

# HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB

POHOKURA – Bulletin No. 274

December 2023

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<b>Hut &amp; Track</b>	John Montgomerie, Janice Love, Nic Walkerdine		
<b>Transport:</b>	Lex Smith, Peter Berry, Janice Love		
<b>Fixtures:</b>	Glenda Hooper, Susan Lopdell, Anne Doig, Jude Hay, Paula Kasper, Simon Whittam, Nic Walkerdine, Stephen Borrett (Mid-Week Group) – Tramping: Christine Hardie – Boots on Bikes: Rodger Burn		
<b>Training:</b>	Susan Lopdell, Peter Berry, John Montgomerie Simon Whittam		
<b>Publicity:</b>	Glenda Hooper, Janice Love		
<b>Meetings:</b>	Committee		
<b>Sales:</b>	Penny Isherwood		
<b>Scrap Book</b>	Janice Love		
<b>Library:</b>	Liz Pindar		
<b>Supper:</b>	Social Committee		
<b>Photographic Records:</b>	Janice Love		
<b>Membership Records:</b>	Glenda Hooper		
<b>Social Committee:</b>	Jude Hay, Paula Kasper, Anne Doig		

## Club Meetings

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

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## Annual Reports 2023

### Committee Report (by Glenda Hooper)

Another year has gone and yet again we had unforeseen issues that we had to deal with. This year it was Cyclone Gabrielle, a massive 1 in 100+ year storm that damaged many of the roads we use to access the hills. So yet again we have had to be flexible to enable regular tramping for members, as a result we have had many tramps to southern Ruahine Ranges and the Tararua Ranges.

Sadly, in the last twelve months two of our members, Jim Glass (our Patron) and Pauline Mahoney passed away. In addition, three long term members who had recently ceased membership due to ill health also died, namely Maureen Gilchrist, Keith Thomson (a past president) and Judy McBride. On the plus side, we gained 6 new members and our membership is now 100 members.

Our oldest member, at 92, is Derek Conway and he reflects the great Club spirit of our trampers. He tramped with the Club in the 1950s and is now in a rest home in Christchurch. His son John, who reads the Pohokura to him, tells me that Derek still wears his HTC cap at the rest home, and tells anyone who will listen what HTC stands for, and recalls stories about visiting a lot of the huts we visit. Derek is on the right in the below photo along with Alan Cowan and Ken Thomas.



*Three caballeros - Above Kaweka Hut 1951*

Further examples of the Club spirit of our trampers can be seen in a couple of non-tramping working bees we had this year. During Cyclone Gabrielle the Tutaekuri River flowed through club member Marie's nursery, Plant Hawkes Bay, at Waiohiki. The following weekend 10 of our members

travelled to Waiohiki and spent a day helping to remove silt from plants. The club has helped at the regional hazardous waste collection every year for the last 20 years and this has become the major fundraiser for the club. Last November we had 19 members volunteer their time and it looks like we will have a similar number this year.

People mainly find our club through the internet; type in “tramping club” and then either “Hawkes Bay, Napier or Hastings” and the addresses of our web and Facebook pages appear on the first screen. This year we have also had exposure through articles in the “Bay Buzz”, the “Wilderness” magazine and the “Wings and Wildlife” newsletter. Our Facebook followers are up 100 (to 786) from this time last year while the average monthly views to our website is around 930 which is similar to last year’s data.

This year our Training Sponsorship fund made money available to both Jude Hay and Tom Little to cover some of their expenses in attending Outdoor Pursuits courses, an experience that will have made them more confident and competent in the great outdoors.

With the passing of our Patron, Jim Glass, the Committee have decided not to appoint a new Patron at this stage. The Club now has 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years to re-register under the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and must create a constitution that complies with the Act. Once this has been completed the position of Patron will be reconsidered.

Daniel Haddock became our meetings coordinator this year and has done a good job of finding us interesting speakers every month. Every second meeting has been a “Open Night” where members are encouraged to bring interesting snippets to share with others. This has worked well and we thank those members who have contributed to this.

Due to too many other commitments Anthea Chiappa stood down from committee part way through the year while Daniel will not be standing for re-election tonight so we would like to thank both of them for the work they did for us in the past year. In particular, Daniel for organising our meeting nights and Anthea for helping with Facebook enquiries.

Finally some more thank-yous:

To Graeme Hare for organising the hazmobile once again and all the members who helped on the day

All the Wednesday night hosts and supper helpers

## Pohokura

Members of the Fixtures Committee for organising a diverse range of weekend and Sunday tramps as well as the Ad Hoc Wednesday tramps

Rodger Burn and Christine Hardie for running the Wednesday cyclists and walkers group

Alan Berry for the work he does to produce the calendar

Janice Love for helping Alan with the calendar and for producing the photo book

Penny Isherwood for looking after sales of maps, caps, bag liners and badges

Susan Lopdell for looking after Backcountry Food sales

Liz Pindar for looking after our library and making lots of marmalade.

### Club Captain's Report: (by Simon Whittam)

Tramping Stats 1st Nov 2022 - 31st Oct 2023				
Tramp Type	Number of tramps	Numbers on Tramps		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Day tramps	9	10.7	4	18
Wed / Ad Hoc tramps	11	8	4	12
Weekend tramps	11	7.8	5	11
Long Weekend tramps	3	6.3	5	9

This has been a year of making many adjustments to the proposed trip list due to weather conditions & track damage but I believe the club made good attempts at squeezing in tramps be it in slightly damp & cool conditions at times. However, there are still places visited in years gone by, that newer members need to discover.

On the North Island east coast, trips have ranged from the:

- Tararuas (Ruamahanga Valley, Naenae track, Burns hut behind Shannon and Sledge/Toe Toe tracks behind Linton)
- East of Pahiatua on the Makairo track
- Ruahines (A Frame, Awatere, Longview, Barlows Hut, Gold Creek, Sparrowhawk, Howletts, Sunrise, Top Maropea, Waikamaka)
- Kawekas (Kiwi Saddle, Rogue/Mackintosh, Don Juan, Iron Whare)

- coastal beaches & up to the Mahia Peninsula

While in the Central North Island we have visited Whirinaki forest and Pureora Forest. On the west coast of the North Island there was a trip to the Kapiti Coast including Kapiti Island.

Working bees have been held at all of the 3 club huts:

- Waikamaka (Toilet tie down, plumbing, clearing around outside of hut),
- Howletts (cleaning, mattress covers, drainage around hut foundations)
- Kiwi Saddle (cleaning, wood supply).

Thank you to those club members who have been able to assist with maintenance of club huts.

These club huts are still considered an excellent destinations by the outdoor community.

Unfortunately no outside group training has happened this past year but there have been club evenings reminding us of the effects of hypothermia and covering the necessary items to take on our tramps.

Thank you also to club members who lead trip and those who pass on info about places previously visited and their past experiences with the HTC.

I'm sure this past year has been a memorable year for the club in more ways than one.

### **Hut and Track Report (by John Montgomerie)**

#### **Huts:**

All huts are in great order with key upgrades and maintenance in recent years which will keep them recognized as just that, and quite likely is the reason that more users are paying fees to use them.

#### **KIWI SADDLE HUT.**

The facelift of roof and wall cladding done there in 2012/13, combined with the complete interior paint essentially made it a new hut, it is a great destination for beginning trampers and families as it is only a few hours walk and has no rivers to cross. Randall tells me that the main maintenance needed is checking the downpipe leaf traps and keeping up rodent bait stations. April 2022 saw the toilet shifted, gutters cleaned, foyer cleaned up, gathering firewood, building rock steps up to the porch etc.

#### **WAIKAMAKA HUT**

Seems unreal, but the additions of the deck/verandah, porch roof and turn around for firewood and a sink, not to forget the installed tank...all happened in November 2016.

A Club trip there in January 2023, extended for those able to accommodate three days, achieved many jobs. We were lucky to be able to get in due to enormous rainfall in the area just a week before. Usual jobs done and tying toilet down to steel standards, replacing pipe from the tank to the sink, scrubbed exterior walls and toilet, wire brushed down the hut gable roof-- but found significant rust that will necessitate replacement in the near future as well as heaps of firewood gathered. The upper Waipawa River bed is changed so much with the rains and enormous amounts of rock and gravel that has been eroded off the East Face of 66. It is now a rock bash all the way. (see note under tracks) DoC have been repeatedly advised over a few years now, of the state of the route west of the Waipawa Saddle but have not yet taken action. In windy conditions it is right dangerous.

#### **HOWLETTS HUT.**

In February 2021, 800kg of coal was flown in by Rangitikei Helicopters, so next February it will be three years ago. About 12 bags per year used- 3 bags remaining. A Club decision is needed re another drop before next winter. February 2021 was when the hut last had a complete inside and outside paint job. In preparation of the next paint round, I arranged with DoC/Dulux for 8 litres of roof orange and 4 litres of wall blue, flown in by Ken Mills while there in this year's roar.

The last Club trip there was September this year, four of us in on a Thursday and four for just the weekend, the main object, to 'dig out' the foundation area to see regarding ventilation of the sub floor area. An inspection by an LBP soon will determine any action to be taken. It may include replacement of the exterior iron cladding. Many other maintenance jobs were done as well. I need to say again that this is my favourite hut and place, just magic. Again, we should be proud of the standard of huts that we own.

#### **Tracks:**

The Club has advised DoC that we are not in a position to manpower maintenance of the Parks Peak to Barlows track which had been done for many years. In fact DoC have removed the track from their register and probably the LINZ database.

The other track that we maintained was the Waipawa River upper reaches which has largely been overcome by rock accumulation. There are still some side track/routes that are useful still and coming out last January; we found a long one that had been 'lost' for years. If the Club itself felt inclined a day spent in the lower reaches above the North Branch would be appreciated by trampers I am sure, but to do justice should be marked with DoC triangles. As

the rate of growth of the Tutu and Buddleia is astonishing, a trim every couple of years would be needed.

John Montgomerie, Hut and Track subcommittee. 15 November 2023.

### **Vehicle Report (by Lex Smith)**

Now coming up to our third anniversary for the van.

