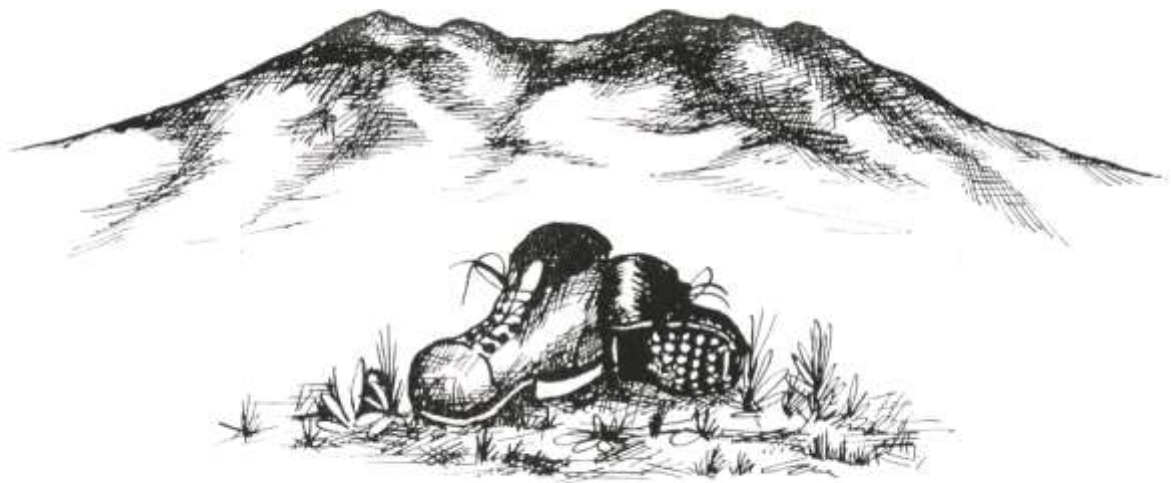


Wanderers Tramping Club Inc



Bulletin

January – April 2017

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 2016/2017

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	Brett Rossiter (New Members Convener) brett@hudsonhire.co.nz	855 6774
	Annemarie Farrell	021 549 737
	Carol Davies (Trip Co-ordinator) grandmacarol@xtra.co.nz	853 5527

Trip Programme

TRIP DATE	TRIP DETAILS	BOOKING INFORMATION
22/1/17	Homunga/Orokawa Bays Coastal Walk Waihi	Carol Phone 07 853 5527 txt 0273 190 852 grandmacarol@xtra.co.nz Bookings not required
5/2/17 (Waitangi Weekend)	Wharepuhunga Otorohanga	Peter or Audrey Phone 07 854 5478 Open 6pm Monday 23 January
19/2/17	Mangapouri Gorge, Kaharoa Rotorua	Carol Phone 07 853 5527 txt 0273 190 852 grandmacarol@xtra.co.nz Open 6pm Monday 6 February
5/3/17 (Waitangi Weekend)	Waiorongomai Mt Te Aroha And Beyond! Te Aroha	Colin & Margaret Phone 07 855 1335 standings@xtra.co.nz Open 6pm Monday 20 February
19/3/17	Tawarau Forest Tramps Waitomo	Ray Phone 07 856 2675 txt 021 170 0713 rayprivate@wave.co.nz Open 6pm Monday 6 March
31/3/17 - 3/4/17	Tangihua Lions Lodge Whangarei	Grant Phone 07 853 3434 txt 0210476518 email gsveny@gmail.com Open 6pm Monday 13 February Close 7pm Monday 20 March
16/04/17 (Easter)	Piwiwharauoa Walking and Biking Trail (Wind Farm) Raglan	Peter Phone 07 854 5478 Bookings not required
30/4/17	Rotorua (part 2) Okataina Rotorua	Keith Phone 07 847 4399 txt 027 366 6194 Open 6pm Monday 17 April

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 6pm. 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 Fellow Trampers

Well I am at the helm of our 48-year-old club and will give it my best shot. Dianne has been in office for three years and has worked very hard to keep things happening. We all give her a very big thank you.

We have a great selection of trips coming up in the New Year, please support these as a club runs on the input from its members and committee. If you have any new ideas or a favourite from the past please bring them out.

