

The Tararua Tramper



MAGAZINE OF THE TARARUA TRAMPING CLUB (INC)
PO Box 1008, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND
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Volume 76 no.6

July 2004

Editor: Janet Keilar

478-4473

Clubrooms at 4 Moncrieff Street (off Elizabeth Street) Mt. Victoria, Wellington.
For further information about TTC, please phone 567-3240.

Tuesday Night Programme – please note: 8pm start

July 13

The **Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand and Australia**.
Andy Reisinger presents slides of these islands, from the Snares to Auckland, Campbell and Macquarie Islands, which he visited as part of an ecotourism voyage.

Supper dishes: Graeme or Judith Claridge, Graeme or Janie Cook, Maria Roberts, Barbara or Don Crump, Alan or Christine Culver, Pip Robinson

July 20

George Gibbs from the School of Biological Sciences at Victoria University presents “**lost worlds of New Zealand**” – a history of New Zealand plants and animals

Supper dishes: Jonathan or Nicola Custance, Lindsay or Sue Cuthberston, Peter Rodie, Cathy Rooney, Tony Roper, Marian Rough

July 29

TTC turns 85. To celebrate, we’ll show the film “**Expedition to Patagonia**” which was made by club member Alan Bibby about the trip to the Patagonian Ice Cap in summer 1969-70. The trip was sponsored by TTC as part of our 50th anniversary. Four expedition members – Paddy Gresham, Dave Launder, John Nankervis and Gordon Vickers share their memories of the trip.

Supper dishes: William or Daphne Dashfield, Philip or Jennifer Dickson, Clive or Ruth Donde, Claire Douglas or Geoff Dangerfield, Nick Crang or Anne Dowden. Dave or Tania Dyett

August 3 **Creating stronger communities through our youth.**
Simon Vincent from Project K (a youth development programme founded by Graeme Dingle and Jo-Anne Wilkinson) tells us about the promotion of life skills for the youth of Hutt City through education in both wilderness and urban environments.

Supper dishes: John Russell, Lesley Rutherford, Jenny Sanders, Leonie or Alan Eastergaard, Mark Adcroft or Vicki Field, Ray Sansom

August 10:

Supper dishes: Kath Satory, John or Margaret Foden, Andy or Ann Foster, Ann Scrymgeour, Peter Shanahan, Georgina or Nigel Frater

Trips in July / August

Sun 11 (E/M) Whakanui – Turere Circuit. Leader: Tricia Walbridge, 479-1097

Sun 11 (Bike) E/M cycling trip in Whitemans Valley. Leader: Mary Inglis. 383-6562

Tues 13 (M/F) Tuesday Exploration. Ring Monday night to confirm destination and transport arrangements. Leader: David Castle, 934-3855

July 14 (E) Elsdon Camp – Pikarere Farm – Titahi Bay (map R27)
 Meet at Elsdon Camp, Raiha Street, Elsdon at 9.30 am.
 Leader: Michelle Paterson, 232-6670.

16-18 July (Ski) **Tararua Range – Ohau**
 Ski weekend and ski instructor training at Mt. Ruapehu.
 Leader: Ian Howat, 977-7517

(E/M) Waiopahu Hut – Gable End. Leader: John Foden, 479-2487

(M) Te Matawai – Gable End. Leader: Tim Stone, 389-7654

Sat 17 (M/F) Off-track exploration. Leader: Neil Challands, 477-1895

Sun 18 (Fam) Families with pre-schoolers go to Butterfly Creek. Leader: Ginny Murray-Brown, 477-2064

Sun 18 (M) Cone Peak. Leader: Alison Handley, 389-7548

Sun 18 (E) Karori Sanctuary perimeter. Leader: Lesley Smith, 972-4167

Tues 20 (M/F) Tuesday Exploration. Ring Monday night to confirm destination and transport arrangements. Leader: David Castle, 934-3855

Wed 21 (R) Sweetacres – Old Coach Road (map R27)
 Meet at Lower Korokoro Car Park at 10.00 am. Leader: Kath Offer, 569-6674

23-25 July (Ski) **Day trip weekend**
 Non-member special ski weekend. Leader: Helen Zandis, 971-3105

Sat 24 (M/F) Off-track exploration. Leader: Neil Challands, 477-1895

Sat 24 (M) Sunny Grove – Whakanui Track – Catchpool. Leader: Bruce Popplewell, 479-2144

Sun 25 (Fam) Family trip to Cape Turakirae. Leader: Simon Davis, 973-6044

Sun 25 (Bike) E grade cycling trip on the Miramar Peninsular. Leader: Merran Lewis, 383-7558

