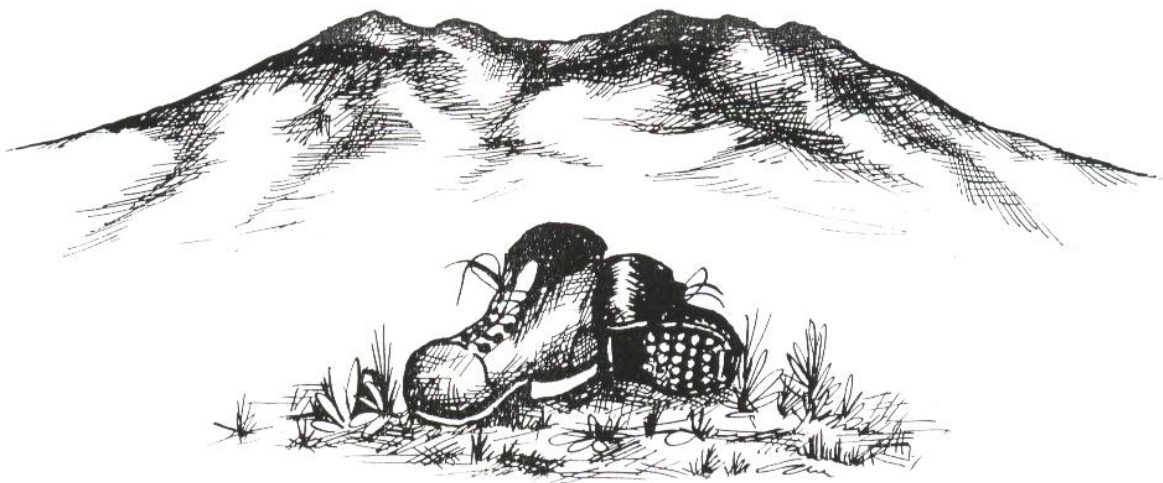


Wanderers Tramping Club Inc



Bulletin

September - December 2016

www.wandererstramping.org.nz

Wanderers Tramping Club Inc

PO Box 61, Hamilton 3240

Bank account number 03-0306-0208429-000 - Always put your name as a reference

Club Committee 2015/16

| | | |
|--|---|--------------|
| President: | Dianne Lee leedi@clear.net.nz | 027 272 6617 |
| Secretary/ Social Convener: | Margaret Standing standings@xtra.co.nz | 855 1335 |
| Treasurer: | Colin Standing standings@xtra.co.nz | 855 1335 |
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| | Susan Rogers rogers.susan96@yahoo.com | 855 2226 |
| | Peter Scott (Bus Coordinator) peterscott@xtra.co.nz | 854 5478 |
| | Keith F Wilkinson | 847 4399 |
| | Brett Rossiter (New Members Convener) brett@hudsonhire.co.nz | 855 6774 |
| | Annemarie Farrell | 021 549 737 |

Trip Programme

| TRIP DATE | TRIP DETAILS | BOOKING INFORMATION |
|---------------|---|--|
| 28/08/2016 | Huntington/Flagstaff City Ramble - Hamilton | For information Ann Phone 07 847 2460 summerfields@vodafone.co.nz Bookings not required |
| 11/09/2016 | Hakarimatas - Ngarauwahia | Grant Phone 07 853 3434 txt 0210476518 email gveny@gmail.com Open 5.30pm Monday 29 August |
| 25/09/2016 | Hapuakohe South - Ohinewai | Peter & Audrey Scott Phone 07 854 5478 Open 5.30pm Monday 12 September |
| 9/10/2016 | Sulphur Point Walkway - Rotorua | Pam Phone 07 856 5922 (leave message) Open 5.30pm Monday 26 September |
| 21-24/10/2016 | Labour Weekend - Ohakune / Mt Ruapehu | Dianne Phone/txt 027 272 6617 Open 5.30pm Monday 29 August Close 5.30pm Monday 3 October |
| 6/11/2016 | Waihaha Hutt - Pureora Forest Park, Lake Taupo | Alison Williams Phone 07 823 9305 Open 5:30pm Monday 24 October |
| 20/11/2016 | Tuahu Track - Katikati | Ray Phone 07 856 2675 rayprivate@wave.co.nz 021 170 0713 Open 5.30pm Wanderers Monday 7 November Guests Thursday 10 November |
| 4/12/2016 | Christmas Outing - Taupo | Dianne Phone/txt 027 272 6617 email: leedi@clear.net.nz Open 5:30pm Monday 7 November Close 5.30pm 29 November for catering numbers |

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

Well this will be my last ponderings as president, my three years are up, and boy have they gone fast! The club is in a strong place with good heart, even though the general membership numbers are down, the trip numbers are pretty stable at around 20 per trip. We have a few new bods and of course the regulars.

