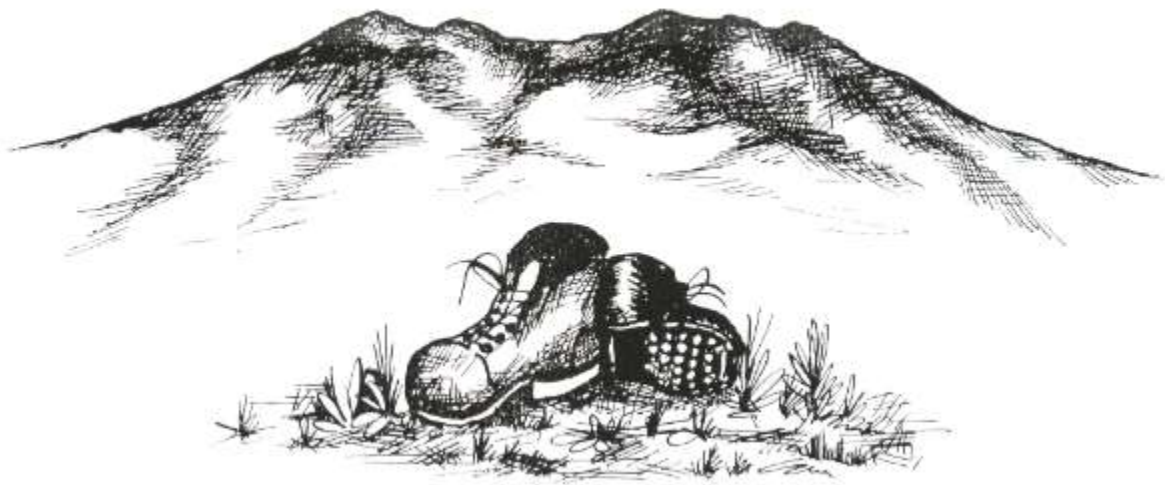


# **Wanderers Tramping Club Inc**



## **Bulletin**

**January – May 2018**

[www.wandererstramping.org.nz](http://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

<b>President:</b>	Keith Wilkinson	847 4399
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Colin Standing standings@xtra.co.nz	855 1335
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Ray Hoare webmaster@wandererstramping.org.nz	856 2675
<b>Committee:</b>	Pam Cornforth (Social Convener) pcornforth@xtra.co.nz	856 5922
	Carol Davies (Secretary/Trip Co-ordinator) grandmacarol@xtra.co.nz	853 5527
	Dianne Lee leedi444@gmail.com	027 272 6617
	Brenda Petersen (Bulletin Editor) brenda22269@hotmail.com	849 3716
	John Davies (Merchandise) deejohn@xtra.co.nz	854 0654
	Lyn Kingsbury (FMC Distributor/Advisor) L.Kingsbury@xtra.co.nz	856 8071
	Peter Scott (Bus Co-ordinator) peterscott@xtra.co.nz	854 5478
	Brett (New Members Convener) brett@hudsonhire.co.nz	855 6774
	Annemarie Farrell	021 549 737