Sun 25 (E) Smith Creek – Tauherenikau – Joe’s Track. Leader: Jenny Lewis, 472-9228

Tues 27 (M/F) Tuesday Exploration. Ring Monday night to confirm destination and transport arrangements. Leader: David Castle, 934-3855

Wed 28 (E/M) Terawhiti Station – Warren’s Ridge (map R27)
 Meet at Karori Park at 9.30 am. Leader: Colin Silva de Simas, 971 5638

30 July-1 Aug (Ski) **Tararua Range – Otaki**
 Ski weekend. Leader: Cherie Marshall, 565-4477

(Inst) Alpine instruction – Snow 2. Leader: Alistair Betts, 801-5715

(M/F) Midnight Southern Crossing. Leader: Neil Challands, 477-1895

(M) Rae Ridge – Kime Hut. Leader: Paddy Gresham, 472-1363

Sat 31 (M) Dobsons – Wiersma Stream – Old Smiths Creek Track.
 Leader: Sue Cuthbertson, 478-0089

Sat 31 (M/F) Off-track exploration. Leader: Colin Cook, 384-7414

Sun 1 (E) York Bay – Eastbourne. Leader: Diana Barnes, 479-2947

Tues 3 (M/F) Tuesday Exploration. Ring Monday night to confirm destination and transport arrangements. Leader: David Castle, 934-3855

Wed 4 (M) Wellington Exploration (map R27) Please contact the leader, Pat Reesby (938 0550) if you wish to go on this trip.

1-6 (Ski) Ski week. Leader: Adriaan Janse, 971-9241

- 6-8 August Eastern Ruahine Range**
- (Ski)** Ski 1 – learn to ski with TTC. Leader: Murray Fitzgerald, 383-4980
- (M)** Tamaki Road – Cattle Creek Hut. Leader: Malcolm Cunningham, 232-3695
- Sat 7 (M)** Kaitoke WW – Warren Saddle – Old Hut – 592. Leader: Syd Moore, 589-1919
- Sat 7 (M/F)** Off-track exploration. Leader: Bill Allcock, 389-3632
- Sun 8 (Bike)** E/M grade cycling in Belmont. Leader: Janie Cook, 565-1297
- Sun 8 (Fam)** Family trip (for those with babies and pre-schoolers): Chartwell – Bell’s Track. Leader: Michelle Rush, 479-1730
- Sun 8 (E)** Hemi Matengi Walkway and more. Leader: Ian Hunter, 971-3322
- Wed 11 (E)** Southern Walkway (map R27) Please contact the leader, Carole Haigh (476-7998) if you wish to go on this trip.
- 8-13 (Ski)** Ski week. Leader: David Castle, 934-3855
- 13-15 August Tararua Range – Kaitoke**
- (Ski)** Avalanche awareness and Ski touring. Leader: Jenny Gates, 479-8089
- (M)** Kaitoke – Alpha Hut – Tauherenikau Valley. Leader: Diane Head, 577-0076
- Sat 14 (M/F)** Off-track exploration. Leader: Dave Reynolds, 934-6120
- Sat 14 (M)** Underhill Road – Mt Frith – Rimutaka Tea Rooms. Leader: Glenys Evans, 233-8848
- Sun 15 (M)** Sheridan Creek – Field Hut. Leader: Alan Wright, 475-3984
- Sun 15 (Fam)** Family trip along the Southern Walkway. Leader: Peter Archer, 235-6780
- Sun 15 (E)** Whitireia Park (Titahi Bay). Leader: Fi Coster, 477-3773
- Tues 17 (M/F)** Tuesday Exploration. Ring Monday night to confirm destination and transport arrangements. Leader: David Castle, 934-3855

Topo maps and tramping / climbing guidebooks can be purchased online at <http://www.clearwatertarn.co.nz>

Tramping organizer for July is Lindsay Cameron, 475-8701 and for August (until the AGM) is Robyn Hills, 479-7331

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Membership

New members this month are Carole Douse, Valerie Brown, Andrew Ecclestone, Craig Drayton, Jonathan Stephenson and Sally Robertson. Welcome along to TCC. Jonathan & Craig are not entirely new to the club having been active with their parents in the family group.

Also, welcome back to Rachael McCahon who has rejoined.

Our congratulations to Donna Wilson and Duncan Heath on the birth of their daughter on 1 June.

And congratulations to Paula Carryer and Peter Thompson on the birth of their XXXX on XXXXX.