Our club name is well known in the community thanks to the website, our presence at the recent show and all the other avenues of communication. Best of all is ourselves and word of mouth, so keep talking about our trips, where we've been and where we are planning to go.

There are some great trips in this bulletin. Labour weekend, we're off to Ohakune and Christmas (Dec 4th put it in your diary) we are heading to Taupo.

We're currently working on next years' long weekend plans (Easter, Labour) and of course Christmas, these come around so quick. So if you have some ideas of places to stay, places to go, talk with one of the committee members, we always need ideas

A general reminder to look after yourselves while tramping. The club and leaders can only do so much, be prepared, have the right stuff/gear in your pack. Also, listen to and follow your leaders instructions (if you did not know, they are the ones wearing the yellow high-vis vests). Most tramps have been surveyed by the leader, but things can change overnight and nature does not follow any rules.



In finishing I have really enjoyed my time as president and look forward to supporting the club in the future, I'm not ready to hang my boots up yet, still got a lot of places to see and people to meet.

Have a great Christmas be safe, be happy and enjoy life no matter what it brings, you only live once.

Dianne

-AGM-

WANDERERS' TRAMPING CLUB INC. AGM

- Date:** Wednesday 19 October 2016
- Venue:** The River Lounge,
Celebrating Age Hall,
Victoria Street, Hamilton
- Time:** Hall opens at 7pm and the
Formal meeting begins at 7.30pm
followed by a speaker or speakers, to be
advised.
The evening concludes with a light
supper.
- Entry fee:** A gold coin donation to help defray
expenses please
- Contact
person:** Margaret Standing – Phone 855 1335



Where We Are Going

28 August 2016

Hamilton

Grade1

Huntington/Flagstaff City Ramble

Join us on a pleasant ramble amongst northern city parks and reserves departing from the Flagstaff Shopping Centre, River Road. Good walking shoes necessary, boots are not required. Afternoon tea will be provided on return.

Bookings are not required, just arrive at the shopping centre to start at 9am. Any queries phone Ann 847 2460 or email summerfields@vodafone.co.nz

Depart: 9am

Return: Afternoon

Cost: \$5.00

Leaders: Ann, Bernie and friends

Bookings: Not required



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

Plastic name badges @ \$10: also through John

Sunday 11 September Ngaruawahia Grades 1+ & 2+

Hakarimata Gas Line Loop

Grade 2+

Part of this tramp is new to the club as it follows a route marked on a 1970s map. We will start at the Waingaro car park and follow the old tram line to a point where we go up an incline to the natural gas pipe line cutting where we will walk to a farm fence line for morning tea. We will then back track to a point where we enter the bush and follow the marked bush track up to the main Hakarimata traverse track for lunch at the look-out. We then head down the main track back to the car park.

Grade 1+

This group will leave from the Brownlee Rd car park and walk around past the Waingaro car park. Then along the old tram line to the incline and up to the natural gas pipe line cutting as far as the farm fence. Then returning on the same route back to their vehicles.

Depart: 8.30am

Return: Early afternoon

Cost: Car Pooling - please bring the right amounts
\$5 to the club
\$15 to the drivers

Leaders: Grant and Mary - Grade 2+
Dianne and Pam – Grade 1+

Bookings: Open Monday 29 August
Grant
Phone 07 853 3434
txt 0210476518



Sunday 25 September**Ohinewai****Grades 2 & 3****Hapuakohe South via Mangapiko Valley Road**

Beginning at the end of Mangapiko Valley Rd at Waiterimu, the track follows a farm road beside the Mangapiko Stream then it crosses a small stream twice before reaching the Mangapiko Scenic Reserve. Just before reaching the bush there is a good viewpoint looking out over the valley. The bush is generally tawa, kohekohe, pigeon wood and pukatea. After a short time the track emerges at a fenceline with a great view across to the Kaimai Range.

