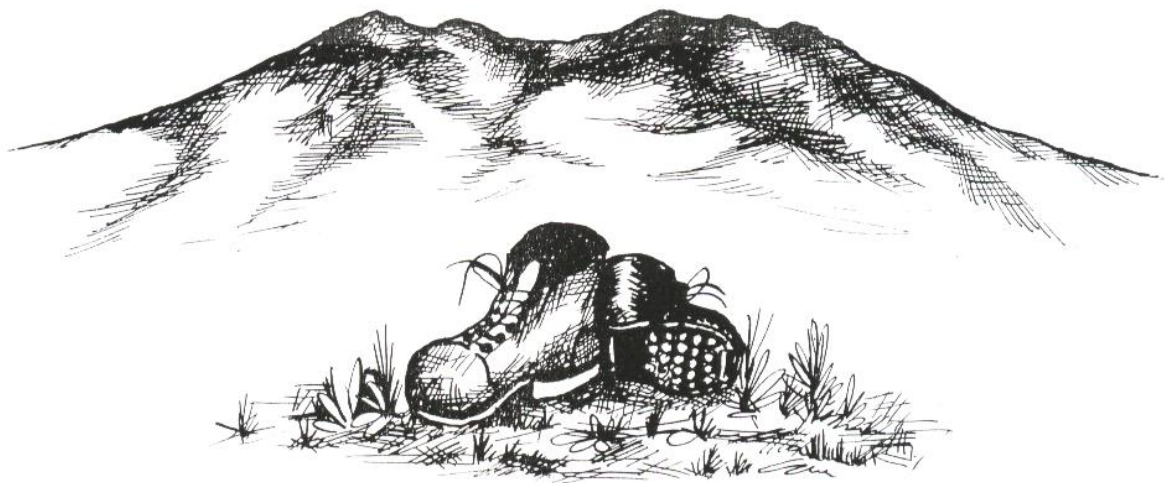


Wanderers Tramping Club Inc



Bulletin

May – August 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
7 May	Lunch at Willow Glen	Margaret Standing Phone 07 855 1335 Open Sunday 23 April Close Sunday 30 April
14 May	Taupiri Expressway <i>Huntly</i>	Lyn Phone 07 856 8071 txt 021 150 7079 email l.kingsbury@xtra.co.nz Open 6pm Monday 1 May
28 May	Lake Rotoma <i>Rotorua</i>	Keith Phone 07 847 4399 txt 027 366 6194 Open 6pm Monday 15 May
11 June	Karamu Walkway <i>Te Pahu Area</i>	John Phone 07 854 0654 Txt 021 2941807 Email deejohn@xtra.co.nz Open 6pm Monday 29 May
25 June	Sanatorium Hill / Te Tapui <i>Cambridge</i>	Brenda Phone 07 8493 716 txt 0273 117 372 email brenda22269@hotmail.com Open 6pm Monday 12 June
9 July	Te Kauri <i>Kawhia</i>	Alison Phone 07 855 2370 Txt 027 618 3569 email allbliss@ihug.co.nz Open 6pm Monday 26 June
23 July	Rainbow Mountain <i>Rotorua</i>	John Phone 07 854 0654 Txt 021 2941807 Email deejohn@xtra.co.nz Open 6pm Monday 10 July
6 August	Daisy Hardwick Walkway & Mount Ramble <i>Tauranga</i>	Dianne Txt 027 272 6617 Email leedi@clear.net.nz Open 6pm Monday 24 July
20 August	Ted's Track / Lindemann's Track <i>Katikati</i>	Grant Phone 07 853 3434 txt 021 047 6518 email gsveny@gmail.com Open 6pm Monday 7 August

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 Everyone

Here we are getting in to the year and another selection of tramps have been organised by your committee. Some new and some we have done before and enjoyed. So, please come and give your support behind these. With all tramps a lot goes on behind the scenes by busy fellow trampers to make them happen. Surveys to check things out, bus or vans to be arranged, bookings taken and a lot of pressure can be put onto your leader to make the day safe and enjoyable. So please spare a thought for these souls and help them in some way if you can.

Just to mention that the recent day trips have been well attended and enjoyed. Also, the weekend and extended trip up North was a great event with tramping and biking combined. A huge thank you to Grant, Carol, Alison and Lyn for organising this along with all the folk who attended and made it a goer.

