

POHOKURA



HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB INC.
HAWKE'S BAY

HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB

POHOKURA – Bulletin No. 270

August 2022

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Club Meetings

These are held every second Wednesday (before a weekend tramp) at the Hastings Harrier Clubrooms in Sylvan Road, Hastings. Doors open at 7.30p.m. Visitors are welcome

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TRIP REPORTS

2555 Easter Kiwi Saddle Overnighter

15th – 16th April 2022

Easter 2022 weekend had arrived and HTC had a trip planned to its club hut, Kiwi Saddle in the Southern Kaweka's. However there was only two able to make it for a brief overnight trip. Simon W. and Tom L. Tom, a new energetic & younger prospective member was coming out on his second club trip. For both of us, it was new territory and with the possibility of the weather getting worse from Saturday onwards, we limited our stay and put on hold venturing further to Kiwi Mouth Hut.

Departing 7:30am, Friday 15th April in a private car, we drove to the Kaweka Lakes carpark off the Napier - Taihape road. It was a cool start, but warmed up with clear skies.

A steady climb up and around Kuripapango peak and along the Smith - Russell ridge track. Along the way there great views back down into the Ngaruroro River around the Kuripapango camping area.

Along the way the ridge track eventually comes out of the bush above steep slopes that one has to sidle along. This is a great vantage point for further views to the west on a fine day. Today Mount Ruapehu was displaying a cloud of steam and the top of Mount Ngāuruhoe was visible. Both had little snow.



Tom Little

On past the junction of the track that can lead to Cameron Hut and Kiwi Mouth Hut and down the ridge to Kiwi Saddle. But where's the hut? The hut's not evident until one is right down at the bush surrounding it.

There was time for a bit of R and R in the warm sun for a few hours. A check was made of the toilet, which was needing to be shifted in the near future. The wood bin restocked, gutters checked, a check of the log book and hut contents.

As it turned out we were the only occupants that night. But a woman and her teenage son, stopped briefly at the hut having done a long circuitous day tramp from Kaweka Lakes carpark up over the 'The Tits' peak, Kaiārahi peak and heading back to the Kaweka Lake carpark via Kiwi Saddle. This may have provided a contact for future tramps for Tom with someone of similar age.

Returning the next day, retracing our steps in, the day was slightly cooler with high cloud approaching. But there was more activity on the track. A hunter and dog heading back out, a party of about 12 from the North Shore tramping club in Auckland and another lone HTC member from Tauranga, heading for Kiwi Saddle Hut.

Hopefully in the future we'll be tramping on past Kiwi Saddle. An enjoyable tramp for both of us.

SW

Party: Tom Little, Simon Whittam

2556 Anzac in the Tararua Range	23rd – 25th April 2022
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Anzac weekend expedition with 7 club members set off to the Tararuas. Three and a half hour drive from Hastings to Basecamp at Holdsworth campground just west of Masterton.

Beautiful double glazed Powell hut was our first day on a 5.5hr return trip because we missed out on bunk bookings. Slept in a tent the first night at the campground and froze to a popsicle. Grateful to see the sun. So pleased the campsite had flushing toilets.

Very busy foot traffic. Most trampers we spoke too were from Wellington. Makes sense since as it's only a hop skip and a jump away.

Ewww found some human poop💩 on the track. Dirty buggers!

Day 2 was an overnigher at Jumbo hut. Was a pleasant 3hour walk to Atiwhakatu hut for lunch and then a vertical walk up steep terrain to Jumbo Hut. Not for the faint hearted! Had a blast in Jumbo hut with the fire going and 20 other people bunked in (not very big). This hut had surprisingly good cell reception.



Derek Boshier, Paula Kasper, Jude Hay, Anthea Chiappa, Greg Smith at Powell Hut

Due to foggy conditions and time constraints we decided to walk out the way we came in, unfortunately down the steep terrain. But got out in good time and back to Hastings by dinner time.

Tramping in the Tararua ranges with was an amazing heart pumping experience and highly recommend it.

AC

Party: Anthea Chiappa, Lex Smith, Greg Smith, Derek Boshier, Paula Kasper, Jude Hay, Murry Alderson

2557 Te Mata Peak	Wednesday 27 April 2022
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Thwarted by inclement weather further north, I decided a walk up Te Mata Peak would be good. Six of us met at Tauroa Rd car park and headed up through the little redwoods and on to the big redwoods, admiring the new plantings as we went.

After helping to herd a flock of sheep through the opened gate, (well we all moved to one side out of the way) we took the lower route and set off up to the top via the zigzag track. Along the way we noticed a large boulder against a bulging wire fence and quickly deducted that it had come off the limestone

cliffs, rolling down the hill, splitting into smaller rocks as it rolled. We could see the flattened grass tracks coming down from the top.



Glenda Hooper, Christine Hardie, Peter Berry, Lynn Walch, Layla, Gabrielle Saxon
Marvelling at how green everything looked, we made our way to the top and after a short break, picked up rubbish lying around and then took the roadside tracks back to the main car park where we had lunch. By now it was brilliantly sunny and warm, after one skittery shower earlier.

Back down through the new track to the right we were soon back to our cars, a most enjoyable morning out.

JR

Thanks to participants: Christine Hardie, Lynn Walch, Peter Berry, Glenda Hooper, Gabrielle Saxon Joan Ruffell and Layla (dog)

2558 Upper Matakuhia Hut	8th May 2022
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A full van set off for the Whirinaki Forest Park, turning onto Waipunga then Pine Milling Roads to the start of the tramp. The van went exceptionally well along the pumice roads and DOC has placed new signposts which made navigation easy. We parked the vehicle alongside the old Matakuhia Saddle Hut, only the concrete slab remaining. After signing the hut book, began a

gradual descent through predominately beech forest with mountain cabbage trees, toetoe, horopito, lancewoods, some podocarps scattered throughout. This area was probably milled at some stage and the bush is regenerating well, especially after the snowstorms a couple of years ago – evidence of snow damage was the mass of fallen trees across the stream.

The track is in reasonable condition, with several areas of very boggy ground where someone's boot ended left in the mud! Alas no whoo seen this trip, although the birdlife was prolific- birds seen or heard were robins, rifleman, tomtits, warblers, tui, bellbirds, kereru, yellowhammers, finches, waxeyes and fantails.



Susan sharing her knowledge of the area with the aid of the topo map

The hut is a basic DOC hut nestled in a grassy clearing, a pleasant spot to spend a couple of hours on a sunny day, two to three hours easy walking time and is maintained by some hunters. I had a wander past the hut heading towards the lower hut, initially track easy to follow then totally overgrown. Years ago when DOC was maintaining the old Waipunga Forest, the club made many excursions into this area, visiting both huts and three pairs of whoo were present in this catchment.

We retraced our steps, enjoying the bush, marvelling at the different fungi, as we looked down on the Matakuhia Stream and slowly made the ascent back to the van. One of the leaders got severe cramp about 50 metres from the van- quite spectacular, from an upright position to a supine one – lesson to be learnt from this was to eat more and drink plenty of WATER, of which she did neither.

Party: Anthea Chiappia, Nick Walkerdine, Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, Janice Love, Anne Doig, Daniel Haddock, Paula Kasper, Susan Lopdell, Karl Jager, Simon Whittam and Kjelsty Hansen.

Instead of the planned Wednesday Walk to Happy Daze Hut, on Monday Fred called to say he was ready with trees to plant stream-side on one of his farms so we quickly changed plans and Christine wrote a lovely note titled “Fred’s Babies” to drum up support as we had offered ourselves and spades when last enjoying his and Marion’s hospitality.

After gathering at Fred’s house our team were taken to the small stream that had been prepared for planting; fenced to keep stock out, grass killed to give the young trees a better chance, and the selected tree to suit the site placed ready for planting. Fred has grown a wide selection of natives some from seed and had purchased nursery grown trees too. I guess we had about 15 different varieties to plant and as the area had 12mm of rain in the past couple of days, digging holes was easy. As usual, Marion had been baking and we had a superb morning tea. It didn’t take long after lunch to finish planting the 7-800 young trees. Our planting will help stabilise the stream sides, filter the water run-off from the paddocks and look absolutely marvellous in the years ahead. A very satisfying day. Fred, thanks for giving us a good day out.



My thanks to everyone who was able to come and plant.

GRH

Christine Hardie, Susan Lopdell, Joan Ruffell, Janice Love, Des Smith, Graeme Hare, Fred Chesterman, Marion Nicholson, Duncan Mackenzie.

2560 Kiwi Saddle Working Bee – Toilet Relocation – 28-29 May 2022

Susan, Janice Peter and Glenda decided to make a longer weekend of the Kiwi Saddle working bee so they left town about 9.30 on the Friday morning and

drove to the Lakes Road carpark. They started up the track around 11 AM in misty conditions and stopped for lunch just short of the junction with the Smith Russell track. The mist continued for the whole of the trip in and they arrived at Kiwi Saddle around 3 PM.

