

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB PO BOX 14086 MAYFAIR HASTINGS

www.htc.org.nz

POHOKURA – Bulletin No 228

April 2008

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SAR:	<u>John Montgomerie</u> , Jeff Robertson, Graham Thorp, Peter Brown
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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. 50c donation gratefully accepted each meeting towards hall hire (*place in the old boot*).

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President's Report

Well a quarter of another year is gone. Good tramps have been completed. Christine and I did a Xmas trip in Arthur's Pass and others in our Club have been to the South Island. The Kaweka Challenge was a successful event. It just couldn't work without the tremendous contribution by those on the committee and those who help on the day. Next year is the 20th year of the event.

New Zealand's greatest outdoors man has passed on. We have all paid our own tributes to Sir Ed and have fond memories of him.

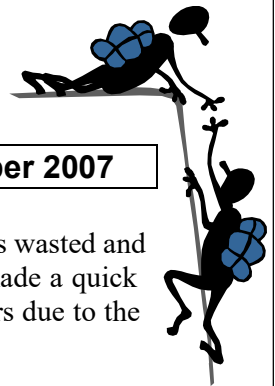
We have had some great club nights; speakers David & Alison Zorn on Mt Kinabalu, Lloyd Beech on what the outdoors means to him (some marvellous slides), Gary Sparks on a trip through the Solar System, Rowan Calder on Sirtrack and his experiences in Botswana (some fantastic wildlife photos), and a puzzling navigation exercise with imperial maps. There was a successful and entertaining auction. We have some more great nights coming up.

The Committee continues to do carry on with its management role. However, it is also looking at matters that the Club can improve on for it's long term future. Membership is a matter under discussion. If members have any ideas on how we can attract and retain new members the Committee would appreciate your input.

This Pohokura has trips organised to take you through the winter season. Queen's Birthday Weekend is another attempt to summit Mt Karioi (third time lucky!!) plus another climb of Mt Pirongia. An important aspect of Club activity these days are the mid week trips. Great work to all those involved and participating.

Keep tramping.
Alan Petersen

TRIP REPORTS



#2020	Ruahine Crossing	Sat / Sun 1 - 2 December 2007
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Four keen trampers left Pernel's at 5.30pm, Friday evening with the B party. No time was wasted and Geoff had us safely round at Renfrew Rd, Rangiwhia carpark at 9.15pm after having made a quick tea stop in Dannevirke. It was a pleasant walk up on a calm, clear night, taking two hours due to the large slip diversion.

As promised, Saturday was a great day and we left the hut at 7.00am often stopping to admire the awesome views all around, including Ruapehu and our high point of the day, Te Hekenga which we were heading up to by early afternoon.

It was wonderful to sit on the top on a very pleasant afternoon and just appreciate how lucky we were to be there. Then the action started, firstly spotting a large herd of 14 deer making their way from the tarns, finally running away, chased by John Monty, who had come up from the other side early that morning. Then, a glider appeared out of nowhere and repeatedly circled us, playing on the up-draughts, finally disappearing again into the distant hills. Wow, we were buzzing when we made our way down the difficult rocky descent which was dotted with patches of snow. After meeting up with Monty, we set up camp by the tarns and were later joined by Dave Heaps and his dog Tae. As the weather had now become cloudy and cool, we retired to our tents early. What a morning! Clear and

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still as we headed off over Sawtooth, climbing up and down the rocky outcrops, mist rolling in from the east at times as we reached the far side towards Ohuinga from where we could view our whole trip. From here we dropped steeply onto Black Ridge where we lunched, then carried on passing two large tarns before reaching Tarn Bivvy. We descended down Rosvall's track which was in good condition, making the steep track bearable. After a short walk down the river we reached the cars at 4.00pm. This was an awesome trip, a pity so few signed up, thanks to Geoff for driving us around on Friday and to Eddie for leading us.

SC

A party trip were: Anne Cantrick, Murray Alderson, Eddie Holmes (leader), Sandy Claudatos, John Montgomery and Dave Heaps

#2021	Yeoman's Track	Wed. 5 December 2007
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This was our last Mid Week trip for the year and yet again the weather was kind for us. Yeoman's Track is an area steeped in history and, although not an area recently visited by most of us, it was new territory for a few.

A low level track follows the old logging road and we stopped frequently to look at the stands of podocarps and eucalypts plus a few orchids plus one particularly colourful fungus that Murray took photos of. We arrived at Ellis Hut just after 12.00 noon, basked in the sun and had lunch.

Peggy, in the meantime, had brought her bicycle and did the whole track, to and from the hut, with comparative ease. She arrived, of course, much quicker than us.

Ellis Hut appears in good condition having been refurbished at some stage and its history is displayed with a series of photos mounted inside the hut. Philip was soon into drawing a charcoal sketch of the hut which captured the scene perfectly (maybe something for the Club Auction?).

After lunch we ambled back along the track to our cars and after afternoon tea we drove back to Pernel's arriving about 5.30pm.

A great day was had by all.

RB.

Party: Peggy Gulliver, Bobby Couchman, Phillip and Sharon Mardon, Marion Nicholson, Marj Musson, Maree Blackburn, Murray Aitken, Graham Ede, Alasdair Shaw, Scott Thompson and Rodger Burn

#2022	Ocean Beach Working Bee	Sun. 13 January 2008
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Last year while inspecting the predator-proof fence which runs across the Cape Kidnappers Peninsula, some of us offered to help control the maritime pines growing in the dunes behind Ocean Beach. Subsequently DoC workers dealt with the large ones and HTC were asked to mop up. The day was fine and the numbers good so we were able to arrange a well armed but rather ragged emu parade. Surprisingly there were not many seedlings and most of the action was removing lower branches which had been missed by the chainsaw brigade. There were other weeds too, notably blackberry, a few grey willows and some pampas grass, but it was pleasing to see sand coprosmas, pingao and even a katipo spider. Apparently there are lots of skinks too - a survey is to be done soon. The dunes are host to many rabbits and there were lots of other prints too.