To all fellow trampers, if the mud coat your boots and the rain splash your face... keep going...

All the best

Keith

PS...AGM date is Tuesday 17 October 2017 – book it in your diary!

First Aid Update - from club first aid officer

The club first aid kits x2 have just been updated and renewed. We carry only the basics so please ensure your own first aid kit contains items you specifically need. The club have several members who have had first aid training and there is usually at least one member on each tramp. We also carry Personal Locator Beacons (PLB) for club trips.



Your own kit should have your own personal medications for medical conditions, own pain relief, own stings medications and creams as the club no longer carry these. Blister stuff etc. **DO NOT** rely on the club kit, be responsible for yourself.

If you have a medical condition that could be life threatening, such as allergies you must let the leader know especially if you have anaphylactic reactions that require immediate intervention. You should always carry your adrenalin with you always.

Dianne



Come and enjoy a relaxing
SUNDAY LUNCH
with other members of the
Wanderers Tramping Club & their partners

Date: Sunday 7 May 2017

Venue: Willow Glen Café, 934 Gordonton Road, Hamilton

Time: Meet at 12 midday

Bookings: Margaret Standing - Phone 855 1335

Bookings Open: Sunday 23 April

Bookings Close: Sunday 30 April

*We will be using an a la carte menu, so individuals choose their own food
Please remember to pay for your own meals before leaving the café*

Details of menu: www.willowglen.nz





Where We Are Going

Sunday 14 May

Huntly

Grade 1

Taupiri Expressway

Join us on a very unique opportunity to walk about 12kms of an under-construction expressway. We will start at the north end and walk south to finish at the 'smoko' hut for a cup of tea and pickup. There may be a side trip into Taupiri Reserve too.

The road is all clay so wear your boots and come and see how Tony and his team move mountains to make our Expressway a reality.

Depart : 8am

Return : 4 pm

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

Leaders : Keith, Tony and Rose

Bookings : Open Monday 1 May @ 6pm
Contact Lyn
Phone 07 856 8071
txt 021 150 7079
email l.kingsbury@xtra.co.nz



Sunday 28 May**Rotorua****Grade 2****Lake Rotoma**

Today's tramp is to a new location for us. We will travel to Lake Rotoma where we will be joined by local residents and taken into an ear of bush where we will walk up to the top of a farm hill.

From here we will descend into a grassy area which was once a mill village. Helen will tell us about her upbringing here. Then past the old mill site (Rendalls?) to return to our starting point. The walk will take around 3-4 hours.

Depart: 7.30am

Return: 6pm approx

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

Leaders: Keith and associates

Bookings: Open Monday 15 May @ 6pm
Contact Keith
Phone 07 847 4399
txt 027 366 6194

**AGM**

Tuesday 17 October 2017 – 7.30pm
book it in your diary!

Sunday June 11**Te Pahu Area****Grade 1+****Karamu Walkway**

The walk starts at the Four Brothers Reserve on the Hamilton/Raglan Road with a moderate climb through bush to reach open farmland. Then the track crosses private land to traverse the main ridge to Old Mountain Road.

On this section are great views to the north (Hakarimata Range), the south (Pirongia), the east (Hamilton City), and the west (Karioi). The track continues up from Old Mountain Road and through gentle, rolling pastures and passes by limestone formations. It then descends steeply in places (slippery if wet) through bush and on to a farm road and grassy flats to our transport.

Expect to walk about 4 hours plus time for views and stops.

"The track descent can be slippery if wet, so bring your Zangs".

Depart: 8am

Return: 5pm approx

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

Leaders: John Davies and Peter Scott

Bookings: Open Monday 29 May @6pm
Contact John
Phone 07 854 0654
txt 021 2941807
email deejohn@xtra.co.nz



Sunday 25 June**Cambridge****Grade 1+****Sanatorium Hill / Te Tapui**

This will be an interesting winter's day out exploring two Waikato reserves.

We will first travel to Te Tapui Loop Track where we will do the shorter and steady climb to reach the summit and lookout tower. We will lunch here and hopefully if the winter weather allows enjoy the great views across to the Kaimai Ranges and Firth of Thames. The downward route is longer and gentler. This is a 4km loop track that should take around 3-4 hours including lunch.



