



Wanderers Tramping Club

Bulletin

May – August 2015

Trip Programme

<u>Trip Date</u>		<u>Booking Information</u>
May 3	Strawberry trees	856 2675 (Ray) rayprivate@wave.co.nz Open 20 May
May 14 [Thursday]	Dinner at Windows	Margaret or Colin 855 1335 Open 1 May: close when 30 booked
May 17	Auckland	855 1335 (Colin or Margaret) Open 4 May
May 31	Maratoto Peel Creek	827 5150 (Marion) Open 18 May
June 14	Ngaroma Loop	855 1335 (Colin or Margaret) Open 2 June
June 28	Mangaokewa/Te Araroa	854 0654 (John D) Open 15 June
July 12	Karioi	855 2226 (Susan) Open 29 June
July 26	Te Aroha	Just turn up at car park
August 9	Oparure to Waitomo	854 5478 (Peter or Audrey) Open 27 July
August 23	Cosseys Dam to Hunua Falls	853 3434 (Grant) Open 10 August

**Latest "Safety in the Mountains" booklets still available
[only \$5.00]**

To purchase your copy contact John Davies.

Emergency Information

Wanderers' trips occasionally return up to an hour or more beyond the stated return time given in the Bulletin. This happens due to the variable nature of the tramp, the weather and the people on the tramp. However, in the event of a trip being seriously held up (possibly two hours after the time indicated), communication will be made through the Operations Room, Central Police Headquarters, Hamilton.

Trip Bookings

Remember that any default in notifying the leader of cancellation of bookings renders you liable for the cost of the trip.

Responsibility

"Whilst the committee will take all reasonable care to ensure the safety of participants on trips, the participants themselves undertake such trips entirely at their own risk and no responsibility will be accepted for accidents, injury, loss, delays or other misadventures which may occur or happen to members while on trips arranged by the Group."

[Constitution, Rule 29]

Booking Information

Bookings for trips open two weeks before the trip date **not before 5.30pm**. Please choose a suitable time to ring the number given. Avoid early morning weekday calls and alternative calls to place of employment. If, after booking, you are unable to go on a trip, please cancel promptly so that your place may be reallocated.

It is essential that at least 24 hours notice of cancellation be given.

Default in cancelling may render you liable for the cost of the trip.

If you check the programme you will see that each walk or tramp is graded 1, 2 or 3. These "gradings" are defined here:

Grade 1 (easy): A tramp on fairly level formed tracks, duration 4+ hours and where there may be the option of returning by the same track.

Grade 2 (moderate): A tramp of 5-6 hours, often on less well-formed tracks, or on off-track routes; can involve river crossings, or short sections of steep terrain.

Grade 3 (fit): Can be over 6 hours duration, tramping on either formed tracks or off-track routes, river crossings, steep terrain, snow conditions.

You will enjoy a tramp better if your level of fitness isn't of concern to you.

NOTE: Until further notice all trips will leave from the **Wintec student carpark, cnr Collingwood & Tristram Streets.**

President's Ponderings

Hi everyone, we are well into 2015 year and more ponderings. There are lots of good trips coming up for the winter bulletin.

The committee are looking for new members to join us. We have a couple of long timers wanting to step down at the next AGM. It's not an arduous job. We meet once every 7-8 weeks for committee meeting at members houses (you will get a cup of tea) and we have 3-4 planning sessions for the bulletin where ideas are bandied around. As you know we are a great group of people. Contact Margaret or myself if you are interested, and have a chat.

My ponderings today are around **SAFETY**; whether you are on your own, with others for a short day walk, or doing the more challenging tramp, it is important to keep safe. It is not good to make headlines for the wrong reasons. The mountain safety code talks about the following: **"BE PREPARED"**.

Plan your trip: In other words, tell someone of your plans. Texting is so easy. Leave a date/time with a friend/family member, talk to them about what to do and when to raise the alarm.