An inspection of the loo showed the level was far lower than had been seen previously, obviously the level is subject to fluctuating ground water levels. After some discussion a new site was selected, a bit higher up than the previous one to reduce the influence of groundwater. For the rest of the day they worked on other jobs, mainly firewood, removing the trash in the little firewood shed and replacing it with dry stuff from "Monty's shed" as well as collecting new wood. Dinner was cooked at dusk and it was early to bed, sharing the hut with 2 hunters who hailed from Auckland

Then, 6:30am Saturday, Anne C, Graeme and Simon W departed in the HTC Club van from Te Aute Road, Havelock Nth heading for the starting point at the Kaweka Lakes car park off the Napier - Taihape road. The purpose of the trip was to assist primarily with the relocation of the toilet at the Kiwi Saddle club hut.

This party carried some cleaning items, newspapers, ropes/pulleys and two spades. The tramp started in light fog which cleared as they got higher. They experienced great views and light winds along the ridge tops. It would have been a miserable tramp in had we gone the weekend before with wet and windy weather.

Just after midday this party arrived to the welcoming of the others who were on the lookout for them as they came down the final ridge towards the Hut. A bite of lunch and a cuppa first, then assisting with the main task, shifting that loo! The first party in had made a start on digging a pit. The task of further digging was shared by the later party.

The pit ended up about two metres deep. Folk cut, sawed, nailed and made a rough plinth covered with dirt, from fallen tree branches, around the pit. Next the physical relocation of the toilet structure. It had to be shifted about 8 metres over slightly uneven ground and in between trees. Fortunately 2 male hunters arrived at the hut and offered their help with the shift. With the use of a long rope and pulleys, lifting, heaving, grunting by all available folk, the loo was relocated within 30 minutes.



Hunters from Auckland and Graeme Hare

Folk took turns at carrying buckets of additional dirt and shingle to build up the ground around the loo and form a pathway to it. Others covered the old toilet site with dirt and branches. Other jobs that occurred in and around the hut included: cleaning of spouting, laying of rat bait, cleaning hut foyer, gathering firewood, cleaning out wood bin, building a rock step in front of the verandah, spreading shingle outside around muddy parts of the hut and hut cleaning.

The day ended with a glorious sunset which lit up the trees nearby the hut. The evening went by quickly. A good cook up, plenty of yarns and stories, star gazing, a warm fire and the addition of two women arriving late, making 11 folk in a 9 bunk hut.

The following day both HTC parties walked out together enjoying another crisp & sunny day. A great working bee! Thank you to all who were able to assist.

SW & GH

Parties: Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, Susan Lopdell, Janice Love, Simon Whittam, Anne Cantrick and Graeme Hare.

2561 Queen's Birthday – Mangatainoka Valley Nth Tararua Range

Eight of us headed south in the van and met up with Paul in Eketahuna, we then headed down Kaiparoro road with the intention of climbing Kaiparoro trig. Unfortunately the road end was one big logging site, everything was changed and there was no obvious way of arranging safe passage. So around we turned and headed around to Putara Road where Paul's farm is. Near the end of the road we cut off to the left and eventually parked by a home

handyman's dream hut. From here we continued on foot up a four wheel drive track through pines and scrub, with some nice views over the valley and the adjacent Tararuas.

After about an hour the track levelled out and we came to another of Paul's private huts where we dumped most of our gear. Not far past the hut the scrub ended and we got into kamahi forest which we climbed up through, following a track that Paul had marked, until we first came to some beech forest and then came out onto some rolling semi open tops, with great views of the Tararuas. The plants in this area were a very unusual association with red tussock, leatherwood, and dracophyllum. Pushing on towards the trig, the going varied from easy to downright fight, but we eventually got to the trig, took some photos and headed back down via a slightly different route that turned out to be somewhat easier going until we were nearly back in the bush. Back at the hut we settled in and lit the fire and said goodbye to Paul who was going home for the night. That night the stars were magnificent, it was clear and frosty and bloody freezing by morning.

Sunday morning Murry and Derek took off for Roaring Stag Hut, with the rest of us setting out a soupçon, or perhaps a bit more, later heading down to Paul's house for a farm tour. Paul took us out in his side by side to show us a magnificent rata tree at the back of his farm, there was also a lovely flowering vine rata on the bush edge. We then continued on around the back of his farm looking at his deer capture paddocks and a protected block of kahikatea. Lunch time saw us at Mount Bruce where we met up with Daniel and Anika before walking around, highlights were the kokako that thought I was gorgeous, the eels and the kaka feeding, then it was back to Paul's hut for a second night.



Peter Berry, Susan Lopdell, Glenda Hooper, Daniel Berry, Anika Hoogeveen, Anne Doig

Up until Monday the weather had been ok which, considering the time of year and the 4 meter annual rainfall in this area, was pretty good. (There is a reason why everything in the Tararuas over 45 degrees is classified as a waterfall and

everything under is considered a swamp.) However we mustn't complain as it won't do us any good and nobody listens anyway, besides which it was really only low cloud and drizzle.

After following the river for some time through cut over bush, we crossed the second swing bridge and then it was straight up for a couple of hours through, particularly beautiful bush, meeting Murry and Derek not far from the Roaring Stag/Herepai junction. Another hour of relatively flat going saw us at Herepai Hut which had just been done up through the Back Country Trust. It's a lovely bushy spot at the base of a really steep looking mountain.



Glenda Hooper and Susan Lopdell at the revamped Herepai Hut

After lunch it was just a case of hauling our tired decrepit and rapidly ageing bodies back down the natural staircase of mud and tree roots that constitutes what is known in the area as a track and off home for fish and chips. Many thanks to Paul Dandy for showing us around and the use of his hut and for inviting us back again.

PB

Party: Peter Berry, Susan Lopdell, Derek Boshier, Murry Alderson, Anne Doig and Glenda Hooper plus Paul Dandy (Saturday) plus Daniel Berry & Anika Hoogeveen (Sunday & Monday)

2562 Havelock North Reserves	Wednesday 8 June 2022
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Starting off from Keith Sands Grove we walked up to Keirunga Gardens and through a woodland of old Oak trees on a track carpeted with Autumn leaves to the tops before dropping down onto the Tainui Reserve where we had a range of good tracks and took time to view the new plantings which in time will greatly enhance the reserve.

We then wandered onto the Hikanui Reserve and paused to admire the views both to the Peak and the Ranges before following the track down to Tauroa Road and the start of the Chambers Walk at the start of the Te Mata Park and unusually there were few walkers around as we made our way up to the main Car Park where we decided it was time for lunch by the Rongoa Gardens which is one of the areas that Mike Lusk and his volunteers including club members have worked on.

Lunch was eventually finished and we followed the new limestone track on the Te Kahika Block where a lot of work continues to be done on the planting of a range of shrubs and rejoined Tauroa Road and onto the new Boardwalk for the last lap and then along and through the Tanner Street Reserve back to our cars.

An easy morning and full of interest for our 10Km walk.

RB.

Party: Lynn Walch, Janice Love, Anne Cantrick, Joan Ruffell, Gabrielle Saxon, Pete Hansen, Rodger Burn



Lynn Walch, Peter Hanson, Anne Cantrick, Janice Love, Joan Ruffell,

2663 Taradale Reserves

Wednesday 22 June 2022

Taradale reserves were plan "b" today instead of the advertised Sunrise Hut. The morning started out cool with a slight wind chill. We were all prepared with warm clothing as we left the carpark at Church Road Winery.

Departing from the Church Road winery carpark meant we would finish at the Otatara reserve so Christine and Rodger located a car at Otatara so we could be transported back. Christine and Rodger walked along the road and we caught up with them later in the morning.

Six of us were soon climbing up Sugar Loaf (Pukekura in Maori) where we admired the view from the trig. Beams of sunlight lit up a container ship out at sea and Cape Kidnappers to the south was dominant.

From Tironui Drive we entered the Rotary Pathway of "Maggie's Way" walkway. Preceding this we were entertained by old farming relics located on the roadside farm.

Gentle steps took us down into a low swamp area and a gulley planted with many healthy natives which looked about 2 or 3 years old. Two council workers were planting more trees today. The walking paths were in good condition. We passed the large pond and came out on Puketapu road.

The weather had warmed up by now so before we climbed up Dobel reserve we shed an item of clothing and had a short drink stop. We entered the bush at the 'Kauri Walk' which has many mature and new plantings.

On the top we studied the progress of new housing and admired more great views to the north and south.



Nic Walkerdine, Lynn Walch, Anne Cantrick, Peter Hansen on Dolbel Reserve

A 20 minute suburban walk looking at the local gardens, took us to the entry of the Otatara Historic Reserve. It has been a historic reserve since 1972 commanding great views and information panels about its history.