We will then drive to Maungakawa (Sanatorium Hill) where we will then walk the Maungakawa Loop track which starts by the memorial clearing – taking about 30 minutes.

There should be time a stop at the park in Cambridge where we can eat ice cream or drink coffee while viewing the Rose Gardens, Sunken Gardens or indoor Begonia House.



Depart: 8am

Return: 5pm approx

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

Leaders: Brenda & Susan

Bookings: Open Monday 12 June @ 6pm
Contact Brenda
Phone 07 8493 716
Txt 0273 117 372
Email brenda22269@hotmail.com



Sunday 9 July**Kawhia****Grade 1+****Te Kauri**

This tramp is in the Te Kauri Park Scenic Reserve approximately one hour drive from Hamilton towards Kawhia. Initially established for JUNATS (Hamilton Junior Naturalist Club) it is now administered by DOC with shared management responsibilities. For this reason it is one of the most studied forest remnants in the Waikato.

The bush is the southernmost limit of several natural growing tree species including kauri. There is no longer kiwi or kokako but other birdlife is good.

The tramp will follow several short tracks with varied terrain. There are steps down, a level track alongside the Waikuku stream, a climb up to the Fort Route to our lunch spot and if weather permits will see Kawhia Harbour as we head back. Expect to walk about 4 hours.

Depart: 8am

Return: 5pm approx

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

Leaders: Alison O, Marion, Mary

Bookings: Open Monday 26 June 2017 @ 6pm
Contact Alison
Phone 07 855 2370
Txt 027 618 3569
Email allbliss@ihug.co.nz



Club badges still available @ \$10.00

See John Davies

Badges are great for instant ID when you are travelling!

Plastic name badges @ \$10: also through John

Sunday July 23**Rotorua****Grade 2****Rainbow Mountain**

This is one of the Wanderer's favourite walks

Rainbow Mountain is in an active geothermal area on the Taupo Road 25km south of Rotorua. The zig zag track to the summit (about an hour and a half) passes the crater lookout, a couple of colourful lakes and other thermal activities.

We will have lunch at the top where great views can be had in all directions and after that start the descent. We then go to the Waikite Valley hot pools for a swim (optional), or have a coffee at the poolside cafe, or both.

So bring swim gear and your Gold Card which will give you a discounted entry fee.

Depart: 7.30am

Return: 5.30pm approx

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

Leaders: John Davies and Keith Wilkinson

Bookings: Open Monday 10 July @ 6pm
Contact John
Phone 07 854 0654
Txt 021 2941807
Email deejohn@xtra.co.nz



Sunday 6 August**Tauranga****Grade 1+****Daisy Hardwick Walkway & Mount Ramble**

This walkway is around the Waikareao Estuary and made up of boardwalks and gravel type paths, it is shared use by walkers and bikes. It is a 9km loop track which will take approx. 2 hours give or take. At time of printing there was a part of the walkway which is closed due to erosion/slips so we may need to detour slightly around this. The walk is suitable for all levels and is a picturesque walk seeing wetlands, trees and native plantings with great views over the estuary and Motuopae Island.

We then make our way to Mount Maunganui, where you can do several options include walk up/around the mount, go for a walk of the beach, or have a hot swim/soak, have a coffee and of course the must have ice cream. So, bring extra money, togs etc. The day is social so come and join us.

Depart: 8am

Return: 5-6pm approx

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

Leaders: Dianne, Keith and Pam

Bookings: Open Monday 24 July 2017 @ 6pm
Contact Dianne
Txt 027 272 6617
Email leedi@clear.net.nz



Sunday 20 August**Katikati****Grade 1+ & 3****Ted's Track / Lindemanns Track****Teds Track - Grade 3**

Ted is a trumper from Katikati who has marked this track up to the Wairoa shelter. We start from the Wharawhara car park and head towards the Uretara stream weir at the finish of the Wharawhara track.

It's into the bush and a gradual climb to a point where we can overlook a quarry which is still being worked, and then a lunch stop a bit further on. We then carry on past the old Cashmores Clearing Junction and onto the Wairoa Shelter for a well-earned break. We then head off towards the Wharawhara track passing the North/South Track Junction, Cashmores Clearing Junction, a very nice swimming hole (for those brave enough) and back to the weir and then out to the carpark.

