

**Report of an Exploring Expedition undertaken by Mr Charles Henry Kettle between
the Rivers Manawatu and Hutt during May and June 1842 submitted to
Colonel Wakefield the Principal Agent of the New Zealand Company**
Archives NZ Wellington Reference AAYZ 8892 NZC 110/1/1 Item No. 38a

Sir, I have the honor to inform you that according to your instructions I have ascended the Manawatu River beyond the Tararua and Ruahine mountains and returned to Port Nicholson passing down the Valley of the Ruamahanga to the head of the Lake Wairarapa and entering the valley of the Eratounga or Hutt at the foot of the Tararua Mountains.

I was accompanied by Mr Wills, one of the Cadets and five men to carry our provisions and blankets; these with Eahu the chief of Ohau and six of his people who went as guides composed the party.

We left Kare Kare the headquarters of the surveying staff at Manawatu on Thursday May 5th and arrived at Wellington on Wednesday June 8th. I beg to submit to you my which contains every information I was able to obtain relative to the country.

Thursday 05 May 1842

Left Kare Kare in the Whale boat at 9 o'clock and proceeded up the River. Arrived at Riwa riwa about 3 o'clock p.m. Here we had to make an arrangement with the Natives for Canoes – they did not seem inclined to let us have them at first, but after a little persuasion, they said we could have two in the morning. It is unnecessary for me to describe this part of the country as the Surveys have extended as far as this point and every information has been given on the plans which have been laid before the public.

Friday 06 May 1842

Having obtained the Canoes for which I gave a pound of Tobacco, we started at 8 o'clock. I commenced sketching the river with a prismatic compass as we proceeded – about 3 o'clock p.m. came to a Pa called Puketotara it belongs to Watanui and is built on the summit of a high fern hill on the north bank about eight miles above Riwa riwa. From this we had a fine view of the country to the Northward, through which a fine stream called O Roua which flows and joins the Manawatu about half a mile above the Pa; it is from fifteen to twenty yards wide and navigable for Canoes for a considerable up where there is a large settlement. This stream, the natives say, has its source very near the Rangitiki river it will eventually prove of great importance to the settler as the country through which it flows is well adapted for a grazing district and would at the present time afford ample pasturage to large herds of Cattle. The banks of the river from this to the place we encamped at for the night, are about 12 feet high and thickly timbered with Tawa and Kiakatia; there are no native clearings, but they are commencing at one place we encamped on an old potatoe ground about 13 miles above Riwa riwa and 46 from the mouth. A vessel of 50 tons burthen might go as far as this with perfect safety, but here the river suddenly becomes obstructed by trees so that at present it is not safe even for a whale boat to proceed any further – the bed of the river becomes of a shingly nature here a sure sign of a strong current.

Saturday 07 May 1842

This morning by 7 o'clock we had our luggage in the Canoes again and resumed our journey. The current of the River now became so strong that the Natives dispensed with the paddles and had recourse to poles, to propel the canoes – about 9 o'clock I went on shore at a potatoe garden called Karaka from which I had a fine view of the toi toi flat which extends from Riwa riwa to near the foot of the Tararua – the bank of the river here is about thirty feet high, the level of the flat is visibly lower than the top of the bank. The natives inform me that when the waipuki or freshet comes the water leaves the river at a point some distance up and rushes across this flat towards Kare Kare, but at present it is quite dry and not of a swampy nature as the generality of the toi toi land about this part of the country. We procured another Canoe here and divided the luggage, while my men walked round the river by a ... track that we might proceed faster – the second reach above the potatoe ground we found to be very bad, it has several small falls

caused by the trees which make the current so strong, that four natives with their poles could but just make the Canoe stem it. The bed of the river is composed of shingle and nearly one hundred and forty yards wide. At noon stopped at a small settlement called Tiatoka when we made a meal of some Tuee's roasted in the leaf of a tree called Herau-rekau; these leaves will not burn and they are wrapped round the bird so that some of the fat can escape; the bird cooked in this manner is really very delicious – we again pushed our canoes off and proceeded – the river now begins to present a very different appearance. The banks which are mostly composed of shingle are flat, the water shallow so that a person can wade and the immense Totara trees which lie in its bed shew that terrific floods must have rushed down at some time. About 4 o'clock p.m. the sky became very threatening so that we landed at some huts for shelter. The rain coming on we were obliged to stay here for the night, The land on the North bank about this part, appeared to me to be superior to that on the South.

Sunday 08 May 1842

On account of the heavy rain we were not able to proceed till 10 o'clock this morning – about noon we came to a place called Putete, this is the most difficult and dangerous place we have yet encountered on the River, from the immense quantity of timber which lies in it – some time ago Watanui and some of his people were nearly drowned here, they were going down the River and when they came to this spot they came round broadside to the current and was dashed to pieces amongst the timber – about 10 o'clock p.m. an approaching thunder storm compelled us to land and take shelter under some native huts; we found two natives here who informed us that Kurupo the Ngatikihune chief had come overland from Hauriri and was staying at a Pa, a short distance up the river – the weather continuing very unfavourable we did not proceed any further today. This evening we cooked some meat in a copper mauri or hangi, being the native term which is an excellent method of cooking; a hole is dug in the earth and a large fire made in it, on which large stones are placed to heat – As soon as the fire is burned down the remaining embers are taken out and some of the hot stones laid carefully round the bottom of the hole; a small quantity of water is then poured on the stones and the meat laid on them, the remaining hot stones are then laid on the top of the meat, and then a layer of grass, the whole is then covered over with earth so that some of the steam can escape – the meat remains in the earth for two hours when the hole is uncovered and the meat dressed in excellent style.