The marked track then re-enters the bush to reach Pukeitonga Station after a steep 10 minute climb along a fence on private land. From there the track continues on before reaching the translator tower on Maungakawa at 535 m.

Here a choice can be made for the Grade 2s to walk down the easy translator road to meet up with the bus parked at the Summit of the Matahuru - Ohinewai Rd.

Meanwhile the Grade 3 contingent will head back steeply down through the bush into the bottom of the gully. Here the Waiwhata stream has to be crossed before the steep climb up to the Ohinewai Rd leaving just a short walk up the road to meet the others at the bus.

(The Grade 2 party can expect to walk 5 hrs. The Grade 3 approx. 6 hrs.)

Please Note : First day of daylight saving!

Depart: 7am

Return: 6.30pm

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

Leaders: Peter Scott, Colin Standing, Alison Williams

Bookings: Open 5:30pm Monday 12 September
Peter & Audrey Scott
Phone 07 854 5478



Sunday 9 October**Rotorua****Grade 1+****Rotorua Urban Walkways**

Today we are going to explore some of the walkways around and by the lake area. We start at the lakefront, with morning tea then head to Sulphur point and the wetlands area, carry onto a thermal area where the first commercial bathing took place, pass the Blue Baths in the government gardens, heading in front of the Polynesian Pools.

We make our way back to the lake edge on to boardwalk and bike/walking track to our lunch stop overlooking the lake and wildlife refuge. From here we follow a bike/walking track to Sulphur Flats towards the Puarenga River, under the Te Ngae Road Bridge heading towards Whakarewarewa Village. From the village we will retrace our steps with some small interesting diversions to return to our transport.

This is an Easy flat walk, walking approx. 5 hours including breaks.

All going well we may be able to have a hot swim, so bring your togs, those not wanting a swim can head over the road to the cafe over the road. If we have time we might stop for an ice cream

Bring extra money (Swim \$14).

Depart: 8am

Return: 5.30 – 6pm approx

Cost: \$25.00 (members)
\$30.00 (non-members)
Bring extra money for swim \$14

Leaders: Dianne, Keith and Pam

Bookings: Open 5:30pm Monday 26 September
Pam
Phone 07 856 5922 (leave message)



21-24 October**Ohakune****All Grades****LABOUR WEEKEND – Ohakune/Mt Ruapehu**

We are staying in a 1906 historical villa, Station Lodge Backpackers at The Junction, on Thames Street, near railway station. I have provisionally booked 26 beds in bunk rooms. Shared bathroom and lounge/kitchen facilities. We have stayed here before and it was fantastic. Bring your own bikes or Mountain bike rentals and Transport is available. Great bike rides in area.

All going well the plan is to go out for dinner as a group one night otherwise shared evening meals and provide your own breakfasts/lunches.



Transport will be by private car so when you book let me know if you are taking your car and if you have room for passengers, I can organize transport if needed. Travel cost paid to driver \$65.00 (covers all transport for weekend)

Tramps and things to do

Be AWARE there may be SNOW still around, so BE PREPARED

- Mountain biking options such as Old Coach Road
- End of Ski season so there might be some snow around to have bit of fun or just ride the chairlift and have a walk/coffee up on the fields
- Tramps on offer and to be decided/confirmed such as Old Blyth Track, Lake Surprise, Blyth/Mangaehuehu Huts. Also several short walks in the area.

Depart: Plan to meet at the lodge in Ohakune for 3pm on the Friday

Return: Leaving to come home on Monday about 10am and possibly stopping off at DeBretts in Taupo for a hot swim.

Cost: Accommodation \$100.00 (for 3 nights) to be paid by 3 October to treasurer
Travel costs-paid to driver \$65.00 (covers transport for weekend)

Leaders: Dianne and Friends

Bookings: **OPEN: 29 August** **CLOSE: 3 October**
Accommodation needs to be paid to the treasurer by this date to confirm your place. Bank account # 03-0306-02038429-000
Use your name and L/W as reference.
Once bookings are closed and confirmed an email will be sent to all those coming with further details etc.