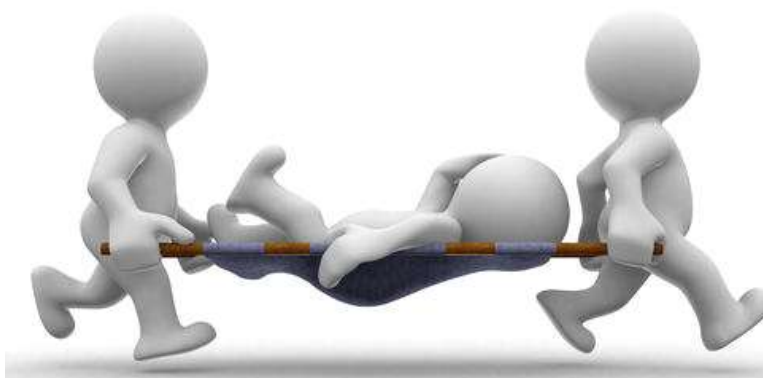
Be aware of the weather and know where you are going: Check the forecast, take your maps, GPS and other navigation devices.

Know your limits: It's great to be challenged, but do not put yourself or others at risk.

Take sufficient supplies: Make sure you have enough food, equipment and emergency rations for the worst case scenario. Take an appropriate means of communication. Personal locator beacons are reasonably priced to hire if going into areas where cell phone coverage is not good.

Keep safe and happy tramping; I know I will.

Dianne





Coming Up

Sunday 3 May

Strawberry Trees

Grade 1+ or 2



Starting at Waitekauri Road, the walk follows an old mining road through farmland and native bush up a steady incline to the remains of an old settlement where there is a large stand of strawberry trees (a kind of dogwood) that attract bird life, particularly tui, at this time of year.

More energetic people will want to dive off into the valley from the easy ridge, and see the remains of the

Maori land battery. Depending on the results of a survey to be completed after the bulletin went to press, we may also visit the Jubilee Battery site.

Breaking News – trip now includes Jubilee Mine – see the web site!

Leaders: Ray Hoare & John Sheat

Depart: 8.00 am **Return:** 5.00 pm

\$25.00 (members)
\$30.00 (non members)

Bookings: 6:00 pm Monday 20 April

856 2675 (Ray)
rayprivate@wave.co.nz



New Club badges still available @ \$15.00
See John Davies

Plastic name badges @ \$10: also through John

Dinner at *Windows*
On Thursday 14th May at 6.30 pm

Serves à la carte food at a reasonable price, in a pleasant atmosphere: Individuals can choose to have a two or three course meal and pay for their own food and drinks at the conclusion of the evening.

Location: Centre for Hospitality, Wintec Rotokauri Campus,
Akoranga Road, Hamilton

Current menu available from:

windows@wintec.ac.nz or www.wintec.ac.nz/windows

Bookings: will be limited to members and their partners, numbers are restricted to 30.

Bookings open on Friday 1st May; and close when 30 people have booked in.

Phone bookings only please; as it is easier to keep track of numbers.

Contact: Margaret or Colin Standing (07) 855 1335

We have an answer phone and if you leave a clear message your booking will be accepted; we may not return your call.

A similar event last year was very popular!



Sunday 17 May Auckland: train travel, coastal tracks Grade 1
and a parkland picnic

Between 1982 and 2007 Auckland trips were a regular feature of Wanderers bulletins. With some gentle persuasion I've agreed to include the Wanderers once again in one of my (many) favourite walks!

There are many really scenic walking options throughout Auckland so this time let's hop on a (new electric) train at Manukau, sit back and enjoy the 40 minutes ride and scenery to Britomart, then change trains for a 5 minutes ride to Newmarket Station. Our walk will start from here (downhill!) through Newmarket Park towards Hobson Bay. We will then follow this lovely coastal track (flat!), before climbing up (steep!) to street level past elegant old homes towards the new bridged walkway alongside Parnell Baths to Judges Bay (viewed earlier from the Manukau train) where you will be free to explore.



Of special interest here is lovely St Stephens Chapel, sited overlooking the bay and Waitemata Harbour. Built in 1857, of typical Selwyn design, its cemetery includes graves of several notable people. We will finally meet our coach on Gladstone Road adjoining the Parnell Rose Gardens. On the bus I shall circulate photographs and some history of the areas we will explore today.