We were able to take a leisurely smoko, before spending another hour to finish a full sweep. Inevitably there will have been a few small seedlings missed but it should be easy to deal with them when they are a little larger.

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It may seem that we put in a lot of effort for a relatively small number of pines, but the job did need to be done, and done well. Often in conservation work the battle is against overwhelming odds, as with contorta, but making a pre-emptive strike is obviously preferable.

We lunched back at the truck, before taking the waters of Ocean Beach. Most of the party were then driven up to a headland to inspect the area being prepared for the transfer of petrel chicks, and the calling in of adults.

Thanks to Tamsin Ward-Smith who hosted us and to David Blake for driving.

ML

Party: Bobbie Couchman, Joan Ruffell, Graeme Hare, Judy McBride, Glenda and Peter Hooper/Berry, John Berry, Stuart and Lynne Foggin, Jenny Lean, David and Anne Blake, Brent Hickey, Dave Barnard (visitor), Andy and Tina Fowler/ Godbert, Isabella and Derry Godbert, Robyn Heath, Murray Tonks, Sue Taylor, Mike Lusk, and later, Shirley Bathgate and Ros Lusk

#2023	Wakarara Social Weekend	Sat / Sun 19 - 20 January 2008
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Earlier in 2007 the Social Committee decided that rather than having the traditional Christmas function (at the typically difficult time for all of our members just prior to Christmas) we instead opted start the New Year off with a social weekend of fun and tramping using Camp Wakarara as a base. Seventeen people took part, with some joining part way through Saturday afternoon.

Saturday saw us briefly depositing gear at the Camp facility and then heading up the road to Gold Creek Spur. There the group dividing into 2, with the fast members aiming to go to Gold Creek Hut and potentially down the stream to the river. The rest of the party enjoyed a leisurely walk up the spur to the high point, enjoying the wonderful bush and glimpses of the farmland beyond. After a lunch stop at the top, the 2nd group retraced their steps, with the 1st group carrying on to Gold Creek Hut.

After leaving the bush and while coming down onto the farm land, Shirley unfortunately had a tumble and damaged her shoulder. This left Shirley in considerable pain and unable to manage walking the remaining distance to the truck. By this stage the party had regrouped, and with moving the truck across paddocks closer to where Shirley was, together with turning a truck mattress and blankets into a makeshift stretcher, she was transferred into the truck.

On return to the Camp, assistance was sought with resulted in 2 ambulances and 1 fire engine being dispatched by emergency services! Shirley's injuries later transpired to be a dislocated shoulder.

Later that evening a social barbecue and torch light trip around the swamp track was enjoyed.

Sunday's plan involved a trip to Sunrise Hut, where we met up with Andy Fowler and Tina Godbert who were on the final leg of a trip in the Ruahines.

This was an enjoyable weekend and a very social start to the New Year, albeit marred by Shirley's unfortunate accident. My thanks to the driver, to all of the party for their assistance and care for Shirley (especially Glenda who went back to Hastings with Shirley on Saturday), and to the Social Committee for arranging the weekend.

LB

Party: Anne and David Blake, Glenda Hooper, Raewyn Ricketts, Bobby Couchman, Randall Goldfinch, Shirley Bathgate, Joan Ruffle, Dave Mulinder, Maureen Broad, Marion Nicholson, Lynette Blackburn, Mike and Ros Lusk, Robyn Madden, Alan Pederson, Christine Snook

#2024

Happy Daze Hut – Waitangi Day

Wed. 6 February 2008

At 7.30am we set off down the main South highway turning off Snee Rd into Paget's Rd to park beside the Makaretu Bridge. After a cuppa we began a very pleasant 2 hour walk up the Makaretu to where the river branches. The track to Happy Daze Hut rises up the left bank turning back to run parallel to the river through a nice little bushy area, with a good variety of native vegetation, including some sizeable rimu.

Happy Daze, now owned by DOC, is nestled in a grassy clearing which would make a good camping spot. After lunching outside, we took a short track down to the river to return the same route. Between us we saw two trout, a waterfall, wood pigeons, whiteheads, a tomtit and Mike ministered first aid to a dragonfly. It was too cool to take a dip in the good swimming spots, maybe next time! Thanks to the drivers and to all for your good company.
J R.

Party: Susan Lopdell, Rodger Burn, Robyn Madden, Penny Isherwood, Marion Nicholson, Judy McBride, Alasdair Shaw, Ros and Mike Lusk, Maureen Broad, Marj Mussen, Joan Ruffell

#2025

Matauria Ridge / Donald River

Sun. 10 February 2008

Eleven left from Pettigrew-Green Arena on a bleak day for Makahu Saddle carpark. On went the raincoats as we left the truck but soon were removed. Seven headed off along the Matauria Ridge in a cool but light spitty rain (leaving 4 doing the truck thing). Once in the pines we all found the going pleasant. Lots of the usual toadstools were found under the pines.

It seemed a long while before reaching David's Matauria Ridge camp, a site for the Kaweka Challenge checkpoint. It's a long way to go either way for water. I headed off down to the Donald River before the others, to mark the track for the Kaweka Challenge the following weekend. How the competitors manage to run down the steep loose surface in places beats me.

Once at the river it was straight into chest high water that bodies soon adapted to. In another spot further down the river we found ourselves in the same position, wet. Later it became very pleasant along the river, once the bleaky sun came out.

Our second lunch spot was had near the river junction to Lotkow Rd end. Did I say up the hill? Yes, well we came down steeply so I guess to get back up it had to be the same. Up and up and the further we got up the hotter it got. Marion did a great job of keeping us all together on this upward journey. Once we rounded the corner to the Lawrence junction we knew we were almost there, or so we thought, but there was still a little more up to the road end. Thanks Geoff & Pam for having the billy boiling for hot drinks and biscuits. We arrived back at Pettigrew-Green Arena at 7.00pm
CS

Party: Graeme Hare, Marion Nicholson, Christine Snook, David Blake, Sue Taylor, Janet Titchener, Scott Campbell plus truck crew Geoff Clibborn & grandson Ethan Johns, Pam Turner & grandson Korbin Eggers

#2026

Esk River

Wed. 20 February 2008

We were a bit depleted for numbers this week with 6 of our gang out of town and one crook. However we were on our way from Pernel's at 8.30am arriving at the end of the Ellis Wallace Road at about 9.45am.