Monday 09 May 1842

Rose at daybreak and found the river had risen several feet from the late heavy rain – the Canoe that joined us on Saturday returned – Started at 7 o'clock and after proceeding about a mile from our encampment the natives showed me the point when the water leaves the river when the freshets come down and crosses over the Toi toi flat – this happens merely from the want of a proper embankment at a sharp turn of the river at the end a long reach – a small expense would render this flat (which on a rough guess consists of about 30 thousand acres) perfectly dry – about two miles further on we saw some Totara trees the first we have seen on the river, this is about 30 miles from Riwa riwa and sixty three miles from the mouth – here I purchased 3 eels, of a native, for six heads of tobacco each eel being a yard long and sixteen inches round – about this part the river is much clearer of timber than it is lower down but the banks are rather low. When mauries are travelling the river their custom is to fire a salute just before reaching a Pa to intimate their approach; accordingly about a mile below the Pa Wahimate we went on there, when the natives I had with me fired three rounds from their double barrellled guns – in a short time a native came round the bank of the river to see who we were, as soon as he saw Eahu he threw down the tomahawk he had in his hand and rubbed noses with him – here on the south side of the river a red gravelly cliff, of an average height of fifty feet, commences and runs in a northerly direction to the mountains; this is in fact the bank of the river; at times the water runs at the base of it and when by the bend of the river the cliff is sometimes half a mile from the edge of the water, the intervening space is merely a flat shingly point covered with scrub over which the water must spread when the freshets come down. About 11 o'clock we reached the Pa Hahimate It is a miserable place on the north bank about 33 miles above Riwa riwa inhabited by a part of the Paueni tribe – as soon as we entered the Pa a mat was placed in front of the chiefs hot house for us to sit on. The natives informing me that Kurupo was in the house, I went in to speak to him – he told me he was on his way to visit Watanui and that he would return in a few days –

he wished me to wait and go over to Hauriri with him to see the country, he appears to be very desirous of having white men settled there – Eahu and Kurupo met on much more friendly terms than I expected, as their tribes have been at war with each other for many years – I gave Eahu some flour that he might treat his friends, and in a short time a meal was served up of Potatoes, Kumeras, Karakas and porridge – as the natives could not proceed any further today. I crossed the river in the afternoon to see an old Pa called Turitea, when the great chief Winakau formerly lived, he is buried by the side of his house in the trunk of a hollowed out tree and the outside carved in the shape of a man's head, the face is tattooed exactly as the chief was himself and under the chin the feathers of his war canoe are placed to represent his beard; the head is about 9 feet high over it is formed a roof of his mats and the wild grass and shrubs have grown up round it so that altogether it has a very curious appearance; the whole place is tabooed, everything that was in and about the house when the chief died is there still – by the side of his old Pa a small stream called Kiwitea runs into the river – we passed two other small tributaries as we came up today, one of which called Katirana, the natives say canoes can go a considerable distance up.

Tuesday 10 May 1842

This morning I had to provide other Canoes as those we obtained at Riwa riwa are to be left here – Kaharoa the chief of this Pa engaged to take us up in his canoe as far as I wished to go, for twenty shillings; I wished to have two canoes, but I could not procure another as they were all going down the river with Kurupo – about 8 o'clock we began to ascend the river again, my men walking round the shores – after proceeding a little more than half a mile we came to a fall where I was obliged to get out of the canoe, as it was rather dangerous, and walk round the bank for a short distance; at this point there are two shingle Islands which form three different channels – proceeding a little further the river flows at the foot of the red cliff which at this part is 80 feet high – 11 o'clock came to immense quantities of Totara, it seems as prevalent here as Kiakatia is about Te Maire. I got out of the Canoe here and walked across a neck of land whilst the canoe went round – on this point there are about 100 acres of fern land, the soil is very thick and Manuka very prevalent about this part particularly on the North bank. We stopped at some huts and partook of some potatoes and small fish with the natives. I engaged another canoe here to take some of our things for which I am to give three shirts – the river now becomes a series of rapids, the bed in many places being a visibly inclined plane so that it requires great exertion to propel the canoes – the timber on the North (which is not so fine as that on the south side) is nearly half a mile from the edge of the river while the space between is covered with grass, toi toi and manuka – we stopped for the night at a Pa called Kopuanui, it has an elevated situation on the North bank, the natives are a branch of the Paneiri tribe called Ngatiurarau – we passed several small tributaries today but none of them of any importance – Totara and Rimu still abound. The natives have been telling me this evening that we shall reach the mountains tomorrow and must have two more canoes as the men cannot walk much farther round the bank.