Hope your Christmas is a pleasant one, enjoy and be safe in whatever you may be doing.

Well, bye for now and happy tramping in the New Year.

All the best

Keith



Emergency form It is a long while since any one has been in need of intensive care, but just in case it happens to you we ask all trampers to carry with them in an accessible place in their pack a completed emergency form, which you can find a link to the form on the Wanderers website under the **general information** heading on the **contact tab**.

Having a list of medical conditions and medications will allow medical staff in an emergency to avoid giving inappropriate care.





Where We Are Going

Sunday 22 January

Waihi

Grade1+

Homunga/Orokawa Bays Coastal Walk

We travel through Waihi to Homunga Bay where we begin our walk. We go downhill over farmland to the beach where we stop for morning tea. From here we will follow the track along the cliff top. The track is undulating and the sea views are great. We continue to Orokawa Bay through a series of shallow gullies lined with pohutakawa. We then climb up and over the hill track to Waihi Beach. Lunch and swims will be taken at convenient times and places.

We will travel by private cars and it is hoped that those wanting an easier day will walk to Homunga Bay then return to the vehicles. They would then drive round to Waihi Beach and walk into Orokawa Bay to meet us. We would then all walk back to Waihi Beach together. If not then we will all walk from Homunga to Orokawa then return the same way.

Expect to walk 3 to 4 hours.

No bookings necessary just turn up at the car park ready to depart at 8am.



Depart: 8am

Return: mid-afternoon...depending on swims etc

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

Bookings: Not required, just turn up at the carpark
Contact Carol
Phone/txt 0273 190 852
email grandmacarol@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 5 February**Otorohanga****Grade 2****Wharepunga (Waitangi Weekend)**

This is a Classic “must do” summertime trip.

The day begins from a bridge on the Ngaroma Road and follows a delightful little river upstream towards its distant source in the Pureora Forest Park. Thanks to the forested catchment, the stream is remarkably clear as it flows over its gravelled bed and the water temperature will be comfortable for the crossing required by the stream's meanders.

As we progress the surrounding scenery changes from grazing land to scrub and pine plantations, but soon after it becomes enclosed by beautiful bush from all sides.

We travel on past inviting clear pools, walking further than on previous trips due to the need to avoid electrified fences on the farmland. We reluctantly leave our stream for the only climb of the day, up through the bush to farm paddocks and our waiting transport!

Bring your usual tramping gear, a change of clothes and footwear while a towel for the swimmers could be an idea. The actual walk will take approximately 6½ to 7 hours although the number of swims enjoyed could increase that estimate!

Depart: 7.30am

Return: 6pm approx

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

Leaders: Peter Scott, Colin Standing & others

Bookings: Open Monday 23 January @ 6pm
Contact Peter or Audrey
Phone 07 854 5478

Sunday 19 February**Rotorua****Grade 3****Mangapouri Gorge, Kaharoa**

Starting from the Rotorua/Tauranga direct road we take a controlled bum slide into the Mangapouri River Gorge. We will be at times surrounded by heavy bush right down to the stream's edge, so look out for tui, pigeon and kokako.

Our tramp will take us through rocky pools and large flat rock areas so be prepared to get wet. We will arrive at a farm bridge and from there a steady climb up through Lockland McKenzie's farm to the waiting bus. This trip is similar to the Mangorewa Gorge trip done in the past and is thoroughly recommended.

Bring large woollen socks to put over your boots as rocks can be very slippery. Winston Fleming will join us for this 5½ hour tramp. We will have a backup tramp if the river is flooded.

Depart: 7.30am**Return:** 6pm approx**Cost:** \$25.00 (members)
\$30.00 (non-members)**Leaders:** Annemarie Farrell & Winston Fleming**Bookings:** Open Monday 6 February @ 6pm
Contact Carol
Phone 07 853 5527
txt 0273 190 852
email grandmacarol@xtra.co.nz

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

Plastic name badges @ \$10: also through John

Sunday 5 March**Te Aroha****Grade 3****Waiorongomai to Mt Te Aroha**

Beginning at the Old Crusher car park at the Waiorongomai road end, we will follow the Bulldozer Track to the top of Butler's Incline, and continue up into the higher reaches of the valley, passing over a nice swing bridge and through a short tunnel. We continue through to the major track junction at the Waiorongomai Saddle and after a break, we take a left turn onto the Plutus Claim track for the walk to Dog Kennel Flat, located near the Transmitter Road.

