terrace proper. I made it up with tenuous rock holds and carving some steps with my axe and made the top unscathed, but Anne was still down there. This part was near vertical, and after anchoring myself to a large rock [many to choose from!] I threw the rope down to Anne and basically pulled her up on a belay, and she was quite pleased to have got there! Due to the time of the day we camped in the only flat area and made comfortable and were so pleased to find a little tarn with good water so all was well.

Next morning was much the same with cloud mid way up the mountain and rain showers or threatening but off we went and as climbing higher it rained still and cold with visibility very limited – miserable really, so retreated and camped in our spot again. Next morning a little better looking so off again with visibility better, but still wet and about 5 deg, the biggest risk was wet slippery rocks. After adding a layer we moved on and were pleased to get to the Copland shelter at about 7000 feet – this is rather like a 5000 gallon tank on it's side with two windows and a door. We were really in the crud up there and as it had been wet and not freezing, avalanches were becoming more numerous, we could only hear them thundering about, the best one turned out to be a very active ice fall on the back of Mount Cook.

The next day [day 3] was much the same, but very fleeting views up to the pass area showing the crevasses but no real improvement so sat it out for the day, reading magazines and stuff, and Anne and I read the same book in the one day!

The radio was not working [it mostly doesn't apparently] so I called DOC on my cellphone to find that the weather should improve next day, so another night in a 4 degree tomb and readied next morning to just GO when it cleared, which it did just after 12 noon.

Off into the unknown, the pass took 1 ¼ hours to reach, up a very steep snow face to the top after working along or around crevasses , they were not very big, about a metre across and 10-20 metres deep but you could not jump over them as the snow was too soft to jump from. Jubilation at getting there, but still had the shrund [the last usually big crevasse that separates the glacier from the rock wall] to get over and found a reasonable snow bridge, as this one was about 5 metres wide.

We spent just over an hour on the pass taking in the ambience, looking looking and photographing. It had nearly all cleared, and all of Cook could be seen but not all at the same time! Very clear views – sunny too- and down to Lake Pukaki, and all the way to the sea to the West coast and the Copland valley.



We had to move on and the first part down the Copland was tricky rock and glass ice, but on gaining the snow, and almost dodging soft snow avalanches, we made quick time down the valley to Douglas Rock hut and the avalanche devastation in the lower valley was incredible, caused by heavy snows in the spring and the resultant ice that gets pushed down.

We stopped briefly at Douglas rock hut to speak to the mixed Europeans that were there leaving at 7pm - had taken 4 ½ hours from the pass- and booted it on to Welcome Flat hut [palace!] arriving at 11 pm! A quick feed, were too stuffed to feel like eating though, and a soak in the hot pools for an hour, wow what luxury, and worse to come as we had to leave just after 6 am next day to get out to the road and hitchhike up to Fox Glacier town - day 5.

The local information centre was where we had to arrange to get back to Cook village, but not until finding a feed of fish and chips! Fixed wing aircraft would not fly due to poor conditions, so we flew back in a Hughes 500 chopper at some cost - but the experience and views were wow.

The pilot, a laid back mid 20's guy, said he had three options to get there and up the Fox Glacier was plan 1, so after weighing in and strategically fuelling the machine, we were off into the face of the glacier towards a wall of ice and cloud!!!!!! He said he was looking for something [in the earphones], and found it, a hole in the cloud that we climbed through to a totally clear sunny view of the glacier neve which is huge and over the divide and down the Hooker valley with good views of the Copland ridge we had climbed, and so it was ending as we landed at the airport and saw the chopper vanish from sight back again. The first thing to do was to get to DOC to report back or they would have been looking for us next day! And again at the Alpine club, and scrubbed up and into the bright lights of the "Old Mountaineers Bar and Restaurant" owned and run by Charlie Hobbs.

Away next morning [real bad as we were leaving behind perfect weather] just after 6 am to head to Christchurch as I was flying back to the Bay at 1pm. I was known to say that if we had had 3 more days and me \$3000 spare I would have had a crack at Cook with a guide, Anne probably would have too, as we were damn fit by now.