Wednesday 11 May 1842

Nothing is more unpleasant than having to bargain with a native for anything, especially if one particularly wants it – once more I had the task of arranging with the mauries for two canoes, which after a great deal of trouble I procured. They both belonged to one man to whom I agreed to give a shirt and a pair of trousers – after proceeding about half a mile the natives hauled their canoes ashore and said they would go no further unless they had more payment; I stood arguing with them for nearly an hour, but all to no purpose, they would have another shirt and pair of Trousers for the owner of the Canoes, besides a shirt for each man, that was to pole in them; we had previously given them all the clothes we could, space and some of us now were actually obliged to give them the shirts we had on, to be able to proceed; we gave at this time ten shirts and two pairs of trousers – I am sorry to say that wherever I have been amongst the mauries I have always found those that call themselves missionaries the first to impose on a white man – these people are missionaries and took every advantage to extort things from us; they well knew I wanted to get up the river as quickly as possible and was entirely at their mercy – at last having made an arrangement, the canoes were launched again, and proceeded whilst we walked round the shores as the rapids are now very numerous, the fall in many places being about 6 feet in two chains – at half past eleven o'clock we reached the foot of the mountains where the

Manawatu runs between the Tararua and Ruahine ranges, here a large stream called Te Poangina falls into the Manawatu. It is about 40 yards wide, and navigable for canoes, it has its source in the Ruahine mountains and runs at the foot of them till it joins the Manawatu. At the entrance of the pass the river divides and meets again, forming an island of about six acres. By a meridian altitude of the sun I found the Latitude of this point to be 40° 17' 27s. I made two sketches to illustrate this place, one showing the Poangina joining the Manawatu, the other shewing the entrance to the Pass between the two ranges. The natives said they could go no farther today as they had to prepare longer poles for their canoes on account of the water being very deep in the pass and that there was no time to get through before dark; I was therefore compelled to yield to them, but with great reluctance – the character of the river today has been similar to that on the two preceding days – I judge the distances of the mountains from the sea, by the river, at eighty miles. It being a very fine night I merely had a blanket stretched over a pole to sleep under.

Thursday 12 May 1842

About 2 o'clock this morning I was awoken by the water dripping into my face, it was raining heavily; we had no place for shelter so we were obliged to be exposed very contentedly till daylight, when the rain ceased and after a hearty meal we got into our respective canoes and after proceeding about half a mile entered the pass. The breadth of the river is now reduced to 20 yards and in its bed are large masses of stones over which the water pours with great force – the scene now presented to our view was picturesque in the extreme; on either side the lofty rocks sometimes projected so as nearly to meet, sometimes perpendicular and at other times having a slight inclination similar to the rocky cliffs on the road from Wellington to Petoni – how the Totara and Rimu grow to the perfection they do on these rocky places I am at a loss to conceive – after proceeding about half a mile through the pass we came to a fall of 14 feet, caused by masses of imbedded rock over which the water falls with tremendous violence – here we were obliged to take every article out of the canoes which the mauries contrived to get up the fall with great dexterity two or three men standing on a rock at the top with a strong rope attached to the head of the canoe by which they handed it up and two men in the canoe assisting with their poles at the same time. The well proportioned figures of the natives stood out in fine relief with the scene around us and their wild cries, as they urged each other to increased exertion, gave a romantic to the scene, which had a considerable affect on the mind. This fall is called Koteanuiatanga, the natives say the evil spirit lived here formerly – at length being safe over the fall our luggage was again placed in the canoes and we once more resumed our journey – the remainder of the pass beyond the fall (which may be termed nothing more than a series of rapids) is about two miles and a half in length – on emerging from the pass which the natives call Te Apeti the river resumes its former appearance the current is not so strong and the body of water is considerably diminished. We continued about three miles beyond the pass when the natives hauled the canoes ashore at some huts on the north bank; they complained of being very tired from the great exertion used in poling today – whilst the men were preparing dinner I crossed over to the opposite bank which is about 50 feet high; from a potatoe garden there I had a delightful view of the country – I immediately commenced a sketch of it, but was not able to finish it as the weather was very hazy so that I was not able to see the distant mountains – I purpose finishing it in the morning should the weather prove clear.

Friday 15 May 1842

At 7 o'clock this morning, it being very fine, I went down to the canoes intending to cross to finish the sketch I commenced yesterday. The mauries would not allow me to take a canoe until I paid them for it – shortly afterwards Kaharoa came to me and said it was his intention to return unless I paid him twenty shillings per day for the three days he had been with us though he knew I had no money left, having paid it all away previously and given them all our clothes with the exception of those we had on. Eahau was very much exasperated at Kaharoa's conduct, he told him, that though he professed to be a missionary; yet he had exhorted from the white men all they possessed and now wanted more, though he knew they had nothing to give, and that it was nothing better than robbing us – Kaharoa ordered his men to get into their canoes & as they were pushing them off I felt so provoked that I seized one hauled it ashore and told them I had a great mind to break all their canoes to pieces indeed. I had great difficulty in preventing my men from