# Trip Programme

TRIP DATE	TRIP DETAILS	BOOKING INFORMATION
<b>28 January</b>	Pukemokemoke / Woodlands Ramble	Dianne Lee Bookings not required
<b>11 February</b>	Okere Falls/ Lake Okareka/ Blue Lakes	Colin or Margaret Standing Ph 07 855 1335 Email <a href="mailto:standings@xtra.co.nz">standings@xtra.co.nz</a> Open Monday 29 January
<b>25 February</b>	Wharepuhunga Stream Walk	Colin or Margaret Standing Ph 07 855 1335 Email <a href="mailto:standings@xtra.co.nz">standings@xtra.co.nz</a> Open Monday 12 February
<b>11 March</b>	Te Whetu Birthplace of the Wanderers	Pam Cornforth Ph 07 856 5922 Txt 027 278 0690 Email <a href="mailto:pcornforth@xtra.co.nz">pcornforth@xtra.co.nz</a> Open Monday 26 February
<b>18 March</b>	50th Anniversary Lunch Hamilton Gardens	See details in centre of bulletin
<b>20-23 March</b>	Rangitoto Station	Grant Svendsen Ph 07 853 3434 / 021 047 6518 Email <a href="mailto:gsveny@gmail.com">gsveny@gmail.com</a> Open Monday 7 March Close Friday 16 March
<b>25 March</b>	City Parks and Reserves Ramble	Ann Cloke Bookings not required
<b>8 April</b>	Waikino - Waihi	Ann Cloke Ph 07 847 2460 / 021 043 9051 Email <a href="mailto:summerfields604@gmail.com">summerfields604@gmail.com</a> Open Monday 26 March
<b>22 April</b>	Okataina Circular Walk	Keith Wilkinson Ph 07 8474 399 Txt 0273 666 194 Open Monday 9 April
<b>6 May</b>	New Pylon Track Waiorongomai	Dianne Lee Ph 027 272 6617 Email : <a href="mailto:leedi444@gmail.com">leedi444@gmail.com</a> Open Monday 23 April
<b>20 May</b>	Another Ted's track Eliza Mine, Katikati	Grant Svendsen Ph 07 853 3434 / 021 047 6518 Email <a href="mailto:gsveny@gmail.com">gsveny@gmail.com</a> Open Monday 7 May

## 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]

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## Booking Information

**Bookings for trips open two weeks before the trip date.** 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. \$3.00 parking fee or park free nearby on Collingwood Street the road**

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# President's Ponderings

Greetings Fellow Trampers



Well, here we are at the end of another lovely year of tramping. Your committee has been busy working on another great selection of tramps for the coming year, the first starting on January 28th.

Just to inform you that they have now put in place a parking pay system at the Wintec carpark in Tristram Street where we meet for our tramps. Parking within the carpark will now cost \$3.00 for 12 hours. The option would be to park nearby on Collingwood Street which would be no charge.

Also, don't forget our 50th year lunch on in March a great occasion. All the details are in the centre of this bulletin.

On behalf of your committee and myself we wish you all a very enjoyable and Happy Christmas. Wanderers tend to adventure all over the place, abroad and throughout New Zealand so take care of yourselves over the break. Until we reunite have a safe holiday and all the best for the New Year.

Keith



## Wanderers Tramping Club 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**2018 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the  
Wanderers Tramping Club.**

To celebrate this achievement a special gathering has been arranged with:

- ★ *Lunch*
- ★ *Brief talk about the club's origins*
- ★ *Time to reminisce and share photos*

We will be pleased to see as many past and current members as possible attending the celebration.

We also welcome contributions such as old photos or interesting stories.

Further details are in the centre of this bulletin





# Where We Are Going

**Sunday 28 January**

**Gordonton**

**Grade 1**

## **Pukemokemoke Reserve/Woodlands Ramble**

The first tramp of the year is a ramble through the private reserve north of Gordonton. We will meet at the usual place WINTEC car park and car pool for this trip.

This reserve has lots of native trees and birds. The aim is to gently climb up to the summit lookout (166m) and with good luck get great panoramic views over the Waikato Basin. We then wander down the ridge line back down to the cars. This walk can be muddy in places and possibly slippery on the down side if wet, but we will take our time.

From here we will make our way to Woodlands for lunch and a coffee plus a walk round the grounds for those who feel like it, then home.

Total walking time around 4 hours max. This is an informal start to the year, come and join me and bring money for coffee/ice cream.

**Depart:** 8am

**Return:** 2pm approx

**Cost:** \$5 to driver \$5 to club

**Leaders:** Dianne Lee & friends

**Contact:** Dianne - 027 272 6617

**Bookings:** No bookings required car pooling



**Sunday 11 February****Rotorua****Grade 1****Okere Falls/Lake Okareka/Blue Lake and swim.**

The first track starts at the Okere Falls car park where we walk beside the Kaituna River, taking time to view the remnants of the hydro station (built 1899) and to climb down and up Hinemoa's steps.