A great trip, had been on our list of thing to do for a while, and I had hoped that we might have done the Ball pass too, but the biggie was Copland, and the weather decided that we had no time. J M.

Anne Cantrick and John Montgomerie.

From the Archives – Fifty years ago in the Pohokura.

Bulletin No 68, December, 1954.

Article by Dr. D. A. Bathgate

NOTES ON THE BACK COUNTRY OF HAWKES BAY

Hawkestone Station-first owned by a Mr Hallett- extended from the site of the present homestead right up and over the Kaweka Range and up the Mohaka River to above the Makino River. This station used to graze, among its other flocks, 7000 Merino weathers over the top of the Kawekas. These sheep were mustered off in the winter and were put back for the summer grazing. The usual thing was to start moving them up in October from the Homestead block, on the first day as far as Puketitiri. On the second day they were pushed as far as the Iron Whare on the Makahu and on the third and subsequent days right along the range as far as the Kiwi Saddle where there was a hut for the shepherds on the edge of the bush.

It is interesting to note that some of the best native grasses for pasturing the sheep grew in the Studholme Saddle. To those of us who know the present condition of that saddle with its shingle slides and eroded slope, it is hard to visualise it as it was then. Over-grazing, burning and rabbits soon ruined the whole of the Kaweka Range. In the early days not only Kiwi but Weka also were quite plentiful in all this back country.

The northern slopes of the Kawekas were also grazed up the Mohaka. There was a "frame" hut erected at the Mangatutu River for the use of the Shepherds, and the "oldtimers" still call that stream the Frame Creek or simply, the Frame. The sheep were grazed up to and beyond the Makino Stream.

Later on a graded track was put in to the Hot Springs. This track went from Puketitiri over Ferny Ridge and continued as a 12-foot track to the Frame or Mangatutu. From there on it was continued as a 6-foot track right in to the Springs. It was hoped to have a Government Sanatorium erected at the Springs, and this track was to be the forerunner of the road for vehicular traffic. This idea still persisted up to 25 years ago (1929)-since when it has faded out. But the old graded track is still there except where slips and washouts have obliterated it.

Mangawhare Station must have been one of the biggest of the old time stations as its boundary extended to Hawkestone boundary and later on right up onto the Kawekas when the boundary fence ran right up and over the top of the range. In those days Mangawhare included Waiwhare and extended right over into McIntosh country and up and beyond the Studholme and Kiwi Saddles.

It is interesting to know that the Blowhards were then covered with fern and Tussock only and were looked on as good open sheep country, as was also the McIntosh and indeed all the "foothill" country in the Tutaekuri Basin. It was the same old story of mismanagement and misunderstandings, with over-grazing and repeated burnings plus rabbits putting an end to tens of thousands of acres of pastoral land.

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The rabbits soon proved a deadly pest to the backcountry, and huts were erected along the ranges from which poison gangs could operate with poisoned pollard, etc. A hut was put up by the Rabbit Board at the Studholme Saddle, one at the Kiwi Saddle and one on the MacIntosh. These were all Malthoid huts. Castle Rock Hut was erected on Castle Rock Flat, threequarters of a mile from the Kuripapango Lakes and out towards the Tutaekuri. From here a good horse track ran down into and across the Tutaekuri River and so on to the MacIntosh Hut and then out to Puketitiri. This was a horse track quite frequently used by the rabbiters.

The rabbits were in their thousands even up on the tops and right into the edge of the bush. Horses were taken up to the Kiwi Saddle Hut by "the Lake Spur" what we call the "Government Spur". But as a rule the Rabbiters who occupied this hut carried their blankets and provisions and their poisons etc on their own backs. They used to walk down to the Kuripapango Store to replenish their supplies of flour, sugar etc-a 50lb bag of flour, a bag of sugar and everything else they required had to be swagged in. I was told they could go down from the Hut to the Hotel in 1 ½ hours, but they took a lot longer on the return journey.

On one occasion the gang were snowbound in the Kiwi Saddle Hut for a whole week and ran out of tucker. They got out of the hut by climbing up the chimney. On that occasion it took them 8 hours to get down to the Kuripapango Hotel. We can assume that a good time was had by all when they hit that delectable spot.