Queen’s Birthday Honours

In the honours list announced at Queen’s Birthday, club member Margaret Fyfe was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit, in recognition of her contribution to mountaineering and outdoor recreation. Congratulations Margaret.

We also offer congratulations to Arnold Heine of the Hutt Valley Tramping Club who was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit . Arnold is a well-known figure to many in the outdoor world.

In sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Margaret Fyfe on the recent accidental death of her son Andrew in Wanaka. Andrew will be remembered by his fellow mountaineers and skiers. Our thoughts are with the Fyfe family and friends.

Mavis Davidson 1910-2004

It is with sadness that the Club notes the death of Mavis Davidson at her home in Leigh on 27 May 2004. Mavis was a mountaineering legend. After joining the Alpine Club, she served on both national and Wellington Section committees in a number of roles and was awarded Life Membership in 1980. She climbed extensively in the Southern Alps and led the first all-women ascent of Mount Cook.

Her many publications included *Mount Cook Alpine Regions* (1953), the first guidebook to the area, and *The Mountains of New Zealand* (1954), both written in collaboration with Rodney Hewitt.

Most of her working life was spent studying Sika deer in the Kaweka and Kaimanawa Ranges in the North Island as an employee of the New Zealand Forest Service. She became a world authority on the subject and continued her studies well into her retirement.

In 1992 Mavis was awarded an OBE for services to science and mountaineering and she was an Honorary Vice-President of the International Sika Deer Society (based in Germany).

A full obituary will be published in the 2004 edition of the *New Zealand Alpine Journal*.

Bruce Popplewell

TTC memorial service for Mavis Melville Davidson - Life Member

(10.02. 1910— 27.05. 2004)

On June 12, in the Clubrooms, under the guidance of Tong Young, a memorial service was held for Mavis, who joined the Club in 1934.

Sixty two people were present and 12 apologies were received. Our President welcomed those attending.

Speakers were from Tararua Tramping Club, the NZ Alpine Club, the Hutt Valley Tramping Club (who brought apologies from Federated Mountain Clubs), former work colleagues, botanical friends and two cousins.

Mavis will always be remembered as a kind and sympathetic person who achieved greatness in mountain climbing and tramping.

She always believed that “girls can do anything” and more than proved this point before the general acceptance of women as equals by male mountaineers and trampers.

Royce Hall.

From General Committee:

Situations Vacant – Club AGM - 24 August

Another year has rushed by and it's time for nominations to General Committee and Social Committee. Many people work away behind the scenes making sure that club meetings run smoothly, and that tramping, skiing and other trips are organised and lead. Thanks to all who are involved.

We're looking for volunteers for all club positions - please consider getting involved. Nominations need to be in by early August.

Club Secretary

General Committee has appointed a new club secretary. Susan Guscott has volunteered for the role.

Subscriptions for 2004 / 2005

A form detailing your subscription for 2004 / 2005 and listing your membership details was enclosed with the June Trumper.

By now you should have returned that form together with payment to TTC at P.O. Box 1008 Wellington, attention Subs Treasurer.

Those who had no subscription to pay should still have received a note listing membership details and requesting we be advised of any change to them.

Anyone who was a member on 31 May 2004 and received no form, or has any query about subscriptions, please contact the subs treasurer, Janet King (938-6446). If you have any query regarding your membership details please contact Michael Taylor (389-8071)

From the Clubrooms Committee

Recently an underwater heater has been installed in the kitchen to provide hot water to the sink. With the installation of the new Zip last year we were unable to run the boiling water to the sink as before. This was due to an Occupational Safety and Health regulation.

We trialled putting the boiling water via a teapot to the sink, but felt that this was a nuisance as well as a health and safety issue for those doing washing up on a club night, as well as for our tenants. So the tap will now give hot water for washing up.

At present we have found that our current loading to the clubrooms is just about at its maximum and we could blow the circuits at any time. While we evaluate the most cost effective way to resolve this, two of the main heaters in the hall have been temporarily disconnected as a precaution.

Peter Smith

Oiled wildlife responders wanted

The Oiled Wildlife Responders of Wellington, formerly under the care of Viv Hextall and Rosalie Goldsworthy of the Eastern Bays Little Blue Penguin Foundation, has been assigned to the Wellington SPCA under the new Wildlife Co-ordinator, David Probert, a vet at the Newtown Shelter of the SPCA. We are now seeking anyone with previous involvement in Oiled Wildlife Response or anyone else who is interested in committing to the team.