Organizer: Dianne phone/txt 027 272 6617
or email: leedi@clear.net.nz

Sunday 6 November**Pureora****Grades 1+ & 2+****Waihaha Hutt - Pureora Forest Park**

The trip South to Tehoi and the Waihaha River has two options, one via Te Kuiti and Waipapa or via Tokoroa but all gets there via the Taupo Western Bypass Rd. Both the walks start from the carpark next to the Waihaha River.

Grade 2+.

The well-worn track is easy to follow and wanders in and out of shrubs land, clearings, and further on some lovely Rimus and lots of other natives trees. The track is often close to the river and with luck the eagle eyes might spot a pair of Blue Ducks. This track has always been a Wanderer's favourite and the well located hut is a gem! The walk will take three hours each, in and out. (allow seven hours in total with time for a morning tea and good lunch at the hut).

Grade 1+

This new track also starts from the carpark but it heads off to the East in the opposite direction to where the Grade 2+ will be headed! After boots on and cup of tea we will head off into the unknown (or where no Wanderer has been before?) This new track was part of a shared bike and tramping "Taupo Great Lake" facility that has flourished both around the area and around the country. We have no expectation as to how far we will walk on the day but you can expect some great views before we need to turn back some time after lunch.

Depart: 7am

Return: 7pm

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

Leaders: Grade 2+ Brett Rossiter and Annemarie Farrell
Grade 1+ Ann Cloke and Peter Scott

Bookings: Open 5:30pm Monday 24 October
Alison Williams
Phone 07 823 9305



Sunday 20 November**Katikati****Grades 1,2,3****Over the Kaimais**

Note: Book early for this trip – in order to fill the bus we will invite guests from other clubs to join us. Wanderers can book from the Monday – Guests can book from Thursday.

Option 1: Grade 3. Wairakau road (Matamata side) to Hot Springs Road via Te Rereatukahia Hut. This trip starts up the Tuahu track, but just as the Tuahu becomes nice and easy graded we divert on to the “Short Cut” track, heading up the ridge to the North South track. We climb 300m in about 1 km, but it takes us about 1 hour instead of 2 to 3 hours going around the long way. Lunch at the hut, or if we are early enough on a fine day, walk up to Baldy (another 100m uphill) for great views. Walk out down the Kauri Grove track where the last half hour is through a significant Kauri forest (8.6km).

Option 2: Grade 2. Tuahu Track – Wairakau road (Matamata side) to Hot Springs Road. Apart from a short climb through pine forest at the start, this is a gently graded track that takes you over the 500m altitude Tuahu saddle to the end of Hot Springs Road, near the Sapphire Springs thermal pools. Very good views from the saddle on a fine day. (10.5km)

Option 3 – Grade 1. After the Grade 3's get dropped off for their tramp we'll continue on to the Katikati area to do a few of the short walks, eg Kauri Point and Plummers Point. Lunch will be in a picturesque setting beside the coast and time permitting afternoon tea at a café or a dip at the hot pools. Bring some money to cover the cost for these. We shall pick up the Grade 3's near Katikati before making our way home.

All options. Check the web site near the date of the tramp to get final details.

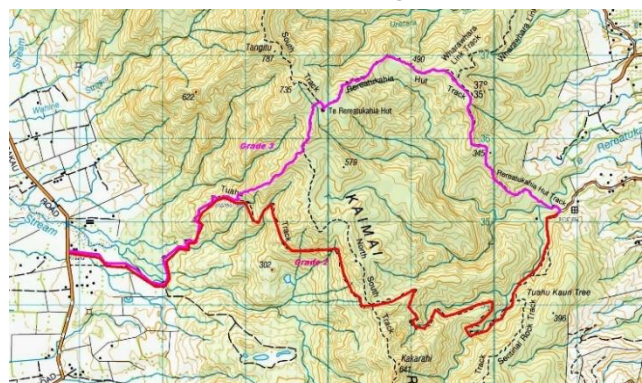
Depart: 7.30am

Return: 6pm

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

Leaders: Ray, Keith and Ann

Bookings: Wanderers 5.30pm Monday 7 November
Guests 5:30pm Thursday 10 November
Ray
Phone 07 856 2675
rayprivate@wave.co.nz 021 170 0713



Sunday 4 December

Taupo

Grades 1& 2

Christmas Outing – Mt Tauhara/Opepe Walks

Last trip of this year and we are off to Taupo, plenty of room on the bus. Note early start and long day due to travel distances. The idea is to have a walk, then onto DeBretts for hot soak/swim and a catered BBQ (vegetarian option available let us know on booking).