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The weather was great and whilst the river was low the banks were quite soggy showing evidence of heavy rain recently. After about 3km downstream Geoff doubled back to bring the truck around to the bridge. At 1.00pm, after a casual stroll down river, we joined him there, under a willow tree for a lengthy lunch stop.

The blackberry crop was disappointing but Joan managed, with perseverance, to pick a fair amount. On the way home we stopped to have a look at the Esk River Motor Park.

Another most enjoyable day and thanks to Geoff driving.

RB

Party: Bobby Couchman, Joan Ruffell, Evelyn Clibborn, Geoff Clibborn, Bob Carter, Rodger Burn

#2027	Waikoau Gorge	Sun. 9 March 2008
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On 9 March our group of 6 left Pernel's for the Waikoau River. We drove up to Boundary Stream and turned left at Bellbird Bush onto the Landcorp farm. After parking woolsheds we started tramping down the true right to the stream, following a farm track. Unfortunately we dropped down to the river too soon and crossed to the other side in search of the track in the bush. We should have stayed on the right until we saw the large limestone cliffs. Eventually we found the track, and from there we made our way down the river, negotiating cliffs, boulders and bush. It was a very pretty area, with unusual limestone formations, and a great area for exploring.

After lunch we came to a large waterfall (dropping into the river from the true left) this marked the beginning of the lower gorge, which we had to pack float. Sue was well prepared and had brought a wetsuit to keep warm. The start of the gorge looked a lot more difficult than we had expected, with a deep rapid we had to clamber around and swim down. However, we all managed it and several more like it, and enjoyed floating down some long deep pools. The water was quite cold, but the pack-floating technique worked well, and kept us all buoyant. After about an hour we came to the end of the gorge and clambered out to a bridge across the river.

We walked over to Blue Lake for a look, then back up the hill to the truck (which Geoff had kindly moved). We had time for a look around Lake Opouahi with its new predator proof fence and a cuppa before heading home. The trip down the gorge took about 6 hours, and was a fun, challenging and different trip. Thanks to everyone who went for their great company.

AB

Party: Anne and David Blake, Ali Kitchener, Sue Taylor, Joan Ruffell, and David Cormack plus our driver Geoff Clibborn and grandson Ethan Johns

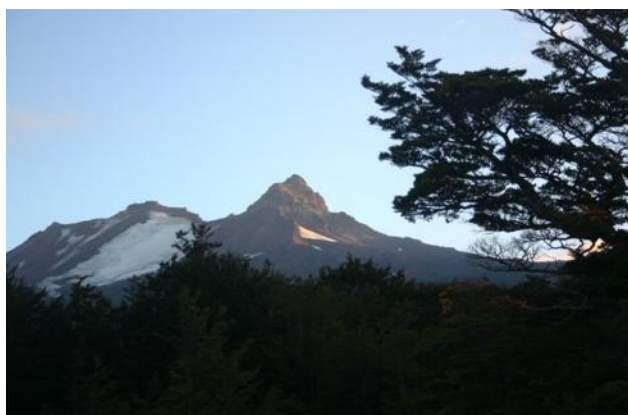
#2028	Mangone Stream	Wed. 19 March 2008
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Four of us left Hastings drove to Rissington and left the car at the Girl Guide camp. We all thought that, with all the dry weather, the stream would have been very low. But we found it was a good deal higher than we wanted and was quite swift too, so the cattle tracks on the river banks came in very handy. We wandered down for quite a long way and at about 12 o'clock we stopped and had lunch. Returning we climbed up to a fence by the farmland and by 3 o'clock were back at the cars.

JM

Party: Rodger Burn, Marion Nicholson, Graham Eade, Judy McBride

The small group which left Pernel Orchard on Thursday evening were destined to enjoy a weekend of superb weather and a great tramping experience. Geoff, who did most of the driving, and Pam both had young grandsons with them and they too had a wonderful trip.



After a long drive we settled to sleep in the truck at a DOC campsite close to the Whakapapa Rd, waking to breakfast in the company of vocal and inquisitive fernbirds. We were ready to walk from the Chateau at a comfortable hour, aiming to do the 'Round the Mountain Track' in a clockwise direction. Most of this part of the walk is in sub alpine vegetation, with small patches of Mountain Beech/Toatoa forest, and over a gently undulating surface. The first hut, Waihohonu,

is relatively new and is also the first hut on the 'Northern Circuit', the second part of which is the Tongaririo Crossing. So it was pretty full when we arrived and rapidly overflowed. Those few of us who had tents spread ourselves on the expansive campsite below the hut while the hut dwellers squeezed themselves ever tighter. The final count was about 70 people on site of whom about 60 were crammed into a 30 bunk hut. The adjacent toilet became ever stinkier.

We had, by this time, decided to modify the trip and exit at the Ohakune Road, thereby avoiding the one long day necessary to complete the full circuit. So we were able to make a very relaxed progress across the magnificent Rangipo Desert to the smart Rangipo Hut perched on the very arid slopes. Before we got there we passed through the Whangaehu Gorge, with its warnings of potential lahars and advice not to linger. Remnant debris from the most recent lahar was plain to see on the valley floor and the river water was opaque with sediment. At Rangipo Hut we watched the full moon of Easter rise over the Kaimanawas, and some of us were lucky enough to see its spectacular setting behind the crags close to the hut in the early morning.