We continue to follow the river and maybe see rafters and kayakers sweep over the highest commercially rafted waterfall in the world. We continue to the Trout Pool Falls then return to the vans. Track length about 2.5 km.

A short van trip then takes us to the Rotorua Lakeside Reserve on Acacia Road to enjoy the Okareka Walkway. The wetlands near the beginning of the walkway are home to a wide range of aquatic birds. A 'hide' is provided for quiet viewing. The track ends at the outlet where the lake discharges into Lake Tarawera. Total track length about 5km.

A short van relocation takes us to the Blue Lake, where those who wish can take a swim, followed by the 5.5 km around-the-Lake walk, finishing with a BBQ (buns, sausages, patties and coleslaw supplied by the Club) on the lake shore.

Expect to walk about 4-5 hours

**Depart:** 8am

**Return:** 6pm approx

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

**Leaders:** Colin and Margaret Standing

**Bookings:** Open 5:30pm, Monday January 29th  
Contact Colin or Margaret  
Phone 07 8551335  
Email [standings@xtra.co.nz](mailto:standings@xtra.co.nz)



## Sunday 25 February

## Grade 2

### Wharepuhunga Stream walk

This is a variation of the popular Wharepuhunga summertime stream walk. We start at a point on Duncan Road and after a short break for a 'cuppa' we dive straight into the bush down a steep wooded bank following a gully down to the stream.

We then walk downstream, sometimes in the water and sometimes on the banks. When we get to a point where the blackberries make the going too tough, we turn back upstream. We continue upstream past our entry point and maybe reach the point where the stream disappears underground. Returning to our stream entry point we climb slowly back up the gully to the waiting vans.

Bring your usual tramping gear, a change of clothes and footwear, plus a towel for those who would enjoy a swim.

Expect to walk about 5 to 7 hours (actual time depending on number of swims).

**Depart:** 7.30am

**Return:** 6pm approx

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

**Leaders:** Peter Scott, Colin Standing and others

**Bookings:** Open 5:30pm on Monday 12 February  
Contact Colin or Margaret  
Phone 07 8551335  
Email [standings@xtra.co.nz](mailto:standings@xtra.co.nz)





**Sunday 11 March****Mamaku Ranges****Grade 1****Te Whetu – Birthplace of the Wanderers Tramping Club**

As 2018 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the club it is appropriate that we return to the site where the idea of forming a recreational club first originated.

Te Whetu is north of Tokoroa in the Mamaku Range and was once the site of the extensive milling operation owned by the Bartholomew Land and Timber Company. In addition to the mill there was a small village with shops, hall and school. There were also bush tramways with trestle bridges and tunnels.

The ownership of the forest assets have changed a number of times over the last 50 years and Hancock Forest Management are the current owners. Robin Black is the company's Environmental Planner and will guide us through some of the property to look at historic items and discuss the flora and fauna within the plantation forest. We will be going through one of the old tramway tunnels which has water running through it (a different one to the one we visited in 2009). It is recommended that you bring gumboots to wear in the tunnel.

Please bring the usual tramping gear and food/drink. Also bring some large plastic bags to place your wet gumboots into as well as some to put your boots in as we will be getting in and out of the vehicle numerous times.



Also bring a mug as we plan to have an old style brew up before returning home.

**Depart:** 8am

**Return:** 5.30pm approx

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

**Leaders:** Robin Black, Rex Foley and John Younger

**Bookings:** Open 5.30pm 26 February  
Contact Pam Cornforth  
Phone 07 856 5922  
Txt 027 278 0690  
Email [pcornforth@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pcornforth@xtra.co.nz)



**Tues 20- Fri 23 March****King Country****All Grades****Rangitoto Station**

This trip is to the NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust property (Rangitoto Station) near Otewa, directly in from Otorohanga. Accommodation is a fully self-contained 3-bedroom house that will accommodate 12 people.