A good ten minutes before the carpark Christine and Rodger met us and had kindly parked two vehicles so we could all be transported back to Church Road

car park. Thank you Christine and Rodger. They then joined the group for a coffee to end this day of Taradale Reserves Wednesday walk.

JL

Party: Christine Hardie, Susan Lopdell, Anne Cantrick, Janice Love, Lynn Walch, Rodger Burn, Nic Walkerdine, Peter Hansen

2664 Whirinaki Forest Park	Matariki	24 – 26 June 2022
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Friday morning saw a small party of five depart Hawke's Bay in thick fog which was to last till we reached Minginui, thanks to Simon and Murry for getting us there safely. It was a very full carpark, disembarking to a chorus of kaka calls. On a very cool morning, set off at 10.45 am along the well benched track before having to clamber over and around our first windfall, 10 mins from the carpark. The Te Whaiti canyon with its moss covered fluted walls had a good amount of water flowing downstream. The route we were taking was the Moerangi Mountain bike track, the signs saying 4.5 hours. It was a steady climb of about 600+ metres, initially through the large podocarps then into a predominately kamahi forest with several rimu and totara present along with an abundance of ferns, pongas and fungi. As the temperature rose to 10 degrees, we heard and saw more birdlife- tui, bellbird, tomtit, fantail, whiteheads, warbler, robins, kereru and a solitary owl. We passed a clearing with a sign stating that cellular coverage was available, slowly sidling below the Moerangi highpoint @1051 metres before descending to the footbridge at junction of the two branches of the Moerangi Stream. It was another 10 minutes to the 9 bunk hut, nestled high above the stream – there was a party of four already in residence, with one of the women trying to light the fire with damp wood (the woodshed has been placed in a poor position as the rain pours into its interior). It rained steadily during the night and we awoke to the mist starting to lift out of the valley.

Our mission on the Saturday was to undertake a return day trip to the historic Rodgers (Te Wairoa) Hut. Some 10 minutes from the track junction we came across a slip about 3 metres by 3 metres, easy for trampers but not so for the mountain bikers.



Murry Alderson traversing slip near to Moerangi Hut turn off

The track undulates as we crossed 11 streams, 90% were bridged on our way to Rodgers Hut, a 3 hour walk from Moerangi. A new hut has been built for the Whio team in a grassy clearing, five minutes from Rodgers, it was open and had a lot of radio gear and their supplies, a three bunk hut with no signage. Rodgers Hut has had a log burning stove installed, 9 bunks and a stained glass window above the bunks- a lot of old tin lids have been nailed to the walls with the names of people who have stayed there. At 1.30pm we set off on the return journey- thank you to Murry and Simon who took packs with everyone's required gear, allowing Jude, Susan and Anne to carry our water and snacks.



Susan Lopdell, Jude Hay, Simon Whittam, Murry Alderson ready to depart Moerangi Hut
 Sunday saw us away at 8.15 am on the return journey to the River Road carpark. It was a shorter ascent to the clearing and we made good time. Murry and Simon diverted water running down and scouring out the track by removing a couple old tree stumps, joining us 15minutes later. We stopped at

the clearing with views out across the valley, before our descent back to the main Whirinaki track- it is amazing how things look differently on a return journey. As we wandered along the undulating track back to our van, we passed a magnificent podocarp with rata vines entwined around its trunk. We were out shortly after midday and drove to Arataki's cafe at Waiotapu to have lunch, before our journey back to the Bay.

SL

Party: Jude Hay, Anne Doig, Susan Lopdell and our wonderful drivers Murry Alderson and Simon Whittam.

2665 Manawatu Gorge	2 July 2022
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A party of 16 left on a freezing Sunday morning at 7.00am; 12 in the van and 4 in Glenda's vehicle. Driving through Dannevirke it was around -1 degrees. We arrived at Ballance Gorge Road just prior to 9 where 10 members of the party (I counted 11) were setting off from the Woodville end. The remaining six stayed in the van and were driven by Peter around to the Ashhurst carpark.

A Party

The track is really well maintained and climbs steadily before levelling out for a spell high above the gorge. There were plenty of places to stop along the way with five lookouts offering either views into the gorge or out to wind and dairy farms.



Its 11.2km each way and the track was beautifully green with a real tropical feel about it with all the native bush, beautiful Nikau palms and giant maidenhair ferns. On our walk we had the lovely bird song of Tuis, Cuckoos and Bellbirds. You could also hear the swooshing in some parts of the track of

the windmills. Around $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through to the Ashhurst side we met up with the other party so sat down and had lunch. The last section of the walk was stunning and just before the end of the track we came along a very impressive high metal sculpture of Whatonga. Whatonga was one of three recognised chiefs on board the Kurahaupo Waka, which journeyed across the Pacific. He continued his waka-bourne explorations around the New Zealand coast, eventually travelling up the Manawatu River.

The weather was clear but cold. We then all piled back into the van (to my surprise I only counted 10). I was worried at this was my first time leading a tramp that I had lost someone but no it was my headcount at the beginning 😊. We then headed back off to the Woodville side to pick up the rest of the group at around 2.30pm. All in all it was a really great day out and were back in town around 4.30pm.

JH

B Party

A large group of us were keen and willing to undertake the popular Manawatu Gorge track, for 11km taking around 3-5 hours on a pleasant wintry day. The A group took off first whilst the 6 person B group consisting of Peter Berry, Glenda Hooper, Anne Doig, Dave Mulinder, Brent Hickey and Paula Kasper began after travelling to the Ashhurst end. This was an effective way to deal with transport catering for both tramping groups upon our one way walk. Parking the HTC van in the newly constructed parking area which overlooks the new bridge being built across the Manawatu River connecting the new road being built to replace the old Manawatu Gorge 7km road that was affected by multiple landslides. We began by walking beside the old road and up into the bush area. At the top where we saw the Maori monument we could take a side track to view a wide area where one of the slips had occurred. Continuing on through the lush greenery with a variety of plants, ferny undergrowth and particularly large nikau palms we met the A group for a stop for lunch.

Once departing again we crested an area where the wind was much colder. We stopped for brief glimpses of the spectacular scenery along the way of river views, road, railway, reserve and turbines at the nearby windfarms. We could often hear the low whine of these turbines as we were walking. The DOC signage for the key points of interest in the area were informative. We also were pleased to see many other day trippers out undertaking the walk.



Panorama shot from the now disused Manawatu River Bridge

Coming down to the road end we followed intrepid Peter to climb down under the Manawatu Bridge for views of its arches. Quite impressive engineering. On the road we walked a wee way down noticing the slow creep of greenery making its way onto the road area. Quite eerie as we could all remember having driven along this at earlier times.

Meeting up with the A group we shared our adventure as we travelled home. Many thanks to Simon and Murry for driving and to Jude for leading. A great experience we all enjoyed.

PK

Party: Jude Hay (Leader), Peter Berry, Nat Berry, Glenda Hooper, Kevin Collins, Susan Loddell, Anne Doig, Daniel Haddock, Paula Kasper, Janice Love, Simon Whittam, Dave Mulinder, Murray Alderson, Nic Walkerdine, Brent Hickey, Colin Jones

2666	Another Wairarapa Weekend	16-17 July 2022
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Remutaka Incline

We left Pukahu at the ungodly hour of 6 AM (well just before actually) as John couldn't be swayed on a later start. Peter and Simon drove us all the way down to Featherston and to the end of Cross Creek Road where the northern end of the Remutaka Rail Trail starts. John had cunningly organised us a shuttle to get us down to the other end of the track and this arrived shortly after us. We hopped in the shuttle, drove over the Remutaka Hill and were at the Kaitoke end of the track ready to start walking around 11 o'clock.

The Remutaka Rail trail was lovely. I would say its better done on a bike 🚲. Lots of dark, dark tunnels, bonus toilets at the summit, gravel road 90% of walk. It was an 18km walk, 28,000 - 32,000 steps depending on how short your legs are. Surprised to see a shooting range near the track. Very lucky if you live in Wellington, it's a cool bike riding activity for everyone. We were lucky to have no wind or rain but it was icy cool which was fine if you kept walking. Not really any shade for a summer walk. The more attractive side would be to bike from the Kaitoke carpark as the incline is smaller.

It was a walk to take in the history of the area and not its natural beauty (predominantly pine forest at the Kaitoke end and regenerating scrub land, reminiscent of the Maikaro track, at the Cross Creek end). However there were some picturesque places along the way and the tunnels were fun to walk through.



South side of the Summit Tunnel Anthea Chiappa, Jude Hay, Anne Doig

We arrived back at the van around 4, the walk taking 5 hours, and drove to the holiday park at Carterton where we were staying. We capped the day off with a wonderful meal at the Carterton RSA; great food speedily prepared, friendly staff and a sticky date pudding to die for.