In this attempted control of the rabbit pest, the Main Divide was patrolled from Woodville to Waiouru. Some of the huts or hut sites are still known and used by trampers.

D.A. Bathgate

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History in our Backyard.

IRON WHARE, Kaweka Flats; NZMS 260 SHEET U20, grid ref. 106108



Much of the original of this little Haven still remains intact, thanks to recent restoration undertaken by D. O. C. The sapling / sacking bunks have gone, replaced with two 4x2 and slat beds, thankfully the open fireplace has gone, the dirt floor remains, as does a lot of the malthoid lining, corrugated iron roofing and especially the slab walls. The back wall is recessed into a two metre cutting into a bank and this alone must have been quite a construction project at the time. Built by early Musterers around 1870s this little treasure is now classified as an “Historic Place” and hopefully will not meet with any abuse or “Bush Accident”. Windows were not considered a necessity so it is very dark inside. It would be nice to see something in place to act as a vermin proof doorway as the present “curtain” is not sufficient to keep the possums out. There is also a resident population of mice, tho the Log Book has not as yet been used for food or nesting material!

In the era of high usage, a grassed paddock, roughly fenced with saplings, nearby, was large enough to sustain two horses for two days. The Kawaka Flats, surrounding areas, and indeed the entire main Range was used for grazing Merino sheep and wild cattle roamed freely. During the 1880 – 1915 period, my Great grandfather would spend three weeks at a time in this area hunting the wild cattle, shooting them with his muzzle loader and self made bullets, wrapping himself in the skins to keep warm at night and sustaining himself on meat, a small quantity of oatmeal and salt, and as he told his wife, “The scenery!” Each sortie lasted exactly three weeks at a time, and tho he took no time piece with him, his wife marked off the days on her calendar, and he was never either early or late returning home, his packhorse laden with skins and meat to supplement his Butchery business.

Access to “The Flats” was westwards from Balls Clearing, between Ferny Ridge and Middle Range, where the Anawhenua stream flows, then up the Black Birch to where the Water Supply is now situated. From here it was down and around to the Makahu River then up the ridge to the Iron Whare site. Remains of this track are still very evident in places, especially just down from the Whare itself. Whenever Musterers were out they carried large supplies of matches for burning off as they walked, and often a chunk of pumice soaked in kerosene fastened to a length of wire. Once ignited this “wand” stayed alight for long periods and could easily be poked into tussock bushes for burning off rough growth to ensure fresh green food regrew.

In 1921, my Father, as a strapping fourteen year old, was sent over to the Iron Whare to act as advance guard for 500 Merino Weathers taken over there for the summer grazing. It took the lead sheep only two hours from the time they first appeared on the Birch until they came striding past the Whare. Interestingly, when the Autumn muster came, only four or five of these animals were ever recovered. Rumours were rife about rustling, no doubt wild pigs accounted for some, and it was said that the “Rogue” who resided for many years on the Rogue ridge (much further south by the Tutaekuri

Pohokura

River,) and eluded all attempts at being brought in, was one of them. Whatever, they were never adequately accounted for, and not much later full scale grazing in the area was abandoned.

For reasons best known to himself, Jack Ball of Balls Clearing fame had an obsessive interest in these sheep. Using my father as Horseman and Guide he combed the area searching for them. As they ascended Dicks Spur to the tops, the horse and rider slid over one side of the ridge, while Dad managed to jump over the other side and get a belay on. The horse wasn't quite hung tho its neck must have been rather sore. The Rider elected to walk after that! They roamed all over the tops, southwards to Studholmes saddle, north towards Makino, and even down the back to Venison Tops.

On another visit to the area, my father made three consecutive early morning hunts from the Whare, up Dicks spur, knowing that deer regularly used this route over the main divide. He was rewarded with three 14 point red stag trophy heads for his efforts. Having left Jack Ball at the Whare to prepare their tea, Dad arrived back from hunting one evening to find the old man missing. He rustled up the fire and got the meal on. Much later he went out searching, only to hear a plaintive voice calling from away across on the Middle Hill side of the Gorge, east of the present track. In the wee hours of the morning, Dad dragged a bedraggled little man, still protesting that he hadn't been lost, into the shelter of the Whare. The fire long dead and their tea just a few cinders stuck to the bottom of the billy, I think that was the last time they ever went out together looking for sheep.