Tramps to the Cowan Reserve, Mangatutu Forest (kokako) and up to the transmission tower.

An info sheet will be sent out at the end of the booking period.

**Cost:****Accommodation**

\$60 - Pay on booking  
to club acct # 03-0306-0208429-00  
Ref: your name and Rangitoto

Or send a cheque to the treasurer  
Let Colin Standing know you have sent it

**Transport:** Will be by private vehicle (4WD preferably as we have to negotiate a gravelled track). Passengers \$30.

**Food:** Will be one shared meal for the first and second nights and the club to organise for the third night.

**Leaders:** Grant, Keith & friends

**Bookings:** Open            Monday 7 March  
Close            Friday 16 March  
Contact        Grant  
Phone        07 853 3434  
Txt            021 047 6518  
Email        gsveny@gmail.com



**Sunday 25 March****Hamilton****Grade 1****City Parks and Reserves Ramble**

As the ramble in 2016 was so popular, we are doing another one starting and finishing at the usual meeting place for trips – the Wintec carpark. Good walking shoes are required. Bring morning tea, lunch, drinks and snacks to eat along the way.



Afternoon tea will be provided on our return to the carpark.

**Depart:** 9am

**Return:** Afternoon

**Cost:** \$5.00

**Leaders:** Ann, Bernie & Friends

**Bookings:** Not required

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**NOTE – EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

New 'pay to park' system at the Wintec carpark  
in Tristram Street where we meet for our tramps.

Parking within the carpark will now cost  
**\$3.00 for 12 hours.**

Option to park nearby on Collingwood Street = no charge

**Sunday 8 April****Waihi****Grade 1****Waikino - Waihi**

On arrival at the Waikino Railway Station carpark we'll have a cuppa before boarding the train to take us to Waihi. From the Waihi Station we'll walk along the Hauraki Rail Trail back to Waikino, approx. 10 km. This is a shared trail for bikers and walkers, so care will need to be taken. The trail follows the Ohinemuri River and is very picturesque with rapids and a weir. Historical areas will be pointed out along the way.

At the end of the walk there may be an opportunity for those who want to, to ride the miniature train through the Victoria Battery site. The cost for this is \$10/person, payable to the Battery train driver.



Those preferring refreshments at the Waikino Café will walk over the road bridge to the vans and the café.

This should be an enjoyable day for all, a walk that the club hasn't done in the past.

**Depart:** 8.30am

**Return:** 5.30pm approx

**Cost:** \$25.00 (members)  
\$30.00 (non-members)  
Train :  
Adults \$15  
Adults with Gold Card \$12  
(Please advise on booking in)

**Leaders:** Ann & Bernie Cloke

**Bookings:** Open Monday 26 March  
Contact Ann Cloke  
Phone 07 847 2460 / 021 043 9051  
Email summerfields604@gmail.com





**Sunday 22 April****Rotorua****Grades 1 & 3****Okataina Circular Walk****Grade 1's**

Our tramp today starts and finishes at the outdoor education camp on Okataina Road.

After morning-tea we head off into the tall trees of this lovely forest. After a very gentle climb we look down on two great volcanic lakes, formed some 3,500 years ago. We then come down gently onto a flat track which returns us to our starting point taking approximately 2 ½ hours. After a brew-up we then go back to Hells Gate thermal area and those who wish to can take a dip in the curative waters.

**Grade 3's**

Start and finish at the same spot but take a more challenging upward tramp to a high spot which overlooks Lake Rotorua and beyond Whakapoungakau Trig 758m.

**Swimming**

\$17 for seniors with Gold card

\$20 for adults

Spectators free

Bring your togs, towel and usual gear



Also on site is a café for those who might like a coffee. Then it's homeward bound.