From the flat it is a relatively short 30 minute walk up the Ridge track to enjoy the great view from the 952 m summit of Te Aroha. From the summit the party will walk the familiar well-loved track down to the Te Aroha Domain to be reunited with the grade two group and the waiting bus.

This tramp will not be a bush bash as we will be following good, well established tracks; however participants can expect to walk for about 7 hours.

Depart: 7.30am

Return: 6.30pm approx

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

Leaders: Peter & Colin

Bookings: Open Monday 20 February @ 6pm
Contact Colin & Margaret
Phone 07 855 1335
email standings@xtra.co.nz



Sunday 19 March**Waitomo****Grades 1+ & 2+****Tawarau Forest Tramps**

Tawarau Forest is west of the Waitomo Caves and is one of the best remaining examples of a virgin forest growing in a karst (limestone) landscape. Tawarau Forest is dominated by tawa, hinau, kamahi and rewarewa, and emerging podocarps such as rimu and miro. It is known for its 'cool climate' vegetation, with *Cordyline indivisa* (mountain cabbage tree) growing at an unusually low altitude.

**Grade 2+. Double falls. 11 km, not a lot of hill work, about 6 hours.**

We start from Appletree Road, initially on a logging track through a young pine forest and then in good quality native bush for the next hour or so, initially following tributaries of the Tawarau river but well above them. The last 20 minutes is a steep descent to the falls. Between the two falls a stream disappears underground and reappears at the top of the second waterfall cascading over a mossy rock face. It is an idyllic spot at the bottom of a rocky gorge surrounded by bluffs and boulders - a perfect place to explore, have lunch and bathe your feet in the stream. We will return to Appletree Road via the Tawarau Falls track, taking a bit longer on the way back.

Grade 1+- Tawarau Falls Loop Track (3 hr complete loop or 2 hr return to Tawarau Falls)

There will be two options for those who do not wish to do the Double Falls trip. You can choose to walk this track as a loop, or do a shorter return trip.

From the Appletree Road end and heading to the Tawarau Falls, the track climbs briefly then drops to the Tawarau River. It then runs along the northern bank of the meandering river before crossing a bridge to the south bank. There are three river crossings from this point to the falls and you walk through a section of forest



where the understory is lush with Prince of Wales feathers (double crepe fern). You can reach the head of the falls but the base of the falls is not accessible. The track continues to complete the loop or you can return the way you came. Amazing limestone bluffs, beautiful ferns and small falls of water along the track make this a memorable track.

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

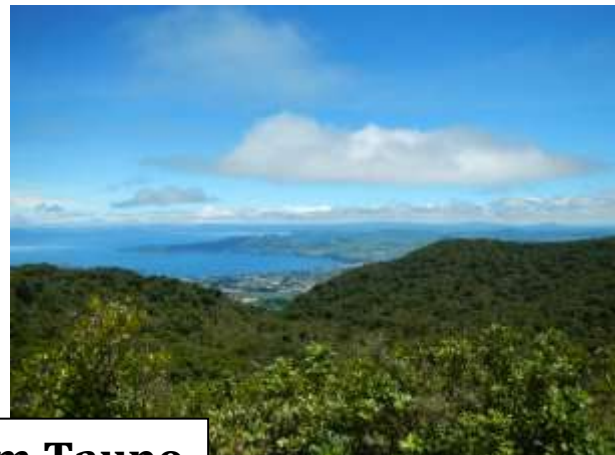
Depart: 8am

Return: 6pm

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

Leaders: Ray & Keith

Bookings: Open Monday 6 March @ 6pm
Contact Ray
Phone 07 856 2675
txt 021 170 0713
email rayprivate@wave.co.nz



**Snapshots from Taupo
Christmas Outing**



31 March-3 April**Northland****All Grades****Tangihua Lions Lodge**

The trips committee has decided to do this extended weekend to sunny Northland before the busy Easter period. The lodge is situated within the DOC Tangihua Forest Park which is between Whangarei and Dargaville. The lodge is fully self-contained with plenty of bunks, a large fully equipped kitchen and dining area.