doing so – one of Kaharoa's men would not go down with him but would stay and assist us; he told me he knew where there was a canoe on the bank of the river a short distance down and that we could reach the road in that, as it was not more than two miles farther we had to go. I then allowed Kaharoa to go and as soon as his canoes were out of sight, Eahu and the mauri who staid to assist us went off in search of the canoe – after an absence of two hours they returned with it; Kaharoa seeing it on the bank and thinking we would take it after he was gone though it did not belong to him took it... the Apiti and hid it amongst some crags. Eahu informed me that he had to swim the river seven times before he found it – whilst the men were preparing poles. I crossed over to the opposite bank and finished the sketch I commenced yesterday – the day being clear. I had a delightful view of the country, immediately at the back of the Ruahine range a fine... extends as far as the eye can reach, through which a small stream called Mangahu flows and empties itself into the Manawatu – a small undulation of the country lies between this and the extensive valley through which the Manawatu flows in a north-easterly directions towards the East Cape. The Puketoi mountains, which I suppose to be distant about 20 miles, form the background to this fine country, which is covered with forests of Totara – the vallies must be very extensive, as the natives inform me that canoes can go on three weeks journey up the river from this point – I was not able to see the country to the south east, but as our route lies through that part I shall be able to describe it at some future time. About noon we got our luggage into the canoe and in an hour reached the point at which the road strikes across the country, here a fine stream about 30 yards wide called Te Moawango falls into the Manawatu, it comes from the eastern side of the Tararua and is navigable for canoes a long distance up. The Manawatu up to this, receives only four tributaries of any importance the Tokomaru, a short distance above, Te Maire, Te Oroua eight miles above Riwa riwa, Te Poangina at the entrance of the Apiti and Te Moawango when we left the river at a distance of 90 miles from its mouth and five miles beyond the Tararua and Ruahine mountains. The natives have a very curious tradition of the Manawatu, they say that it was formed by a spirit in a journey from the East Cape to the coast on the opposite side of the island and that this atua or spirit whom they call Okatia was an immense Totara that possessed the nature of the worm or eel – we are glad to leave the river from the trouble we have experienced with the natives – some mauries who were staying here joined us and we started immediately – our road lay through a perfectly level country, heavily timbered with Totara, Rimu and Tawa – after walking about three miles we came to a potatoe garden where I determined to bivouack for the night – the natives made six large fires round which we slept.

Saturday 14 May 1842

Our road this morning lay up the course of the Moawango which we waded seven times and then came to another potatoe ground, here we found four or five mauries – a man came on to this place last night to inform the old chief that we were coming, he had a large pig killed for us which was very acceptable as our provisions are getting low. The old chief named Te Kawa who lives here, is of a little importance, he made a long speech expressing his desire for white men to settle here he was very glad we had come to see the country and would go with us for 2 or 3 days to direct us on the road. The kindness we have received from this old man exceeded all I have ever witnessed before from a mauri. The native who assisted us yesterday left us here, it appears that Eahu took him from the Ngatikihune when he was an infant, but he has given him his freedom since he has been grown up. At noon we started again crossed the river once more and shortly afterwards the road led us over a low range of hills from the summit of which we saw a large tract of level country before us – about 3 o'clock we came to some huts where I thought it advisable to stop as the weather was inclined to be rough. The timber today has been principally Totara and the hill we have passed over is quite available being neither high or steep.

Sunday 15 May 1842

Resumed our journey at half past seven o'clock this morning, though it rained heavily, and shortly after crossed a river about 30 yards wide called Te Mangatainoka, it comes from the Tararua mountains and flows into a river called Te Tiraumea which has its source in the Puketo range and flowing in a tortuous course through a large tract of fine country empties itself into the Manawatu – we did not see the Tirumea it being a considerable distance to the eastward of us. At noon came to a potatoe ground where there five natives – by this runs a stream 15 yards wide

called Makakahi, it has its source in the Tararua and flows into the Mangatainoka. We stopped here and boiled some tea as we were all very wet and cold, the rain continuing to fall heavily. At 1 o'clock p.m., crossing the Makakahi we continued our journey through the bush till 3 o'clock, when we came to an old hut, where we stopped as it was likely to afford an excellent shelter against the stormy night – our road today has laid through a fine level country with magnificent timber and very little underwood.

Monday 16 May 1842

The night has been most terrific from thunder and rain, but the weather has improved this morning – we continued our journey through the bush on the bank of the Mangatainoka till 1 o'clock p.m. when we were compelled to stop as we could not cross the river in consequence of the freshet caused by the heavy rains – we encamped on an open place, where there were about 30 acres of grass land on one side of which there was a sloping bank about 40 feet high when I made a sketch of the Tararua mountains and took the bearings of the principal peaks, Te Apiti bore from me 355° or 5° west of north distant 26 miles; and the highest peak 260° or 80° west of south.

Tuesday 17 May 1842

Heavy showers again this morning – the old man Takawa after having given us directions how to proceed to the valley of the Ruamahanga left us to return to his settlement. We resumed our journey and in half an hour crossed the Mangatainoka again; we had great difficulty now in finding the track as it is not a trodden path similar to that we have previously followed – Takawa had told us that if we kept the Mangatainoka on our left we would fall in with a path that comes over the Tararua range from Tokomaru – we continued wandering through the bush in search of this path till 3 o'clock without success and as the rain continued to fall very heavily, we thought it prudent to stop and erect some kind of shelter for the night.

Wednesday 18 May 1842

We were much delighted, to find the weather improved this morning, and in better spirits than the preceding day we began to search for the path again, which we were fortunate to find in about half an hour; we crossed the Mangatainoka for the last time – Our path still lay through a level country finely timbered with Totara and Rimu and having an abundant supply of water from the numerous brooks, which flow in various directions. At noon we crossed a low range of hills and found ourselves again in a fine level country through which we travelled till it was nearly dark. The distance we have walked today I estimate at 13 miles.