Another busy year; Odometer reading 27423 with approx. 7000km (6000km 2022) completed for the year.

Our thanks you to those members who have driven the van over the last 12 months. Our pool of drivers continues to work well for us; Peter Berry, Simon Whitham, Christine Hardie, Lex Smith, Murry Alderson, Anthea Chiappa, Nic Walkerdine, Steve Borrett and John Simcox.

A thank you also to Peter Berry for assisting with COF's and minor maintenance over the year.

Thanks also to the team of women who looked after the cleaning activities – namely Janice, Joan and Glenda. Inside the truck was never as bad with boots off at the door. We need to have a person per trip to do a quick sweep/wipe after the trip.

The rear luggage shelving has continued to work well with a full van and weekend gear. We must all consider what we really need on those weekends in Camps etc.

We have now had a second year to see how the running costs of the van have panned out.

Overall costs are down due to sundry costs. Some increases are evident across other areas.

Our Kiwi Fuel cards (Mobil and BP) continue to give us good discounts without fees.

Van Costs		
Year	2022 ( \$ )	2023 ( \$ )
Total Costs	5916	5092
Insurance	1383	1411
Fuel	1630	1554
COF/RUC/REG	879	754
Service	616	858
Storage	400	400
Sundry*	1008	115
* includes; tyres, signage, side mirror		

**HERETAUNGA TRAMPING CLUB (INC). INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

INCOME	NOTES	2023	2022
Subscriptions	1	\$ 2,545	\$ 1,963
Vehicle income	2	\$ 3,477	\$ 3,713
Donations		\$ -	
Hut	3	\$ 1,893	\$ 2,585
General		\$ 20	
Equipment Hire		\$	20
Fund-raising		\$ 4,374	\$ 3,600
Auction	4	\$ 1,013	\$ 918
Interest Income		\$ 5,645	\$ 2,060
Sales	6	-\$ 37	\$ 98
		<u>\$ 18,930</u>	<u>\$ 14,956</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Administration		\$ 84	\$ 8
Audit & Accountancy		\$ 275	\$ 275
General Expenses		\$ 200	\$ 139
Donations	4	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,300
Insurance (huts & equipment)		\$ 903	\$ 903
Rent of meeting room		\$ 668	\$ 585
Supper & social expenses		\$ 179	\$ 112
Library & photo album		\$ -	\$ -
FMC Capitation		\$ 1,656	\$ 1,440
Pohokura (Bulletin)		\$ 788	\$ 1,087
Hut maintenance	5	\$ 1,669	\$ 441
Subscriptions		\$ 40	\$ 80
Training		\$ 750	\$ 55
Vehicle costs / Ins	2	\$ 5,194	\$ 5,916
Equipment		\$ 347	\$ 320
Website		\$ 8	\$ 41
Write off		\$ 108	\$ 92
Depreciation		\$ 3,486	\$ 3,508
		<u>\$ 17,603</u>	<u>\$ 16,302</u>
<b>NET SURPLUS / LOSS FOR THE YEAR</b>			
<b>TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		<u>\$ 1,327</u>	<u>-\$ 1,346</u>
<b>NOTES:</b>			
1. Subscriptions - outstanding subs from 2022 / new members			
2 - Vehicle expenses exceed income. Items across the board up.			
3. No real explanation. We did have some larger one off donations 2022			
4. Auction / Donations - Lowe Walker Helicopter \$1000. Adj 2024 payment post Auction.			
5. One off mattress cost \$1355 - Howletts			
6. Sale items to members have minimal or no return			



## TRIP REPORTS

### 2597 A Frame Hut – Te Ao Tūpare

30 July 2023

On 30 July a group of 8 set out at 7.00am from Te Aute Road heading to the Dannevirke Hills for a walk up to the A Frame Hut. Very chilly start to the day around 1 degree but beautifully clear and we soon warmed up walking.

The track was certainly very muddy in parts from the recent weather. However the track is easy to follow. As it was such a clear day there



were some stunning sights for a photo stop or two to catch your breath from the steep hill. After about 2 ½ hours of climbing, the track opens up and a panoramic view of the Hawke's Bay welcomes you to the tops.

The Hut has been extensively overhauled including the addition of two new bunks, a new window, a bench seat, wood burner, retaining wall, water tank and interior & exterior painting. The Maori name translates as 'realm of

the leatherwood' (very fitting for the ridges of the southern Ruahine Range).

We did not stay long at the Hut due to the extremely chilly temperature and headed back down. 6 of us made it to the top however Glenda and Susan went back down after the half way mark and headed off to do a farmland track. All in all a really great day and it was great to see the hut in such a nice condition.

JH

**Party:** Jude Hay (Leader), Anne Cantrick, Brent Hickey, Christine Lawrence, Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, Susan Lopdell, Des Smith.

**2598 A weekend near Pahiatua.**

**12 - 13 August 2023**

**Saturday: Nae Nae Track.**

After an easy run down to Pahiatua, apart of course from dodging the ubiquitous potholes, we turned inland and drove to the rather soggy end of Nae Nae road, where we parked with an awareness that later in the day we would need to push the van back out again. The weather wasn't too bad as the seven of us set off over the farmland, over a stile and immediately into the Otangane stream, which surprisingly, considering all the snow on the ranges to low levels, was shallow and luke warm, ( and if you believe that, you'll believe anything ). The track then continues over rough farmland, in what can only be described as a rather muddy fashion, until you enter the bush proper. The track then follows up the rather picturesque Nae Nae stream, with lots of little waterfalls, lots of steps and some real quality handrails.



Up to this point we had assumed that the track was uphill, but in comparison with what was to come, in hindsight it was virtually flat. I've heard the Tararua described as anything under 45 degrees is a swamp and anything over is a waterfall, but it is not true, some of the steepest bits were still swamp. We slid our way through rather attractive low altitude regrowth forest until we reached the top where Paula was waiting for us. Here we got a brief view of



the Wairarapa spread out below before the cloud rolled back in. Paula had left Simon and Nic who had had headed off around the Otangane loop track.

We started walking looking for a lunch spot, but it was bloody freezing and windy, so we went back down the track a bit to get out of the wind. After lunch we were all cold so set off at a reasonable pace back down the hill, slipping, sliding and generally having an adventuresome time. As we descended we got warmer, right up until we had to cross the river again. Back at the van the girls pushed it back onto the road and we worked on the weekend crossword for a while until Simon and Nic got back. We then drove off to Pahiatua for the night, Susan, Anne and Paula stayed in Ward 1 at Masters Hall while the rest stayed in the two cabins at the Carnival Park camp ground. Masters Hall is the old Pahiatua Hospital, the ambience of which has been retained and is a relatively cheap accommodation option.

### **Sunday: Makairo Track**

Sunday morning saw us heading east to the Waewaepa Range and the Makairo Track. The track end was muddy and the old road was muddier and cut up and after that it just kept getting worse. However, once we had passed the bridge,



the road had been cut from rockier ground and is in very good condition. Unfortunately there appeared to be a lot of both possum and deer sign around.

We continued on following the road which is a fair hike (about 8.5 Km to the saddle), but with a fairly gentle steady gradient, getting some good views out

over the bush and back towards the distant snow covered ranges. At the saddle we had lunch in a nice sheltered little dell, the wind was cool and there was the odd skiff of moisture in the air.

After lunch the ladies headed straight back, but the blokes followed a track, which we had found last time, heading south from the saddle for another hour before turning around. There has got to be scope here for a longer trip right through and out the other side. It was clear and well cut but very slippery on the steeper bits. We did get some views but in general the weather was deteriorating a bit and we just trundled on back down the road getting back to the van about an hour after the others. Apart from an interesting stretch on Waituna Road, courtesy of Gabrielle it was an uneventful drive home.

Two days of misty cold weather but everyone enjoyed it.

**Party:** Peter Berry, Simon Whittam, Nic Walkerdine Susan Lopdell, Anne Doig, Paula Kasper, Glenda Hooper

### **2599 Gold Creek Ridge Track & Sparrowhawk Track 27 August 2023**

#### **Gold Creek Ridge:**

The van left Pukahu at 7 AM with 8 on board and travelled to Waipawa where we were to pick up Murry. After parking out the front of the BP Station for about 20 minutes a phone call to Robyn alerted us to the fact that she and Murry were waiting at the other end of the petrol station for us.

We then all made our way through to Glenny Road where we had gotten permission from the landowners to park and make our way across their land to the DOC boundary.



As we started walking a watery sunshine and a fabulous rainbow enthralled us. We all walked down to the Makaroro River, which was quite low, and followed it upstream for a while. Some of us were clever enough to bash through the willows on the right bank and not get our boots wet - others were not so clever. We said goodbye to Simon's Sparrowhawk crew and started up the very steep hillside following markers along the fence-line. This section of the track climbs about 200 vertical metres over half a kilometre.

Once we crossed over the fence into DOC land the gradient was much gentler and we made our way up through the very diverse bush. In the trees we could hear whiteheads and grey warblers while the occasional Kereru flew over but very few tui were noted. As with many Ruahine tracks the fungi and moss are significant features but unfortunately we were too early for the native orchids.

Three of our party climbed down to Gold Creek hut for lunch while the other three stayed up on the ridge, had their lunch and returned back to the van by 3 PM. Two of the hut party returned just before 4 PM (Robyn was staying at the hut for the night) while the Sparrowhawk group were half an hour later.

### **Sparrowhawk Track:**

27th August 2023 - Day tramp up Sparrowhawk track to Sparrowhawk Bivy and return. Our party of four, Clint, Nic, Flynn, Simon started our tramp from a farm about 3 km west from the old Yeomans Mill site at the end of Wakarara Road. This is the first time going up the Sparrowhawk track for all of us.

Crossing the farm, we made our way to the Makaroro river and then upstream to where it meets Gold Creek. On the western side of Gold Creek, metres away from the Makaroro River, the Sparrowhawk track starts. But we've had to get wet feet just to get to the start of the track. The track climbs quickly, narrowing with a steep slip on the Gold creek side and a steep bush clad slope on the Makaroro side.