Lindemanns Track – Grade 1

We leave Hamilton at 7.30 am, travelling through Paeroa and Waihi to get to our destination for a quick morning tea. The views from the parking area are amazing, looking out over Bowentown, Matakana Island and the Mount. We'll walk on a benched track which winds its way up to the junction with the Woodlands Track.

There are no rivers to cross however conditions underfoot may be wet. It is a lovely walk and one the club has done on many occasions. We may make it to the Woodlands Track Junction for lunch, however this is dependent on progress on the day. On return to the van some refreshment will be available before making our way back to Hamilton.

Depart: 7.30am

Return: 5pm approx

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

Leaders: Grant, Ann and others



Bookings: Open Monday 7 August @ 6pm
Contact Grant
Phone 07 853 3434
Txt 021 047 6518
Email gsveny@gmail.com

Where We Went

Sunday 22 January



Waihi

Homunga Bay to Waihi Beach

Ten hardy souls (everyone else thought the weather was going to be stormy) met at the car park waiting for the van ably driven by Peter. Our fearless leader Carol had spoken to the weather gods and they were on our side as we had hot, sunny weather with a bit of a wind when by the time we hit the track— not the expected storm front. We were to meet Colin, Margaret and Peter somewhere on the track from the Waihi end.

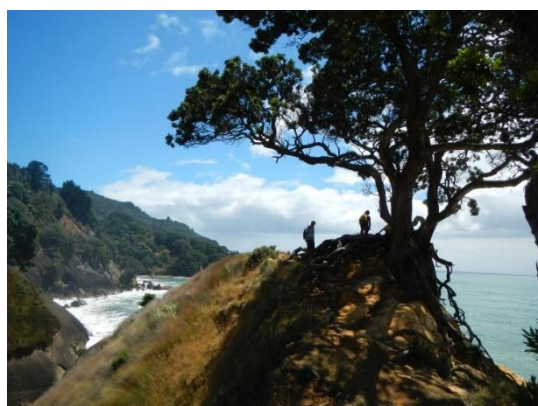
We made our way down the well-maintained track on farm land for a good 45 minutes. At the junction some decided to go down to the Homunga Bay beach for a short stroll, while the rest of us waited in the shade. Once all back together again, we set off at a steady pace for Orokawa Bay.

The track had lots of old slips on it and as a result was narrow in places with steep drops and an additional 2-3km added due to the diversions needed for safety. Parts of the old track are now in the sea. The views were amazing with the sea swell was high and the waves were hitting hard on the rocks below. We had a number one lunch in the shade of a lovely tree on a grassy patch. Caught up with the other three on the track as they were having number one lunch.

From here we all made our way to number two lunch on the beach at Orokawa Bay, where we found a great old pohutukawa tree for some shade. From here we took our time back to Waihi beach. Grant and Colin went to explore a cave and found a blue penguin having a snooze and the rest of us carried on to the beach where we thought we might get wet feet due to high tide, but with a bit of light footedness and twinkle toes we end up with dry feet.

Two brave souls went for a swim, just as the downpour of rain arrived and the rest of us went to eat ice cream. Thanks to the leaders and driver for keeping us safe. See you on the track.

Twinkle Toes



Sunday 5 February

Otorohanga

Wharepuhunga

The proposed trip was a Grade 2 trip to Wharepuhunga to walk up the Mangatutu Stream. However, despite the fact that the leaders did numerous surveys and cut down a lot of blackberries that were growing on the track, the scheduled trip could not take place.



The final survey was done on the 3rd February, and this could not be completed as the river levels were too high. The resourceful leaders had to come up with another trip that would please the twenty-two members that had booked in and which involved some water contact. It was decided to go to Tolley Road which was only about another 15 kilometres along the road and to

keep the punters happy, there was a promised swim at the end of the day.

The trip was an adapted version of the Ngaroma Circuit with good views of the surrounding countryside. There were some up and down hill walking, some scrambling down banks and a few obstacles to climb over, such as fallen trees before reaching the Old Mill Road.