**Depart:** 7.30am

**Return:** 6pm approx

**Cost:** \$25.00 (members) + cost of swimming  
\$30.00 (non-members) + cost of swimming

**Leaders:** Keith, Pam, Dianne and Grant

**Bookings:** Open Monday 9 April  
Contact Keith  
Phone 07 8474 399 or txt 0273 666 194





**Sunday 6 May****Waiorongomai****Grades 1 & 3****New Pylon Track**

**Grade 3's** - The first section of this track was cut in 2016, and is a well graded well cut track from the Waiorongomai carpark to the old Pylon track.

From a few minutes along the Low-Level Pack Track you join the Pylon Peak Track as it drops down to the stream, cross it, and then follow the markers up the hill on the new section of the Pylon Peak Track, looking out for the old water race and water race tunnel not far from the start. Climbing steadily, but not too steeply after around 3.5kms you join the old Pylon Track. Keep an eye out for superb rata and rimu, and the 4 metal corner posts of the old pylons dotted up the hill.

The track climbs more steeply in some sections, and then breaks out of the bush cover into lower scrub to give you some spectacular views of the valley, Mt Te Aroha, the Hauraki Plains, and the Kaimai Ridge heading southwards. Now you can really appreciate the climb, and continue uphill soon to reach the Pylon Peak / Kaimai Ridgeway junction, a great place to stop for a breather to take in the view.



From this point there are a few options. If we are all still keen and ready to go, we could complete a 7-8 hour loop by walking along the ridge to Pukekohatu and then back down the Te Aroha link track. (See the map on the web site version of this description.) My guess is that we will give that away and return the way we came, or perhaps via the Kauri Grove track.

**Grade 1's** - Will be revisiting a track in the Waiorongomai valley

**Depart:** 7.30am

**Return:** 5pm approx

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

**Leaders:** Ray Hoare, Dianne Lee

**Bookings:** Open Monday 23 April  
Contact Dianne Lee  
Phone 027 272 6617  
Email leedi444@gmail.com





# WANDERERS TRAMPING CLUB INC.

1968 -2018

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**  
**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018**





# REGISTRATION FORM

## Wanderers Tramping Club

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Name/s of person/s attending:

.....

.....

Payment enclosed for ..... person/s at \$40 each.

Total .....

OR

Internet banking, account number: 03-0306-0208429-000

Please use your **name and 50<sup>th</sup> lunch** as reference

Return address for receipt:

.....

.....

**Post with remittance to:**

The Treasurer, Wanderers Tramping Club, Box 61, Hamilton.

**or email to:**

grandmacarol@xtra.co.nz using the form on the website:

[www.wandererstramping.org.nz](http://www.wandererstramping.org.nz)

If you have mobility issues, please give details here so that we can assist you if necessary:

.....

.....





## PROGRAMME

- Date:** Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018
- Venue:** Turtle Lake Café, Hamilton Gardens
- Commencing:**
- 12.30** Arrive, complimentary bubbles or juice
  - 1.15** Lunch, cash bar for drinks
  - Official cake cutting
  - Overview of club's history
  - Tea/coffee, celebration cake
  - Mix and mingle
  - Time to catch up with friends, check out some photographs
  - 4.30** Venue closes
- Cost:** \$40 per head
- Bookings:** Open: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018  
Close: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018
- Photographs:** If you have any photographs of Wanderers outings that you are prepared to display please bring them along on the day and ensure your name is on the album
- OR
- Send them to Brenda and she will scan them for an electronic display
- Brenda: Phone: 07 8493716 / 0273 117 372  
Email: [brenda22269@hotmail.com](mailto:brenda22269@hotmail.com)





## LUNCH MENU

Warm selection of fresh bread with herb scented butter

### Mains

Thyme and garlic infused roast lamb  
Baked salmon with caper and herb cream cheese  
Eggplant parmigiana

### Vegetables/salads

Balsamic roast vegetable medley  
Cauliflower and cashew salad with creamy feta mayo  
Garden green salad with citrus vinaigrette

### Desserts/Sweets

Dark chocolate and almond tart  
Lemon meringue tartlets  
Fresh fruit platter

Tea selection and coffee to finish





**Sunday 20 May****Katikati****Grades 2 & 3****Another Ted's Tracks/Thompson's Track Loop****Grade 2**

Today's tramp will start over on the Tauranga side.