Highlight of day 3 was the deep Waihianoa Gorge. The descent is sharp, but after crossing the wide riverbed the exit is an easy long diagonal. Soon after we began to leave the rain-shadow of the mountain, and the desert was behind us. Mangaehuehu hut is set in a large damp tussock/herbfield with expansive views across Waiouru and the ranges beyond.

The last day was a gentle wander in more clear weather and beautiful terrain to meet the truck. Several species of native conifers, including large kaikawaka, featured. Geoff, Pam, Ethan and Korbin had been busy while we walked, visiting interesting places like the Army Museum, and hunting for the hidden treasures to be found using the Geocaching system. So there was a crescendo of reporting until we all relaxed a bit and were able to listen only a little impatiently to each other.



It would be hard to imagine a more enjoyable long weekend thanks to the weather, the beautiful scenery and a happy helpful bunch of people.

ML

Party: Geoff Clibborn (driver and grandfather of Ethan Johns), Dave Blake (co-Driver), Pam Turner (Grandmother of Korbin Eggers), Maureen Broad, Marion Nicholson, Ros and Mike Lusk

#2030

Bell Rock & Tuamanako Track

Wed. 2 April 2008

On a cool misty April morning we drove inland from Lake Tutira and walked through bush up to Bell Rock. The highlight was time spent watching and listening to the plentiful birdlife, though the kokako proved elusive!

After lunching at "The Rock" we retraced our steps and headed to Boundary Stream carpark. The DOC notice board informed us that they had had a successful breeding season with the kokako, but that two kiwi chicks had been predated by stoats. We were not surprised by this as saw two stoats in our short time there. After a walk around the Tuamanako Track, we returned to town.

JR

Party: Marion Nicholson, Judy McBride, Joan Ruffell.

#2031

Sparrowhawk Bivvy

Sun 6 April 2008

A Party

As Graeme had conveniently arranged to park on the Hall's farm instead of at the river, we were able to set off up Sparrowhawk Spur at 8.30am with dry feet. The morning was perfect autumn tramping weather and we made steady progress up the 900m climb to Sparrowhawk Bivvy, arriving 3 hours later for our 'first' lunch. Highlight of the morning was spying a rifleman flitting around in the beech trees.

On cresting the brow of the hill after lunch we could see, to the south, a build-up of black clouds heading our way. Fortunately we were bearing north along the range so were more or less able to keep abreast of the bad weather. The views north were spectacular with waves of tussock covered tops heading off into the distance. The only sore point of the 3km meander along the tops was when one of the party got too close to a Spaniard! After about an hour we reached the top of Colenso Spur and proceeded to head down for our 'second' lunch below the tree line and out of the wind which was now in evidence.

During the day we had been hearing the roar of a stag in the distance – the sound was now much closer – three young hunters below us were attempting to call a stag from along the tops! These young men were not at all pleased to have seven trampers eating their lunch and generally chattering away between them and their intended target – and politely asked us to keep the noise down! After unsuccessfully trying to eat crackers without making any noise we tip-toed down, feeling quite vulnerable, past the hunters and on our way. I suspect they were pleased to see the back of us! Further along we came upon their fly-camp – not a very weather proof set-up.

A few spits of rain at 3.00 o'clock was our total rain for the day. – much better than the forecast. The steep lower end of Colenso Spur proved to be fairly easy apart from the final scramble into the river bed and an hour of easy walking down the river saw us back at the base of Sparrowhawk Spur. A final bash through the scrub and we were back on the farmland, arriving at the truck at 5.45pm - just before dark. A good 9 ¼ hour tramp. I don't think we put our first-timer Jenny off - she bounded up the track to the truck as if she had been out for an afternoon stroll.

ST

A Party: Jenny Banks, Dave Cormack, Tina Godbert, Andy Fowler, Ali Kitchener, Sue Taylor, Anne Cantrick

Pohokura

B Party

A trip to Sparrowhawk Biv and back. None of the B party had been there before. It should be a good day tramp. It was too. A very clear and well defined ridge track that steadily climbed to the top of the range.

Our group of nine trampers when asked for their highlight comment had this to say:

“The variety of the bush which was continually changing as the altitude changed”

“The vivid blue berries of the Dianella Nigra” on slender stalks late summer and autumn often on the edges of tracks.

“Seeing the orange roof of Sparrowhawk Bivvy” A very tidy hut with a cooking, storage, stand up area, added on to the front of the original dog box which became a dedicated sleeping area. “Pleased to make the hut”

“A good feeling to reach the top as it had big views and the great weather”

When you are on the top of the range and it has been a grunt to get there it is still a grunt to get down again. Some of our team acknowledged this.

“Getting home in one piece. My muscles are knackered!”

“Getting back to the truck”

“Everything! The Company! The Day! The Bush!”

On our trip to Sparrowhawk Bivvy, we left at 8.00am in brilliant sunshine and returned very satisfied with our trip at 5.00pm, when the sky was cloudy and dull. It was a full day’s walk. Well that’s what I thought on reflection when we returned to the truck.

GRH



B Party: Marion Nicholson, Rodger Burn, Judy McBride, Bobby Couchman, Maureen Broad, Peter Stedman, Ray Manning, David Blake, Graeme Hare

Other Activities:

Kuripapango Camping Area Opening

16 December 2007

About 25 members of the Heretaunga Tramping Club attended the opening of the new Kuripapango campsite by the Minister of Conservation and a number of Maori elders.

The campsite is west of the Cameron carpark on a section of the Ngaruroro River’s Oxbow on grassland, amongst kanuka and manuka. The river is impressive.

It commenced with a hui with DOC members Eddie Te Kahika and Pat Sheridan representing Hawke’s Bay. Steve Chadwick, Minister of Conservation, who came from Hastings originally, felt so relaxed, she spoke without using her notes. A very sincere and dedicated woman who is a fluent speaker of Maori. She will be an excellent Environmental Minister and we all enjoyed her company.

Following the opening there was a splendid morning tea consisting of smoked trout, smoked eel, venison and Maori bread. Some of us wished we had not taken lunch.