Grade 1's: After dropping off the 2's, we are heading down the Napier Taupo Highway (SH5) to the Opepe Historical walks. A quick morning tea and onto the 1st part being the Graves and Northern Walking Track.

This is a short easy flat walk (approx. 45min) to the graveyard where members of the Bay of Plenty Cavalry who died in an engagement with the followers of the Maori Warrior Te Kooti, were buried. From here we cross the Highway to the 2nd of our walks the Southern Walking Track (approx 1h 30min flat walk).



This is a loop track past a pitsaw pit, a historic water trough, and relics of an old township. At one time the Opepe Township had a hotel, store and several dwellings. Back to the bus for a quick bite of lunch and pick up the 2's. If we have time while waiting you can climb the farmland to get some great views of Lake Taupo.

Grade 2's: For those who want a bit more of a challenge you are going to conquer Mt Tauhara, (1008m above sea level, be warned it can be very cold and windy at the summit).

This is a beautiful bush walk that will take you to the summit to be rewarded with the most incredible views on Taupo and the Central North Island. Starting on private farmland with morning tea somewhere on the walk. The track is steep in places, possibly a bit slippery so take care, great bush, bird life and native trees.



Total walk time including lunch 4 hours. Temperatures can be very variable on this walk.



The Function: Once we are all back together we make our way to DeBretts.

The \$5 entry fee includes swim and catered BBQ at the complex will cost max \$30.00 per person. This includes meats, a mixture of salad types, extra side bits and dessert.

There is a no alcohol policy at DeBretts so the club will provide juice and soft drinks. The club is subsidising the BBQ for members only.

Depart: 7am

Return: approx. 8.30pm (long day)

Cost: **Bus** \$25.00 (members)
Bus \$30.00 (non-members)
DeBretts entry \$5.00
BBQ max \$30.00 (to be confirmed at time of booking)
Spouses/partners welcome
Please pay for BBQ by closure date to treasurer
Bank account 03-0306-0208429-000
ref Xmas and your name



Leaders: Keith, Pam and friends

Bookings: Open 5:30pm Monday 7 November
Close 29 November for catering numbers
Dianne - phone/txt 027 272 6617
Or email: leedi@clear.net.nz



Where We Went

Sunday 8 May

Hunua's

Suspension Bridge to Cossey's Dam

After a one hour's drive from Hamilton we arrived at Wairoa car park. Leaving the Grade 1 trampers we crossed the suspension bridge and immediately started the incline and steps. (Steps were a big feature of this track.) Our path was bush lined with very few views apart from the occasional glimpse of Wairoa reservoir. Our lunch stop was taken on the ridge - a welcome rest after the steps. The undulating ridge eventually led to Cossey's Reservoir. Good to see sky, water and distant views again.

From there Cossey's track led downhill, with a good walking surface. Within an hour we reached a shallow stream crossing and soon after this we were walking across a wooden bridge with a great view of Hunua Falls.

We met up with the Grade 1 trampers at the carpark where our two vans were parked. A short detour to Pokeno for ice creams and then back to Hamilton. A great day indeed.

Pam



Sunday 22 May

Hoe-O-Tainui (Black Ridge)