Overall it wasn't a difficult walk, but it was a very hot day, so we looked for a shady place to eat lunch. While we were sitting under the trees we were fortunate enough to see the spectacle of several Clydesdale horses pulling carts in some sort of event. Unfortunately, they didn't come really close to us because of the difficult terrain but they caused quite a stir.

After the trip the vans went back to the Wharepuhunga Bridge and along the track to the river. By the time we finally got to the river for our designated swim, we were all very hot and those of us who wanted to get into the water did so fairly quickly. The water was clear and blissfully cold, quite deep too for swimming. After this we got back into the vans and headed for the nearest ice cream shop!

It was a good day, thanks to the leaders and those who took part in the surveys.
One of the water babies!

Sunday 19 February

Rotorua

Mangapouri Gorge, Kaharoa

Unfortunately, the weather put paid to our original destination, the gorge walk we had all been looking forward to. However, Winston had an alternative that kept us entertained the whole day.

We arrived at Winston's place, put our boots on and set off across his farm. He pointed out many interesting aspects to his farm which he now leases out. At one point, we encountered a very high stile over a deer fence which required careful negotiation. After the paddocks, we went down into a smaller gorge, across the stream and up to a view point. The 'view' was the vegetation across the gorge with Winston pointing out the boundaries of his farm, DOC land, and the Onaia ecological area.

Lunch was at Winston's Kiwi Outback Hut where he takes visitors when hunting, or the local school's overnight camp. Brett and John S. were most interested in a window of the hut that was made with a car windscreen. Winston regaled us with many interesting tales and some chocolates to boost our energy. After lunch, we took a detour to view a very tall rimu tree, and the 'bum tree' (a bum shape caused by a growth on the trunk).



Our day ended back at Winston's place where he treated us to a cuppa, with biscuits, and the opportunity to look at his trophy room and his large collection of photographs from his travels, which were displayed all around his home.

Thanks to John and Anne-Marie for liaising with Winston for an enjoyable day.....and the gorge walk is still on the cards when weather permits!

Carol



Mangapouri Gorge, Kaharoa ... #2 contribution



The weather gods thwarted the planned trip of going down the gorge— 200mm rain in the previous four days meant it could not be attempted; however the backup trip provided a lot of fun and interest.

Winston Fleming escorted us around his families (since 1936) farm of which 54 of the 210 hectares is in bush reserve. Winston and his family are true conservators and the beautiful often regenerating bush with sounds of, and occasional sightings of, birds including bush robin, bellbird, tui, grey warbler(aka the rain bird) is the result of his /their care.

We lunched at “The Kiwi Outback” - a unique and exclusive lodge on Winston’s property where Kokako can be heard if you are there early enough in the morning.



Winston was the perfect host providing afternoon tea back at his home and allowing viewing of his trophy room and photos of many adventures had.

A HUGE thank you to Winston for giving us the time and allowing us access to his land and home of which he is understandably proud of.

Also a BIG thank you to John Younger whose great P.A. and communication skills helped create a great day.

VIP: STOP PRESS!! Keep those woollen socks handy- weather and Winston permitting the gorge trip is still firmly on the agenda for the Wanderers to do sometime.

Annemarie Farrell

Sunday 5 March

Te Aroha

Waiorongomai to Te Aroha Tramp – Grade 3

We were dropped off at the old crusher car park at 9am by Keith who then drove the van away to the pickup point. Ahead of us was a seven-hour tramp over the mountain to the township of Te Aroha.

Twelve of us set out in 20° heat with high humidity that really made us sweat heading up the bulldozer track with Colin leading from the front, Carol encouraging us in the middle and Peter keeping an eye on us tail enders. As we climbed higher there was an occasional cool southerly breeze through gaps in the bush canopy to keep us from overheating.



Right from the first step it was uphill on a steady 10 -15° incline with the odd flat bit for a brief respite from the relentless uphill grade. By 10am we had reached the top of the impressive restored Butlers incline and had our first 10 minute break. It is a spectacular construction when you consider it would have been built by shovel and wheelbarrow. Few people alive today would be able to duplicate the hard manual labour of those past times.

The intense noise of the cicadas kept interrupting out thoughts as we pushed on uphill. The temperature had risen to 25 degrees by mid-morning as the sun came beaming over the top of the Kaimai Range. We were fortunate in that the track was firm and dry so our footprints were steady. The bush surrounding us was magnificent with regeneration at the foot of the hills and changing to mature trees near the top of the range.