AC & GH

Second day:

Our second day tramping in the Wairarapa was to do some of the Tararua ranges and we split up into 2 groups:

Mikimiki Road to Kiriwakapapa

A party of four decided to walk the Mikimiki Tramway to Kiriwhakapapa Tramway. We accessed the track from Mikimiki Road. When the Tararua Forest Park sign is gained it is necessary to take the track to the left which says "not suitable for buses". We were let out at the undeveloped turning area which was the old mill site. I found little information on logging in this area or the tramway on Google but 10 minutes in from the start of the tramp is an area of exotic trees with a sign that says Nursery Site used during the 1930s. Simon has

since informed me that his father, in the 1950's did a teaching section at Mikimiki whilst at Teachers' College so I wonder how large the operation was.

There had been a heavy frost overnight and some described it as a mini hoar frost but on reviewing the photos I had taken; I will call it a hoar frost



Just past the Native Nursery site

The first hour of the tramp follows the true right of the Mikimiki Stream and is mainly flat through lovely bush (including a number of large rata) with bridges across a number of side streams.

The track then crossed the unbridged Mikimiki Stream (so it was wet boots after all) after which there was a small climb of about 120 metres to a saddle. The Kiriwhakapapa part of the track was littered with numerous tree falls. One of them was very recent and we were possibly the first to cross the hollow it had left in the track.

The track has recently had some maintenance on it with the aid of a scrub bar which at times had proved to be over zealous but from which Peter was able to score a young lancewood thick enough to make a good walking pole.

Once over the saddle from the Mikimiki Stream we dropped down to the Kiriwhakapapa Tram Track which ran on the true right of the Kiriwhakapapa

Stream. Close to the car park there is evidence of the storm damage by the stream; a bridge is high and dry from its side stream and further on the track has been eroded away.



Peter Berry by storm damaged bridge. Wash out on track to right of Peter in the distance
The walk was 7.6 km long and it took total of 3 hours so we were out of the bush before the second group.

AD & GH

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

Kiriwhakapapa to Blue Range Hut

The 2nd group of Anthea, Simon, Jude and John parked the van at the Kiriwhakapapa DOC camp-site, got their boots on and set off for the Blue Range Hut. It started out with a flat walk through the redwood forest and then they got hit with a gruelling 1hr and 40min uphill climb to the hut.

The hut is such a pretty blue hut with quirky little signs all over the place. It had a cute little fireplace and only 4 bunks inside the hut. An outdoor table with an amazing view of the Northern Tararua ranges was placed in the sun.



Blue Range Hut with picnic table placed in a northerly direction

After a 20 minute lunch the wind became icy so we popped on our puffer jackets and started our descent of down the hill to the van. It was nice to get back to the camp-site, the total return trip took just over 4 hours which is good exercise for the legs. So, 20,000 or so steps with a total of 7.2 kms under our belt.

Highly recommend both tracks. Good for hiking, hunting parties and a few friendly doggies on the track.

The trip back home took us around 2.5 hours with high spirits, chocolate biscuits and jelly beans to keeps us going.

AC

Party: John Montgomerie (leader), Simon Whittam, Peter Berry, Anthea Chiappa, Jude Hay, Anne Doig, Susan Lopdell and Glenda Hooper.

2667 Robson Lodge Training Weekend

30 – 31 July 2022

The van left Pukahu at 7 AM with 6 people in it, Peter and Glenda followed in Peter's Suzuki as Peter needed to be in town early Sunday. Just over an hour later we were at Robson's Lodge where we got the fire going and sorted out our sleeping areas.

For most, the rest of the morning was spent inside by the fire while Peter went over the various aspects of map and compass. Susan and Glenda went for a walk around the area between the lodge and the Taihape Road placing bamboo sticks and determining their position using a GPS. Paula arrived around 11 o'clock and while Peter gave her a refresher course the others practised grid-references with Susan and Glenda.



Lunch was had in the sunshine on the front porch after which it was out into the field to find the bamboo sticks using the grid references. This proved a little challenging as a small bamboo stick does not stand out very well from 100 metres away, which is the accuracy of a grid reference. However, they were all found but in the process Peter lost his brand new reading glasses, probably in some blackberry that he attempted to bush-bash through to get to the river and our second to last bamboo stake, the rest of us took the track down.



Coming up from the river Susan set us to making emergency shelters using what was in our packs as well as what was around us. Three shelters were made after which the final bamboo stick was located and we went back to the

Lodge. Before dinner preparations Anthea gave us a very good talk on outdoor first aid and what we should have in our First Aid kit. It was then time to think about dinner.

After dinner we watched a couple of short videos, one on hypothermia and one on what to wear and how to layer your clothing so as to remain comfortable when out in the elements. We then had a sing along before heading off to bed.

Peter Anthea and Paula headed back to town Sunday morning and the rest of us walked up to the quarry practicing taking bearings off the various peaks around Kuripapango on the way. We tried to find the old site of Sika Hut and thought we found it near the quarry but Peter has since informed me that it was down the bottom near the river, so the metal pipe we found was something else.

We decided we would go for a look at Kohinga Falls but a “Keep Out” sign and a lot of blackberry discouraged us, so we drove on down the road to the Forest and Bird Shelter at Blowhard Bush where we had an early lunch, after which we travelled back to town.

Attendees: Peter Berry, Susan Lopdell, Glenda Hooper, Paula Kasper, Carol Clarke, Anthea Chiappa, Simon Whittam, Anne Doig and Jude Hay

HTC BIKE TRIPS



Cycle Ride Maraekakaho - Kereru

Cycle –Wed 4 May 2022

Rodger had plenty of options when he sent the trip information for this biking day, Mangatahi Road 16kms, Aorangi Rd 32kms, Whakapirau Circuit 30kms, Kereru Circuit 49kms. Two of our team decided to ride the Aorangi and Mangatahi roads, believing they had less hills, while the balance, seven, rode the beautiful Kereru Circuit.



At the Early Childhood Centre at Kereru we were invited to have lunch there and then it was bike up to the Gwavas Forest boundary where Salisbury road had a few kilometres of gravel before the roller coaster ride down to Highway 50. Both groups arrived at Maraekakaho Hall & Coffee Cart within a few minutes of each other. An enjoyable satisfying ride but we must be aware big hills can use a lot of battery power.

GRH

Cyclists: Christine Hardie, Anne Cantrick, Lynn Walch, Pam Pike, Sharon Wellwood, Alasdair Shaw, Joan Ruffell, Des Smith, Graeme Hare.

Otane CHB Circuit

Weds 18th May 2022

Eleven keen HTC mid-week cyclist set off at 09:10 hrs from Otane. The weather conditions were just perfect for cycling. It was a typical C.H.B. blue-sky day, calm and relatively warm for this time of the year. The countryside that we cycled thru was looking particularly lush and green, partly due to the good 6mm of overnight rain. With plenty of feed around in the paddocks, the stock was looking in great condition.

We took a somewhat circuitous route to get to Waipawa from Otane. Instead of going the shorter route down White Rd, we heading off up Elsthorpe Rd to Pourerere Rd, via Tod Rd. There was plenty to see as we cycled down Tod Rd with the smell of freshly shorn wool pervading onto the road as we passed by on our bikes. A shearing gang was busy inside a large roadside shearing shed

with the farm dogs barking loudly as they worked the sheep inside the stock yard enclosures. The recently pressed bales of freshly shorn wool were piled up at the open doors of the shed, making it a real quintessential New Zealand rural scene. The Country Calendar team would have been right in their element.

We had regrouped and arrived at Waipawa by 10:15 hrs, so decided to stop off at the picnic area just past the clock tower for a morning tea break. It was very pleasant just sitting there catching up with one another, and watching the world literally drive by, as we chilled out doing what we do best.

Our next planned section of the ride was to cycle along the recently completed concrete cycleway / walkway, between Waipawa and Waipukurau, destination Russell Park, Waipukurau. We had only travelled perhaps a kilometre or so on this lovely new concrete cycle path before we encountered a stop barrier across the pathway, indicating that it was closed. On checking with the contractors that were parked further up on the pathway past the barrier, we were told that there were several broken sections of brand-new concrete paving that had to be replaced, and because of safety considerations, we couldn't proceed any further. We then had a group meeting, and decided to put plan B into action. This involved going back a short distance to Tepairu Rd, and then following it down to the Tukituki River, limestone cycle path, and following it to Russell Park in Waipukurau.

At the bottom of Tapairu Rd, Johnathan & Karen decided to quietly make their way back to Otane. It was very nice to have their company, and we all look forward to having them come out cycling with us again sometime soon.

The old site where the beautiful suspension bridge used to go across the river is now looking very empty indeed, the only evidence of it ever being there, being a small concrete pad. There is flood debris still in the trees, indicating just how high the flood waters must have been. It's pretty amazing to see how powerful that volume of water is, and such a shame that all that time and effort building the bridge has been swept away by just one significant weather event.