This area will be used by trampers, hunters, fishermen, scouts, guides, passing tourists and campervans. There are numerous campsites and scattered toilets. The campsites are away from the road and will not be affected by road dust.

SB

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Our members came by truck and car and all enjoyed the experience.

Lynette and Gerald Blackburn and family, Geoff Clibborn and two grandchildren, Bobby Couchman, Helen and Graeme Hare, Shirl Bathgate, Mike and Ros Lusk, Pam Turner and three grandchildren, Susan Lopdell, Glenda Hooper, Christine Snook, Dave Heaps and son, Deborah Turner, Mary and Don Gray.

Kaweka Challenge

Sat / Sun 23 – 24 February 2008

Thanks to another year's hard work by the Committee and the involvement of many members of the Amateur Radio Club, Orienteering Club and HTC another successful Kaweka Challenge is passed. All the usual anxieties were there and many problems needed solving, but I feel sure that from the competitors' point of view at least it all ticked over as smoothly as ever. Indeed many have commented positively and the Challenge is obviously firmly on their calendars.

The major innovation this year was an electronic timing system introduced by the Orienteers and this proved to be a great success. The burden of timing and recording, sometimes in wet windy conditions, won't be missed and the bottlenecks which sometimes occur at checkpoints will be much easier managed.

The other major difference was the loss of the great old pine tree at the Kuripapango camping ground. It looked most forlorn lying where it had recently fallen, and those in the truck missed its shade.

The event is supported by many generous sponsors to whom we are most grateful, as we are for major contributions of DOC and Panpac.

ML

Pinus Contorta Working Bee

13 March 2008

Twelve HTC members and 2 others woke on Thursday morning hoping that the planned helicopter lift to the top of Kuripapango Hill was not going to be foiled by the weather. But it soon became obvious that it was-when we met the DOC team at the Field Base visibility was very limited and it was raining steadily. Paddy Willens had an alternative so we drove a fair way down Kometi Rd and were soon in a ragged emu parade searching the long red tussock for the advance parties of the invaders. Gradually as we moved toward Comet Hut the infestation became denser and we more active, while the rain continued. The system worked pretty well with the amateurs pulling, lopping and using handsaws while the pros used chainsaws. We were close enough to the hut to lunch there in relative comfort before venturing out again to rejoin the battle. Back at base we changed, had a brew and were back in town in the late afternoon.

I hope we can get up onto Kuripapango Hill sometime soon as there is a steady advance of trees down the Water gauge Track while at the top large areas of sub alpine vegetation have already been lost. Randall had been up there earlier to clear the bases of some of the larger trees, another reason to get up there soon.

ML



Team: Lynne and Stuart Foggin, Liz Pindar, Bobby Couchman, Mary Gray, Joan Ruffell, Glenda Hooper, Marion Nicholson, Gerry Eyles, Ros and Mike Lusk. Dave Barnard and Colin Tibbenham were welcome visitors.

HTC BIKE TRIPS



Maraetotora Road Bike Ride

12 December 2007

This was our final outing for the year and attracted a good number who met at Lake Lopez by the Trading Post.

Another fine day and just after 8.45am we were off down the Maraetotora Road enjoying the benefits of very little road traffic, some excellent scenery and interesting limestone rock formations which compensated for the fact that we were cycling mainly slightly uphill.

Because the team had made such good progress (the girls are setting quite a pace these days) we carried on to Mohi Bush for a picnic lunch but the BBQ area was covered in sheep's poo which we deftly avoided. On the return leg we stopped to watch a shepherd mustering with his team of dogs and did some minor running repairs to Peggy's bike.

The last lap was quite cruisy, we stopped at the scenic reserve and the Maraetotora falls for a look-see before arriving back at the Trading Post for a cuppa and some snacks at about 1.30pm before taking off for home.

RB.

Cyclists: Peggy Gulliver, Joan Ruffell, Judy McBride, Bobby Couchman, Maree Blackburn, Marion Nicholson, Alasdair Shaw, Bob Carter, Jim Hewes and Rodger Burn.

Crownthorpe / Ohiti Road

30 January 2008

Wednesday 30th January was a lovely sunny, windless day, just perfect for 11 cyclists to bike the Crownthorpe / Ohiti Road circuit. This is a reasonably challenging ride, especially the Crownthorpe / Settlement Road section, which is quite undulating. We had 3 new cyclists, but everyone coped really well and arrived at Crownthorpe School for morning tea in high spirits, knowing that the hardest part of the trip was over. Nobody missed the turn-off to Crownthorpe this year, unlike last year's trip.

After 30 minutes rest we headed off down Matapiro Road, past the gorgeous Matapiro Homestead, and along Ohiti Road, arriving back at our cars before lunch. 52 kilometres completed at a very good speed. An excellent ride, especially because our return coincided with the arrival of the wind.

PG

Cyclists: Rodger Burn, Bobby Couchman, Alasdair Shaw, Tony Wall, Bob and Heather Carter, Richard and Heather Morrish, Bev Dowdall, Peggy and Robyn Gulliver.

Sacred Hill Area

13 February 2008

With our cars safely left at Per Hills house at Fernhill 6 of us took off to Dartmoor Road via Swamp Road enjoying great weather and minimal traffic to the picnic area just before the hill to Sacred Hill winery. Along the way we were overtaken by a mini bus from the Hutt Valley Tramping club who gave us a cheerful toot as they headed towards the Kaweka's.

April 2008

Pohokura

After a "lunchette" we rode back and nearing the Apley Road turnoff the keen eyes of two of our ladies spotted a puppy on the stop-bank.

Further investigation by our team found a mother and three puppies (about 4 months old) that had been dumped and were very hungry. Without hesitation our Samaritans divested the rest of our lunch to the needy who no doubt appreciated the varied diet of Beef and Horseradish sandwiches, Muffins, Muesli Bars etc. A call to the SPCA resulted in them being collected to await re-housing.