The group is looking for people who fit the following criteria, to join them:

1. Interested in wildlife rehabilitation and available at short notice for oiled wildlife response
2. You must be contactable by email and phone
3. You may have local knowledge or skills in wildlife rehabilitation or the Wellington region
4. You must be able to be part of a trained team
5. Available for training

Should an oil spill involving wildlife occur you will be paid at a predetermined rate (including mobilisation and subsistence costs) and be part of a trained team under the direction of the wildlife coordinator.

Both theoretical and practical training will be made available. Each person involved needs to attend an annual training day and practical exercise day. Key individuals would be sent to Massey University courses in Oiled Wildlife Care.

If interested please contact David Probert by email fred@xtra.co.nz

Child's tramping gear for sale

Kathmandu seamsealed raincoat, size large, navy, for 8-10 year old - good condition - \$15

Tramping/walking boots - size 7 - good condition - \$15

Phone Melanie 566-6955 , email: melaniem@paradise.net.nz

PHOTO COMPETITION

Tuesday 31 August

It's time to start looking out these slides, prints and CD's. We are very fortunate to have Alan Knowles back again as judge. He did an excellent job last year. Alan is a professional photographer and also a club member. We are having three subject categories:

1. **Alpine / landscape**
2. **People / humour / club activities**
3. **Natural history**

Each subject category is divided into a print section, and a slide / CD section, making a total of 6 sections, and therefore 6 prizes. The minimum size for prints is 5" by 7" (13 by 18 cm). Smaller ones will be disqualified.

Prints should all be mounted on cardboard so that they can be pinned up. Entries which have won previous TTC photo competitions are not allowed. All entries must be labelled with **name, title of the image and the category**. The closing date for entries is Tuesday 24 August. The prizes are being donated by the Workshop (DIY picture framers), top of Cuba Street. Each winner will get a picture framed in a frame of his / her own choice.

Since the club has a digital projector we are encouraging entries of digital photographs recorded on CD's. They will be included in the slide sections. There are some detailed rules for CD presentation available on the club noticeboard or from Ken Fraser (fraserjk@paradise.net.nz). Please follow the rules or we might not be able to project! Not only will there be a prize for the winner of each section, but the winners will be honoured by having their entry put on the TTC website with international exposure! Who knows what offers might result from that! This is your chance to get some professional feedback on your pictures, and some hints for taking better ones. So look out these photos **now**. The cost of getting prints made from negatives or slides is not high eg a 6" by 8" print costs around \$ 7 from Wellington Photographic Supplies, and you can hang it on your wall permanently! Remember the closing date 24 August. Any queries ring Ken Fraser 04-905-3714.

Izard Park - Otari Hill - Bells Track - Khandallah Park

February 22, 2004 (Map R27)

This trip replaced the scheduled Super Sewer Tour Mk 5. The storm and floods earlier in the month had rendered the streams impassable!

From the bus terminus, we tramped down through the Otari-Wilton's Bush beech plantings, then in attractive forest via the Red Trail to the Flax Clearing. Nearby we saw some of the kauri planted by the ecologist Dr Leonard Cockayne in the 1930s. From the old NZED road we took the route from Pylon No 2, through shrublands with an alarming amount of Darwin's barberry, to the open top of 'Otari Hill' and the Skyline Walkway. This area, now part of the Outer Town Belt, was purchased by WCC in 1999. It's traversed by the historic Maori track which linked Pipitea Pa in Thorndon with Owhariu Bay (Makara Beach). In future, Te Araroa/The Long Pathway will cross it, en route from Cape Reinga to Bluff.

After enjoying the views from Te Wharangi Ridge we descended Bells Track, then walked through Ngaio to Amapur Drive. Here we entered Khandallah Park between Nos 60 and 64 to travel off-track up to the Northern Walkway to enjoy lunch in the sun.

The big storm had toppled several large pine trees and a poplar in the park, while leaving the native forest almost unscathed. We sidled, then descended to a tributary of Waitohi (Ngauranga) Stream, then climbed to the ridge track, dodging under two recumbent pines. From here we descended on compass to the remains of a substantial hut, then down to another tributary of Waitohi Stream (aka Tyers Stream). We had to avoid a big poplar felled by the stream, so clambered up on the true left of the steep-sided gully before descending to the creek and the top of Kim Street. Khandallah station is nearby, and within minutes we were homeward bound on a unit.

Special thanks to Barbara Mitcalfe for doing the recce with me during the severe gale the previous day, WCC for the Otari pamphlets, Ngaio Progressive Association and WCC for the Ngaio Walking Tracks pamphlets, and Victoria Lamb, WCC, for cadastral information.