We decided to have our lunch stop after arriving at Russell Park, Waipukurau, at around 11:45 hrs. After lunch, Pam and Sharron decided to make their way back to Otane rather than join us on the new Pukeora - Lindsay Bush loop trail.



With limited battery power, Sharron had made the call that her bike battery might not be up to the extra distance that we were planning to do. This subsequently proved to be a very good decision on Sharron's part, as things did not go entirely to plan for us remaining seven intrepid cyclists. We continued heading south towards Pukeora on the true right bank of the Tukituki River, Pukeora Loop, limestone cycle trail. After reaching Pukeora, and crossing over the Tukipo River bridge, we regrouped and discussed where to proceed from there. The top of the flood bank adjacent to the Tukipo River bridge was the obvious choice for me as the trip leader, and eventually I managed to convince the rest of the group to follow me, even though there was no signage to indicate that this was in fact the correct route. A short distance along the top of the flood bank we dropped down onto a proper limestone cycle trail. This looked very promising, so we continued on until we encountered our second Stop barrier for the day, this one was across the entrance of a very small stream bridge. Fortunately for us there was a gentleman there, spotting for trout in the stream. He assured us that there were other cyclists regularly using the bridge, and the trail beyond, so we threw caution to the wind, and proceeded onwards with caution. The trail had recently been topped off with fresh, thick, uncompacted, limestone. It was very soft and unsuitable for riding on due to the 6mm of rain that had fallen overnight. However, we were able to ride on the gravel margins of the trail, and not cause any damage to the uncompacted limestone surface. The trail terminated at the southern side of the bridge crossing the Tukituki River, close by to where the Parson Road turn-off is. This turnoff to Parson Rd is on the R.H. side, and on the northern side of the same bridge. We discussed as a group, going down Parson Rd in search of the start of the limestone cycle trail, but due to a lack of appetite for any more of Des's dodgy half-finished limestone trails, it was decided to proceed back to Otane via Fairfield Rd, Ongaonga Rd, Waipawa etc.



Just to rub salt into the trip leaders' wounds, he punctured on the way back to Otane, a few hundred yards beyond the Parson Rd turnoff that we should have gone down. By instigating plan C and aborting the original plan to return to Waipukurau via the Parson Rd, trail turnoff, we covered a total of approximately 70kms for the day. These extra kilometres made the return trip to Otane a little stretched for some of the e-bikers with lower capacity bike batteries. By all accounts, the Waipawa dairy also profited pretty well, dispensing their huge \$3 ice-creams to the returning cyclists.

The changes that we made to our original planned route all helped to make it a most enjoyable day, and I'm sure it will make us all the more determined to eventually complete our ride on the elusive Pukeora Loop Trail. The most important thing was that we all enjoyed our day of safely cycling in CHB.

DS

Cyclists: Des Smith (Organizer), Graeme Hare, Rodger Burn, Christine Hardie, Joan Ruffell, Alasdair Shaw, Ray Manning, Pam Pike, Sharron Wellwood. Johnathan & Karen Fry

Thirteen cyclists met in Chambers Street and set off up through Duart gardens to Tauroa Road. We turned into Tauroa Valley and up Gummer Road. What a climb! Most made it to the top where the expansive views were the reward. New houses are still being built and most have big sections.

Down we rode, trialling the new shared walkway which recently opened alongside Tauroa Reserve.

The next "hill" was Durham Drive which proved interesting for those who had not been up there. After entering the Arataki Reserve, we cycled along to Arataki where some bought honey supplies.

Nine of us took the Brookvale Road to Thompson Road then into Napier Road where we visited The "Figgy" for eats and drinks. After a good relax and chat, we hopped back on our bikes and 5 of us cut through Romaines and Guthrie Parks and back to Chambers Street for a walk around the garden.

The ride was only 23 kms, short in distance but long on muscle power required. Well done to those using only human power.
Thanks for coming.



Jonathon Fry, Peter Hanson, Alasdair Shaw, Karen Fry – human powered cyclists

JR

Cyclists: Pam Pike, Sharyn Wellwood, Alan Berry, Christine Hardie, Margaret Graham, Karen and Jonathon Fry, Peter Hansen, Peter Hewitt, Rodger Burn, Gabrielle Saxon, Alasdair Shaw and Joan Ruffell.

A group of Nine keen cyclists of the “Boots on Bikes” brigade took advantage of a break in the weather for another local ride starting from Guppy Road. Due to maintenance work on the limestone track we had to take a diversion to join up with the pathways by the Waiohiki bridge and continue along the track showing considerable skill in avoiding the Cow pats but not so lucky with some large puddles residing after recent heavy rains.

Arriving at the bridge on Vicarage road Puketapu we decided to follow down Motea Pa road for Seven Km's to the end where we stopped for a breather. The original plan was to continue down Dartmoor road and maybe up Apley Road but because of expected winds and logging trucks we decided a better option was a visit to the Puketapu hotel for coffee etc. and then to return to guppy road via the upper track which was in very good condition.

A very enjoyable morning's ride and a distance of 34 Km's for most.

Party: Christine Hardie, Lynn Walch, Pam Pike, Sharron Wellwood, Joan Ruffell, Ray Manning, Alasdair Shaw, Peter Hewitt, Rodger Burn (Organiser)

Cycle Ride - Park Island to Ahuriri**27th July**

A group of Eleven of the “Boots on Bikes” team met at Park Island for one of our shorter rides (24Km) and no hills which is always a attraction for some.

In view of the recent heavy rain we decided To keep on the pathways this being a drier option rather than the limestone tracks and our circuit led us along the pathways beside Prebensen Drive noticing the large amount of surface water to the Mitre 10 store where we regrouped before heading in a Easterly direction down the pathways along the green belt by Riverbend Road ending up by NBHS and then along and onto the Marine Parade.

Here we had to make a major decision as a Coffee stop beckoned and we followed along Marine Parade and the Inner Harbour to a hidden gem of a cafe just off Bridge Street where a number of other cyclists were enjoying a rest.



Our return was via Thames Street and Mitre 10 the same way back to our cars at Park Island and a most enjoyable morning had by all in perfect conditions.

RB.

Cyclists: Lynn Walch, Christine Hardie, Joan Ruffell, Pam Pike, Sharron Wellwood, Karen Fry, Jonathan Fry, Ray Manning, Pete Hansen, Pete Hewitt, Rodger Burn (organiser)

Club and Committee News

New Members: This Pohokura we welcome Paul Dandy and Kjelsty Hansen as new members. Kjelsty came out with us on the Matakuhia tramp in May and she also came with us to Waipatiki Beach back in 2018. Paul's history with the club goes back a long way, 1976 when he did two trips with the club, one of which was led by Peter Berry when they spent an extra night out on the far side of a flooded Mangatainoka River. Paul now lives beside another Mangatainoka River, this one west of Eketāhuna. It was his hut we stayed in during our Queens Birthday tramp in the Putara Road. Welcome to the Club Kjelsty and Paul.

Wilderness Magazine: Our free subscription to the Wilderness Magazine has now ceased. We have thus subscribed for another twelve months and will monitor how many club members read our copy. We are attaching circulation lists is attached their covers for you to sign when you read it.

Alder Road Access: On our last tramp to Hinerua Hut we were denied permission to enter via the Alder Road access (even though it is a public road). We have contacted a number of agencies and Walking Access NZ are looking in to the issue.

Kiwi Saddle Hut toilet move: Many thanks to the group of 7 who moved the Kiwi Saddle loo late May (as well as for the other jobs they did). This involved an estimated 146 people hours with minimal expenditure to the Club.

HazMobile: Our HazMobile fundraiser is happening again this year. As it will be on Sunday November 20th we have moved our day trip to the Saturday 19th.

Annual General Meeting: The AGM will be held after usual Wednesday meeting on November 16th

Correspondence to Committee: If you have an issue you wish to be discussed by committee please email it to the secretary only (and not to all committee members). Emails sent to all committee members make it difficult to determine whether or not they should be brought to meeting, while a reply by a committee member might incorrectly imply a committee decision. The correct procedure is that all correspondence should be sent to the Secretary only, with the heading "For Committee". The Secretary will either bring it along to the next committee meeting or forward it to committee members if it needs a faster response.

Donation to Rescue Helicopter: A donation of \$1200 has been sent to the Rescue Helicopter, this included the proceeds of auction plus some money from general funds.