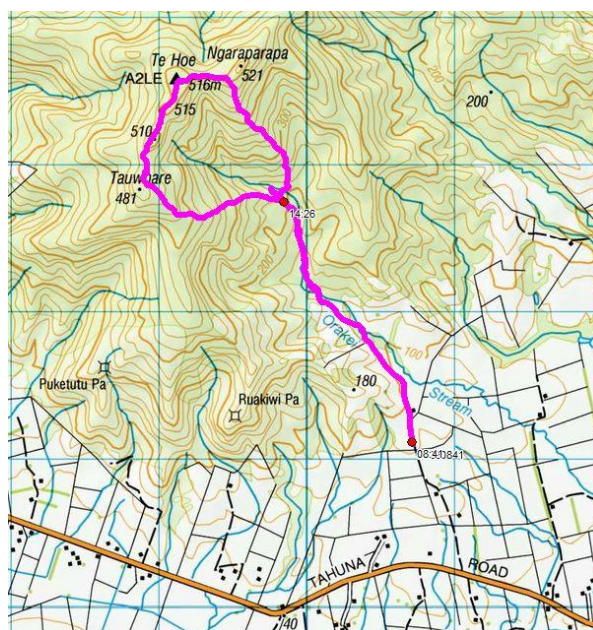
We made a 7:30am start in perfect weather, and 7 of us drove to Tahuna Road, stopping at a farmhouse to confirm that we were allowed to drive through their property. Surprisingly, a couple of young guys emerged from the house to come with us!

We ambled up the muddy race, and across fields until our leaders picked up on a tiny tape marker where the track started on the other side of the fence. After a couple of hours, mostly on the track, the bush getting steadily more interesting, we diverted from the main route to see an old kauri – a magnificent specimen. Then the climb started - about 300 m vertical with a steady grade until we reached the still-forested summit ridge at about 500m altitude. Lots of kauri, from seedlings to rickers, plus the occasional large rimu, tawa or rata. There were also a number of interesting fungi which were avidly photographed. Lunch was in a pleasant open area between the peaks.

The trig station is still present on the 516m Te Hoe peak, but was totally over-topped by the bush that has grown around it. From there the track curled around and down, eventually meeting the upward path near the large kauri.

I was hoping to get into real bush this weekend, at Pureora, and when that trip was cancelled I thought this would be very second best. Fortunately, I was mistaken! The interest of track finding, and the unexpected quality of the bush made for a very enjoyable trip.

Ray



22 May 2016**Pukemokemoke Bush**

Ten of us set out on a chilly morning in the van, ably driven by Dianne. We had just a half hour's drive to the Pukemokemoke Bush where we were welcomed by a clear blue sky. "It can't possibly rain today", & "showers are predicted later" comments and warnings were made! The track is governed by the Pukemokemoke Bush Trust, which was gifted to the nation by David Johnstone and which was reclaimed from farming land.

We set out for the lookout, which branches off from the main loop track half way around the 4.35 km that we walked in total. The bush was canopied by tall trees at first and was noticeably dark. Trees are well marked and we were rewarded with a Matai grove, Tawa, Rimu, Totara and Kauri. We were perplexed at first as to why a Rimu tree, (for instance, and in fact all), had the picture of a Kawakawa leaf on the sign description. Later I read that that plant has been chosen as the logo for the bush, because of its abundance and its significance to local Maori.

There is a great lookout platform at the summit and although it was a bit hazy, we could make out quite a lot with the aid of the picture maps set around the lookout pointing to each set of farms beyond. Once leaving the lookout we continued on the loop and needed to go carefully in places due to damp slippery clay when descending.

Towards the end of the track there was a clearing, with a gazebo, a picnic table and some seating where we stopped for a while and enjoyed the sun. From there we continued on around the edge of the bush, through a marshy area and with some farm views to our left. There is also a log hauler site in there but we didn't find it! Perhaps we would have been rewarded if we'd chosen the 20-minute option to get to it rather than the 10-minute one!

We decided to drive to Woodlands for our lunch and had some good seating there while being entertained by families practicing rugby kicks. The plan was to then walk around the Woodlands estate but a heavy shower drove us straight to the café for coffees! Once the weather had cleared we took a stroll around the gardens and Alison and I spotted two of the huge trees of note, being a plane tree, (40 metres in height) and a eucalyptus (45 metres high and with a 15 metre girth!).

We headed back to the WINTEC car park at 1.30 pm with a little more rain while driving, so had two lucky escapes from it! Thanks to Dianne, who lead us today!



Skye

Sunday 5 June

Maungatautari

Maungatautari – up and over

A very brisk and clear morning saw the dirty dozen grade 1+'s have a quick morning tea at the bus and then commence the Maungatautari walk through fields filled with lovely cattle.