Having felt quite pleased with ourselves we returned to Fernhill for a cup of tea (minus lunch) in the shade of some large trees.

RB.

Cyclists: Marion Nicholson, Judy McBride, Bobby Couchman, Alasdair Shaw, Bob Carter, Rodger Burn.

Awatoto / Bayview

27 February 2008

We started from the Awatoto end of the Walkway/Cycle path in perfect conditions and rode through to Napier with only a few passengers from a cruise ship and the occasional cyclist along the pathway.

Rounding the Iron Pot and Westshore and we soon reached the Bayview end where we stopped for a snack. The morning was remarkable in that there was hardly any wind and the sea was so calm. The return journey was equally pleasant and we stopped along the Esplanade for an ice-cream, which is becoming a bit of a feature on our rides. All too soon we were back at the car park after a very pleasant and relaxing morning.

RB.

Cyclists: Judy McBride, Marion Nicholson, Bobby Couchman, Joan Ruffell, Raewyn Ricketts, Peggy Gulliver, Bob and Heather Carter, Rodger Burn.

Camp David, Patangata, Waipawa Cycle Trip

9 April 2008

We set off from Camp David to Patangata, pushing our way into a southerly and a light shower of rain. As the wind dropped a little and our speed picked up we enjoyed the wonderful early autumn scenery, the river below, farmland of rolling hills. We stopped to view the historic grave of Charles Louis DePelichet Surveyor who died in 1855 and was father of the co founder of DePelichet and McLeod. The rustle and smell of poplar leaves, black crickets on lichen road, grey herons, kingfisher, a large flock of crows, numerous paradise ducks, just great! Gracing the steps and footpath of the "Tucker-box" in Waipawa we sampled delicious locally made pies then set off at pace along Racecourse Rd and Te Kura Rd with a tail wind and the sun shining. After a very welcome cup of tea back at Camp David at 1.30, we drove home happily after a perfect mid-week tonic!

JR

Cyclists: Jim Hewes, Alisdair Shaw, Rodger Burn, Judy McBride, Marion Nicholson, Bobbie Couchman, Peggy Gulliver, Joan Ruffell.

From the Poetry Night.....

KAWEKA CAIRN MEMORIAL TRIP 2001

*(Solo climb and overnigher on the open tops, to coincide
with HTC Service on the Sunday, at the Cairn.)*

The Western Hills were calling as I trudged along the track ;
I'd gathered mug and billy - for my house upon my back.
At first it was quite easy, through bush down to the river,
It was going up and over Rock that my knees began to quiver.

Mountain buttercups were out in bloom,
Smiling faces toward the sun;
As my boots bit onto scree and rock
With the Mountain, I felt as one.

But soon the fog came swirling down ----
And everything was white.
Alone out on the open tops
I was a sorry sight.

The rain smashed down in torrents -
Gales sliced my tent in four,
Huddled in a bivvy bag -
I scarce could take much more.

The dawning brought some small relief
The mists rolled off the tops,
Rolled down into the valleys
And revealed those hideous drops.

BUT HEY, WHAT IS THIS?

Strong legs striding through the tussock
THAT grin within THAT beard,
PETER the BERRY to the rescue came,
NOW my descent need not be feared.

With his hug of recognition
A deep calm came over me,
With Pete's broad shoulder now for support ----
I'D conquer any scree --

But alas, it happened, over lunch,
Peter cast his wondrous spell -----
HE left with a gaggle of giggling girls
And I COULD GO TO HELL!

Pam Turner.

More From the Poetry Night.....

FIRE

The Tussock bush so carefully chosen
Leaves and grasses neatly woven,
Hidden safely in soft down
Pipits eggs, small, speckled brown.
High above the Pipit trills
Searching, searching across the hills
Where to now? No food, no rest, -----
On tired wings, beyond the ranges crest.

Charred eggs crumbled, ashes scattered
Desolate land, blackened, battered
Nothing there when we come again
Just memories, silence and the pain.

Pam Turner.

Letter from Shirley Bathgate

*Moehau
29 Campbell Street
Havelock North
17-02-08*

My gratitude and many thanks go to so many members of H.T.C. for the care and kindness shown after my accident whilst descending from our walk.

The mattress to carry me in was a great idea and thanks to those who carried me to the truck - not an easy walk.

Also the speed with which my accident was reported fire brigade and two ambulances waiting for me. To Glenda who came with me to the hospital, waited and took me to her place for the night. These kind actions I will never forget.

What a great club to belong to.

Shirley Bathgate

CLUB NEWS:

NEW MEMBERS:

The Club welcomes Graham Ede and Sheryl Bayliss.

GET WELL SOON:

Geoff Clibborn, Deborah Turner and Kathy Eggers are all suffering from health concerns – our thoughts are with them and their families – we wish them speedy recoveries.

90TH BIRTHDAY

Birthday wishes to Nancy Tanner on her 90th Birthday which was celebrated at Blowhard Bush in March.

BEREAVEMENTS:

Hebe Fowler

Dear Hebe came into our lives, with her brother Robert, on 21 August 2005. Sadly Robert did not survive but Hebe battled on to become a real joy to Tina, Andy and all who surrounded her. She was extremely brave and seemed to just get over one hurdle when another would present itself. Somehow the three of them made it over every hurdle and had a lot of fun together in between. Hebe went on holidays, visited the beach and the bush, went sailing and visited the dolphins. She was developing all the time, thanks to the wonderful attention and love she received from her parents, grandparents and friends. And then, whammo.. she had one last hurdle.. cancer.. she passed away peacefully, in her mothers arms on 3 January 2008. The celebration of her life was held on 6 January and it was a fine way to say goodbye to a much loved little girl.

Our condolence and best wishes go to Tina and Andy.

Here is a poem written by Chris Waldron:

I LOVED YOUR HAIR, LIKE THE PUREST SILK
I LOVED YOUR SEA BLUE EYES
I LOVED YOUR LITTLE FINGERS AND TOES
YOUR TINY EARS, YOUR LIPS AND NOSE.