Photo Competition Results:

Congratulations to Tina Godbert who won the overall photo competition. Congratulations also to all the category winners as listed below (in the three instances where the judges choice name is in bold the Popular Vote and Judges Choice was the same)



PHOTO COMPETITION

WINNERS: (POPULAR VOTE)

Clockwise from top left: Tina Godbert,
Bill Rainbow, Tina Godbert, Tina
Godbert, Paula Kasper, Tina Godbert,
Janice Love

Category	Popular Choice	Judge's Choice
Above Bushline NH*	Tina Godbert	John Montgomerie
Above Bushline WH**	Tina Godbert	Tina Godbert
Below Bushline NH*	Janice Love	Janice Love
Below Bushline WH**	Paula Kasper	Peter Berry
Native Flora & Fauna	Tina Godbert	Peter Berry
Club Character	Tina Godbert	Graeme Hare
Historic	Bill Rainbow	Bill Rainbow

NH* = No human element WH** = with human element

Tips and Tricks from Kurt Fenton our Resident Cinematographer

In 2018, my son and I walked the Camino de Santiago in Spain. So that my family and friends could follow along, I took daily photos and posted them to my Facebook account. On one of the long days on a very straight road walk, I uploaded some video updates just to break the monotony. I had more comments on those few videos than most of the photos put together. I made a note of that difference but didn't know how I would use that piece of information.

In 2019, I finally got into tramping in New Zealand by completing my first Great Walk - Waikaremoana. Again, I took mostly photos with a few videos, and when I posted all that online, the videos got more attention. In early 2020, my son and I did the Tongariro Northern Circuit and then in May I did an overnigher to Mackintosh Hut. Both trips were mostly photo-journaled, but I was starting to think more about video as a way of documenting further journeys. The tramping bug had truly bit hard, I was learning lots of lessons (mostly the hard way), and had a desire to share those lessons and experiences through video rather than photos.

So, in October 2020, I video-journaled a 3-day circuit up to Kaweka J using my iPhone. I quickly made four important observations: (1) the video quality on my phone wasn't the greatest as it was an older iPhone. (2) Because I had to hold the phone, I missed most of the "fun" parts that needed both hands and full concentration in order to avoid more hard lessons. (3) Posting the videos on my YouTube channel garnered more interest from people than I ever had from Facebook photo logs. (4) Video was a fantastic way to share my experiences in the wonderful backcountry with those who probably would never be able to get out there. These four observations caused me to search for a better video option. Enter the GoPro.



Figure 1 - GoPro Hero 9

After considerable research, I bought a GoPro Hero 9 (figure 1) and a few accessories. The pros for the GoPro are:

- It is tough (I've dropped it a number of times and it still works perfectly)
- It is small (measure 7cm x 5cm x 3cm and weighs 158 grams)
- The video quality is amazing (going up to 5K video compared to 4K with an iPhone 13)
- Videos are recorded to memory cards, therefore there is no worry about maxing out your device's memory.

But there are some cons to this camera as well:

- It can be expensive (\$675-\$700)
- Changing accessories can be cumbersome. The connection system uses thumb screws. While these provide great security, there is no quick release feature.
- Battery life is terrible! This is the most-often stated negative for the GoPro. I have two batteries and with careful budgeting and using my phone camera at camp, I can make each batteries last just under 2 days. The upside is that GoPro batteries are light (32 grams) and relatively inexpensive (\$35). Having said that, GoPro has just come out with their Enduro battery that claims to boost recording time up to 40% longer with only a \$10 increase in cost. My next purchase perhaps.

Despite the cons, I am very happy with this camera. Again, doing some research and experimentation, I have found the best settings for outdoor shooting are:

Res/FPS..... 2.7K / 60

Lens Liner + HL

HyperSmooth... high

Bit Rate standard

EV Comp -0.5

ISO Min 100

ISO Max 1600

(There are a few other standard settings that I left unchanged.)

Having sorted a camera, the next step was to find a way to use it hands free. My first solution was a clip that hooked onto my backpack shoulder strap (*figure 2*). This worked well, was easy to get on and off, and let me simply turn on the camera and record whatever part of New Zealand topography was trying to kill me at the moment! However, because the camera was on the shoulder strap, most recordings showed my left arm and trekking pole working like a piston as I hiked down the trail. My mild OCD found the one-sided videos distracting and I searched for a better connection solution.



Figure 2 - shoulder strap clip

And I found one – the Snap Mount system.

The key element of this system is the N52 rare-earth magnets that are 10 times stronger than traditional ceramic magnets.

The Pro kit (*figure 3*) comes with 1 mount, 2 adapters, 1 lanyard/backplate, a rubber backplate (for car mounting), and an



Figure 3 - Snap Mount Pro Kit

anodized aluminium thumbscrew. I've used everything except the rubber backplate. Once you attach the mount to your GoPro, switching between adapters is just a matter of pulling away from the magnets and connecting to another adapter.

The pros for the Snap Mount are:

- Easy movement between accessories (avoids having to repeatedly use the thumbscrews)
- Placement of the GoPro is unlimited because it attaches to all kinds of accessories
- The GoPro is secure because these magnets are **STRONG!**

There are a couple of cons though:

- These magnets are **STRONG!** I've actually pinched myself a couple of times connecting the mounts!

- As of right now, Snap Mounts must be ordered from the States. The Pro kit costs \$70 USD plus shipping. There is an off-brand AliExpress version for around \$40 NZ, but I'd rather spend a bit more money to protect the \$700 GoPro investment with something that is known to work well.

After a little experimentation, I have settled on my present hiking video setup. I wear the lanyard adapter under my shirt and tighten the lanyard, so the adapter is just below the sternum strap on my backpack. I then simply snap the GoPro on the mount to my outer clothing and I have a pretty stable camera centred on my chest. No more one-armed piston shots. Most of my video comes from that setup, but I also have a pole mount with the Snap adapter attached to my trekking pole (*figure 4*). This allows me to do selfie shots, gimbal shots, and “tripod” shots where you set up the camera on trail and walk by it, pretending it's not there. The whole video system I have described above weighs only 313 grams in total, less than a brand-new gas bottle.



Figure 4 - trekking pole mount

A quick word about video editing. I use iMovie, the free video editing programme that comes with an Apple computer. As an amateur video hobbyist, I've used a number of different editing programmes over the years, and this is just a simple programme that gives you pretty much everything you need for video editing, unless you are heading into the movie-making world.

I've experimented with using music and no music as background and find that music does help set the mood, helps with pacing, and works as an unvoiced narration to move the story along. YouTube has a free music service you can download from, but there are other free websites that only ask you to share where you got the music from. There are also plenty of paid sites for the really big music libraries, although so far, I've found the free libraries have an abundance of choices.

Several other apps/programmes have been helpful in editing. *Relive* takes data from whatever you use to track your hike – Garmin, Apple watch, Suunto, etc. – and provides a video of your route over a 3D rendition of the topography. You can add photos and music (the paid version offers a few more options) and then add them to the video of your hike. *Gaia* GPS maps or *MapToaster* provide topographical maps on which you can overlay your route to show more detail of what you faced. I've even used *Keynote* (Apple's answer to PowerPoint) to draw up some graphics or make short graphic videos to add to

my hike video. The sky is really the limit as to how you can get your story across using these tools.

When it comes to sharing backcountry experiences, photos are great, but videos transport the viewer into the journey with you. With video you get the sights, the sounds, and the motion. You hear the birdlife in the background, the waterfall in the distance, the recovery breathing after a long climb. These just can't be captured by photos. You may not want all the equipment I listed above or even to rely mainly on video journaling, but you can start out like I did, and just choose to add some videos to your photo diary.

So, the next time you are out on a tramp, when you bring out your phone to snap a photo, take a bit of time to slide the selector to the video setting and capture 10-20 seconds of where you are. Talk about what you are experiencing. Capture the good, the bad, and the ugly. And then when you are back home showing your family and friends what you got up to in the mountains, notice how videos bring a different experience to the viewers. Who knows, you might just end up wanting to delve further into the backcountry video world as well.

(Kurt is a relatively newcomer to the world of tramping, only really starting in 2019. He has a YouTube channel called "Freedom on the Trail" where videos of his backpacking adventures can be found.)

ITEMS for SALE

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

New Topo 50 Maps:	\$5.00
Large blue survival bags	\$5.00
Smaller white pack liners	\$2.50
Metal HTC club badges	\$8.00
Blue HTC caps	\$17.00
Safety in the Mountains	\$5.00

These all can be ordered from Penny Isherwood Ph: 8449994 or

Email: p.isherwood@orcon.net.nz

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

SUBS

Our sub years is from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 so subs are now due. If paid by 31 August 2022 the rates are as follows, after this date add another \$5 to the amount.

Active - senior - \$25 (for members who attend tramps and/or meetings)

Active - family - \$38 (for 2 or more members living at the same address)

Associate - \$15 (for members who are not active but wish to get our Pohokura)

Payment Options:

For on-line banking (our preferred option) our bank details are;

Heretaunga Tramping Club: **03-0642-0802494-00**

(Please remember to put your name and the reference Subs)

Alternatively give your Subscription to Treasurer, Lex at a Club meeting.