There are tramps within the park. Tounson Kauri Park, Maunganui Bluff and Kai Iwi Lakes are places to visit as is the Matakohe Kauri Museum (\$25) and Waipu Caves. Some may like to extend their Northland holiday and visit Waipoua Kauri Forest or bike the Twin Coast Cycle Trail (2 days) further North.

Please let us know when you book if you would like to do the cycle trail. This trip requires a minimum of 12 people as the lodge is \$300 per night min. More information will be provided once booking confirmed.

Transport: Private vehicles (passengers \$65 to driver).

Meals: Pot luck dinner Friday and Saturday night
Own dinner Sunday night, 2 lunches and 3 breakfasts.

Cost: Accommodation \$75 to be paid at time of booking
Club bank acc # 03-0306-0208429-00
(Ref. your name & Northland tramp).

Leaders: Grant, Lyn, Keith, Alison

Bookings: Open 6pm Monday 13 February
Close 7pm Monday 20 March
Contact Grant
Phone 07 853 3434
txt 021 047 6518
email gsveny@gmail.com



Sunday 16 April
(Easter)

Raglan

Grade 1+

Pipiwiharauroa Walking and Biking Trail (Wind Farm)

This walk or cycle trip has been chosen for Easter Sunday because although many members will know that our wind farm over the hill at Te Uku has now been commissioned some may not as yet have visited it.

For this excursion it is intended that travel to and from the track will be by shared private cars. This option has been selected for this date because : Numbers are likely to be down on this middle day of the holiday, with many away.

The chosen trip is in and out and not a through walk

The venue is quite close to Hamilton

The walk/cycle path is mainly out in the open, much of it on a closed metal road way except for the last 2km when having climbed a stile, the track becomes grass underfoot.

The walk closely parallels the wind turbines which can be viewed at close quarters, particularly near the far end where there is a great panoramic view over a large swath of countryside.

The track starts and finishes at a large carpark a short way past Bridal Veil Falls, off Te Mata Rd.

Depart: 9am

Return: Flexible, each car load to decide

Cost: Passengers to pay driver appropriate sum

Bookings: Not required

Contact Peter Scott

Phone 07 854 5478



Sunday 30 April**Rotorua****Grade 1+****Rotorua (part 2) Okataina**

Today's trip will follow on from a previous Rotorua lake front to Whaka and back trip. We will start our walk for the day at the southern end of town by the Te Puia carving centre.

From here we walk through) to the Old Waipa Timber Village and now biking centre. This leads to a climb up a ridge above Hemo Gorge and go back towards Rotorua. There is a side trip to a lookout commanding a great view over the forest. Continuing along the ridge we will descend through a small thermal area, then make our way back either to the Redwoods or to where we started.

Bring extra money and togs/towel in case we have time for a swim.

Depart: 7.30am

Return: pm

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

Leaders: Keith, Dianne & Pam

Bookings: Open Monday 17 April @ 6pm
Contact Keith
Phone 07 847 4399
txt 027 366 6194



Where We Went

Sunday 14 August

Rotorua

Lake Tarawera Grade 1's



Commencing our tramp from the Landing 12 keen trampers followed Keith. Initially negotiating patches of mud the track rose gently levelling out to provide us with beautiful views of Lake Tarawera. Following a gently undulating track we stopped at the beautiful Hawaiki Bay for refreshments. Sauntering off again our meanderings took us through patches of nikau and rata.



Keith and Pam were doing a great job of identifying the various plants and vegetation that are prevalent in this area.

A couple of steeper ups and downs ensured the track remained interesting before we lunched at the Oneroa lookout. A proposed 35-minute walk through to our pick-up point and hot pool seemed to take longer. This may have been because of the relaxed nature of the walk, the beautiful weather and the fine companionship.

Arriving at Te Wairua Pam's eagle eyes spotted our track to a private hot pool (and out pick up point) and we ventured off the main walking track. To our delight we were met by three Grade 2 trampers who were making the most of their time in the solitude and beauty of the hot pools. We joined them with a few members only having a paddle.