Participants: *Michael Bartlett, Barry Dent, Bill Edwards, Sue Freitag, Alison Handley, Chris Horne (leader/scribe), John McIvor, Lynne Pomare, Pat Reesby, Peter Shanahan, Marris Weight.*

Birds & Berries

After an absence of nearly 25 years from my hometown of Queensown I decided it was time to return to one of my favourite tracks - the Routeburn. Only this time I was to take my three children along. After postponing the trip for a week, as a form of silent protest at having to pay \$85.00 in hut fees, I went ahead with our planned trip deciding it was worth showing the children my favourite haunt anyway.

The weather going in was overcast and drizzling but everyone was warm and well fed arriving at the Flats Hut in good time. Approaching the hut I was

surprised to see that the small patch of raspberries around the hut was not only still there but had quadrupled in size since the 80's. It was great to see that DoC had not ripped them out. The vines were just hanging with ripe, red, juicy, huge raspberries, much larger than anything I've seen in gardens. There were no blackbirds or thrushes to eat them and all the other trampers, being foreigners, wouldn't eat anything unless it's grown in a supermarket. So we had all the raspberries to ourselves. The afternoon was spent between firing up the potbelly and gorging on raspberries.

The next day after bacon and eggs for breakfast followed by yet more raspberries it was time to head back out to. As we were approaching the second swing bridge over the Route burn I heard a loud twittering and screeching from the trees. I placed my hand on Jenny's shoulder and said, "Stop, that is a very rare bird. Can you see it?" We looked up and saw three at once only 3 to 5m above us. Had I not spent the previous week listening to the birdsong at 7:00a.m. on the National Programme I would not have recognised this loud twittering and would have carried on walking. The racket was that of three Mohau, the beautiful little yellowhead on our \$100.00 notes. After watching them for several minutes we left the Mohau to their noisy carryings-on and rejoined the boys who by now had almost bounced the swing bridge off its foundations.

Young or old, experienced or novice we all have different reasons for going bush. Whether it is birds, swing bridges or raspberries. It was just so pleasing to see that perhaps Doc recognise that raspberries planted by Arawhata Bill all those decades ago are just as much part of our heritage as is trying to save the Mohau.

Jenny Howse (9), Callum Howse (12), Fraser Howse (13) Pam Howse (old) leader & scribe

Cone Hut Work Party 1-2 May 2004

This work party was the annual clean-up for our TTC owned Cone Hut. It was necessary too because of the enormous amount of windfall damage caused in the Taurehenikau Valley by the February storms. Several trees came down around Cone Hut, including one that landed beside the hut, slightly bending the ironwork of the chimney. Fortunately, soon after the storm, DoC employed contractors to clear the track; they also cut up most of the tree in front of the hut.

It was a pleasant walk in on an overcast Saturday, just behind an Upper Hutt Tramping Club party going through to Alpha. Chris had brought a most useful chainsaw, which allowed us to cut up the wood sensibly stored around the hut by the DoC contractors. We were fascinated to see that the "tree" that fell in front of the hut had broken off from the top of a nearby tree, whose lower 7 metre stump still remained.

Wind speeds at Angle Knob during the February storms reached 230 kph, and to break this big top off probably needed similar speeds in the valleys. A stern

reminder of how bad the weather can be in extreme storms. The legendary 1936 storm in the Tararua was probably worse, judging by photos. Certainly the Easter 1982 Cyclone Bernie on the East Coast, which I observed from the Motu River, did similar damage to the bush.

It rained heavily overnight. We got a good fire going, and supped on good food and wine. Next morning was fine and sunny. We completed the wood splitting, cutting some 3-4 cubic metres, and stowed it in the hut, and under Cone's outdoor table. So there is plenty of wood to tempt overnight stayers. We patched the hole in the chimney with an obsolete DoC sign. A bit of straightening is still needed, but will need a rope and better expertise than ours. We also cleaned inside the hut, the totara slabs outside, did the ditches, the toilet, and cleaned the vegetation. There is still a dead tree outside that needs cutting at a future date.

We were interrupted by Lindsay Cameron about lunchtime on Sunday, and one or two other passers-by. Then it was a pleasant walk back to Walls Whare and home in the bright winter sunlight. Thanks party for a most satisfying weekend.

Party: Chris and Peggy Munn, Anthony McNamara, John Grace, Hugh Barr (leader and scribe).