The tramp has started in drizzly conditions with cloud hiding the tops. The first quarter of the track is quite dry but the higher we go the wetter & more slippery the track gets. There's the odd tree blown down across the track, forcing us to detour slightly. The views if any are fleeting. Three & half hours latter we're again traversing a steep & very narrow ridge with a shingle scree on one side and steep bushy face on the other. But within minutes we breakout into a flattish and sheltered hollow where a two person bivvy stands all painted in orange.





We need to get inside the bivvy to shelter from the sleety showers and cold westerly winds. There's still some small patches of snow around. The bivvy has a small enclosed porch with earth floor, a very small bench seat on one side and work bench on the other.

After a quick lunch break we head out and up a small slippery track to the top of the ridge where the cold wind seems to penetrate even our wet weather gear. Again another fleeting view to the west through the ranges amongst the low cloud and a picture or two say we were mad enough to be up here. Let's get a move on and head back to where it's not quite so cold.

Maybe there will be another time where we can retrace our steps in warm, sunny conditions. All returned to the starting point in one piece, but a little weary.

**Parties:**

**Gold Creek Ridge:** Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, Susan Lopdell, Murry Alderson, Robyn Wilson, Janice Love,

**Sparrowhawk Track:** Simon Whittam, Flynn Grimstone, Clint Beckett and Nic Walkerdine



**2600 Te Mata Park**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2003**

A warm spring day today was ideal for our walk through Te Mata Park tracks where we had bush, views to the north east and west and a few places of interest.

Starting from Tauroa car park we followed the gradual climb of the track which took us past native tree plantings, a sacred hill, a tomo and the Rongoa gardens. Here we spotted a long time member, Mike Lusk who was diligently clearing remains of fallen trees from the cyclone. It was a pleasure to catch up with Mike, some who had not seen him for some time

Descending down the yellow track we walked through Webb's bush In the Te Heu valley. This is the largest native area in the park. There are Karaka trees over 100 years old, as well as other natives like Ngaio and Mahoe. We saw an old signpost showing H.T.C. planted the first trees in the Royal Forest and Bird area in 1945.



A gentle climb to the water tanks area was a place to stop for a fountain drink followed by a view down the Tuki Tuki valley and the east side of Te Mata Peak. After an early lunch stop on a grass area we walked along the main track back to the car park.

JL

**Party:** Susan Lopdell, Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, Christine Hardie, Lynn Walch  
Steve Borrett, Peter Hansen, Janice Love

**2601 Howletts Hut**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023**

The scheduled trip was expanded, to facilitate a working bee for various jobs, in particular investigating the foundations and exterior walls being covered in soil and rocks. The four of us who went in on Thursday 7 Sept did so by going through Kashmir farm in my 4WD to the bush edge and thence in via the old [up to early 1990's] original DoC track. It meets up with the present one on the way down to the Tukituki River. There must have been a massive rainfall from the February cyclone in the upper Tukituki, as the river had changed greatly, spectacularly heaping up at the outside of short corners big rocks/boulders. The usual antics of removing boots, wringing out sox was practiced before starting up the 'gentle' Daphne Ridge up to Howletts. We arrived at Howletts hut midafternoon, settled in and began other jobs needing attention, like replacing the interior door handles and some cleaning up and tidying up.

Friday morning and the digging out around the hut walls and foundations. This was made difficult due to the stones and significant rocks that were mixed up in the filling. The spade, shovel and crowbar kept at the hut worked hard! A slow and tedious job of the digging was done then and exposed the base of the hut and the tin that had been set into the ground. The heap of stones/rocks from this made an impressive sight, probably half a cubic metre!

Janice and Anne had taken all the mattresses outside and scrubbed them down, a bit dirty and mouldy after the winter. They also scrubbed the sleeping platforms, shelves and toilet... among many other tasks.



A full list of work done is shown, mainly as a list of work/upgrades for the records. As the digging out effectively removed the track past the hut, it was necessary to dig further back in to the hill to make a new one and it was paved using stones from the foundations. Two of the heavy 44 gallon drums [originally water tanks] were stowed in the bush by the helipad and the third



## Pohokura

one I cut the top out of with a cold chisel, so it could be used for a dog kennel or a wood store!

Work in general and continuing, took place on Saturday until about midafternoon, to go down off the tops to meet the other four coming in just in for the weekend, who had just sprinted up from Daphne! While waiting for them Simon and self pulled out bits of cedar stumps and dead leatherwood which we carried back to boost the hut wood supply. Later in the day two women from Wellington arrived so the hut was full.

A poll on Saturday night re going over the tops [to see the magnificent views from altitude] to Longview got the go ahead, so on Sunday we headed away about 8am in what looked like a bluebird day...but as the day progressed it was mostly 1-200m visibility ! At times there were distant vistas. The route down from high point Otumore to the Pohangina Saddle was not enjoyed, being wet and slippery. Straight down to the Kashmir Road end next, but Nick volunteered? [younger legs] to speed out and on to the new Daphne car park and return in Murry's ute to get us all back to Kashmir Farm. Murry then took me back over the farm to my ute, to then come out in convoy, meet up with the six waiting at the woolshed, bid farewells and return back to the Bay. Work done

Dug out foundations, rocks and soil 300mm up and covering the exterior iron cladding. Formed new path along east side of hut. Cleaned mattresses. Cleaned bunk platforms and kitchen area and shelf containing utensils, pots etc. Replaced inside door handle assemblies. Cleaned and flushed gutters. Collected lots of firewood. Cleaned and reset bait station. Windows cleaned. Sorted and inventoried paint stocks. Cleaned toilet. Packed used coal bags in one bag, packed rubbish in hut in another coal bag, tied off and marked rubbish to be flown out at some stage. Two 44 gallon petrol drums behind hut stowed in trees by helipad, one 44 gallon drum- cut the top out so can be a dog kennel or wood storage space. Sawed up pallet for firewood. 5 new mattress covers fitted [carried in by 3 members of the group]. Wet wood split to dry in sun.

The new axe is in good order, steel handled axe too, two handsaws as well as two bow saws and two spare blades. Amazing that they are all well looked after by patrons.

A big thank you to Simon for the hard spade work he and I achieved and to Anne and Janice carrying over the bank, bucket loads of soil and stones from

our diggings. All this after their hut cleaning/scrubbing, mattress cleaning etc. that was in itself a tedious job.

The end result of the digging out of the foundations is to establish if there is sufficient ventilation for the foundations and underfloor area. An inspection by an LPB, Eddie Holmes, Club member, in the near future will determine how the ventilation is managed. Removal of the lower wall edge iron sheets [already old and damaged but weather tight] will determine if the wall cladding is best also replaced.



JM

**Extended trip:** Simon Whittam, Janice Love, Anne Cantrick, John Montgomerie [leader]

**Just the weekend participants:** Paul Dandy, Nick Walkerdine, Jude Hay, Murry Alderson.

<b>2602 Ruamahanga Valley</b>	<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>
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The initial plan for Sunday had been to head to Poutaki Hut, however thanks to the weather forecast and access issues the decision was made to head south instead in an attempt to find dryer pastures. 10 of us set off heading for the Ruamahanga River, we nearly missed the turnoff for Ruamahanga Gorge Road being just over the first bridge heading south of Mt Bruce, thinking it was just the entrance to a farm.

It was a cool day as we started walking, the clouds continually threatening rain but thankfully never eventuating more than the occasional shower throughout the day.

## Pohokura

We headed over farmland following a fence on our left hand side until it started heading uphill away from the river and a gate could be seen that would lead us down towards the river where we believed we should be headed. Passing through the gate the track led downwards through the slightly overgrown bush which clad the rivers banks, however upon reaching it found no way to progress further as no one was keen on getting their feet wet.



We backtracked to the fence we had been following and resolved ourselves to climb up the hill through farmland, once at the top we zigged our way back down the otherside through dead Manuka trees and then continued onwards this time keeping to right following the river, passing through farm gates often surrounded by large puddles and deep mud. At this point after stopping for a snack we separated into 2 parties with 1 attempting to see if they could reach Cleft Creek.

Continuing on though farmland we eventually hit a cross for Selwyn Roy Pawson overlooking the river, at this point we left the farmland behind and headed off into scrubby Manuka and ferns. Following along the track through plenty of mud we eventually reached a sign advising we had entered Tararua Forest Park and moved it to proper native bush.

Based on maps we were about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the way along the Ruamahanga Gorge section where we stopped for lunch at a spot we could look down into the river below. While short of our goal of Cleft Creek we decided that it would be best to head back afterwards as the initial excursion down to the river had cost us time and still had the drive back to Hasting ahead of us.



## Pohokura

The second party walked past the Pawson cross and started up a muddy hill before deciding they would prefer to have lunch down by the river. They back tracked a bit and went down a fisherman's access track near the Pawson cross and a private hut. It was a pretty site for lunch. Afterwards they tried to retrace steps back to the van but one went a bit astray crossing a swamp and ended up thigh deep in it.

**Party:** Simon Whittam, Nic Walkerdine, Jude Hay, Glenda Hooper, Christine Lawrence, Susan Lopdell, Robyn Wilson, Colin Jones, Anne Doig, Murry Alderson (leader)

<b>2603 Labour Weekend – Whirinaki Forest</b>	<b>20 – 23 October 2023</b>
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On Friday, 20 October a group of five left to drive around to the northern side of Whirinaki Forest Park from Okahu road end. Arrived around 12 noon on a lovely clear day. Had a spot of lunch beside the van and then headed off up to Rogers Hut (a six bed hut). It was around a 3.5 hour walk to the hut. This historic old hut has so much character. The hut was built in 1952 and the covered deck was added on in 1995. A hunter and his partner came to the hut later on in the day so the hut was full. As it was such a beautiful day Nic decided to make good use of his tent and camped outside above the Moerangi Stream. We were also very lucky and saw a couple of blue ducks



The next morning after breakfast we headed off to Mangakahika Hut (a nine bed hut) which was around a 3.5 hour walk from Rogers Hut. Another beautiful clear day and we arrived around lunchtime. A very nice walk with only a couple of small slips to navigate. Mangakahika Hut is set amidst beech forest, this hut is a popular destination for hunters. Upon our arrival we were very lucky and had the hut to ourselves. After a relaxing lunch Nic and Jude decided to head off along the track to Central Te Hoe Hut. The track certainly needed quite a lot of work as there were trees down and a few slips to navigate. After a return walk of around 3 hours it was nice to be back at Mangakahika Hut which was really lucky as five minutes later the heavens opened and it rained very heavily for the rest of the evening.