Our shuttle arrived to pick us up and we all managed to safely navigate the ladders onto the water taxi. We headed over to Hot Water Bay where the Grade twos were lounging on the beach. We amused ourselves by watching them walking the plank onto their jet boat. Both shuttles safely delivered us back to our starting point where ice-creams and/or hot drinks ended our day. Thank you to the leaders for a glorious day.

Note - This walkway will eventually be established around the perimeter of Lake Tarawera and will take three days to navigate.

Fatmandu

Sunday 28 August

Hamilton

Huntington/Flagstaff City Ramble

28 people met at the Flagstaff Shopping Centre car park on a glorious spring morning ready for a ramble through the north city suburbs. We traversed boardwalks alongside streams, plunged into gullies then up the other side, crossed busy roads and went “underground” to negotiate major highways.



Morning tea was had at a park with a children's play area so several made good use of the see-saws and swings. Just shows we are still young at heart. Some sat near beautiful beds of daffodils opposite Westfield Shopping Centre for lunch while others used the Centre for a comfort stop / coffee / food.



recipe

Many requested the recipe for the fruit cake, so here it is. The cake for this occasion was 1½ times the recipe. It is a never fail recipe and so easy, so enjoy!

Mix all in a pot. Boil 1 lb sultanas or mixed fruit in 1 cup water. Strain. While fruit is still hot mix in ½ lb butter, 1 cup sugar, 1 tbsp golden syrup, 3 eggs, 2 cups flour, 1 tsp baking powder, essence, salt and a little milk if needed. Line tin and bake in mod oven about 1 hr.

We made our way back to Flagstaff following more of the city pathways and upon arriving at the car park afternoon tea with a fruit cake was a welcome sight. Everyone had had a really good day and many commented that if they had to retrace their steps, they'd surely get lost.

Thanks to all who came, you made our planning of the route so worthwhile.

Ann & Bernie

Sunday 11 September

Ngaruawahia

Hakarimatas

Disappointingly only a small number turned up for this (6). However, you missed an enjoyable day as the trip was changed to the Kauri loop track (Parker Road). Taking our time up the steps we had a grand view at the Lookout and after admiring the rimus and nikau palms etc. on the way down, completed the loop by passing one of the largest kauris in the Waikato. The bird life was very quiet although we did see a tui and heard shining cuckoos and a wood pigeon.

Lunch was taken in brilliant sunshine at the picnic area at the beginning of the track at the Waingaro end and we finished the day viewing the Cascades.

Thank you Dianne and Pam.

One of the “few”



Sundew plants found on the track near the pipeline



View from the top



Going down to Waingaro Rd



Sunday 25 September

Ohinewai

Hapuakohe South

Fifteen Wanderers set out on an overcast day for a good brisk hike to Hapuakohe South Ohinewai. The weather turned out to be wild, wet and windy and by the end of the day there were 15 drenched and worn out wanderers. It just showed us never to take the weather for granted and how it can impact on a tramp.

It was a brilliant tramp and the weather made out for an exciting day as some inadvertently took mud baths, other nearly rinsed by the streams and some blown about by the wind. The weather changed the tramp into an exciting and exhilarating tramp.

Lessons were learned on never to leave the group! Sorry about that!

All in all a good tramp and would do again.

Susan



Sunday 9 October

Rotorua

Sulphur Point Walkway

At 9.30am, 24 enthusiastic Wanderers arrived at the Rotorua lake front eager to explore some of the walkways in the area. After a "cuppa" and putting on wet-weather gear we set off in light persistent rain to Whakarewarewa Village via an excellent track and boardwalk by the lakefront.

Our first stop was at Sulphur Point and the adjacent wetlands area where we got a taste, and a smell, of things to come. It was a typical geothermal place, barren, boiling, and steaming. We passed by the Laughing Pool where in times past the gas emissions acted like laughing gas on the bathers. It seems that a fun time was had by all.

After walking through Government Gardens, past the Blue Baths and Polynesian Pools we re-joined the boardwalk and track toward Whakarewarewa via Sulphur Flats. This is another active geothermal area and that, coupled with the low cloud and light rain, gave the place a distinct eerie feeling.