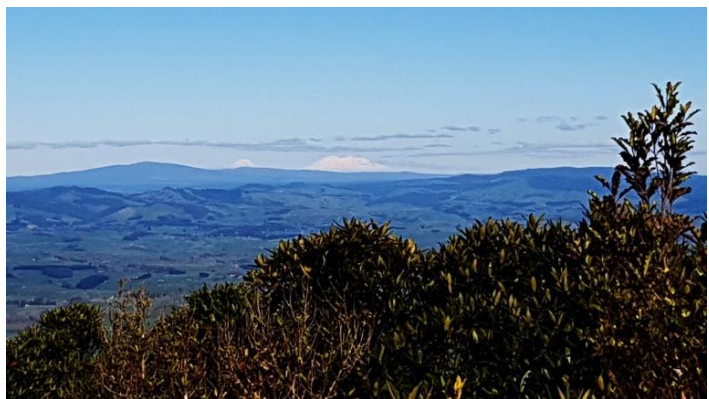
Once in the enclosure, a steady cool climb led up a well formed track - with a few stops to look at the view, listen for birds and to look at interesting fungi.

Several wood pigeons were seen and heard, plus fantails and a heap of magpies.

At the top we saw the trig – but no view as lots of trees were in the way. After lunch we walked at a nice slow pace down the track and back to the bus. Then on to the other side of the mountain to the Maungatautari Visitors centre for an ice cream and to wait for the Grade 3's.

A very pleasant day for all

Susan



On a beautiful frosty day 13 wanderers set off on the grade 3 up and over Maungatautari. After a euphemistically described 'gentle stroll from Hicks Road' to the bush line we'd downsized to 9. The remaining gradually continued on to the first summit Maungatautari and then along the ridge to Pukeatua peak where we imbibed, viewed and refreshed.

We then did quite a lot of old fashioned slipping, sliding and scrambling down ill- formed tracks to the more mundane well-formed track, and arrived at Tari Road exit a weary but happy bunch. After a quick look around the visitors centre and re-joining the grade 1's we whizzed back to Hamilton.

A great day out and about on a beautiful Waikato day, a highlight being the hearing and sighting of a number of birds including a tomtit (Miromiro), a whitehead (Popokotea), maybe a NI robin (Pitoitoi) and definitely a stitch bird (Hihi)!

Annemarie

Sunday 3 July

Kakepuku/Lake Ngaroto

It was a bleak, foggy Waikato day when two mini vans seating 20 Wanderers headed to Te Awamutu to venture up Mount Kakepuku.

The start of the track was only slightly muddy as we passed a friendly kereru feasting on berries very low down in the branches of a tree. It didn't seem at all disturbed by all the people and just sat gorging on something tasty.

The views from the lookout tower near the start on the way up were not very exciting... just fog! We stopped for a well-deserved morning tea and short rest about half way up. On reaching about three quarters of the way to the summit we were above cloud level and with this stunning views appeared with rays of sunshine, clear blue sky and mountain tops poking out of what looked like marshmallow sea.

From the viewing platform at the peak (449m) we could see 360 degree views of mountains and hills across the entire Waikato but the towns and lowland areas were still cloaked in a dense cloud layer.

The walk down was a lot easier on the heart and lungs although a little bit slippery and slidey on the clay/mud parts of the track.

From here we climbed aboard the vans and headed to Lake Ngaroto where we ate our lunch. The view across the lake was murky and it was still chilly and damp with no sunshine to warm us up. Temperatures at 12.30ish were estimated at about 7 or 8 degrees. Before we got too cold and we headed off on the lovely board walked track around the perimeter of the lake (5.5km). The track has been very nicely constructed with floating sections across wet areas and nice wide paths for chatting along the way. Would be a great place to go for those with a pushchair or wheelchair.

The fog had finally started to lift about 3pm which made for some nice photos and views of the lake at the end.

We returned safely back to Hamilton by 4pm thanks to our drivers Peter and John.

Brenda



Sunday 17 July

Waitawheta

Daly Hut and Dean Track Loop



21 people in two minibuses set out at 8am in showery weather. At the road end we split into two groups for the walk to the hut, where we all expected to meet for lunch. Carolyn, initially in the slow group, got so engrossed in chatting to Grant that she ended up in the faster one – there was little difference between the groups, so that a pause in the front one to read a display board had us all merging again. An easy 90 minutes or so saw the first group at the hut about 11:30 - close enough to lunch time, I decided. The slower group trickled in over the next half hour.