I LOVED YOUR VELVET SKIN
AND THE LITTLE NOISES YOU MADE
I LOVED YOU, SO SOFT AND CLEAN
I KNEW THE PERSON YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN.

IF LOVE COULD HAVE KEPT YOU HERE
YOU'D HAVE LIVED A VERY LONG LIFE
BUT YOU, AND WE, HAVE BEEN DENIED
OUR WORLD STOOD STILL THE DAY YOU DIED.

Jan Storey (nee Berry)

Our sympathies go out to Alan and Ross Berry and their families on the recent death of Jan, Alan's daughter, Ross's sister, after a long illness.

Coming Meetings:

DATE	TOPIC/ SPEAKER	COMMENTS	Hosts	Supper Help
30 April	Pam Turner Stewart Island	CD on Stewart Island with Pam's commentary	Anne Cantrick, Shirley Bathgate	Brent Hickey, Glenda Hooper
14 May	Possibly a speaker from Deerstalkers		Lynette Blackburn, Anne Blake	David Blake, Maureen Broad
	Sue Lopdell and Glenda Hooper	Pack a pack night. Learn how to pack for day and weekend trips.	Peter Brown, Rodger Burn	Randall Goldfinch, Mary Gray
11 June	My funniest tramping experience	In a few words tell us about your funniest tramping experience	Helen Hare, Jenny Lean	Jim Hewes, Peggy Gulliver
25 June	Graham Newdick, Yeoman's Mill	He has a lot of photos and history on Yeoman's Mill	Susan Lopdell, Ros Lusk	Mike Lusk, Robyn Madden
9 July	Alan & Christine, Arthur's Pass	A talk on 2 trips in Arthur's Pass area last Xmas	Judy McBride, John Montgomerie	Marion Nicholson, Ken Nugent
23 July	Mike Lusk. Guess the tree night	Test your tree recognition skills	Raewyn Ricketts, Jeff Robertson	Christine Snook, Joan Ruffell
6 August	Lex Smith South Island Trip and FMC	Hear about the extended South Island trip.	Anne Smith, Graham Thorp	Jim Glass, Liz Pindar
20 August	Photo Competition	Get your best tramping photos organised and enter the competition	Pam Turner, Peter Berry	Shirley Bathgate, Anne Cantrick

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 Bobby.

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

DAY TRIPS

WEEKEND TRIPS

Wear/Carry

Pack & pack liner
Boots & gaiters
Socks
Parka & over trousers
Fast drying shorts
Fleece or wool Jumper
Longjohns & singlet
Sunhat & warm hat
Gloves/mittens & overmitts
Whistle

Carry

Map & Compass
High energy snacks
At least 1 litre water
Lunch
First aid kit
Torch, spare batteries & bulb
Sunscreen
Emergency food
Survival kit (whistle, cord, matches etc, pencil, paper)
Complete set of spare warm clothing

All items listed for day trip plus

Sleeping bag
Sleeping mat
Food for 3 additional meals
Cooker & Billy & matches
Extra snacks
Toilet gear, small towel & toilet paper
Additional warm clothes
Plate, mug, knife, fork, spoons etc
Tent/Fly if required

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

OVERDUE TRAMPERS

Although returning parties plan to be out of the bush before dark, safety considerations must come first. This may mean that parties are late returning to transport. Even after arriving back at the transport, it may take 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 10.00 pm. All newcomers should ensure that their own emergency number is noted in the party list that the leader leaves in town. For all inquiries about overdue trampers please ring one of the following:

David Blake 835 3284

Graeme Hare 844 8656

Glenda Hooper 877 4183

Club Cellphones: (in the truck)

027 438 6474

027 438 6475

(You might like to put these numbers into your phone)

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.

Club Meetings: These are held every second Wednesday (the one before a tramp) at the Hastings Harrier Clubrooms in Sylvan Road, Hastings. Doors open 7.25pm, visitors are welcome.

TRIP LIST APRIL 2008

Although the area for the trip is generally adhered to the suggested objectives may change for a number of reasons. For pre trip inquiries contact the organiser or David Blake 8353284

Please sent request trips to dblake@vodafone.net.nz



19&20 Apr Dannevirke Back Country \$15 Maps U23 & U22

Leave from Ngamoko Road end and walk into Leon Kinvig Hut via the Apiti Track.

Return route via Birch Whare.

Organiser:

Driver:

Local Day Tramp: Walk the Apiti Track to Birch Whare and return (maybe) with the weekend party.

25-27 Apr (ANZAC) Eastern Tararua Range & Wairarapa \$30 Map S26
 A: A three day tramp from Holdsworth to Kaitoke (or vice versa) over-nighting at Totara Flats Hut and Tutuwai Hut or Cone Hut. This 36 km tramp follows the Waiohine and Tauherenikau Rivers for 36 km reaching a maximum altitude of 740 m on the Gentle Annie Track above Holdsworth - Tramp times for each day will be (approx) 4 to 5½ hours.
 B: Three day trips: On the 26 April drive to the coast SE of Masterton and walk the Honey Comb Rock Walkway (5-6 hours) On the other 2 days: walk the Gentle Annie track from Mt Holdsworth to the Mountain House shelter and return via the Donnelly Flats track (4 hours) one day and a return tramp from Kaitoke over the Puffer Saddle and down Smith Creek to its confluence with the Tauherenikau River on the other (4 hours).
 Organiser: A B: Glenda Hooper 8774183
 Driver:
 More Info: *Follow the links from www.doc.govt.nz*
[Parks & recreation](#) > [Tracks & walks](#) > [Wellington](#) > [Wairarapa](#)

30 Apr (Wed)
 Tramp Mackintosh Hut to Kuripapango circuit.
 Organiser Marion Nicholson 8735935

7 May (Wed)
 Tramp from Clive Embankment along river to Waimarama road and then climb up Te Mata Peak.
 Organiser Judy McBride 8769756.