The rain had stopped by the time we reached the village and we ate lunch al fresco before heading back through attractive bush and parklands and mostly retracing our steps along the boardwalk and track to the vans. The water babes among us got their swim togs and went for a very welcome and comforting soak in the hot pools. The others went to the cafe nearby for an equally welcome and comforting sit down and hot drink.

The day was most interesting and enjoyable. The walk was a new experience for many of the group.

Many thanks to our leader Pam; and to our drivers Colin and Grant. Well done you.

Bigfoot



21-24 October

Ohakune

Labour Weekend - Ohakune / Mt Ruapehu

A small group of Wanderers converged on Ohakune's Old Station Master's house and enjoyed a very relaxed long weekend. (Except Dianne who was still recovering from her op and went home early, Pam very kindly drove her home).

After everyone had settled into their accommodation Friday was an evening of planning and relaxation.

Saturday saw a group of three cycle the Old Coach Road and the remainder went up the ski field and did a few short walks around there. There was a lone trumper who went off to do the Blythe track, and got to the hut before returning.

Sunday saw the cyclists take a turn up the mountain and then walk part of the Blythe Track, they didn't get to the hut as they had spent too much time enjoying the sightseeing up the mountain. The 'other half' went around to Ruapehu side of the mountain and enjoyed themselves over there. I believe the local cafes were well patronised both days :)

Monday saw us packing up and returning in our own time; a last-minute cycle around town was enjoyed by some, and an early get away to do things on the way home by the rest.

Thank you for your company and a very enjoyable, relaxing weekend.

Carol



Sunday 6 November

Taupo

Waihaha Hut - Pureora Forest Park

Thirteen lucky Wanderers set off on a dampish morning on the pretty, easy 9.4 km Waihaha track, alongside the river and then through shrub land and grand old forest.

Exactly the prescribed three hours later we reached the hut where we rested and refuelled for the return trip.

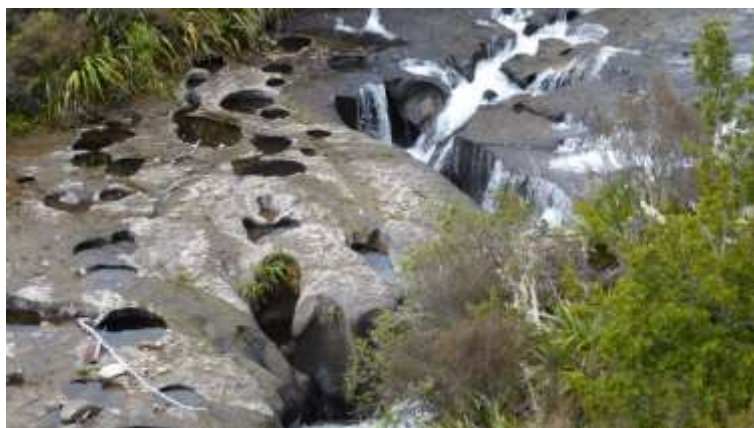


On the way to and fro a few great swimming holes were spotted but no one jumped in, maybe next time on a hot summer's day! Along the track there were pretty flowers and shrubs, some lobelia like and mini lily of the valley shrubs, presumably native ones. Heard and saw a few birds including tomtits, shining cuckoo, and a grey warbler (aka the rain bird) which was a special treat.

Luckily the rain-birds timing was out, the afternoon stayed dry and we arrived back a bit footsore but contented after another great day out.



Annemarie Farrell



Sunday 20 November

Katikati

Tuahu Track

Grade 3's

It was an intrepid group of 10 trampers who headed up the Tuahu track to the Te Rere a Tukahia Hut.

Lucky for us Ray, our tramp leader, knew a short cut which was an unmarked, steep, up-hill climb. After we met up with the main North-South track there were some very interesting muddy sections that will soon be duck boarded over. Spectacular views abounded, as it was a clear day and you could see the east coast and off-shore islands.

Lunch was at the Te Rere a Tukahia Hut where we met a group of four, with one of them a hunter. After lunch most of us ventured on the short climb to the summit of Baldy, where we exhilarated in the wind howling so hard that not all of us could stay upright in its path. Still on a high, we returned to the hut and then the downward tramp to the Katikati side. This was not as muddy, however very slippery with several slips and short tumbles on tree roots and the like. The extensive kauri forest for the last half hour was a contrast to the Tawa and scrub on the rest of the tramp.