We had experienced little rain, but also little sun, so about 12:30 some of us were getting cold, and we prepared to set off again. After some discussion about which way the grade ones would return, John decided that completing the circuit via Dean track would be easier than returning down the slippery clay track we had come up, so we all headed off again through the very pleasant bush you get into as you head towards the Mangakino Pack Track.

I had been mentioning the large kauris that you get to by going south on the Mangakino Pack Track, so when the first group reached the track we discussed whether to detour about 20 minutes (each way) to see them. Brett decided to lead a sub-party of 8 to do that, while I took the rest of our group at a leisurely pace towards Dean Track. This part of the Mangakino Pack Track is very well graded in attractive tawa forest, with lots of nikau palms at the start of Dean Track.

After our “fast” group spent about 20 minutes waiting for Brett’s group at the turnoff the grade one party came along, and all except me went on their way to the road. I stayed at the junction until the kauri-seeking group turned up, and then we all headed to the vans, catching everyone else at the boundary between the farm and the forest.

Well before 3pm we were on our way home, so it was decided that a stop in Paeroa for coffee and ice cream was a well-deserved finish to the trip.

Ray

Sunday 31 July

Thames/Paeroa

Kerikeri Battery & Mine - Puriri

A group of enthusiastic trampers set off on this Grade 2 tramp, not being put off by the rain, mud or looming dark clouds. We had a slight diversion through the pine forest at first, but once we re-oriented we had a lovely tramp through very thick forest with tree roots, mud, supplejack vines and & slippery leaves to try and trip us up. A pleasant ridge walk alongside an old water race was followed by a very steep decline through more dense bush, with several of us inadvertently sliding, tripping and falling. A lot of us were thinking how are we going to get back up this steep hill, especially after eating a big lunch?



Relics of a water-powered stamper battery were the point of interest at lunch time. One person took the meaning of battery to a new level when he was tripped up by hidden roots and smacked his head on metal

parts of the mining equipment. Ray's explanations of how the gold mine worked was very interesting, and I am never taking up gold mining!

Surprise, surprise - getting up the steep incline actually was very easy with the great placement by Mother Nature of trees to give us something to grip onto to haul ourselves up, through the mud.

Up the top and a walk in more forest to find some mining relics - pulley wheels and a very rusty ore bucket. Then those dark clouds hailed on us, which made a lovely carpet of white on the forest floor.

Back to the forestry road and the van to change into clean clothes and then an exciting trip (for those with window seats able to see the bottom of the gorge) down the road and then home.

A most enjoyable day out despite the hail, mud and falls.

Susan

Sunday 31 July**Kauaeranga Valley Short Walks****Grade1's**

Despite the uninspiring weather forecast, 12 optimistic trampers arrived for a stimulating day. We drive to the Kauaeranga Visitor's Centre and after some time to browse had morning tea on the veranda.

We were treated to a delicious spread of homemade sandwiches and cakes; served in a genteel manner, complete with tablecloth, attractive cups and saucers, milk in a jug and sugar in a fancy sugar bowl! After this repast we left our packs in the van and did 5 short walks. They were *Hoffman's Pool*, *Jasper Creek*, *Outlook 76*, *the Education Camp boardwalk* and *Edwards Lookout*. All were beautiful, made even more so by the sparkling rain drops on the vegetation. I had recently, returned from an overseas trip and joyfully rediscovered the beauty of New Zealand. We had lunch on the veranda of the Kauaeranga Camp and finished the day by stopping for coffee on the way home.

There was more to the day though than just described. John was our very capable driver who happily stopped and started the bus according to where various walks started ;and waited patiently whilst we hopped in and out, leaving muddy footprints in our wake.

Keith was our guide and historian and managed to enliven our day with interesting facts and stories about the area and those who had lived and worked in it. The weather was as the weather was and most of us wore waterproof trousers and jackets all day; but it didn't matter, it was lovely to be out walking in the fresh air. Overall an excellent day, a big thanks to John and Keith especially; and to all participants.

Margaret Standing



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