The remains of Hardies hut were reached by 11am for another quick rest. Everyone still in good shape, talking freely and enjoying themselves. This was followed by a short downhill section into the valley and across a mountain stream on a magnificent swing bridge and through an old tunnel relic from the mining days.

After another hour uphill on a steeper grade we reached Dog Kennel flat at 12:15 feeling quite challenged by this point and thankfully a 10 minute break was declared. While we were resting we were passed by some young trampers moving very quickly without stopping and remembered easier times.

There was only another 160 vertical metres to go to reach the Transmission Tower at the summit according to the GPS. There was no warning of the tough steep slog over a rough track that was ahead of us. The top was finally reached at just on 1pm. It proved to be well worth the effort with a great 360-degree vista with none of the usual fog to block our view.



Lunch was had in the warm shelter of the east side of the trig to get out of the cool strong south westerly wind. The view towards Waihi and the Pacific Ocean was fantastic. The team took the direct route back down the mountain towards Te Aroha with the thought of the comfortable waiting van spurring us on.

The sign told us 90 minutes to the bottom but we took nearly three hours. It didn't feel as though we were going slow but we must have been. Perhaps DoC should check that sign.

The downhill was really tough for some of us. It was even steeper than the mornings effort with lots of scrambling down natural root and rock steps with tree branches for hand holds.



Occasional man made steps made the going easier from time to time. Rests were few and far between despite everyone feeling tired. The smell of the pine forest signalled the last hour to go and at 4:30pm the tramp was finally over.

It was magnificent, challenging, tiring and well worth doing. And that is how you can use up seven and a half hours on a warm Sunday in summer.

Sunday 5 March

Te Aroha

Te Aroha – Grade 1

A laid-back group of 14 trampers anticipated a not too strenuous day at Te Aroha. We began by looking for the essentials, a good place to sit for morning tea! We were lucky to find unoccupied tables and chairs close to the carpark.

We then headed off through the Domain to the start of the track up Mount Te Aroha. Our sights were set on the lower reaches, the Lookout, and then up to Horseman's Track for our return. The weather was perfect!

We set off at a gentle pace, punctuated by interesting historical detail from our leader, Keith. There was no hurry and we could stop to allow others to pass us by, and catch our group together from time to time. We all reached the Lookout and sat for a while to have a bite to eat, enjoy the view, and to enjoy more history, jokes and other banter!



Well rested, we continued up the track to find the downhill leg of Horseman's Track. This was narrow in places and I would not have wanted to encounter a horse, whichever way it was travelling! Just off the track, we found a lovely flat sunny area to lunch at, with room for all of us. Refreshed, we continued downward, the sunshine making some lovely shade patterns on the foliage as we felt our way, and light and shade patterns of shadows on the ground and occasionally in the eyes. I was alerted to a pair of 'drop-ins', stick insects, as they landed on the back of the neck of the trumper in front of me!



Once descended, most of us made for the Te Aroha Spa pools, although some preferred to search for a latte or ice-cream. The pool temperature was perfect and the sun shone as we spent all-too-short a period relaxing and chilling out. We found our ice-creams as we left, feeling refreshed.

A good time was had by all and we were pleased to have been active for some of the day with very pleasant company! Thank you to the leaders, Keith and Pam, and to organisers.

Jenny West

Sunday 19 March

Waitomo

Tawarau Falls - Grade 1+

After turning off State Highway 3 to Waitomo and Marokopa, we found Appletree Road on the left, a narrow winding road leading to the start of the track.

This was a nature walk led by Keith and Grant with contributions from Bob and others. It was a mild fine day – dappled sunlight reached the track in many places. Bird life was plentiful – tuis, tomtits, fantails, kereru.

The observant amongst us spotted blue/red fungi, orchids, ferns (not the Prince of Wales). We also stopped to debate different tree species and their interesting features. Unfortunately, we did not have time to reach the falls so the group made the return trip to the van. Thanks to everyone for another memorable day.