Off-track exploration - Kotukutuku, Blue Rock and Boulder Forks 15 May 2004 (Map S26)

Between Smith's Creek Shelter and the bridge below Tutuwai Hut four significant side streams drain the Marchant Ridge into the Tauherenikau River. Viewed from the valley track the streams do not appear particularly accessible, framed by steep side-spurs rising from the valley floor and with wastes of vegetation strewn across their mouths. The map shows each to have a major forks at about 400 m altitude and our plan was to visit each of these.

We took the valley track to the bridge and went up Block XVI to about 500 m. Then, over the next three and a half hours, we proceeded roughly south west, dropping down vestigial spurs to a forks, scrambling, sidling and climbing to the next main spur, repositioning for the next descent and so on. Travel was surprisingly good, mostly open bush, mostly gentle gradients. Our altitude ranged between about 380 and 540 m; the map confirms contour crowding is largely confined to the first 100 m above the valley floor and above 600 m. (Navigation would have been much more difficult without altimeters which were consulted frequently.)

We reached Boulder Forks without any major navigational foul-ups. On the way we glimpsed a large doe in Blue Rock catchment. The southerly had been tolerant, providing patches of blue sky most of the time apart from the obligatory heavy shower as we lunched on Bump 546.

Rather than push on to Marchant Forks and a probable torchlight exit to the road, we decided to stop one fork short of a cutlery set and follow Boulder Stream down to the Tauherenikau River. Beginning on the true right then

crossing to the true left, travel again was notable for easy gradients and open forest. Only near the valley floor where the stream becomes deeply incised did the descent on the true left abruptly steepen. Nine and a half hours gotowo.

Party members were *Bill Allcock, Neil Challands, Robin Chesterfield, Colin Cook (leader/scribe), Ken Fraser, Sieny Pollard.*

Holdsworth Lodge – Carrington Ridge – Sayers Hut – Holdsworth Lodge May 22 – 23 2004 (Map Carterton S26)

The objectives of this trip, aside from the pleasures of Tararua tramping with friends, were to introduce David, a recently-joined club member, to Sayers Hut, with its open fire; and to get to the hut by an unconventional route.

After a cup of tea with Chris Pedersen, the resident caretaker at Holdsworth road end, we were away at 9:15 am and went up the original Gentle Annie track to spot height 801. The sign post from Forest Service days is still there and it pointed us in the direction of Carrington Ridge. A word of gratitude must be expressed to some knowledgeable people who had very recently given the track 'a trim' and placed Venetian blind markers for most of the length of the ridge. About two-thirds of the way down the ridge rain began and by the time we reached the bottom of the ridge it was a steady deluge – so lunch was a hurried, standing affair.

During the first hour after lunch all members of the party successfully renewed their licence for supplejack travel as we struggled up to spot height 550, by which time the rain had stopped. Travel thereafter was through open bush along to spot height 728 where we had a 'nosey' in several directions before a short westerly advance; and then we were off south along the top ridge route to reach spot height 772 at five o'clock.

With a low, grey sky there was not a lot of light and it was not long before torches were out. This track had not received any care and attention in recent

times and with the limited vision afforded by the torch beams, the descent was slow as full darkness quickly established itself.

'Slow' became 'full stop' as vegetation and an indistinct footpad had us searching the bush in vain for the track, about two-thirds of the way down the spur. "Bugger it!" – 'the compass never lies' and we knew where we wanted to go; so began more than an hour of compass-directed off track grovel by torch light through wet, resisting vegetation.

We relocated the track on the lower terrace about ten minutes from the hut and what a welcome site the hut walls were as they suddenly loomed in front of us - an eight o'clock arrival! The billy was quickly on; sopping clothes were stripped and a warming fire was established as we settled in to a late but comfortable evening enjoying a three course meal.

Sunday morning was still grey but there had been no more rain so we were able to cross the Waiohine River comfortably. We went upstream to the new Totara Flats Hut – very impressive! After an expressed determination to return in mid-winter to test the efficiency of the fire box and its accompanying pile of sawn manuka, we headed up the Totara Creek track, and hence out to Holdsworth Lodge for an early afternoon finish.

Party members were: *David Molnar; Dave Reynolds; Margaret Conal; Bill Allcock*



**DEADLINE FOR AUGUST TRAMPER – 13 JULY
DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER TRAMPER – 10 AUGUST**

**Material for the Trampler may be sent directly to The Editor,
preferably via email, to
editor@ttc.org.nz, or to 3 Te Kiteroa Grove Wellington 6004**

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