On day 3 we decided to head through and spend the night at Skips Hut (nine bed hut). Skips Hut has beautiful views of the podocarp and beech forests. We were so lucky with the weather as was another beautiful clear day. We meandered our way back and arrived at Skips Hut around lunchtime again. We met a hunter and his dog who were camping nearby and a family who decided later in the day to head back to Okahu Road leaving us to have the hut to ourselves.

After a leisurely breakfast we headed back to Okahu Road to the van. On the way back we saw a family of blue duck. It was very special. We then stopped at Rainbow Mountain where Nic and Simon went for around a 1 hour walk or so whilst we three girls sat in the sun. We then stopped at the Berry honey café for lunch and then headed back to Hawkes Bay with Nic and Simon sharing the driving. A really fabulous weekend with amazing weather

JH

**Party:** Susan Lopdell (Leader), Jude Hay (Co-leader), Simon Whittam, Nic Walkerdine, Anne Doig

<b>2604</b>	<b>Boundary Stream</b>	<b>5 November 2023</b>
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It was a perfect sunny Sunday morning when we arrived at the car park for Bell Rock where just one other car was parked. We all went up the bush track and noted that many of the traps along the way had their entrances blocked so pests could not enter them. Thirty minutes in the bush and we were out on farmland for another 50 minutes' walk to Bell Rock. There were great views at the top and morning tea was had by some while others explored the limestone outcrops.

## Pohokura

We initially returned back slightly north of the track, where there is an interesting tomo area, but soon rejoined the actual track.



At the track junction half returned back through the bush while the rest went down the ridge, past the petrel aviary. We met a number of parties coming up through the bush as we went down it. After waiting 20 minutes for the ridge party we drove to the large Boundary Stream shelter where we had lunch.

After lunch we first walked the short Tumunako loop and then most carried on clockwise around the Kamahi Loop. We got back to the van just before 4 pm and headed off home again. A good day out with 4 members visiting the area for the first time.

**Party:** Nic Walkerdine, Simon Whittam, Anne Doig, Denise & Lindsay Dalziel, Stephen Borrett, Lex Smith, Paula Kasper, Peter Berry and Glenda Hooper

## Ad Hoc Tramps

### Ahuriri Estuary

**Wednesday 16 August 2023**

We left Pukahu at 8.30 with 8 in the van and headed over to Napier to arrive at Park Island at 9 am where 2 more joined us. It was a lovely fine day but for an additional warm up we walked up onto the Western Hills and down the other side to Prebensen Drive to access the entry to the Water Ride shared pathway.

Our first stop for the day was at the bridge over the Taipo Stream just before it reaches the main outfall channel. We then checked out the bird hide before

continuing along the pathway. Spoonbills were there as well as a multitude of other birds, Joan was keeping count and she came up with a total of different varieties for the day.

Two decided to cross the channel at the low level bridge (and only go slightly wet feet) while the rest carried on along the path on the true right, past another bird hide. We then followed the pathway under the express-way bridge, exited on to the old embankment bridge and took the most direct route to the Westshore beach for lunch.

After lunch we followed the Ahuriri Estuary walk back to the embankment bridge and then followed the track that skirts round the western end of Pandora to Prebensen Drive and then took the shortest route back to Park Island.

This circuit was around 16 km and with the hard limestone and asphalt surfaces there were a number of sore feet at the end of the day.

**Party:** Joan Ruffell, Graeme Hare, Susan Lopdell, Denise & Lindsay Dalziel, Barbara Hamillton, John Simcox, Christine Lawrence, Peter Berry and Glenda Hooper

<b>Holt Forest and Lake Waikopiro</b>	<b>Wed13<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b>
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Holt Forest can be found near the settlement of Waikoau, just down the road from Lake Tutira. In 1933 Harold and Dorothy Holt purchased a 15 hectare area of manuka and bracken to create a forest and then spent the next 45 years developing it. It is now an impressive arboretum of over 500 species of indigenous and introduced plants. In 1962 the forest became a wildlife sanctuary and was gifted to the public of NZ.

Eight of us spent the morning walking all the tracks in Holt Forest. Cyclone Gabrielle caused massive damage to the forest (a worker there told us about \$100,000 worth) and we had to climb around quite a bit of tree fall. We also checked out the damage the forest stream had done to the railway line. However, it is still an impressive forest and we took our time enjoying it and the birds (including a tomtit).





We had lunch at the forest car park then drove back to Tutira. The lakes were still full but there was a causeway separating them again. We walked around the smaller lake there, Lake Waikopiro, and then made a return walk to the camp ground before driving home.

**Party:** Glenda Hooper, Peter Berry, Susan Lopdell, Denise & Lindsay Dalziel, Christine Lawrence, Steve Borrett and Fred Chesterman.

## Waipatiki Reserves

Wednesday 4th October 2023

John drove five of us out to Waipatiki, we observed the still decimated Tangoio valley on the way. We parked at the first car park at the bottom of the hill to walk through the beautiful Waipatiki Scenic Reserve. There seemed to be a lot of nikau branches on the ground, but apart from that there was very little evidence of the cyclone as we made our way up the reserve, taking the upper loop. We walked out to Aropaoanui Road and had a bite to eat there before returning back via the lower loop. There was one significant tree fall on this route.

We had lunch on the beach before entering the Waipatiki Domain and climbing up to the lookout. The lookout is about 120 metres above sea level and gives good views down to the settlement and out to Napier. After descending from the lookout we continued along the domain track to its western exit to Waipatiki Road. There are some massive trees in this reserve. We finished our



## Pohokura

walk by walking back down the road to the van. Steve then drove us all back home.



All agreed it was a great day out and thanks to John and Steve for safely driving us there and back,

**Party:** John Simcox, Steve Borrett, Susan Lopdell, Christine Lawrence and Glenda Hooper

<b>Tuki Tuki Trails</b>	<b>Wednesday 18 October 2023</b>
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On a lovely sunny day nine of us headed down to Lindsay Park at Waipukurau and did the loop through Lindsay Reserve before following the pathway to the Lindsay tunnel. Most of us walked (very stooped in places) through the tunnel which is about 200 metres long. From the other side we could look up across farmland to Lindsay Road as it wound its way up the hill towards Waipawa. We then returned through the tunnel and back to the van and to The Forest of Memories to have our lunch.

The Forest of Memories is a Waipukurau Rotary Club project. Sited at the base of Pukeora Hill, the 10 hectare block was created in 1993 as a place for trees and memories. It is now a very interesting arboretum with a number of short tracks in it where you can spend an hour or so exploring.



After a walk through this arboretum we drove down the road a bit to Ashcott Road and walked part of the way to Parsons Road on the Tukituki Trail before returning.

**Party:** Glenda Hooper, Susan Loddell, Peter Berry, Denise & Lindsay Dalziel, Christine Lawrence, Janice Love, John Simcox, Steve Borrett.

## Kaweka Lakes

**Wednesday 15 November 2023**

A group of 6 drove up the Taihape Road and along the newly reopened Kuripapango Road (you can no longer go along Castle Rocks Road) to Lakes Road to visit the Kuripapango Lakes. After Peter led us off on a false start towards Kiwi Saddle Hut, we backtracked and took the side track right near the information sign that takes one along to the Lakes. The lakes are currently very clear and still relatively high so walking along the lake edge was not going to be easy. We stopped at the first lake for a short break before making our way through manuka to the second lake where we had an early lunch.

After lunch we “walked on water” through the marsh to make our way around most of the second lake. Some of us retained dry socks but not all. While the level was high the manuka showed us just how high it had been as there was a definite high tide line showing on the bushes. When we were back at the southern end of the lake, about 120 metres ESE from where we had started an extra wet area foiled the complete circuit so , we bashed ESE through scrubby bush for about 400 metres to Kuripapango Road (there were a few complains

about this section). We then followed the road back to the car park finding a few early flowering sun orchids on the way.

**Party:** Peter Berry, Glenda Hooper, Susan Lopdell, Lindsay & Denise Dalziel, Steve Borrett

### **Maraetotara Reserves**

**Wednesday 13 December 2023**

There were five of us out for a half day outing and our first stop was at the Maraetotara Gorge Scenic Reserve. We had been here earlier in the year on a Sunday tramp and most had not been through to the natural land-bridge over the Maraetotara River because of the damage to the track from Gabrielle. This time Peter led the way directly to the land-bridge, which we crossed and explored the bush on the other side. We returned to the van after about an hour in this reserve and drove on up to Mohi Bush.

We spent about 90 minutes walking the two loops at Mohi Bush. We heard fernbirds at the far end and enjoyed the magnificent trees. Back at the car park we had our lunch then returned to Havelock North with a short stop at the Maraetotara Falls reserve.

Party: Peter & Donna Berry, Steve Borrett, Christine Lawrence & Glenda Hooper

## **HTC BIKE TRIPS**



### **Cycle Ride**

**Clive to Napier**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

A very welcome break in the weather brought fourteen keen cyclists out of hibernation for a local ride. We met at the Evers Swindell reserve Clive on a quite frosty morning and after the usual natter our well clad group set off towards Napier and then onto the Marine Parade noting that the pathways were unusually deserted perhaps due to a slight wind.

A decision was made to stop for coffee etc. at our usual stop Adoro's cafe on Bridge Street which was a favourite spot for cyclists and we took our

refreshments on the patio basking in the sun and shielded from any wind and discussed the issues of the day.

Eventually we made a move and most decided to return the same way whilst the Taradale team took a slightly different route back to home. An easy morning ride of 33Km's for most.