Thursday 19 May 1842

Having eaten the last of our provisions this morning for breakfast, we started hoping to reach the plains of the Ruamahanga before night, when we expect to find a native settlement - after walking about two miles we crossed three successive ranges of small hills, between each of which a small stream runs, this may more properly be termed broken country (the distance over them not being more than two miles when we were again in a level country) – a little before noon we crossed the Makakahi for the last time, here I obtained the sun's meridian altitude which gives our latitude $40^{\circ} 41' 57s$ – after leaving the Makakahi our road lay up the course of a stream called Mangahinai, which falls into the last mentioned river we crossed this stream seven times and at 2 o'clock began to ascend a long and steep hill; we reached the summit in about half an hour when we had a glimpse of the Plains through which the Ruamahanga flows below us – by half-past 3 o'clock we reached the foot of the hill, round its base the Ruamahanga flows in its course from the Tararua mountains – it has been previously reported that it has its source in the Puketoi mountains which is incorrect – the hill, over which we have passed may be avoided as there is a small valley about a quarter of a mile to the eastward of it. Thus then we have a good communication from the Manawatu to the beach at Palliser Bay; but whether there is an opening from the Ruamahanga into the valley of the Hutt I have yet to discover – the bed of the river which is composed of large stones, where we crossed is about 33 yards wide and the water not more than two feet deep. Having crossed the river we were detained again, not being able to find the road, we searched without success till it was nearly dark when I determined to bivouac for the

night; it being too late to erect a hut we made a large fire and slept round it – I was fortunate enough to shoot five pigeons today which I divided amongst the party for supper.

Friday 20 May 1842

Having nothing to eat we had not the trouble of preparing breakfast this morning so as soon as daylight permitted we resumed our search for the path – after walking a short distance round the river we left it and crossing some fern land came upon the path which continued through fern and grass for about 5 miles; we then entered a grove of Totara and shortly after emerging from the bush we were delighted with the prospect that lay before us, large tracts of grazing land interspersed with groves of trees stretched to the distance of 12 miles or the whole width of the valley, while the Ruamahanga flowed in a sinuous course at the foot of the hills which skirt the northern extremity of the valley – the path we were following led to a Pa which we saw two miles distant – the mauries discharged their guns, a man came running from the Pa towards us and returned as soon as he had ascertained who we were – The natives here belong to the Ngatikihune tribe and Eahu was doubtful as to what reception he would meet with – as we approached the Pa the shouts of maumai and hatomai accompanied by a discharge of muskets became distinctly heard from the men who were assembled outside, while the women on the roofs of the houses waved their mats and signs of welcome – as soon as we entered the pa, mats were spread for us to sit on and the slaves were immediately at work scraping potatoes indian corn and pork cooked in fat was laid before us; of the potatoes and corn I partook heavily but the pork I declined. I observed the meridian altitude of the sun and found our Latitude to be 40° 49' 55S – as soon as the meal was finished the chiefs began to speechify and as there was no probability of our proceeding any farther today I ascended a bank at the back of the Pa and made a sketch of this part of the valley – Mr Wills and I took up our quarters in a hut with the natives, but slept very little as they were talking to Eahu the whole night.

Saturday 21 May 1842

I had great difficulty in getting the mauries to proceed this morning – I tried to induce one of the Ngatikihune's to go with us to Wellington as we were to take a road that Eahu is not acquainted with which is a much shorter route; but they are all missionaries here and will not be away from their Pa on a Sunday – I purchased as many potatoes as my men could carry and started again at 10 o'clock; our road lay down the western side of the valley about four miles from the foot of the Tararua range, mostly through grass land, the soil appears to be very rich. About noon we crossed a small stream (Waipoua) that falls into the Ruamahanga and entered the bush which consists principally of Totara, Rimu and Mataihi; after walking about two miles and a half through this we came onto grass land, which is about a mile wide and extends the greatest distance across the valley – as there was no track across the grass we were at a loss to know where to enter the bush again on arriving at the opposite side; we searched for the path till dark but without success – we now entered the bush and made a fire, when to our great surprise we found we were on the path we had been looking for so long; we were unpleasantly situated as there was no water near us; the natives made torches of bark, and went in search but could find none, so that we were compelled to eat raw potatoes to satiate our thirst.

Sunday 22 May 1842

Having no water here we started as soon as it was daylight intending to breakfast at the first stream we came to – our road lay through the bush for a mile, when we came into an open country again – a few yards from the bush flows a river about 40 yards wide called Te Haungawa, it comes from the eastern side of the Tararua, immediately at the back of Otaki, and falls into the Ruamahanga. We tried to ford it, but were not able as the water had risen considerably and the current very rapid from the snow melting on the mountains – as we must stop here till the freshet goes down and there being every appearance of rain, we erected a hut on the bank of the river whilst the mauries went out to shoot Pigeons; they came back in the evening with twenty three, so that we fared pretty well.

Monday 23 May 1842

We found the river more swollen this morning than it was yesterday and as it continued to rain heavily I determined on returning to the Pa, for a fresh supply of potatoes – we went back as far as the Waipoua where I stopped as it was a good situation for me to make an observation for Longitude and sent three of my men and three mauries to get the Potatoes and a Pig if they could purchase one – at noon the weather became more favourable and we erected a hut, where I determined to stay till the men returned – in the evening I made a sketch of another part of the valley.

Tuesday 24 May 1842

About 2 o'clock this morning I made a Lunar observation between the Moon and the planet Jupiter, by which I find the Longitude to be $176^{\circ} 0' 8''$ E – about 11 o'clock the men returned bringing with them a Pig and some Potatoes, a native also came with them from the pa with the intention of going with us to Wellington. By 1 o'clock p.m. we were again proceeding on our journey and at 3 o'clock reached our former encampment on the bank of the Waingawa where we stopped, intending to cross and proceed in the morning.