Heretaunga Tramping Club Meeting and Trip Information

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Chairperson	Speaker and Topic	Host/Supper
10 Aug	Graeme Hare	Open Floor Night	H – Pam Turner
24 Aug	Philip Mardon	Kay Griffiths – Bats	H – Simon Whittam
7 Sept	Brent Hickey	Graeme Hare – Quiz Time	H – Penny Isherwood
21 Sept	Alan Petersen	Film : We don't usually have ice creams"	H – Anthea Chiappa
5 Oct	Anne Doig	Please bring a piece of Poetry to read to us tonight. Can be written by you or someone else	H – Jude Hay
19 Oct	Simon Whittam	Open Floor Night	H – Graeme Hare
2 Nov	Randall Goldfinch	Liz & Christine Doubtful & Dusky Sounds Tour	H – Joan Ruffell
16 Nov	Lex Smith	HTC – Annual General Meeting	H – Liz Pindar

30 Nov	Kurt Fenton	Susan, Janice, Paula, Lex Paparoa Great Walk & Old Ghost Road	H – John Montgomerie
14 Dec	Paula Kasper	Christmas Shared Meal Gift to value of \$10	H – Philip Mardon
2023 11 Jan	Susan Lopdell	Open Night Happy New Year	H – Daniel Haddock

Meeting Sub Committee: Graeme Hare, Philip Mardon (another volunteer to assist would be welcome). We want ideas for club night speakers and activities.

Supper: Put out cups, wash dishes, leave kitchen clean and tidy. Sweep floors, check that heaters are off at the end of the meeting. Do not drag the furniture as it marks the floor.

ARE YOU FIT ENOUGH TO TRAMP?

If we are going to enjoy our weekend tramping and not hold up the rest of the party we need a reasonable level of fitness, the sort of fitness that would allow us to wander around on Te Mata Peak or the Taradale hills for five or six hours with an eight kilogram pack. If you take a few hill walks you will soon recognise whether you have the core fitness to manage a trip into the ranges or whether you would be better to do some training beforehand. Wednesday walks are not so serious but again, you need a moderate level of fitness to keep up with the team.

It is important too that we all acknowledge any health issues that might cause problems on a trip. If in doubt, we should talk with the trip leader beforehand to understand the level of difficulty on the trip and make sure you are aware of possible issues.

Trip Gradings

EASY ^(E) 4-5 hours tramping – suitable for beginners

MEDIUM ^(M) 5-7 hours tramping – suitable for those with some experience

HARD ^(H) 8 hours + tramping – more experience and a high level of fitness and confidence, including coping with adverse conditions is necessary.

GEAR LIST FOR DAY & WEEKEND TRAMPS		
DAY TRIPS		WEEKEND TRIPS
Wear/Carry	Carry	

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

OVERDUE TRAMPERS

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

Graeme Hare 844 8656 Glenda Hooper 877 4183 Simon Whittam 027 595 4567

TRIP LIST 2022



- ❖ Although the area for the trip is generally adhered to, the suggested objectives may change for a number of reasons.
- ❖ Please note that the costs indicated below are just the contribution towards fuel. There may be additional costs such as hut fees, access fees, koha etc. and these must be met by those participating on the tramp.

For pre-trip enquiries contact the organiser or Simon Whittam 027 595 4567.

Please email trip requests to tramphtc@gmail.com

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

PLB on every trip: organisers need to ensure a PLB is included for each tramping party.

Wednesday 17 Aug Maggies Way and Otatara ^(E)

These Taradale tracks have been extended and upgraded: heritage and rewilding galore.

Organiser: Heather Stephenson 8439157

Wednesday 24 Aug Tour of the Bays Cycle

A blat around one of our favourite routes – direction of travel depends on the wind. Probably includes a visit to HGC.

Organiser: Peter Hansen 022 6210560

27-28 Aug Waipakihi Hut ^(M-H) \$30 Maps: BH35 BH36

Turn off onto Kaimanawa Road from the Desert Road and drive to start of the track. Climb initially through bush before coming out onto the Umukarikari Range with views of Lake Taupo, Kaimanawa Range and the distant Kaweka Range. Descend to Waipakahi Hut (5-7 hrs, 12 bunks). Return same route on Sunday. This could be a snow trip so necessary to be well kitted. Glenda will organise day trip options ^(E/M) if required.

Organisers: Simon Whittam 027 5954 567 & John Montgomerie 877 7358
Glenda Hooper Ph: 877 4183

Wednesday 31 Aug Tangoio and White Pine Bush ^(E) \$10

Attractive forests and even a waterfall.

Organiser: Garry Smith 8449931

Wednesday 7 Sep Puketapu – Swamp Road – Omahu – Pakowhai Cycle

A mix of road and cycleway but essentially flat. Start in Taradale and do a circuit via Fernhill to Pakowhai Park and back to base.

Organiser: Christine Hardie 8449590

11 Sep Stanfield Hut ^(E) \$15 Map:BL36

Stanfield Hut is situated low in the Ruahine Ranges behind Dannevirke and is an easy day walk of about 5 - 6 hours return. The hut, built in 1965 by the NZFS, is named after George Stanfield, a local bushman and farmer. In December last year it was renovated by Backcountry Trust volunteers. From the road end we will cross the Tamaki River West Branch, go up and along the Holmes Ridge and then descend to cross the stream again. From there it is about 700 metres to Stanfield Hut, following the stream but some may first cross over to view a lovely patch of rimu forest on the right bank before heading upstream to the hut.

Organisers: Peter Berry Ph: 877 4183 & Paula Kasper Ph:021 1706 254

Wednesday 14 Sep. Clover Patch – Kaweka FP ^(E)

Will we make it this time? Hopefully our resident woodsman will be available to head the charge against pinus contorta.

Organiser: Scott Campbell 8798554

Wednesday 21 Sep. Mystery Ride

To be advised at the time. Who knows where we will end up?

Organiser: Ray Manning 027 2417550

24-25 Sep Oamaru Hut Kaimanawas ^(M) \$20 Map: BH37

Drive SH 5 to the Clements Road access and turn onto Tauhara Road and park in the carpark alongside Helisika. From here follow a poled route through Poronui Station, crossing the river and walking across flats to Oamaru Hut – plenty of time to wander up the Oamaru Valley towards Boyd's Lodge.

Return same way

Organiser: Susan Lopdell 0272878765

Sunday 25 September – Start of Daylight Savings

Wednesday 28 Sep. Yeoman's Bush ^(E)

Down to CHB, over the Makaroro and hope that the spring flora have started to appear.

Organiser: Graeme Hare 8448656

Wednesday 05 Oct Mutiny Road – Camp David Cycle

Chocolate Fish Hill will not daunt us; some riders may even want to continue to Patangata.

Organiser: Peter Hansen 022 6210560

9 Oct Tarn Bivy - Ruahine Range ^(M) \$15 Map BL36

From Mill Road end, walk up the Tukituki River to Rosvells track. Ascend Black Ridge to Tarn Bivy and inspect its quaint open air loo.

Organiser: Murry Alderson 027 9474 726

Wednesday 12 Oct Boundary Stream/Shines Fall

Choice of the longer through-route or in-and-out to the falls only, Fingers crossed that the kokako are still there.

Organiser: Joan Ruffell Ph: 8776225

Wednesday 19 Oct CHB Cycle

Another interesting route is sure to be announced.

Organiser: Des Smith Ph: 0223706118

21- 24 Oct (Labour Weekend) Kaweka Walkabout ^(MH)... ..\$15 Map: BJ 37

Fri: Leave from Makahu carpark, ascends Trial Spur to Kaweka J. Follow the main Kaweka Range then head down a westerly spur to Back Ridge Hut nestled beside a stream.

Sat: Back track onto spur, over Sterns Saddle, and descend to Rocks Ahead Hut beside the Ngaruroro River.

Sun: Climb up to Tira Lodge and stay here or a Ballards Hut.

Mon: Climb onto the main Kaweka Range, past Nth Kaweka and descend Trial Spur, returning to the van.

Organiser: Simon Whittam 0275954567 and John Montgomerie 877 7358

Wednesday 26 Oct Stansfield Hut – Ruahine FP

Most people will probably want to walk along Holmes Road and the river to the hut but there is a chance to climb to the top of the range instead.

Organiser: Janice Love Ph:8775442

Wednesday 02 Nov Freedom Cycle

Most likely in the Napier-Hastings area but who knows?

Organiser: Rodger Burn Ph:8776322

6 Nov Cairn Trip ^(M) Free Map: BJ37

Eleven Club members died in WW2, so as a memorial to them a cairn was built at Kaweka J, the highest point in the Kaweka Range. In November 1948 the first Cairn Trip was held; attended by 47 members. Every November since then we hold a short service at the cairn to remember those lost, after which we have lunch then continue with our tramp, sometimes just retracing our steps back down to Makahu Saddle and sometimes being a bit more adventurous with an alternative route down to the saddle.