This area was always well populated with Kiwi, who somehow have just managed to keep surviving. Kakas also were much more abundant than at present.

With the cessation of burning, sheep, cattle and pigs gone, now all that remains is to get rid of the mustilids, possums, deer, and DOGS and Kiwi can once again roam free as they once did, in this historic area.

Pam Turner.

Obituary:

Murial Joan Smith.

A golden Harvest Moon hanging over Beech trees, filtered light playing patterns on rustling leaves, a courting couple making and accepting marriage proposals in a secret forest glade at Ruahine Corner hut, oblivious to any prying eyes that might have followed them. So began tramping life together for Joan Lovell – Smith and her fellow tramping partner Clem Smith, Foundation Members of H. T. C.

Marriage followed in April 1946 and Joan happily dropped the “Lovell” part of her name to become plain Mrs Smith, little knowing that in just a brief eleven years she would be facing more than forty years of widowhood and solo Mother to only son Brian.

Clem swagged in building materials for the first Kiwi Saddle hut, up the freshly cut Smith – Russell track up Kuripaponga Hill (4100) while Joan, when not actually packing in gear also became one of George Lowe’s “Squaws” cooking and catering party.



Joan’s tramping was curtailed a wee bit with Motherhood and other commitments but she maintained a deep interest and love of the high country. This intense interest was kindled again when Brian joined the Club as a lad, and his friends became her friends and outdoor contacts, as he progressed on to University, climbing and many other varied interests. Joan was a very strong Lady, was always “there” for the needy in every way, warm, kindly and non – judgemental. She maintained wide interests in many different groups, read even more widely, and tapped out all sorts of Family Histories and anecdotes of life in those times on her trusty little typewriter.

Testimony of Joan’s Love of and for people was the attendance at her Celebration Farewell Service; Representatives from H T C, and others from Babies to “Oldies” packed the Chapel from all over New Zealand and beyond. A real tribute for a Gentle Lady of that age.

The inscription on HTC’s Floral arrangement read:

To the Memory of Joan,
Cool rains dripping through Beach Leaves
Flickering Campfire under trees
Trodden tracks that go way back
Laughter shared in Mountain Shack
Softly falling snow on Rocks
Her Spirit lingers on the Tops.

Along with other illustrious members of HTC, Joan’s ashes rest at the Cairn on Kaweka “J”.

Pam Turner.



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
Tony Gates, 025 246 1901, 06 357 7439 (H).

CLUB NEWS:



OPERA IN THE RANGES

PUKETITIRI PANTOPRAL PLAYERS

Present

PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Puketitiri Domain 1st July 2005. at 7. 30pm.

Tickets (includes mulled wine with Supper,) \$10.00

Bookings (with money) A.S.A.P. to Pam Turner. (Limited seating available.)

Guaranteed an excellent nights show with huge input from a very talented local caste, with real country class, under the Directorship of Deborah Turner.

Usual (free) Farmstay hospitality from Friday afternoon, throughout the weekend. (10 beds, extra mattresses, garage and tent sites available.) Bring warm clothes, sleeping bags, own food to share pot luck style, song books, gumboots, or whatever and make a weekend of it.

Further enquiries to PAM, ph. 876 8995.

The following social events are planned, Contact Graeme Hare 8448656, or come to a meeting to register:

Sat 14 May - A night or a weekend of singing at Puketitiri, stay at Pam's, learn a chorus or two of the Puketitiri Players show 'Pirates of Penzance' and have a great singalong on Sat Night.

Sun 29 May - The best of the 2004 Banff Mountain Film Festival via the NZ Alpine Club at the Century Theatre Napier, 7pm, cost \$15. A number of films will be shown. Invite your friends.

Births:

Tamsyn Julie, 16 December 2004, a new little Daughter for Julie and Barrie Mercer.