**Party:** Lyn Welsh, Bronwen Kerr, Carolynn Catt, Joan Ruffell, Anne Cantrick, Pam Pike, Sharron Wellwood, Christine Hardie, Graeme Hare, Roy Frost, Alasdair Shaw, Bryan Pearce, Ray Manning, Rodger Burn (organiser)

<b>Cycle Ride Hastings/Havelock North   Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023</b>
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Another local ride brought twelve of our cycling group out to enjoy an easy local ride in pleasant conditions for a 9.30 start from Rodgers place.

The morning traffic rush had finished and we cruised along crosses road and followed the cycle path up Ada Street to join up with Park Road North behind Windsor Park. We continued down Park Road in a southerly direction to eventually join up with the start of the track beside the Southland drain.

Only a few people were about and mainly dog walkers and we made our way along the track to meet St Georges Road which was a bit busier and crossed Te Aute road and followed this down to the start of Crystal road where for a change crossed over and went down West Road which was new to most before doubling back to Crystal road and onto Middle road and again pleased to get on the cycle track.

We stopped outside the Birdwood Gallery-Cafe and after a vote decided that it was too early for coffee as we had only done 17 Km's so far and elected to carry on and our route so far had been all flat which is always a bit easier for those on standard bikes.

A gentle gradient up Iona road took us to Lane road and now we had to tackle the largely narrow uphill road to the end noting the fine houses with extensive well-manicured gardens to the end and this was a new area for most of our Taradale group and we descended at speed back to Iona road before heading into Havelock for a well-deserved stop at E's Cafe for Coffee and Scones and then home



## Pohokura

A very enjoyable short ride of only 26Km's ride in perfect weather conditions and no bike mishaps.

**Party:** Anne Cantrick, Lyn Walch, Pam Pike, Sharron Wellwood, Joan Ruffell, Christine Hardie, Garry Smith Roy Frost, Pete Hansen, Alastair Shaw, Bryan Pearce, Rodger Burn (Organiser)

<b>Cycle Ride   Crownthorpe Circuit   Wednesday 13 September 2023</b>
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A group of seven keen cyclists met at Pukehamoamo School on Matapiro road for our usual Crownthorpe circuit and the weather again proved to be favourable to us. After some discussion we decided not to do the Ohiti road deviation due to the heavy volume of traffic on the Taihape Road, but instead elected to tackle first up the Crownthorpe Settlement road towards our destination the church.

We headed into strong westerly winds which only got stronger as the higher we got and this required some concentration but a bonus was just about zero traffic on the road and on reaching the turnoff into Crownthorpe road we were all agreed that having E Bikes made life easier.

We charged down the road towards Matapiro road only to be stopped just temporary by the bridge where work was being done on reinstatement to the bridge and then onto the flats and we raced towards the church and a early lunch stop. Lunch was had in the church grounds and this historic church is now 102 years old and its history is reflected in the many memorials and identities buried there going back to the period and it would have been nice to have a look inside

Eventually it was time to leave and we were delighted to have the benefits of a strong tail wind along Matapiro road which got us back to our cars in no time. Only 38Km today and enjoyed by all with no mishaps or bike problems.

**Party:** Heather Stephenson, Pam Pike, Sharron Wellwood, Christine Hardie, Garry Smith, Ray Manning, Rodger Burn (Organiser)

<b>Cycle Ride   Mystery Ride   Wednesday 27 September 2023</b>
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WOOHOO!!!!!! After the heavy rain and strong winds overnight it was incredible by daylight there was just high cloud with no rain!!! 9 of us set off from Guppy Road along the stop bank and headed to the Bupa track coming

out at SUMMERSET Palms where we cycled around the Village looking at all the progress. Stopped outside Dave's however he didn't come out. Apparently he was in the shower!

Next we cycled along the George's Drive pathways where the trees were looking stunning with their new spring growth. A short ride on the footpath around Corunna Bay, on the road along Battery Road and then headed to a much appreciated Coffee and snacks stop at Ahuriri Village Kitchen which was sheltered from the wind, sitting outside.

An interesting water ride next with some bird life, spoonbill and a very large turkey!

We came out at Park Island where some of the group split to head home and the rest cycled back to their cars in Guppy Road. An enjoyable cycle ride with a mix of tracks, pathways, footpaths and roads of approximately 37 kms.

**Cyclists:** Rodger Burn, Christine Hardie, Lyn & Lyn Gentry, Ray Manning, Graeme Hare, Peter Hewitt, Joan Ruffell, Lynn Walch (organiser)

<b>Cycle Ride</b>	<b>Eastern Tuki Tuki</b>	<b>Wednesday 4 October 2023</b>
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There was some doubt whether the ride selected at short notice would even go ahead as the weather the day before was wet, cold and windy but fortune favoured us again with a decent forecast which proved to be the case.

A total of fourteen today with nine leaving from Clive and following the cycle trail along the Clive River and then past the picturesque lagoons looking their best with a high tide and plenty of bird life in attendance.

We met up at Black Bridge with the other five including Anne Cantrick who had brought her grandson Liam which reduced our average age considerably

We then carried on along the cycle trail on the Eastern side to the Tuki Tuki to Tennant Road where we left the trail and joined up Tuki Tuki Road and made our way via Raymond road to Parkhill Road and through Clearview winery and vineyards to our destination Hygge Cafe where we all enjoyed a relaxing stop in a sunny position and complimented Liam on how well he had done leading from the front as eleven of us had E bikes.

Our return had cyclists taking different options for their return and most would have done somewhere between 35Km to 55Km and no reported bike problems. A most enjoyable day had by all

RB.

**Party:** Joan Ruffell, Christine Hardie, Anne Cantrick + Liam, Mrs Lyn Gentry, Heather Stephenson, Pam Pike, Sharron Wellwood, Bryan Pearce, Des Smith, Garry Smith, Pete Hewitt, Alasdair Shaw, Rodger Burn(Organiser)

<b>Cycle Ride</b>	<b>Maraekakaho</b>	<b>Wednesday 18 October 2023</b>
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Warnings of strong winds put a number off and a small group of five met at the Maraekakaho School for what was to be a challenging ride.

Firstly we debated which circuit to take and decided in view of the swirling winds to rule out the steep Whakapiro hill circuit so opted for a 32Km return along Aorangi road and we welcomed Jane to our group who proved to be a very capable cyclist.

We set off along Kereru road which is still undergoing repairs in places after the Cyclone with a couple of stop/go signs requiring our attention and whilst it was warm enough the winds got progressively stronger as we cycled onwards and upwards on Aorangi road to a level of 300 metres at the end of the road where we stopped for a breather and snacks.

The return journey was just sheer joy with a very strong tail wind and throwing caution to the wind and with minimal effort we made it back to the school in record time where we enjoyed the rest of our lunch and thermos by the BBQ tables and all credit must go to Jane and Alasdair who managed well on standard bikes and we had no accidents to report.

Party: Christine Hardie, Jane Kenyon, Garry Smith, Alasdair Shaw, Rodger Burn (Leader)

<b>Cycle Ride</b>	<b>Ongaonga Circuit</b>	<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023</b>
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**Cycling Route:**

Ongaonga Township, Bridge St, H50, Wakarara Rd, Hardy Rd, Blackburn Rd, H50, Taylor Rd, Herrick Rd, Bridge St

Our HTC cycling group of nine people met at Ongaonga and departed on our ride at around 09:45 hrs. It was a perfect blue-sky day for our ride, with just a

## Pohokura

light breeze to keep us comfortable throughout what turned out to be quite a warm day. We initially cycled north along H50 for 2.5 km to the intersection of Wakarara Rd. We regrouped at the Gravel Pit, before proceeding up Wakarara Rd to Hardy Rd.

As we cycled up Wakarara Rd we observed a large commercial block of recently planted apple trees. Peter later informed us that a friend of his was involved in the establishment of the block, four to five years ago. The block has more than 830,000 apple trees planted on it. An assortment of different apple varieties is grown on the property, and are packed for export by several of the larger N.Z. fruit exporting companies. Many of the rows of trees are 2.5 km long, and the whole block is fully covered with huge overhead lengths of protective netting.

On arriving at the Hardy Rd intersection, we all relaxed by sitting on the grass taking in the views of the Ruahine Ranges etc. It is a great spot to get off the bike and stretch your legs whilst sitting in the sun having a good catch-up, before moving on.



We discussed the various options as to who wanted to go where from the Hardy Rd intersection, back to Ongaonga, and the consensus was for the group to split up and follow three different routes.

One party went back to Ongaonga on a reverse of the outward route. The second party continued on up the steep section of Hardy Rd, and then followed Blackburn Rd, down to H50. They then travelled up H50 to Taylor Rd, and Herrick St, getting back to their vehicles which were parked on Bridge St



opposite the iconic Ongaonga early settler's museum. Both groups later met up at the Ongaonga Store / Café, for some pleasant socializing and coffee time.

In the meantime, Des continued on down Wakarara Rd, to inspect the condition of the Waipawa River Bridge just past Pendle Hill Rd. Unfortunately, very little progress has been made in repairing the Cyclone Gabrielle damaged Wakarara Rd, - Waipawa River bridge. There is still a large section of washed-out bridge abutment, completely missing. A temporary vehicle ford has been established under the bridge, which looks to be suitable for 4x4 vehicles, and perhaps heavy stock trucks.

Des then headed back up Wakarara Rd, to Pendle Hill Rd. and found that the Pendle Hill – Waipawa River Bridge, appeared to be undamaged. He then cycled back to Ongaonga via Lookout Rd, Hinerua Rd, Blackburn Rd, and H50. The plus-side of taking this rather challenging in places, gravel road route, is the fantastic views that you get, looking out over the surrounding farmland towards the Ruahine Ranges and Wakarara Ranges. On a good day, it is simply stunning...

D.S.