A couple of small stream crossings were followed by a more interesting one at the end to wash the mud off and then a short climb back to the road, where we arrived just as the bus turned up with the Grade 1 team.



A most enjoyable trip, that I would love to do again, despite my minor injury. *Susan*

Tuahu Track

Grade 1s

After dropping the G3s off at the start of the Tuahu Track 19 G1s with Keith as our leader / travel director headed off in the bus to do a loop walk in the Athenree Wetland Reserve. It was then on to Tanners Point where we had morning tea, after which we did a walk down through private property (with owner's permission) to a track around the foreshore, then to the waiting bus to take us to Tuapiro Rd for a walk around the reserve, then a lunch break. We were then dropped off at Ongare Pt Reserve to walk the coastal track via a Pa site and the Kauri Pt wharf, onto another track to the waiting bus then onto Katikati for ice creams and coffee or the sculptures on the estuary display. We then drove to Sapphire Springs Rd to pick up the G3s which was perfectly timed as they were finishing just as we arrived.

A big thank you to Ray & Keith.

G.S.

Sunday 4 December



Christmas Outing

Thirty-four excited Wanderers boarded the bus in Hamilton for the Christmas trip. Keith and Pam were the leaders and kept us informed of the programme as it unfolded during the day. Dave was our very professional bus driver and made sure that we all travelled safely.

There was a toilet stop on the way and the President, in the spirit of Christmas, offered chocolates to all those present. Then the bus took us to the car park at the base of Mt. Tauhara for a shared morning tea. The children from the Newstead Country Childcare had as usual made a delicious Christmas cake for everyone. The grade 1's then went on to do the Opepe Walks.

Grade 2: Mt. Tauhara

Nine intrepid walkers set off from the car park, up to the top of Mt. Tauhara which is a long-dormant volcano approximately 4 miles east of Taupo. It was a beautiful day, clear blue skies and warm sunshine. At first, the well sign-posted track through Maori Reservation land went through steep cow pasture with a couple of stiles to negotiate. Then it progressed steeply, through dense forest and scrubby bush, sometimes accompanied by bird song.

About halfway up to the Peak there was a welcome bench, ideal for a rest and a chance to appreciate the magnificent views. As the group got nearer to the top, the track passed through some interesting, narrow cuts through the soil and rock. It was a very hot day and it required some effort to reach the Summit and the trig which was 1088 metres above sea level. Once the ascent was complete though, there was plenty of time to enjoy the awe-inspiring 360 degree views of Taupo and the surrounding countryside.

The descent of the mountain was relatively easy compared to the climb up. Once out of the bush the track wound down the mountain fairly sharply and it seemed only a short time before we were all back at the car park. It was a good trip, pleasant walking conditions, lovely views, convivial company and a sense of achievement at the end.

After both groups had completed their walks, they were driven to De Brett's for a hot swim and then a meal. It was good to have a meal all prepared and not to have to cook or to wash up after our busy day. Thanks to Dianne for organizing this event. The President made a speech at the end of the day which included acknowledging many people for their contributions.

We boarded the bus and I think that most people had a little sleep on the way home. It was another successful Christmas trip, another good year of tramping, thanks to all those who took part.

Margaret Standing

TREK'N'TRAVEL

GEAR LIST FOR MULTI-DAY WALKS

FOR TREKKING

- Backpack / Pack Liner
- Sleeping Bag / Liner
- Towel
- Water Bottles / Bladder
- Sun Hat
- Quick Dry T-shirt / Shorts / Trousers
- Thermal Top / Pants / Leggings
- Wool or Fleece Hat / Gloves
- Mid Layer / Fleece Jacket
- Raincoat / Waterproof Overtrousers
- Boots / Trekking Shoes / Socks

EXTRAS

- Earplugs
- Insect Repellent
- Sunscreen
- Torch / Head Torch
- Trekking Poles
- Tent

FOR HUTS

- Toiletries
- Sleepwear
- Lightweight Clothing / Footwear



10%
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DISCOUNT

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