Carlee Maree, 6th April 2005, for Kathy and Darrell Eggers.

Welcome to New Members: Kerri Johnstone, Nancy Grant, Natalie Berry, Gerald Eyles and Selwyn Hawthorne.

Coming Meetings:

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER/COMMENTS	Hosts	Supper Help
18 May	Lets get political	Nick Smith of the National Party will address the meeting so bring along those curly questions	Tina Godbert , Andy Fowler	Sandy Claudatos, Eddie Holmes
1 June	Tips and Tricks	A pot pouri of tramping gadgets, tips and ideas. Your input is welcome!	Alan Petersen Pam Turner	Christine Snook , Greg Munn
15 June	Photo Competition	Photo Competition	Peggy Gulliver , Ken Nugent	Jim Hewes , Lew Harrison
29 June	Trips brainstorm	Your chance to let us know where you would like to go tramping.	Liz Pindar ,Geoff Clibborn	Shirley Bathgate , John Berry
13 July	Toughies on the tops	Anne and John will present their section of their SI trip last summer	Philip Mardon , Susan Lopdell	Judy McBride , Rodger Burn
27 July	Ships in the desert	Rodger will show pictures on his recent trip by Camel	Joan Ruffell, Robyn Madden	Geoff Robinson, Chris Waldron
10 Aug	DOC Update	Pat Sheriden of Napier DOC will come to the meeting to discuss current issues with us	Roslyn Lusk, Owen Brown	Glenda Hooper , Gerald Blackburn
24 Aug	TBC	Either Alistair Bramley on Kiwis or a Search and Rescue video on helicopter safety	John Montgomerie , Lynette Blackburn	Randall Goldfinch Peter Brown

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 April – September 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



WEEKEND TRIPS

8 May	Kaweka	\$10	MapU20
Combined trip across the lower flats of the Kaweka Range, from Makahu road end through to Kaweka Flats, Middle Hill out to Pinks Hut.			
Organiser: Chris Waldron ph 8750034			
Driver:			

21-22 May	Kaweka	\$10	MapU20
A: From Makahu road end up onto and along main range to Venison Tops, down to Rocks Ahead, up onto Sterns Saddle and Kaweka J returning to Truck. B: From Car park up onto main range and along to Studholme Hut. Sunday climb up and descend MacIntosh Spur, across the Donald River and to Makahu road end via Matauria Ridge.			
Organisers: A: Ann Cantrick ph 8448149 B: Rodger Burns ph 8776322			
Driver:			

4-6 June	Haurangi Bush Track	\$	MapS28
This attractive bush traverse sidles the Haurangi Forest Park on good tracks via Washpool, Pararaki, Kawakawa and Mangatoetoe Huts. A lot of up and down tramping, but the birdlife, healthy forest, occasional views of the coast and nifty campsites more than compensate			
C: Lots and Lots of options – Putangirua Pinnacles, Cape Palliser, Lake Ferry to name a few.			
Organisers: A: Dave Heaps 8750088 B:			
Driver:			

19th June	Shutes Hut and Hot Springs	\$10	MapU21
Walk into Shute's Hut and for the more adventurous seek out the Hot Springs marked on the old map. Return to truck via same route.			
Organiser: Marion Nicholson 8735935			
Driver:			

25-26 June	Mystery Winter Solstice	\$To be determined	
<p>Come on our mystery trip, destinations unknown. Leaving on the Friday night for a weekend of varied activities and lots of fun too. Cost of trip will be covering fare, accommodation, activities – actual cost nearer the time. Must have reasonable fitness.</p> <p>Organisers: Glenda Hooper 8774183 & Susan Lopdell 8446697 Driver (2 required):</p>			

3 July	Te Puia Hot Springs	\$10	Map U20
<p>A day trip into a popular winter destination. Options for a more demanding trip via Makino Hut, or the enjoy a tramp along the Mohaka River to Te Puia Lodge and then onto the Springs for a soak in the Hot Springs.</p> <p>Organiser: Robyn Madden 8449661 Driver:</p>			