We will drive to the end of Thompsons Track road and from here we will start and finish.

After morning-tea we set off on a downhill track to the stream, bridge and two stream crossings.

We walk towards Eliza Mine but on reaching this junction we carry on approx 30 minutes up to reach Thompsons Track (an old stock route over the Kaimai Range) and its all downhill back to our van. Walking poles will be useful

**Grade 3**

This track begins at the start of the 4WD track. A steady climb up a ridge to the North/South Track and then on to a point where the 4WD track goes over the Kaimai Range. This is where we will stop for lunch.

We then head down the 4WD track, which is quite muddy with a few detours, back to the vehicle, passing the side track to the Eliza Mine.



**Depart:** 7.30am

**Return:** 5.30pm approx

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

**Leaders:** Dianne, Pam, Keith & Grant

**Bookings:** Open                      Monday 7 May  
Contact                      Grant  
Phone                      07 853 3434  
Email                      gsveny@gmail.com



# Club Merchandise For Sale

## Wanderers member name badges

Put these on your hat, pack or shirt to identify yourself and your club.

**Only \$10.00**



## Embroidered Wanderers Tramping Club badges

They look great on your pack or clothing, and help to promote your club.

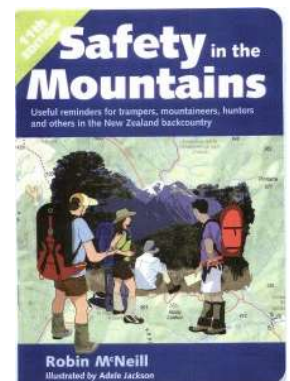
**Only \$15.00**



## "Safety in the Mountains" 11th Edition, 2012

Useful reminders and important advice for trampers.

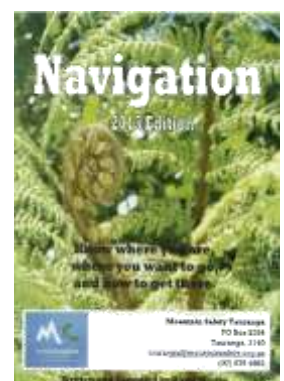
**Only \$5.00**



## "Navigation" 2013 Edition,

Know where you are, where to go, and how to get there. 16 page brochure from Mountain Safety Council

**Only \$4.00**



**Order or purchase all items from our Sales Specialist John Davies.**

**See him on one of our trips, or order by emailing him at**

**deejohn@xtra.co.nz**



## REMINDER

### What to take in your pack

- Thermal layer (polypropylene, polyester or wool)
- Insulating layer of fleece or wool
- Water/wind proof parka
- Shorts or long johns
- Over trousers in cool or wet weather
- Spare clothing
- Torch
- Whistle
- Sunscreen
- Boots or strong shoes
- First aid kit
- Lunch, snacks and water bottles
- Pack cover and liner to keep everything dry
- Extra clothing to be left on the bus
- Extra footwear and plastic bag for boots - no dirty boots on the bus



**Don't forget to include Emergency Information Form**



# Where We Went

**Sunday 20 August**



**Katikati**

## **Ted's Track... that maybe wasn't**

Eight G3 Wanderers braved a very average wintery August day for an adventure in the rain and mud. Before we left Hamilton, it was decided with all the rain we had been having not to risk the weir crossing so plans were changed slightly. We headed out of town, pit stopped at the Karangahake Gorge rest stop and then drove through Katikati and right turned to our destination.

We started walking in the light rain, it was cool and conditions underfoot were very muddy, slippery and a little bit challenging. The track was not an official DOC track, but some kind person had marked the track with fluoro ties on the trees which made the track a bit easier to follow although tricky enough to test our navigation skills.