Alison O

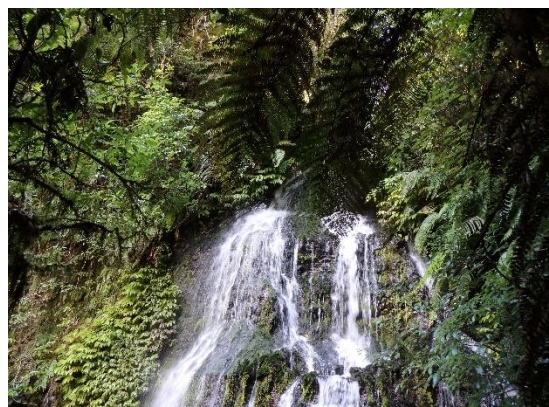
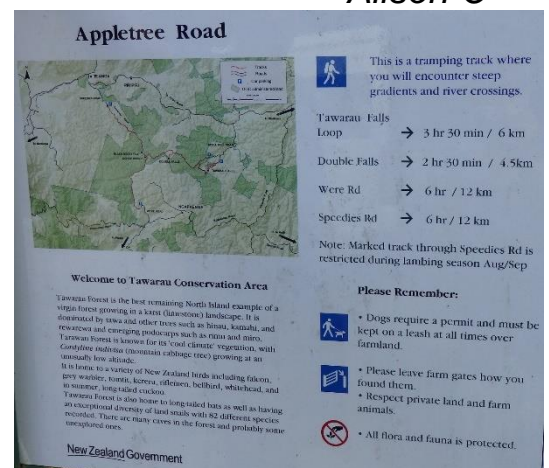
Double Falls - Grade 2+

Ray led the 10 us off at a brisk pace through stunning bush on a reasonably flat and well maintained track. After leaving the first block of bush we walked down a short gravel road and then entered the bush again through a slightly more overgrown track where we encountered a few brambles and a bit of gorse.

Shortly after the terrain changed and we started dropping down into the area of the falls. There were a couple of tricky bits of track that required a bit of skilful negotiation. Along the way, we viewed two very pretty waterfalls and then arrived at a picturesque spot beside the stream for our lunch stop. While here we discovered a unique cave of stalactites that were very impressive. We returned to the van via the same track we went in on.

After a stop at the Big Apple for ice cream and to buy avocados on the way home we arrived back at the carpark in Hamilton just after 5pm. A great day, perfect tramping weather and a very enjoyable trip, thanks Ray and Colin.

Brenda



31 March – 3 April

Whangarei

Tangihua Lions Lodge

Saturday 1 April Kai Iwi Lakes Coastal track

We climbed over a stile and set off walking through farmland. The temperature was 27 degrees. The ground uneven. After 8 more wobbly stiles and an ascent up 99 steps cut into hillside we arrived at Ripiro beach. A pretty spot, quite deserted but with a wild roaring sea. A quick lunch break as the sea was cutting off our exit. Returned by the same route.

The DOC sign said 30minutes one way to complete the 2.5km. We took 50 minutes but it was hot!

Pam



Saturday & Sunday 1-2 April

We spent the weekend at the Lions Lodge in the Tangihua Forest Park between Whangarei and Dargaville. On a sunny, calm Saturday morning the Grade 1's visited the idyllic Kai Iwi Lakes area. After morning tea at Lake Taharoa we walked around Lake Kai Iwi. The mirror-like surface gave great reflections of the surrounding flora and made for many photo ops. Then we went a few kilometres north and took a DOC track from the road out to the coast, about 1km as the crow flies but quite testing as, there and back, we had to cross 18 stiles and go up and down 198 very steep steps.

After lunch on the beach it was back to the Lodge for some or a swim at Kai Iwi Lakes for others. On Sunday, we walked a loop track from the Lodge. The track took us up to a ridge top through masses of nikau palms and then a steep descent to a lovely nature walk and good specimens of native trees, e.g. kauri, puriri and totara. The highlight was finding the remains of a kauri snail shell, a rare occurrence (the local predators quite fancy them).



We then visited the remains of a kauri log dam on the return to the lodge where we shed our tramping gear and did what we do well - we relaxed to the max!

Thanks to Keith, Grant, Carol and Alison and others for a most enjoyable experience.

Big Foot

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 Repellant
- Sunscreen
- Torch / Head Torch
- Trekking Poles
- Tent

FOR HUTS

- Toiletries
- Sleepwear
- Lightweight Clothing / Footwear



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