Wednesday 25 May 1842

After crossing the river this morning our road lay for about two miles through fern land over which we proceeded very slowly the surface being covered with sharp stones which were very trying to the feet of the natives. The road now entered the bush again through which we walked till 4 o'clock when it began to rain as usual. We have crossed several streams today; the principal are the Mangatarera, ten yards wide, another about the same size called Ruawango and a third the Pukaiti where we encamped. These streams all come from the Tararua and flow into the Ruamahanga. A bark hut that had been erected by the natives in some of their Pig hunting excursions, afforded an excellent shelter for the night.

Thursday 26 May 1842

Started early this morning though it rained heavily – our road still lay through a fine level country abounding with magnificent timber and having an excellent supply of water from the numerous small streams that flow from the Tararua – This valley is overrun with wild pigs and the land for miles is completely ploughed up by them; the dog that we have with us caught a small one which will be useful, as our potatoes will not last much longer – at noon the road emerged from the bush into some open fern country through which a river called the Waiohine having its source in the Tararua flows to the Ruamahanga – previous to seeing the river, the natives expressed an opinion that we would not be able to cross as it would be considerably swollen from the late rain; and as it was nearly a mile from us and the rain continued to fall heavily, Eahu proposed lighting a fire in the bush whilst two of his slaves went to examine the state of the river. I well knew the tardiness of these fellows and was certain they would say we could not cross as an excuse for not proceeding further today; so I sent one of my men – as I had foretold, the natives on their return said it was impossible for us to cross, and the white man reported, that the river had risen considerably, but not so much as to deter us from crossing. We started immediately and on arriving at the edge of the river found that several of the slaves had staid behind in the bush – I saw Mr Wills and the men get safely over to the opposite bank and then returned with Eahu to hasten the mauries – at last the natives having all reached the edge of the river, we took a long pole which we stood along abreast of each other and holding it up with our hands, walked into the river and crossed with little difficulty, the water reaching to the armpits – this is an excellent method of crossing a rapid river, those that are not so strong as the rest have a good support and they all act with a combined force against the stream. I have not had dry clothes on for the last three days and was bitterly cold after crossing. I was pleased to find that my men had made an immense fire in bush round which we stood and dried our clothes as they were on, none of us having a change of any kind and our blankets being as wet as the rest of our things. The Waiohine is about 3 yards wide and navigable for canoes; it is not so rapid as Waingawa but the water is deeper – the bank on the north side is steep and about 20 feet high while that on the south side is low and shelving – we stripped the bank off the Totara tree and constructed a hut here, to shelter us from the rain during the night.

Friday 27 May 1842

On proceeding again this morning we found the path crossed the river, but this we were unable to do as the river had swollen during the night, consequently we had to force our way through the thick bush for the distance of a mile when we came again into open fern country, over which we walked for nearly two miles. The rain coming down in torrents and all of us being in a very miserable condition, I thought it prudent to retreat to the nearest bush and provide some means of shelter, as from the fatigue we have endured lately, it was almost impossible for us to proceed. As soon as we regained the bush some began to strip the bark off the trees for huts while others endeavoured to get a light with a musket but our hands being so benumbed with cold that we could not feel anything, we stood nearly an hour in the pouring rain before we succeeded in getting a fire – The surface of the fern land we have passed over today is covered with large stones, beneath them there is a fine soil capable of producing almost anything.

Saturday 28 May 1842

At 5 o'clock this morning, I rose and found the weather much improved; I called the men up immediately that we might get breakfast and proceed at daylight. After walking many a mile through fern we came to a river called Tau Wau Nikau it has its source in the Tararua and flows into the Lake of Wairarapa of which we had a glimpse here. The bank of the river on the north side being forty feet high and perpendicular we had to walk some distance round to find a convenient place for descent. We reached the foot of the bank by sliding down a Manuka tree – the river, at the point we crossed it is about 35 yards wide, at others more and less, the water is too shallow to admit of a canoe passing up – we now walked through high fern again, keeping close to the range of hills called the Rimutaka, which bound the valley on the west that I might be able to discover an opening into the Hutt should any exist – there being no trodden path the walking became both tedious and difficult for the distance of a mile and a half when we entered a belt of bush; on coming again into open country I saw no opening in the hills which I thought might probably communicate with the Hutt; thither I directed my course and soon fell in with a small stream (Mangatawai) coming from that direction – on following it up some distance I found there was no communication; but a number of gullies meeting and each contributing its small supply of water for at last a considerable stream – we now retraced our steps till we came to the fern land again, through which we forced our way for the distance of a mile and a half, when we found ourselves on the bank of a stream called Otauera; I determined on seeing if there was any communication up this and after following it a short distance encamped for the night.

Sunday 29 May 1842

We consumed the last of our provisions this morning and resumed our journey following the course of the stream which we waded very frequently. It was evident from the broken twigs we saw that someone had been up this way not long since – we followed the stream till noon when there appeared no likelihood of our getting through this way. Eahu and another mauri now ascended a hill to see which was the best direction to take but it coming on to rain heavily again the hills were so shrouded by clouds that we were unable to make any observations – descending the hills again we erected a hut for shelter – we are now in a very unpleasant situation we have no food and don't know when we are likely to get any. I am now very anxious to get home as from the inclement weather we have experienced and the coarse diet we have been obliged to subsist upon, having neither Tea, Sugar nor flour for the last 12 days, we are getting in a very weak state – at one time today I thought of returning to Wairarapa and going to Wellington by the beach; but on second consideration the main object of this expedition being to see if there is any communication with the Hutt I banished the idea and determined by some means to get home by the Hutt.