Lots of history, ever changing coastal scenery, and all of this away from Auckland's traffic.

Website: *MAXX eastern line* will show you our route into Auckland.

Note: Please bring your **gold card** for train (**approx. \$5.00 without card**)

Walking time: Approx. 2½ hours before we reach Judges Bay.

Leader: Joy Foley

Depart: 8.30 am

Return: approx. 6.00 pm \$25.00 (members)
 [Perhaps earlier if the weather is adverse!] \$30.00 (non-members)

Bookings: 5.30 pm Monday 4 May Colin & Margaret (855 1335)

Sunday 31 May**Maratoto Peel Creek****Grade 2**

A few kilometres up Maratoto Road at a bridge by a cowshed on the left side of the road is our starting point. The track leads us through bush and follows Peel Creek which is crossed many times until we reach an old mining area and a tunnel. Be prepared for wet feet and bring a torch if you would like to explore the tunnel. We return to the bus the same way. The tramp will take approx 5 hours including lunch and stops.

[Could be a few changes on the day but the “wet feet” warning still applies!]

Leaders: Ann, Marion & John (S)

Depart: 7.30 am **Return:** 5.30 pm \$25.00 (members)
\$30.00 (non-members)

Bookings: 5.30 pm Monday 18 May 827 5150 (Marion)
marionfnz@gmail.com

Sunday 14 June**Ngaroma Circuit (Tolley Road)****Grade 2+**

This tramp is in the northern section of the Pureora Forest Park. The bus takes us to the end of Tolley Road where there will be time for a quick drink and snack in the shelter of the hay barn if necessary. The track begins next to the hay barn with a 15 minute uphill walk across farmland to the park boundary (good views – weather permitting). We cross the boundary fence and begin a generally downhill meandering track through sometimes dense bush. Part way down the track we may be lucky to have views of Titiraupunga etc. After about 2 hours we emerge at the old pine plantation (milled about 16 years ago but now covered with large regenerated pine). A rambling track through the new pines brings us to the old mill road which we follow northwards. Crossing several old mill bridges (some now collapsed) farmland is reached. An undulating route (steepish in places) along the boundary fence followed by farm tracks brings us back to the bus.

Expect to walk about 6 hours

Leaders: Peter Scott & Colin Standing

Depart: 7.30 am **Return:** 5.30 pm \$\$25.00 (members)
\$30.00 (non-members)

Bookings: 6.00 pm Tuesday 2 June 855 1335 (Colin or Margaret)

Sunday 28 June**Mangaokewa Reserve
and Te Araroa Trail****Grades 2+ & 1**

Grade 2+: The Grade 2+s will start from the end of Mangaokewa North Rd, off SH30, 20 km from Te Kuiti on the way to Benneydale. We will follow the Mangaokewa Stream downstream until we meet the Grade 1s at the reserve.



The trail is approx 15 km long and passes through a variety of landscapes. There is open farmland, stands of pine and eucalypts, totara groves, and limestone outcrops. Unless it has been very dry, there may be some mud and boggy patches to challenge you. Near the end of the trail we enter the Mangaokewa Reserve which is predator free and home to native birds.

Grade 1s: We will be dropped off in the industrial area of Te Kuiti and proceed on a new link into the Mangaokewa Viaduct Reserve. We then have a few options to enjoy some of the beautiful bush tracks which run beside the stream. Lovely bush and native birds await us.

Leaders: Grade 2+: John Davies & friends
Grade 1: Ann Cloke & Keith Wilkinson

Depart: 7.30 am **Return:** 5.30 pm \$25.00 (members)
\$30.00 (non-members)

Bookings: 5.30 pm Monday 15 June 854 0654 (John D)
deejohn@xtra.co.nz
or text to 021 294 1807

"Walking: the most ancient exercise
and still the best modern exercise."

--- *Carrie Latet*

**Sunday 26 July Te Aroha Summit + Tui Track
Horseman's Track, Te Aroha**

**Grade 3
Grade 1**

We meet at the car park at **8.30 am** and travel in private cars to Te Aroha.