**Cyclist:** Jane Kenyon, Joan Ruffell, Christine Hardie, Rodger Burn, Peter Hansen, Garry Smith, Alasdair Shaw, Garry Smith, Des Smith (Organiser)

<b>Cycle Ride   Raukawa Road area   Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023</b>
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After some weather induced cancellations our cyclists were hoping for a change in fortunes on the day and nine of us met at the Hastings Golf Club which is also popular meeting point for the classic car club with their impressive display of very expensive autos.

We decided to cycle down Raukawa road after noticing low cloud settling on the hills and would consider the various options when we reached the Raukawa community hall but this did not eventuate as strong head winds and scattered rain caused a re think and we stopped just short of the hall

The winds were not a problem for most but those on regular bikes it was a bit of a struggle and it was just not looking good with low cloud menacing and scattered showers so we decided to return to the golf club and enjoyed the benefits of a very strong tail wind

Des however in the meantime decided to carry on and had a rest stop at the community hall and carried on along Raukawa road and up the very steep section joining up with Whakapirau road where he was met with strong winds and heavy rain which caused him to shelter under some trees and he joined up with us later back at the golf club and was most impressed with the weather proof qualities of his new Macpac Pertex shield jacket.

Our refreshment break was quite extended and enjoyed by all.

RB

**Party:** Sharron Wellwood, Pam Pike, Christine Hardie, Joan Ruffell, Anne Cantrick, Garry Smith, Des Smith, Alasdair Shaw, Rodger Burn.

<b>Cycle Ride</b>	<b>Christmas Ride</b>	<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b>
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Nine keen cyclists met at the Evers Swindell reserve Clive for a easy ride to Clifton with others choosing to meet enroute or at Clifton.

The real possibility of very strong winds resulted in a handful deciding that cars may be a better option and left their bikes at home on the day., meanwhile the cyclists took off and carries along the cycle trail from Clive past the lagoons and wildlife which were looking at their best and a tail wind helped us along to the Black Bridge Haumoana which we crossed with due care..

After crossing we followed the cycle tracks continuing along the coast and were stunned by a beautiful display of bright red flowers on a number of Pohutukawa or what we used to call NZ Christmas trees well worth a photograph.

We arrived about 11Am at the Hygge Cafe and opted to stay inside as the winds were quite strong and the staff soon settled our group of 19.

We were in no rush and a very pleasant time was had by all as they were expecting us and dealt with our orders very quickly.  
It was nice to meet up with Marion and Fred again along with Scott and Oriole. Eventually with some reluctance it was time to leave and now the cyclists had to deal with strong head winds and sneaky side winds which did their best to unseat us but most had E Bikes which helped under the conditions.



A very pleasant end to a year which has certainly had more than its fair share of cancellations and track closures. and fingers crossed for 2024.

RB

**Party:** Pam Pike, Sharron Wellwood, Mrs Lyn Gentry, Heather Stephenson, Lyn Walsh, Joan Ruffell, Christine Hardie, Marion Nicholson, Scott & Oriole Campbell, Fred Chesterman, Des Smith, Garry Smith, Alasdair Shaw, Graeme Hare, Pete Hansen, Peter Hewitt, Bryan, Rodger Burn (Organiser)

### **BOOTS ON BIKES [BoB]: CYCLING ACTIVITIES AND HTC**

As with everything in Hawke's Bay, 2023 started innocuously enough. After an average to damp summer nearly 20 of us gathered in the last week of January to do our first ride of the year. We look quite an accomplished bunch these days with plenty of smart-looking bikes [electric and pedal-powered], loads of lycra and many hi-viz tops that can probably be seen from space. But Huey and the other weather gods had different plans as we know too well and, like everyone else, our schedule was interrupted. There is no need to dwell on the physical legacy of Cyclone Gabrielle but all outdoor activities were drastically altered for the rest of the year, and we have had to adapt accordingly.

While the HB Cycle Trails were drying out over the next few months, we had to road ride more than usual but we always devise routes that are the safest possible so it wasn't too difficult. HB road repair gangs were impressive at getting as many roads open as quickly as possible and in many places that included cycle trails. Most of the local ones were usable within a few weeks but not all. Some of them are still closed and others have surfaces that no-one has yet been able to attend to. Bridges are another story. We have

investigated many on the rural roads and sometimes it's a bit of a bear hunt: you can't go through them, you can't go under them, you can't go over them so you have to go round them, sometimes for miles.....or you have to negotiate with reluctant stop-go men to let you pass!

There have been no serious casualties this year: punctures, dropped chains, jammed derailleurs, a graceful fall or three, in other words the usual and expected but fortunately not common. There is enough expertise in BoB to deal with most breakdowns or minor injuries so we are never stopped for long. We stuck with the ratio of 3:1 rides to tramps per month this year which the group members supported after trying it. The rationale was explained a few Pohokuras ago.

Despite BoB's low profile in the HTC universe, readers can be assured that the cyclists are still in great heart. If you are finding that the hills are getting higher these days you can have just as much fun [if not more] on the roads and trails of Hawke's Bay. Cycling through quiet countryside or down long hills or along beautiful coastal trails should convince you. Plus, it's a fantastic gang of people who have become good friends over the last 20 years. It's true that we do things differently from the rest of HTC. Our programmes are flexible and subject to change at short notice; we act on the preferences of the members not the managers; we admit we don't go into the wilderness but we do get to the foothills; we move along faster than the average tramper; we bail out if there is heavy rain, fog or gales and [horrors] we often go to coffee shops if we are in or near urban areas. What's not to like?

Rodger [Ph 8776322] gets our thanks for another year of facilitating and communicating [with some assistance from Christine] and we appreciate the input of a loyal band of BoBBERS: Uncle Graeme Hare always keeps everyone's spirits up, Des remains our resident super cyclist, Joan & Alasdair provide new routes and other entertainment, the Peters, Lynn, Garry, The Doilies, Ray, Roy, Scott, Anne, Heather, Carolyn, Gentrys are always supportive. Others come and go when they can – there have been deaths and serious illnesses in the families of some of us this year which we have acknowledged. We all gathered to mark Judy McBride's death recently as she was an active member of the group for very many years until ill health intervened. Thanks, everyone and see you in 2024, Year of the Dragon.

CH



## Private Trips

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November**

**Samara and Kathy's Kaweka J Trip**

With inclement weather forecast and the call made from our other HTC wanderers to temporarily postpone/cancel the memorial trip up the J, Mum and I had time off work, a keen dog in tow, so with raincoats at the ready we set off from Makahu saddle car park at 0830 on Sun 19 Nov. in mild conditions with low cloud sitting on the tops, headed for Kaweka J.

The usual zigzag up to the conjunction of the spurs was over before we knew it, as was the climb to Dominie where we chose not to linger given the forecast was for incoming worsening conditions.



An impressive field of mountain buttercups greeted us as we hit the tarns, and our raincoats were appreciated for the NW gusts and damp low cloud. In the temporary windbreak of the hill just before the cairn we unwrapped the wreath, made by nannie, before making our way over to secure and place it to the plaque at 1030, in-case a future trip up did not pan out for the club as a whole.

## Pohokura

Views to the central plateau were clouded in and glancing down to Hawke's Bay looked drizzly, so as the winds were becoming chilly on our hands and legs, we remembered those who had gone before us, and then were thankful for the wind assist, as we made short work of dropping the altitude back down the ridge. We had a wee morning tea break, aka sent nannie a quick pic from the Dominie junction, before our final descent saw us back to the empty car park at 1145.

Given the last few times we've been up the J we'd start walking from the quarry due to road works, therefore we felt we were cutting this trip very short, being afforded good road conditions to drive all the way in now. All the same, a nice leg stretch had by all, including the dog (Rocko, a lab blue heeler cross who is kiwi aversion trained and was muzzled for the trek).

SE

**Party:** Kathy Eggers, Samara Eggers, Rocko

## Obituaries

### **JIM GLASS – our Patron 1933 – 2023**

Jim's sixty-eight year membership of the club drew to a close in early October, and with it, his role as Patron of the club.

Not too many new trampers make their first trip on a working party to Waikamaka Hut but that is what Jim did, in November 1954. Painting the roof, and doing all those other things we are still doing nearly seventy years later. He was a very active trumper in those earlier years, roaming throughout the Hawke's Bay ranges with his fellow club members. He also undertook longer trips to the Nelson Lakes, the Aoraki/Mount Cook region and other parts of New Zealand. Even after family duties caught up with him, Jim continued his close association with the club and managed our scrap book records for many, many years. In later times, when the hills became a bit higher, he shared in forming the Amblers' Club within HTC, to allow members to enjoy mid-week trips together. That group developed a life of its own and is still very active. I was fortunate to spend many days in the hills with Jim, both on club trips and long private trips. He was a wonderful companion and a strong and resourceful trumper, someone who was always willing to do more than his share of trip duties and club responsibilities.



## Pohokura

Jim had come to New Zealand from England and worked for many years as an operator in the “dial 9 and ask for ....” semi-manual telephone exchange that existed locally until about 1980. Thereafter he moved to the Post Office Savings Bank counter staff, until retiring quite early, at about 58, when the Post Office shrank their numbers. Lots of time for midweek tramping. The last few years have not been easy for Jim and his passing, a fortnight after his wife Doreen, will have come as a blessing. Go well Jim.

Alan B



Jim Glass, on the right, and Alan Berry, on top of Mangaweka Trig, 1956. Back in the days when the snow was still two metres deep at Labour Weekend. The snow - cap had fractured and avalanche

## Derek Boshier (23 December 1945 – 17 November 2023)



## Pohokura

Derek was likely introduced to the Heretaunga Tramping Club by both his brother Roger, a club member, who left for university in 1960 and Hal Christian a teacher at Hastings Boys High School who was instrumental in getting boys to come tramping. His introductory tramp was a trial search in 1960, based in the Waipawa River/ Shut Eye Shack area.(Sunrise Track) He was an active tramper in the next few years. His last trip during this period was when called in to assist with the unsuccessful Neverman search in the Tataaraakina area. He was employed by the Post Office in a technical capacity.

The club's association was re-kindled when Derek retired as a Technician with the University of British Colombia in Vancouver, becoming a 6 monthly citizen, returning to Mount Maunganui from Canada for the NZ summers. The fact he quickly became a member of the HTC again, regularly travelling from the Mount on Fridays for weekend tramps, showed his enjoyment of the sport. Pitching a tent in Napier or Havelock North and sometimes staying for a few days.