Monday 30 May 1842

Long before daylight this morning I awoke and found a stream of water running under me and my blankets so saturated (the hut not being watertight that I had not a dry thread on me; the rain having put the fire out we were obliged to be in this deplorable condition till daylight when we made a fire and dried our clothes. It continued to rain so hard all day that it was impossible for us to proceed in this condition – Eahu has saved about a dozen potatoes; Mr Wills and I each got

one for breakfast and another for supper, this is all we had to eat since yesterday morning – about 6 o'clock p.m. the sky cleared so that I expect a fine day tomorrow.

Tuesday 31 May 1842

Awoke this morning and found it was raining again. I determined to proceed over the hills and shortly after daylight commenced the ascent. On arriving at the lower part of the ridge we continued on the top still ascending higher Peaks – the weather being so wet and misty we could see nothing of the surrounding country so as to give an idea of the best course for us to take. We continued till nearly noon on this ridge still rising till we were at a great height, when it became evident that this route was not practicable. So I determined to return in a straight course to the Lake of Wairarapa and see if I could discover another place where I might find a practicable entrance. We descended this hill, which was very steep until we came to a running gully which we followed, the hills on either side being nearly perpendicular. These gullies having a great fall indeed the travelling exceedingly dangerous; we were obliged to leap from one stone to another which being very slippery often caused us to fall with great violence into the water. As we descended we found other gullies... into this which at least from a considerable stream. This afternoon the weather improved which conduced to raise our spirits a little and when we found ourselves entering the valley again and our dog catching a small pig we began to revive exceedingly. We ascended a bare hill, on the north west side of the valley to ascertain our position; I found we were about two miles below the head of the Lake and eighteen from the head of the beach at Palliser Bay. I had a fine view of the Lake Wairarapa, which I will describe when I give a general description of the Ruamahanga Valley. We descended and encamped in the bush by the side of the stream, which falls into the Lake. It rained so heavily again this evening that we were obliged to use our blankets for the roofing of the hut – we partook of some Pork and cold water for supper, it being the first food we have taken, with the exception of two potatoes since Sunday morning.

Wednesday 01 Jun 1842

Eahu informed me that he went over into the Hutt from this place 20 years ago; I am resolved to try this route as he says he remembers it well – as we must have provisions to go on with, I determined not to move from this encampment today and several of us started off early this morning with our guns and the dog to catch pigs – after a hard days hunt we succeeded in catching four, three of which were a tolerable size, the fourth only a suckling. The mauries also killed two, so that we hope with care to be able to hold out for the rest of the journey. The land in this part of the valley is covered with fern low bush and flax, a considerable quantity of which has been burnt.

Thursday 02 Jun 1842

Left the camp early this morning and very shortly after leaving the fern land fell in with the old track of Eahu's party this we followed for some distance, but on ascending the hills, lost it for a considerable time, but again found broken twigs on the summit here Eahu directed our attention to a remarkable object at some distance from us, this was the top of a high precipice down which he told us a small waterfall flowed whose course he and his party had followed up and by that means crossed the mountains. I took a bearing and all started off with renewed vigour, ascending and descending several hills, we at length came to the stream and accordingly followed its course for a long distance up the gully, but we were not able to reach the summit of the Precipice by the afternoon as we had expected, about 3 o'clock we stopped to encamp, had we been without mauries we should have pushed on and I dare say would have been on the other side of the pass before night – they however were fearful the night would come on without our finding a place level enough for an encampment, as they are awkward to thwart, and we entirely depend upon them to conduct us to the Hutt, we are continually obliged to give way to them, very little rain has fallen today – one of my men (Alexander Grant) is exceedingly ill today; eating fresh killed pork without any salt and having nothing to drink but cold water has made us all very unwell.

Friday 03 Jun 1842

Continued our journey up the bed of the fall this morning and succeeded with less difficulty than expected in reaching the summit of this precipice. The dangerous part being about 200 feet high. This place is called Ko te horo – crossed several hills and to our great joy from the summit of one of them Eahu descend the Pakuratahi a stream which he states flows to the Hutt. To this we made all haste and after about half an hours walking reached it – we then crossed and endeavoured to follow its course walking through the bush but were soon again obliged to wade owing to the steepness of the hills which on both sides of the river here approach close to the waters edge – we continued travelling on in this way until 3 o'clock, when we were obliged to stop being dreadfully wet having waded the river eleven times and then exposed to the rain which has poured in torrents all day; several of us very ill today especially Grant, whose illness is very alarming.

Saturday 04 Jun 1842

This morning the weather was so bad that none but persons (like ourselves) the fear of starvation before them would ever think of leaving shelter. There being a continuous fresh in the river we were obliged to push on as best we could through the bush by its side and travelled on for about six miles when we encamped for the night. In general the land near the river is hilly and covered only with bush here and there we find some fine level and well timbered land. Nearly all the men are in bad spirits today and seem quite worn out with constant exposure to this dreadful weather.

Sunday 08 Jun 1842

Rose this morning soaked through and through our huts having been completely deluged by the rain which fell during the night with greater force than ever – obliged however to start, after a breakfast of a mouthful of pork and some cold water and followed the Pukuratahi for about a mile and a half. The land at this part of the river is excellent, being perfectly level and covered with fine timber, Totara, Rimu and Tawai – about 11 o'clock turned from the river in search of a path which our guide said would lead us to the Hutt; we lost an hour in searching; I then took a bearing and walking due west shortly found the broken twigs indicating the track. We then started at a brisk rate again and to our great joy reached the River Hutt about 3 o'clock, and after walking along the East bank for a short distance, stopped for the night under some Totara trees which offered a good covering for our huts – Our course from the Pukuratahi to the Hutt (about four miles) lay through a quantity of very excellent land. We were about three miles from the Tararua when we came on to the Hutt; there is a great quantity of fine level and well timbered land in this part of the valley on the eastern side of the river; but on the western side there is no available land as the hills approach close to the water's edge.