17th July	Waikamaka Hut	\$10	MapU22
<p>In from North Block Rd, up the Waipawa River to Saddle and visit our club hut. Options for return journey either over Three Johns, Te Atuaoparapara or return the same way.</p> <p>Organiser: Mike Lusk 8778328 Driver:</p>			

30-31st July	Howletts Hut	\$10	MapU22
<p>A: From top carpark Kashmir road up ridge to track junction, along to Otumore, Taumatataua to Howletts Hut. Sunday across Sawtooth Ridge to Tarn Bivy, Rosvalls Track to carpark.</p> <p>B: From lower carpark up and down to Tukituki River thru gorge to Daphne Hut and ascend Daphne Ridge to Howletts Hut. Sunday return via Otumore Longview and shift truck to meet A party.</p> <p>Organisers: A: Eddie Holmes 8352073 B: Lex Smith 8774087 Driver:</p>			

14 August	Kaweka	\$10	MapU20
<p>A: From the Quarry walk down to GR 085128, cross river and up to ridge towards Kaweka Flats Track at high point 1019. Travel back to Makahu.</p> <p>B: In from Quarry and follow track down to Makahu River and follow ridge up to the Historic Iron Whare Hut. Wander through beech forest to join Kaweka Flats track and follow out to Makahu carpark.</p> <p>C: Amble around Ngahere/Kaweka Flats tracks.</p> <p>Organisers: A: Jeremy Blackburn 8772340 / Michelle Burden 8747972 B: Graeme Hare 8448656 C: Shirley Bathgate 8778511 Driver:</p>			

27-28 August	Mt Ruapehu	\$TBA	Map
Based at Whakapapa, many trip options – skiing, climbing, bush walks, café stops etc.			
Organiser: John Montgomerie 8777358			
Driver:			

11 September	Ruahines	\$10	Map U21/U22
From Mangleton Road walk up to a four wheel drive track to the site of the Kaumatua Hut. From there navigate across the base of the range to Ellis Hut and return. A good opportunity to use navigational skills.			
Organiser:			
Driver:			

MID-WEEK DAY TRIPS

11 May 2005	Waikamaka Hut	7am	\$10 Map U22
Up the Waipawa River over the saddle and down to our hut.			
Organiser: Roger Burn 8776322			
Driver:			

25 May	Mackintosh Circuit	7am	\$10 Map U20
Into Mackintosh Hut and around via the Kaweka Track to the Tutaekuri River.			
Organiser: Judy McBride 8769756 and Lyn Gentry 8750542			
Driver:			

8 June	Lake Opuahi & Thomas Bush	8am	\$10 Map
Sheila Cunningham, HB for the Happy Wanderer, says “some of the loveliest walking country in Hawkes Bay”			
Organiser: Bobby Couchman 8778557			
Driver:			

22&23 June	Sunrise Hut	8am	\$10 Map U22
An overnight birthday trip for the organizers. Can you play Pictionary?			
Organisers: Jim Hewes 8776784, Lyn Gentry 8750542, Graeme Hare 8448656			
Driver:			

6 July	Longview Hut 7am	\$10 Map U22
From Kashmir Road up to Longview Hut, but if the wind is too strong we will have a look at Awatere Hut.		
Organiser: Judy McBride 8769756		
Driver:		

20 July	Napier Lagoon and Hill Walks 9am	Own Transport
Time for a café lunch on this trip.		
Organiser: Jim Hewes 8776784		
Driver:		

3-4 July	Te Puia Hut & Hot Springs 7am	\$10 Map U20
Come and enjoy the Mangatainoka Hot Springs and stay overnight at Te Puia Hut.		
Organiser: Gloria Abraham 8751152		
Driver:		

17 August	Taradale Walks 9am	Own
Transport		
Rediscover Otatara Pa, Dolbell Reserve, Sugar Loaf.		
Organiser: Helen Hare 8448656		

31 August	Holts Bush, Tutira Walkways 8am	\$10 Map
Come and spend a day walking in two areas gifted to the nation by far sighted benefactors.		
Organiser: Bobby Couchman 8778557		
Driver:		

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.