Grade 3: if you would like a little more of a blow today, you might like to join a group expecting to climb to the Te Aroha summit for lunch. After lunch



descending to Dog Kennel Flat and on to the site of the Old Tui silver mine that operated from 1967-1973. From there we head back around the side of the mountain to join the grade 1's who have probably been frolicking in the hot pools.

Expect to walk 5 to 6 hours.

Expected leaders: Peter Scott & Colin Standing

Grade 1: The Horseman's track was created in the 1880s to enable firewood to be collected for the town and for access to mining exploration. We start the walk from the Te Aroha Domain where the track slopes upwards on an easy going zig-zagging gradient, passing some massive pine and puriri trees. From here we head steadily upwards to Bald Spur and soon after arrive at the Horseman's track junction. On our return we pass the "Fountain of Youth"?!

Being a relaxing easy day (~3½ hrs walking) there will be time for a swim at the hot pools, coffee in Te Aroha (or both) so bring extra money.

Leaders: Margaret, Keith & Dianne

Cost: \$10 to driver and \$5 for club.

[Queries to Margaret (855 1335)]

Sunday 09 August**Oparure to Waitomo****Grade 2**

This tramp is through a King Country section of the national Te Araroa Trail. After alighting from our bus at the Were property on Fullerton Road at Oparure, a boots on and a cup of tea, we will head of down through the farm to meet up with the trail. Previously the club walked the section of the trail that starts from the Were's that heads southward over the hills to emerge via Brook Park at Te Kuiti. However today we walk northward over an undulating mix of farmland and bush, scrubland, cattle races and stiles and the odd high point for a view. Nearing the end of our trek there is a short bit of road walking into the bright lights (cafes and bars and tourist traps) of Waitomo Village.

This winter walk should take a relaxed 4 hours.

Leaders: Grant Svendsen & Peter Scott

Depart: 8.00 am **Return:** 5.00 pm

\$25.00 (members)
\$30.00 (non-members)

Bookings: 6.00 pm Monday 27 July

854 5478 (Peter or Audrey)



Sunday 23 August**Suspension Bridge Track
to Cosseys Dam to Hunua Falls****Grade 2**

The walk starts at the carpark on the Wairoa Reservoir access road and takes us through lush vegetation, climbing to a spectacular lookout platform above the Wairoa Reservoir. The track continues as the Wairoa/Cossey track with tree roots and soft mud patches in places. At the Massey track junction we continue straight to reach another lookout over Cosseys Reservoir. After a short walk on the Cossey access road we join the Cossey Gorge track at the information shelter near the gate.

The track then follows the Cossey Stream, including a stream crossing requiring a short wade until it meets a junction with the Massey Track (about 400 m from the Hunua Falls lookout). Then just a short walk to the bus waiting at the Hunua Falls carpark.



Expect to walk about 5 hours.

Leaders: Grant & Colin

Depart: 7.30 am **Return:** 5.30 pm

\$25.00 (members)
\$30.00 (non-members)

Bookings: 6.00 pm Monday 10 August

853 3434 (Grant)



Where we Went

Wairongomai Valley: 25 January

The first tramp of the year in the middle of Anniversary weekend meant only 2 cars were needed to take 9 keen trampers to this historic place. The plan was to have an easy day on the low level loop track and follow it up with either a coffee or a swim at the Domain pools.



Photo and information boards of bygone days have been erected along this track which was constructed as a horse pack track to service the development in the lower Wairongomai valley. It starts with a gradual climb through regenerating bush. After passing a small tunnel we took the steep track down to the Bendigo Battery. The remains of several cyanide tanks are evident. Keith gave us

some idea of their history. Many others have been there before us so no gold left for us. Back on the track again we reached the base of Butler's Incline. There had been quite a big slip on this – not somewhere to be at the time.

We continued on the Loop track along what was the Piako County tramway. Some tramlines are still there as well as some historic relics of gold mining days. We stopped for lunch at the top of Fern Spur Incline with lovely views to the south.