His first trip back with the club was the 2008 Cairn trip, where he sampled for the first time Pam's chocolate strawberries. Another year - No chocolate strawberries? Derek was too well mannered to enquire as to their whereabouts. (To make space on the table Pam had shifted them into a cupboard and forgot about them). DB said he came on Cairn Trips just to have Pam's Chocolate Strawberries.

In 2018 Derek was awarded the Stan Woon Trampler of the Year Trophy due to his keenness in coming out with us. Last year he even came to Hastings to help at our HazMobile work day.

Derek was a colourful character who loved to share tramping, skiing and kayaking stories. He was a real handyman too, cutting his own hair, giving the Toyota a green paint job, building a canopy for his new ute for secure storage, the bedroom "gear room" at home. On trips there was always entertainment at night time with Derek's "light shows" when his sleeping bag liner crackled and sparkled with static electricity.

Derek was a good guy to tramp with. We will miss you.

Graeme Hare





## Judy McBride

**(29 May 1937 – 31 October 2023)**

My sister Judy first heard about the Heretaunga Tramping Club at Turners and Growers where a fellow employee talked about his adventures with the club. She went on her first trip a river crossing instruction day in the Tuki Tuki River in January 1955 where she must have kept a low profile as the leader did not record her name but she was photographed. She was hooked though, telling us at home where she had been. Subsequently, our elder sister Barbara and then I, a High School pupil, became active members.

Frank McBride went on his first trip to Aropaoanui in September 55 to gather kanuka to decorate the club float in the Blossom Parade. Judy and Frank were both on the next trip to Waikamaka Hut to cut beech trees for replacement piles and bottom plates. (Only 3 hrs. 30 min to walk in then) During 1956 the club became a marriage broker as they were married in February 1957 and went to live at Masterton for a year before returning to Hastings. Their family, Peter, Heather and Karen grew up here, all becoming members of HTC. From 1982 when Peter said “Mum will do it” she became Gear Custodian for eleven years. This duty was passed on to daughter Karen.

Her love of tramping rose to the surface in 1986 when she put her boots on again to get out on club trips, both tramping and cycling when that started. As was written to me “We’ve got some great memories of her tramps and cycles over the years. She was the original lightweight trumper, we all sought her advice on making clothes for the outdoors as well as dehydrating supplies.” Judy, though embarrassed about her snoring, was always happy and smiling.

Graeme Hare

And from Susan Lopdell ....

A very keen trumper, Judy undertook many long weekend tramps into the Whirinaki Forest Park, Mokai Patea Range/Lake Colenso and Kepler tracks. It was in the early 2000’s when Judy and fellow HTC members based themselves in Glenorchy for a series of private tramps – Rees-Dart track, Greenstone Caples track and the Routeburn Great Walk, 11 days tramping. Judy was also in the party of HTC members who went on Mike Lusk’s Flinders Ranges trip in South Australia in the mid 1990’s. Judy loved the outdoors and all who had the

pleasure of tramping with her, will remember that smile and her sense of humour. Farewell Judy, we will miss your companionship.



Judy McBride 3<sup>rd</sup> from the right

## **Club and Committee News**

Just a short one this time covering items that occurred since the AGM.

Sadly, in November Club Member Derek Boshier died after a short battle with cancer. We enjoyed his last tramp with us to Totara Flats Hut (even if he spent half the night talking loudly to some Canadians there) in late May. His daughters are holding a memorial to him on Thursday 25 January at 2 PM at the Hastings Harriers Hall and ask people to share their favourite memories of him. Contact [tramphtc@gmail.com](mailto:tramphtc@gmail.com) if you would like to see the poster they have prepared to advertise this. (It has been emailed out to those who knew him)

## Pohokura

As well as Derek, Pat Berry died early December. While Pat does not appear to have been a member of the club she went on at least 1 tramp with them in the 1950s while in the 1990s she came out on many family tramps and tramped up to the cairn on the women's suffrage centennial. She is the widow of the late Ian Berry and mother, grandmother, sister-in-law or aunt to all the Berrys in the Club.

David Middleditch from DOC advised us that a heat detector has been installed in Howletts (a requirement by Fire & Emergency NZ) but now the installations are on hold (maybe someone saw sense after all). A reminder to anyone heading towards Howletts there are still 6 fire retardant mattresses to be taken up there.

Clint has very generously offered the Club the use of her Garman GPSMAP 66i while she is convalescing from hip surgery. The Garman will be held in the van and will be used on club trips and if anyone wishes to borrow it at other times it will be signed in and signed out. Many thanks Clint and happy convalescing.

### ITEMS for SALE

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

New Topo 50 Maps:	\$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: 0272669279 or

Email: [p.isherwood@orcon.net.nz](mailto:p.isherwood@orcon.net.nz)

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

## Heretaunga Tramping Club Meeting and Trip Information

### Upcoming Meetings

Date	Chairperson	Speaker and Topic	Host/Supper
10 Jan.	Alan Peterson	Open Night	H - Brett Hickey S - Alan Berry
24 Jan	Graeme Hare	Emma Greg, FMC – P.N Projects & My favourite tramp	H – Janice Love S – Liz Pinder

## Pohokura

7 Feb	Pam Turner	Open Night	H – Susan Lopdell S – Nic Walkerdine
21 Feb	Simon Whittam	Orienteering @ Windsor Park Tent Comparisons	H – Fred Chesterman S – Joan Ruffell
6 Mar	Daniel Haddock	Auction Produce & General Goods Proceeds to Rescue Helicopter Trust	H – John Montgomerie S – Pam Turner
20 Mar	Susan Lopdell	Open Night	H - Penny Isherwood S - Brent Hickey
3 Apr	Anne Doig	YouTube Tramping in Kaimanawa Range – Part 1	H – Alan Berry S – Graeme Hare
17 Apr	Nic Walkerdine	Open Night	H – Christine Snook S – Clint Beckett
1 May	Colin Jones	YouTube = Part 2 Tramping in Kaweka Range	H – Pam Turner S – Susan Lopdell
15 May	Jude Hay	Open Night	H – Joan Ruffell S – Penny Isherwood
29 May	Alan Berry	Kurt Fenton Te Araroa Trail	H – Nic Walkerdine S – Marion Nicholson

**Meeting Sub Committee:** 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** <sup>(E)</sup> 4-5 hours tramping – suitable for beginners

**MEDIUM** <sup>(M)</sup> 5-7 hours tramping – suitable for those with some experience

**HARD** <sup>(H)</sup> 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		
<b>Leave at vehicle:</b> 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 5954567**



## TRIP LIST 2024



- ❖ 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](mailto: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.

**January** - Organised Boots on Bikes rides usually start late in the month [Jan 24<sup>th</sup> or 31st]. Informal cycles before then can be arranged by anyone who is keen

**7<sup>th</sup> Jan Ferny Ridge** <sup>(E-M)</sup> **\$15** **Map: BJ37**  
From Whittle Road, leave vehicles at the small car park on the left 500 metres past the Lotkow Road turnoff, tramp north along an old sidle track. Cross a small stream and up to high point 909.  
**Organiser:** Anne Doig 878 8694

**13 - 14 Jan Putara Road** <sup>(H,E)</sup> **\$25** **Map: BN34**  
The A party will be dropped off at the Ruamahanga River to walk up the river to Cow Creek for the night. On the Sunday they will head south east to come out at Kiriwhakapapa, maybe detouring to see Blue Range Hut on the way. through  
The other party will spend a weekend beside the Mangatainoka River fishing and/or walking tracks on Paul's farm. After Sunday lunch they will drive to Kiriwhakapapa where there are some great walks to do, while waiting for the A party to emerge.  
**Organiser:** Colin Jones 876 6825

**21 Jan Khyber Pass or Tarn Bivvy<sup>(H,E)</sup> \$15 Map BL36**  
 Two options for the day both starting from the end of Mill Road assuming we have a summer this year.  
 First the tougher option, walk up the Tukituki River to the Rosvells track, Ascend Black Ridge to Tarn Bivy and inspect its quaint open air loo before returning the same way.  
 In the second and easier option, walk downstream on the river bank and in northern reaches of the Tuki Tuki River to the Khyber Pass. A pleasant way to spend a warm summer's day with a picturesque Khyber Pass as the reward.  
**Organisers:** Nic Walkerdine 020 4130 5354 Glenda Hooper 8774183

**28 Jan Porangahau Beach<sup>(E)</sup> \$15 Maps: BM38 & BM39**  
 Low tide at Porangahau Beach is just after 1.30pm. This will give us plenty of time to walk to the beach via the access from Blackhead Road and then head north, past Blackhead Point, toward Blackhead. The remains of the Maroro, a ship which ran aground in 1927, maybe evident just before the point and last time we saw fur seals just past the point.  
**Organiser:** Anne Doig 878 8694

**Wednesday 31 January Reunion Ride**  
 Back together after the holidays so let's gather at Clive and ride to Bay View; cafés and beaches galore!  
**Organiser:** Rodger Burn 06 776322

**3rd – 6th Feb Mangapura – Bridge to Nowhere<sup>(M)</sup> \$35 Maps BJ32 & BJ33**  
 Drive to road end at Ruatiki. Walk to the landing and the iconic Bridge to Nowhere. A valley which was opened up with land offered to returned servicemen after WW2 – unfortunately very harsh conditions forced settlers off the land. There are no huts on this walk, so tents are required.  
**Organiser:** Simon Whittam 027 5954 567  
***Note:** Waitangi Day 6 February 2024 is a Tuesday*

**Wednesday 7 February Bell Rock**  
 The roads are now okay so we can check out this top Hawke's Bay spot north of Napier.  
**Organiser:** Joan Ruffell 06 8776225

**11<sup>th</sup> February Sunrise Track, Waipawa Forks and Waipawa River Loop \$15 Map: BK36**  
 On SH50 Turn west up Makaroro Road about 4km south of Tikokino. Continue to western end of Makaroro road, then turn right into Wakarara road. Continue north west along to Wakarara road junction (School camp)

and then left into North Block road. Continue along North Block road which morphs into a farm track (through 2 gates) until you come to a DOC carpark.