Monday 06 Jun 1842

The morning breaking beautifully we left our encampment and proceeded on our journey down the river – after walking about an hour we crossed a tributary about 12 yards wide, whose name I was unable to learn. The land on this (Eastern) side of the river still continued very fine and covered with a great variety of fine timber. About 11 o'clock we perceived some broken twigs indicating a track; this we followed for a considerable distance until it crossed the river which we were unable to do as there was a freshet in it. At noon being exceedingly hungry we went down to the water's edge and picked some wild cabbage from a shingle bank; we shared the last of our pork for breakfast this morning amounting to about 2 ounces each man, all we have to live on now is wild cabbage. Having no track we were obliged to force our way through the bush (which is here very bad) until nearly dusk – none of us ate a mouthful of anything tonight – we made a large fire and slept around it.

Tuesday 07 Jun 1842

Off by daylight this morning and notwithstanding our empty stomachs made good way through the bush. The land on this side is still fine and level – crossed two small tributaries and at noon heard the report of a large gun which we supposed to be the midday gun at Wellington. About 1 o'clock p.m. we to our great joy came to a surveyor's cutting, but after following it for a short distance, found to our great vexation that it crossed the river which was quite impossible for us to wade. Pushed on through the bush (which is here almost impenetrable) till half past 3 o'clock

when being very much exhausted we stopped on a shingle bank, close to the river in the highest section at present laid out on the Hutt.

Wednesday 08 Jun 1842

Started at daylight and walked on but very slowly the bush being very thick – about 11 o'clock we fell in with the surveyors line again and shortly after came to Mr Mason's house. Mr Mason on hearing that we had been without food for three days, received us in the most hospitable manner providing the whole party (14 in number) with an excellent meal, for which as may be supposed we were all very thankful. After about an hours rest we started off for Pitone, where we arrived about 4 o'clock and reached Wellington about 6 o'clock truly thankful at having reached home safe and well notwithstanding the numerous difficulties and hardships we have had to encounter.

It now only remains for me to give a general description of the Country through which we have passed – the Valley of the Hutt at the present termination of the Survey is nothing more than a gorge, the hills approaching the waters edge on both sides of the river – the hills however very soon fall back on the Eastern side, where there is a great quantity of fine land extending to the foot of the Tararua – on the western side there is no available land – the crossing from the Hutt to the Pukuratahi there is some rugged but a great deal of available land. The formation of a road from the Hutt to the Valley of the Ruamahanga will by no means be easy of accomplishment. I am quite confident that there is no communication between these by a valley – a range of hills called the Rimutaka must be surmounted; they are a branch of the Tararua and run in a southerly direction till they terminate in the western head land of Palliser Bay. To carry a road over, a careful examination of the hills would be required to be made and sections of the country taken. This would occupy some time and the expense would be very considerable, for which however I consider the value of the districts it would be the means of laying open, would amply compensate.

The Valley of the Ruamahanga is often called (from a large lake that is in it) the Wairarapa Valley. The Lake is about 13 miles long and of an average breadth of five miles. The lower end of the lake is about seven miles from the sea, with which it communicates by a continuation of the Ruamahanga river, but the natives tell me that the land between is of a swampy nature and of little or no value. From the head of the lake to the top of the valley is a fine level tract of land about 45 miles long and 10 miles wide. The direction of the valley is about N.N.E. and it is bounded on the east by the Tararua, on the west by a range called Maungataki, on the southeast by some high mountains called Te Haurangi which terminate in the eastern head land of Palliser Bay – on the south west by the Rimutaka and on the north by the Rangitumou hills – between the Maungataki and the Rangitumou there is an open place of several miles, which must lead into some fine country beyond. The greater part of the valley is covered with fern and grass, but there is a great quantity of wooded land, the timber being principally Totara and Mataihi. The river Ruamahanga, from which the valley receives its name, comes from the Tararua and flows down the eastern side of the valley receiving numerous streams until at last it falls into the lake. As we came down the western of the valley, we saw but very little of this river; the natives inform me that it is of a considerable and not obstructed by the timber.

From the Ruamahanga to the Manawatu (a distance of 50 miles) there are large tracts of finely timbered and level land with a good communication, so that if we had any opening from the Hutt to the Ruamahanga I believe we could then have a good communication with the whole of the interior of this island, by Taupo and Rotorua to the Thames. On the eastern side of the Tararua and Ruahine ranges there is that which is rather scarce on the western – materials for making roads, which the bed of every river and brook affords.

The immense quantity of available land still remaining on the Manawatu – the value of the river as a communication and its applicability to the purposes of machinery must render it a most valuable possession.

In conclusion it gives me much pleasure to be able to state that I received every assistance from Mr Wills (surveying cadet) both when making my compass sketch of the Manawatu and on our subsequent journey to the Hutt in drawing up this report. I have compared my journal with his notes on the trip, which I found to be very correct. I must also express my satisfaction at the conduct of the five men whom I selected (from the staff at Kau Kau) to accompany me – during the whole journey they have shown every disposition to forward the objects of the expedition.