After a short walk back to the carpark, we went our separate ways – a coffee or a swim. The pool was wonderful, not too crowded and very relaxing. Thanks to Dianne for organising the day. *Anon*

Kiritihere February 8

It was satisfying for the organisers that this, the first official Wanderers tramp of the year, saw the bus booked for the trip to Pahimatea Station fully subscribed. The locale, south of Marakopa in very steep country, is at the end of a side road off the Awakino back road and is quite remote. The drive

down via Waitomo took a little over two and a half hours, half of which was over very winding roads which contributed to a queasy tummy or three!

After a morning tea at the station woolshed the Grade threes set off with the # ones (or two pluses?) following them up the farm track in the same direction. Soon the groups split with the threes taking a longer route through very nice bush while the ones, led by Ann and Bernie chugged on and upward on the farm track. With the altitude increasing the views just got better and better, although a distant haze blocked out the view across the bight to Egmont and Paratutu Rock. Looking north up the coast the Taharoa iron sand ship was clearly visible, tied to the off shore buoy while pumping the slurry of sand aboard from the underwater pipeline coming from the stockpile at the sand mine ashore.

Having reached their mini summit the ones were sitting devouring their lunches when the threes emerged over a stile from the native bush just below to touch base before carrying on upwards towards their target, the dominant 487 m summit of Pehimatea peak itself. By the time the threes, led by the two Johns (D & S), were doing the final



scramble up to the trig, the ones had crossed the stile and had entered the bush on their way back, down through some of the beautiful old growth the threes had previously travelled. Luckily for the ones they did not encounter the wasps that had so recently attacked our other party. There did not appear to be any attempt at predator control in the bush which probably contributed to its paucity of native bird life; however there were quite a number of fossilised sea shells embedded in locations on the track for interest.

After the first group had returned to the bus it was only a short 30 minutes before the threes, who had done the longer and harder walk, turned up ready for Dave to take us off on the long drive home after a most enjoyable day out in special place.

Thanks are due to the owners of Pahimatea Station for access and the excellent leadership of John D, John S, Ann and Bernie. *PS*

Karamu Walkway: 8 March



A relaxed group of fine trampers enjoyed this walk. The bus driver delivered us to our starting point where we enjoyed a cup of tea and snack before easing into the start of the track. A wee bit of up through the bush reserve took us to the farmland where we meandered along the ridge tops for a little over an hour before reaching old mountain road.

Another quick food and drink stop eventuated before we continued on our way onwards and upwards through the section of the track which is part of the Te Araroa trail. We experienced a few patches of wind and rain but generally the weather was kind. We strolled through the land admiring the limestone cliff faces and rocks all around us. Low cloud hampered some of our views but Mt Pirongia remained a constant and visible presence throughout the day. We lunched on a hillside overlooking our surroundings. A couple of short but sharp climbs ending with a steep (and slippery) path through the bush signaled the end of this tramp. A new departure track has been established and we found our patient bus driver and passenger awaiting us.

Done and dusted we were home at the unusually early time of 3 pm. An absolutely lovely day. A big thank you for our leaders and helpers.

Ghost of trampers past

Membership

Come with our friendly group and give it a try. If you complete two trips you are eligible to become a valued member. So.....book in – give a résumé of your tramping capabilities and we will recommend a grade suitable to your fitness.

Reminder: What to take in your pack

With the cooler weather approaching it is time to re-think the contents of your pack.

It has been noted (especially when someone takes a tumble into a river) that some trampers are obviously not taking enough equipment with them. The following is the minimum equipment required for day trips.

Thermal layer (polypropylene, polyester or wool)

Insulating layer of fleece or wool

Water/wind proof parka

Shorts or long johns / over trousers in cool or wet weather

Spare clothing

Torch

Whistle

Sunscreen

Boots or strong shoes

First aid kit

Lunch, snacks and water bottle

Pack cover and liner to keep everything dry.

Extra clothing to be left on the bus

Extra footwear and plastic bag for boots [no dirty boots on the bus]

[Don't forget to include Emergency Information form]