<https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap?v=2&ll=-39.802015,176.23641&z=14>

Looking at the map reference above, the day tramp goes past the Triplex hut, up the Sunrise track to a track junction (which has a seat). From there the down hill track is taken down to the Waipawa river. Cross the Waipawa river 100m down stream and a 10 minute walk uphill to the Waipawa Forks hut.

The way out is downstream in / alongside the Waipawa river through a gorge. There shouldn't be any swimming required, just be prepared to get wet feet and perhaps wade up to your knees. A walking stick would certainly help in the river. After coming out of the gorge the tramp takes us up from the river via a farm track to the Swamp Track and again exits via the track the tramp started on.

**Organiser:** Janice Love 877 5442

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February Apley Road Circuit**

From Awatoto to the hills around Puketapu mostly along roads. A visit to Puketapu Pub could be on the cards.

**Organiser:** Ray Manning 027 2417550

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February Ad hoc tramp**

The tramp location will be decided the Monday before, based on weather forecasts and who is keen to go. Email [tramphtc@gmail.com](mailto:tramphtc@gmail.com) by Sunday to register your interest.

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February CHB: Otane to Elsthorpe**

A beautiful road ride with a few hills via Patangata to Elsthorpe Reserve; those who have tried it, loved it

**Organiser:** Des Smith 022 3706118

**24 – 25 February Training day and a half \$15 Map: BJ37**

Be prepared to tent overnight, get your feet wet, prepare meals outside, tramp and perhaps find that you're not lost and not hypothermic!

As part of this trip, you will need NZTopo50 Map BJ37 and a compass

To figure out where we're staying you need to look at NZTopo50 Map BJ37.

Using the following two map references and bearings:

Don Juan Trig....: East 9865, North 4024, (BJ37 986402) Map Grid bearing 242 °

Mangaturutu Hut: East 8748, North 5360, (BJ37 875536) Map Grid bearing 182 °

Try and figure out where this HTC trip will be staying.

PS The trip doesn't include tramping to Don Juan Trig or Mangaturutu Hut!

**Organiser:** Training Committee      Email [tramphtc@gmail.com](mailto:tramphtc@gmail.com)

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February      Mystery Ride**

Quite likely in the Napier/Taradale area.

**Organiser:** Lynn Walch    06 6506965

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March      Hazmobile      Regional Sports Park**

**Organiser:** Graeme Hare    0274 735328    06 8448656

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March      Opouahi Working Bee**

Working Bee at the kiwi sanctuary west of Tutira. Plenty of chopping, cutting trees and dredging the weir. Subject to confirmation from DoC so no guarantees

**Organiser:** Anne Cantrick    06 8448149

**9-10 Mar      Ruapehu District <sup>(M)</sup>      \$25      Maps: BJ34 & BK35**

**Saturday** morning we drive to Ohakune via the Taihape Road to walk the Old Coach Road. This traverses the Tongariro National Park and adjacent farmland. There are many lookouts over the volcanic plateau plus abandoned railway tunnels, old viaducts, and remains of the original cobblestone coach road. To enable all to walk the whole 15 Km we could use a shuttle at \$15 per head.

**Sunday** we head back towards Taihape and stop at the Hihitahi Forest Sanctuary. From here some can do a return walk to Zekes Hut while others may prefer just to go as far as Hihitahi Trig for great views to the mountains and to see the impressive pahautea (native cedar) and Hall's tōtara.

NB: There is also an option for a small group to be dropped off on the Saturday and stay the night at Zekes Hut (a 4 bunk hut). which Simon will lead

**Organisers:** Alan Petersen 027 8727 441    Nic Walkerdine 020 4130 5354

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March      Cycle from Clive to Clifton**

Always an enjoyable outing cycling beside the sea; exact route to be decided on the day.

**Organiser:** Roy Frost    021 02384519

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March      Ad hoc tramp**

The tramp location will be decided the Monday before, based on weather forecasts and who is keen to go. Email [tramphtc@gmail.com](mailto:tramphtc@gmail.com) by Sunday to register your interest.

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March Maraetotara Valley**

Start from Jennifer Jane's place and go to Mohi Bush along the roads; check on the pest control that we installed some years ago.

**Organiser:** Rodger Burn 06 8776322

**24<sup>th</sup> March Upstream from Happy Daze<sup>(E,M)</sup> \$15 Map BL36**

With permission from land owners it is about an hour's walk along a farm track to Happy Daze Hut. From the hut a short track takes you down to the Makaretu River slightly downstream of the confluence of the North and South branches and a choice; take the true right (South) branch and walk upstream for just over an hour to Makaretu Hut or take the true left (North) branch and around 2 hours of upstream travel later visit Awatere Hut. Either way it is a return trip back to Happy Daze Hut and out via the farm track. A great tramp for a hot summer's day.

**Organiser:** Jude Hay 027 5174 275

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March Raukawa Plateau**

Start up Whakapirau Road then mosey along the roads, admiring the views to Ruahine and Kaweka Ranges.

**Organiser:** TBD

**29 March – 1 April (Easter) NW Ruahine Range<sup>(M)</sup> \$25 Map: BK36**

**Lake Colenso Area: Fri:** Drive to public car park on Mokai Station via the Taihape Road and follow poled route to Iron Bark hut (8 bunks)

**Sat;** Go via the Unknown Campsite to Colenso Hut (8 bunks)

**Sun:** Follow Ridge Track to Ironbark Hut (8 bunks + room for tents)

**Mon:** Go up to park boundary and return via poled route to Mokai carpark.

**Organiser:** Susan Lopdell 844 6697

**Wednesday 3 April Kaweka FP**

Keen people want to get to the J; others could head for Kaweka Flats Biv and back. We haven't been here for a while.

**Organiser:** Christine Hardie 06 8449590

**7 April The Hoggett<sup>(M)</sup> \$15 Map: BJ36**

The drive to the start of the Hogget tramp is through private land; Timahanga station off the Napier - Taihape Road. The Hogget is a high point on the Tahuhunui Range. The tramp takes us through lush bush up on to tussock tops. On return to the van we could take a short detour to see what remains of the old Boyds homestead.

**Organiser:** Simon Whittam 027 5954 567



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**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April CHB: Argyll East Circuit**

Up College Road to Argyll East and then through the back way to Waipawa on sealed roads.

**Organiser:** Alasdair Shaw 06 8776225

**Wednesday April 17<sup>th</sup> Ad hoc tramp**

The tramp location will be decided the Monday before, based on weather forecasts and who is keen to go. Email [tramphtc@gmail.com](mailto:tramphtc@gmail.com) by Sunday to register your interest.

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April Hastings – Havelock Ramble**

A circuit from the Sports Park – maybe in a clockwise direction this time. Flat, sealed roads with lots of traffic on the main routes.

**Organiser:**

**20 - 21 Apr Working bee at Club Hut \$0**

We will decide which of our 3 huts we will visit to do a bit of work on later

**Organiser:** Hut Committee Email [tramphtc@gmail.com](mailto:tramphtc@gmail.com)

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April Seafield Road Circuit**

A ride on either the hilly roads or the water ride flats to meet at Bay View on the beach; choose which route suits you.

**Organiser:** Graeme Hare 06 8448656

**Anzac Day – 25<sup>th</sup> April Cairn Trip \$0 Map: BJ37**

For a number of reasons the Cairn Trip didn't happen in November so instead we are going to use ANZAC Day for our pilgrimage to the Cairn to pay respects to those who lost their lives in WW2. As well there are a number of walks at the Makahu Saddle Road end for those who want a day out but not a 3 hour walk to the top of the Kaweka Range.

**Organiser:**

**Wednesday 1st May Flaxmere Parks and Reserves Cycle**

Flat road riding for all: a guided tour round the streets of this large suburb and a look at the many reserves.

**Organiser:** Scott Campbell 06 8798554

**5th May Waewaepa Range \$20 Map: BM36**

Heading in from the Coonoor end to the saddle then south along a track

**Organiser:**

**Wednesday 8th May Mutiny Road Circuit**

South of Havelock North; flat country roads most of the time. Start or finish in the village.

**Organiser:** Joan Ruffell 06 8776225

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May Tukituki Circuit**

Fingers crossed that the cycle path has been fully restored: from Fulford Road to Red Bridge to Black Bridge and back or in the other direction.

**Organiser:** Rodger Burn 06 877 6322

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May Ad hoc tramp**

The tramp location will be decided the Monday before, based on weather forecasts and who is keen to go. Email [tramphtc@gmail.com](mailto:tramphtc@gmail.com) by Sunday to register your interest.

**18 – 19 May Upper Te Hoe Whirinaki FP \$20 Maps:BG38 & BH38**

**A PARTY (FIT):**

Drive along forestry roads- initially Pine Milling then Pukahunui roads, stopping at the parking area by the yellow forestry gate. The track begins 10 metres back, a couple of footbridges before the long climb up to the track junction to Upper Whirinaki Hut (half way point). The track then descends to the 9 bunk hut on a plateau overlooking the Te Hoe River. Wander down to the clearing and bridge - chance to see whio ducks.

*THIS TRACK WAS OVERGROWN WITH FERNS IN 2019 AND NO MAINTAINENCE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DONE.*

**B PARTY: ( E to M)**

A loop trip along main Whirinaki track to Taumutu Stream bridge, turn right at bridge and follow stream to the Mangamate/Upper Whirinaki track junction. Follow markers to Upper Whirinaki Hut (9) for the night. Sunday walk out along the ridge track to Plateau road car park.

**Organisers:**

**18 - 19 May Working bee at Club Hut**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May Crownthorpe/Matapiro - Ohiti**

Start at Pukehamoamo School and decide according to the wind whether to go to the church first and Ohiti second or the other way round; sealed roads and a section of the main road involved

**Organiser:** Christine and Rodger 06 8776322