4 May (Sun) Ruahine Crossing \$25 Maps
T23 & U23
 Drive along the Pohangina Valley to the start of the Opawe Track, ascend onto the main range and exit via Kumeti Hut
 Organiser:
 Driver?

7 May (Wed)
 Tramp from Clive along embankment to Waimarama Road.
 Organiser: Judy McBride Tel 8769756

14 May (Wed)
 Cycle from Glenda's to Camp David and return the same way.
 Organiser: Jim Hewes Tel 8776784

18 May (Sun) Tahuhunui Range \$15 Maps U20
 From the Napier-Taihape Road, up the track onto Tahuhunui range towards the Hogget. Down creek (by "R"ange on the map) to Boyd homestead – Timahunga station (Jack Roberts).
 Organiser: John Montgomerie 877 7358
 Driver:

21st May (Wed)
 Tramp Blowhard Bush area and see recent developments and maybe an extra walk in the area.
 Organiser: Joan Ruffell Tel 8760531

28th May. (Wed)
 Cycle to Kahuranaki Station from Waimarama bridge and return.
 Organiser: Rodger Burn Tel 8776322

Pohokura

30th May -2nd June. Queens Birthday - Karioi & Mt. Pironga \$ Map

Depart 7.00pm to Raglan motor camp Friday night.

Saturday: explore and /or climb Mt Karioi. Another night at Raglan motor camp.

Sunday: Climb Pirongia mountain via several options, and spend the night at Pahautea Hut, on top.

Monday: Decend to the truck and return to Hawke's Bay.

Organiser: Alan Petersen 027 576 5058 / 021 176 5058

Driver: Alan and ?

4th June (Wed)

Tramp Lawrence Hut - Lotkow Hut area.

Organiser: Bobby Couchman Tel 8778557

11th June (Wed)

Cycle Tuki Tuki circuit to Clifton.

Organiser: Raewyn Ricketts Tel 8779377

15th June (Sun)

Kaweka

\$15

Map U20

Makahu Saddle, Kaweka J, Back Ridge circuit.

Organiser:

Driver:

18th June (Wed)

Tramp Ocean Beach Area from Haupouri Station.

Organiser: Peggy Gulliver Tel 8797763

25th June (Wed)

Cycle the Pukehamoanoa School - Crownthorpe-Matapiro Road circuit.

Organiser: Peggy Gulliver Tel 8797763

28th-29th June (Sat/Sun) Ballard Hut / Te Puia – Hot Springs. \$15 Map U20

A Party: Pinks to Middle Hill Hut, to Ballards for night. Return via Makino Hut and biv to road.

B Party The Gums carpark to Te Puia Lodge, then go for a play at the hot spring. Sunday return on the Mohaka river track or climb to pt996 and out via Makino Biv to road.

Organiser: A Party: Peter Brown. 877 2907

B Party: Christine Snook 021 176 5058/ 027 576 5058

Driver:?

2nd July (Wed)

Tramp to Gold Creek Hut in the Ruahines. Map U22.

Organiser: Jim Hewes Tel 8776784

9th July (Wed)

Cycle Pakowhai Park-Clive stopbanks- Clifton area

Organiser: Judy McBride Tel 8769756

13th July (Sun)

Stoney Creek

\$15

Map V19

Tramp and explore this area (with a hot spring) near Tarawera on the Napier-Taupo Road.

Organiser: Alan Petersen. 021 176 5058 / 027 576 5058

Driver: Alan Petersen

16th July (Wed)

Tramp on Beach Waipatiki area.

Organiser: Joan Ruffell Tel 8760531

Pohokura

23rd July (Wed)

Cycle Fernhill - Twyford - Te Aute Road circuit.
Organiser: Peggy Gulliver Tel 8797763

27th July (Sun)

Ruahine Range

\$ 15

Map U21

Mangleton Rd, up via Sentry Box onto ridge, head north, then down Golden Crown Ridge.
Organiser: Anne Blake 835 3284
Driver: David Blake

30th-31st July (Wed/Thurs) Birthday Boys

One or two nights at Robson Lodge - your choice.
Tramp, fish, cycle or just relax. \$10 per night (in advance).
Organiser: Rodger Burn Tel 8776322

6th August (Wed)

Cycle ride "Tour of the Bays" circuit.
Organiser: Rodger Burn Tel 8776322

9th -10th August (Sat/Sun) Howlett's Hut

\$15

Map U22

Via Long View Hut to Howlett's along tops (weather dependent)
Sunday options: Sawtooth- Black Ridge- Tarn Biv – Daphne Hut etc... Or Daphne spur- Daphne Hut-up and over to Kashmir Rd, (or down river).
Organiser: Andy Fowler 835 0064
Driver:?

13th August (Wed)

Tramp from Cameron carpark to Kuripapango trig and down to lakes car park.
Organiser: Judy McBride Tel 8769756

20th August (Wed)

Cycle the Yeoman's Track to Ellis Hut.
Organiser: Jim Hewes 8776784

24th August (Sun)

Taupo jaunt

\$?

Map

Huka Falls to Spa Road, from Mountain Road climb Mt Tauhara to 1088m, De Bretts for a hot swim.
Organiser:
Driver:

27th August (Wed)

Tramp Pohokura Road to Blue lake via Bellbird bush and return over farm track to Opouahi car park.
Organiser: Bobby Couchman Tel 8778557

3rd September (Wed)

Cycle from Lake Lopez to Ocean Beach and surrounding areas.
Organiser: Peggy Gulliver Tel 8797763

6th -7th Sept (Sat/Sun)

Pureora Forest Park

\$

Maps

A Party from Bog inn rd, over Weraroa trig & camp before Waihaha hut. Sunday walk out to western bay rd.
B Party: Options, including climbing Mt Pureroa and overnighing camp at Kaikako, or Waihora lagoon/bay.
Organisers: A Party: Christine Snook & Alan Peterson
B Party:
Driver:?