Organiser: Peter Berry 877 4183

Wednesday: 09 Nov MacIntosh Hut and Lakes

Either to the hut on the edge of MacIntosh Plateau or, if that's not your scene today, hang out at the Lakes.

Organiser: Anne Cantrick Ph: 8448149

Wednesday 16 Nov HGC to Raukawa Plateau Cycle

Start-up Whakapirau and head south-east towards Onepu and Burma Roads along roads as far as we like.

Organiser: Graeme Hare Ph: 8448656

19 Nov (Sat) Te Kowhai to Don Juan ^(E-M) \$15 Map: BJ37

Just past Patoka area turn into Hawkestone Road and then on to Te Kowhai Road. Walk down to the old Te Kowhai Base. Walking along a forestry road before climbing to Don Juan Trig A3RO. The return tramp is by the same route.

Organiser: Anne Doig Ph: 8788694

20 November HazMobile

Organiser: Graeme Hare Ph: 8448656

Wednesday 23 Nov Kiwi Saddle Track

Climb up to 4100 and gaze at Ruapehu; carry on as far as you like towards our club hut or go down to the water gauge and get picked up. Otherwise, the Lakes beckon again.

Organiser: Christine Hardie Ph: 8449590

Wednesday 30 Nov Reverse Tuki Cycle

Start from Clive and go via the Black and Red Bridges to River Road junction and return; mostly on cycleways

Organiser: Alasdair Shaw Ph: 8776225

3-4 December Kāpiti Island and Kāpiti Coast ^(E) Map: BP32

On Saturday we drive down to Kāpiti to walk some of the following: the Nikau Reserve at Paraparaumu, the Escarpment track which goes from Paekakariki to Pukerua Bay (3 hours), Te Ara o Whareroa (a great walking and cycling trail along the undulating dunelands of the Kāpiti Coast from Paekakariki to Raumati), Waikanae River Trail and the Mataihuka Walkway. We will stay the night at a Holiday Park then on Sunday catch the ferry to Kāpiti Island and walk the tracks there. As well as our usual fuel costs (\$35) there will be costs for accommodation (approx. \$30) and the ferry (approx. \$80). We will need to book early to ensure we get both a ferry and accommodation so start thinking now whether you wish to come on this trip.

Organiser: Glenda Hooper 877 4183

Wednesday 07 Dec Kaweka Flats

An attractive walk through beech forest and on to the bivvy. Iron Whare is in the vicinity for keen people.

Organiser: Des Smith Ph: 022 3706118

Wednesday 14 Dec Rodger's End-of-Year Ride

A road ride around Havelock North with lunchette at the Burns' house.
Christmas to look forward to again.

Organiser: Rodger Burn Ph: 8776322

12 December Christmas trip at Tutira ^(E) \$15 Map BJ39

Our last outing for 2022. Some can walk the Tutira walkway loop - a nice trail passing through farmland and bush with great views of the lake, some can walk shorter walks, some can bring a canoe and have a paddle and all can enjoy a picnic lunch by the lake side.

Organisers: Janice Love 877 5442 and Joan Ruffell 877 6225

2-3 Jan 2023 Barlows Hut - Ruahine Range ^(E) \$15 Maps BK36 & BK37

Barlows Hut is about a 4 hour walk from Yeomans Mill up the Makaroro River, with many swimming holes to cool off in on a hot sunny day (I.e. expect wet feet). The hut is a cosy lockwood design sleeping 8. (A \$5 hut ticket is required to stay at this hut). Sunday can either be back down the river or a 600 metre climb to the Parks Peak track which you follow down to Yeomans Mill.

Organiser: Murry Alderson 027 9474 726

8 Jan Beach Trip^(E)

The leader can determine which beach we visit on this trip . Low tide will be around 2 pm

Organiser: *to be advised*

14-15 Jan Waikamaka Hut ^(M-H) \$15 Map BK36

This tramp is a must for everyone, especially our HTC members to undertake! The first Waikamaka hut was planned and built in 1939. By 1966 the stream near the hut had started to undermine it and it was decided to rebuild it at the present site. . It is good that the hut was moved, the fireplace from the old hut has now disappeared under the shingle in the creek below. In 1982 - 1983 a potbelly stove was carried to the hut in pieces, and the hut was fully lined inside and painted. Many of our current members took an active part in this rebuild! In 2016, the Heretaunga Tramping Club upgraded the hut with a new deck, veranda with a wood storage space and a rainwater tank. The latest update this year 2022 was the movement of the toilet - to a new location.

This tramp will follow the river upstream until you reach the headwaters. From here the track climbs steeply to Waipawa Saddle, before dropping into a stream on the other side – be aware here as sections of the track are steep, narrow and exposed. By following this stream down the valley for another 1

hour until you reach Waikamaka Hut on the true left bank, where the east and south branches of the Waikamaka River meet. A truly, idyllic little spot. We stay overnight then return the same way the next day.

Organiser: John Montgomerie 877 7358

22 Jan Iron Whare (E)

\$15

MapBJ37

Located in the eastern Kaweka Forest Park, Kaweka Flats Bivouac is situated 1-2 hours from the Makahu Saddle carpark. The track sidles north through surprisingly lush forest, a mixture of broadleaf shrubs and beech trees, and crosses several small creeks before a stiff, short climb onto Kaweka Flats. Located here is the 2 person Kaweka Flats Bivouac where sheep were once corralled. The historic Iron Whare is a another hours walk to the NE

Organiser Anne Doig 878 8694

28-29 January

Whirinaki FP ^(M)

\$20

Maps: BH38 & BG38

Turn off SH5 onto Pokokura Road, Waipunga Road, then onto Pine Milling Road to the carpark beside the Pukahunui Stream. A gradual climb of about 400 metres to the Upper Te Hoe Track / Whirinaki River Track junction. Just past here, the track descends past a beautiful line of mountain cabbage trees, to the 9 bunk Upper Te Hoe Hut (in reality a 6 bunk). Plenty of space for tents near the hut or 20 mins down to the large grassy clearing beside the bridge over the Te Hoe River – last time there was a pair of whio ducks in residence. Sunday return the same route back to the van.

Organisers: Susan Lopdell 027 2878 765 and Jude Hay 027 5174 275

Advance notice: We plan to travel to the Whanganui River and walk the Mangapurua Track over Waitangi Weekend (4 - 6 February 2023)

Tamatea Pokai Whenua and his lizard Pohokura

This item is quoted from the July 1937 issue of Pohokura but is worth repeating from time to time, to remind us of an important part of the club's history. – Alan Berry

On the arrival of the Takitimu canoe the newcomers, finding the land already inhabited, proceeded down the east coast to pick a suitable site for settlement. The most venturesome of them was Takitimu, known as Pokai Whenua - Tamatea the Map-Roller - from the extent of his explorations. On reaching Heretaunga he set off up-country to pick up the lie of the land and eventually came to a pa called Otupae on the snowy shoulder of the Ruahines that we see opposite Ruapehu through the Taruarau gap. Here while he sat and rested he put down the calabash that always accompanied him, containing his two pets, Pohokura, a lizard and Kahu-o-te-Rangi, a crayfish. When he came to pick up the calabash his pets had escaped. Pohokura's outlines are visible today in the ridges of the Ruahine Range and the moaning of Kahu-o-te-Rangi, who lurks in the valleys, can still be heard when bad weather is approaching.



TRAMPING HAS SOME RISKS

LOOK AFTER YOURSELF AND YOUR COMPANIONS

Club trips are organised and led by volunteers not by guides. We are, therefore, all responsible for our own safety, while at the same time looking out for our companions. It is important that we actually do some preparation and thinking for ourselves and do not turn up on a trip expecting that someone else will do all this for us.

Try this:

1. Read the description of the trip and make sure it is something within your ability. Ask someone for advice if necessary as there may be particular hazards on a trip that are specific to the terrain. A tramping party is only as strong as the weakest member so you may put everyone at risk if you cannot cope
2. Really pay attention to the Gear List published on the Pohokura. Don't rely on someone else taking those things you cannot immediately find. That will not help if you find yourself alone, especially when you need that torch you left behind.
3. Make a conscious effort to understand the hazards associated with tramping in the hills. They are all there on the Mountain Safety Council's website www.mountainsafety.org.nz . This has a mass of information including 42 sort videos under the tab "Get Outdoor Video Series". You will have received a copy of "Safety in the Mountains" when you joined the club. Do actually read through it from time to time.
4. And do make an effort to understand maps and how to use your compass. Maps are easy – using a compass is not but you will need them if you end up separated from your party.
5. The leader of the trip will have one of the club's locator beacons but think about buying one for yourself. They are an essential item on an independent trip. A cell phone will usually work from the higher point but not always.
6. Always take some spare medication if you need it, in case of a night out☺.
7. Learn to be at home in the mountains and bush, even if you are alone. That will come with learning, confidence and experience.