We followed the stream for some time along the track before we veered off just after our morning tea stop. It was a gradual uphill climb for most of the morning and early afternoon until we finally came across the much talked about shelter. It was about now the skies opened with a downpour. We sheltered in the lovely dryness and refreshed for a few minutes before deciding it was now or never and braved the rain to continue our journey.

After about 20 minutes brisk walking through mud, puddles and small streams we found a small sign telling us it was one hour to the carpark. The next hour seemed like two as we tackled the trip downwards. There were a few slips in the mud and lots of delicate negotiating to get safely to our destination on Lindemanns Road.

It was a welcomed relief to see the vans with the other trampers who had also recently finished their walk. After a quick change into clean, dry clothes we headed home arriving in Hamilton just on 6pm.

Thanks for a very enjoyable day to our leader Grant, it would be great to try this trip again in the summer! Also, a big thanks to our other driver Colin and Dianne for relocating our van for us.

*Brenda*

## Sunday 3 September

## Pirongia

### Nikau Track

A cheerful van load of trampers were set for all weather when they arrived at the Kaniwhaniwha Stream car park. After morning tea, we walked across the road to follow the stream for half an hour along the broad track to the campout. It was wet and very muddy after all the rain, but the sun was shining for us. We had another tea break/early lunch stop around the big fireplace, our reasoning (like Pooh) being that if we ate it now, we would have less to carry.

With the rain still holding off, we found the entrance to Nikau Loop Walk and set off into the picturesque leafy bush, again following the stream, this time on our left. The track was undemanding and gently undulating with a few tree roots and puddles along the way. There was time to enjoy the bush, recognise individual native trees and take photographs. I expected to see more of the Nikau for which the track was named!

We came across the sign for the Kaniwhaniwha Caves unexpectedly as there was little sign of it from the track. They are apparently the only caves on Pirongia Mountain. Most of the group left their packs on the side of the track and went to explore them; the less keen remained behind to guard them.

After the usual age-related difficulty of scrambling over wet rocks at the entrance we were inside a vertical slit that reached high above our heads, comfortable enough to accommodate the average person. There the comfort ended. We walked in a stream and held onto muddy, wet walls as we negotiated twists, turns and lumps in awkward places. We found cave wetas and a spider or two. After about 10 minutes of careful manoeuvring, we reached a sturdy, wet and slippery, wooden ladder.

Immediately before the ladder were a large fossil shell protuberance at head height and a muddy puddle, which required complex twisting antics to avoid mud on the face and elsewhere. One of us had trouble with the mud puddle which attempted to consume one boot, which was retrieved with difficulty in the confined space. Care was needed to ascend the slippery ladder and then we found we had come full circle and were back with the group at the sign. Some of us missed seeing the wetas on the walk through, so 5 of us went through again!

We then set off again to complete the Nikau Loop and returned to the camp site where we consumed a leisurely lunch. The rain held off and we returned along the same muddy pathway to the van. We made ourselves look more respectable after our brush with the mud while we were entertained by the local chickens and roosters. Since the day was still young, we decided to finish our afternoon at a cafe in Whatawhata.



Thank you to our organisers and leader for an enjoyable wander.

*Jenny*



## Bell Track

The anticipation of seeing our favourite Kahikatea tree always overcomes the thought of mud, puddles and tree routes encountered on the way.

This day was no different. The wet winter weather meant that the track lived up to our expectations.

We had lunch at the viewing spot giving time to appreciate just how majestic it is.

Most of us walked through the Kaniwhaniwha caves on the way back to the van. We returned via the nikau loop track.

Thanks to Brett and Carol for leading us safely home.

*Alison*



## Sunday 17 September

## Te Kuiti

### Mapara/Omaru Falls

We set off (two vans) with our guide John Innes from Landcare Research. At our Te Kuiti break we took advantage of inspecting the impressive statue of the late Sir Colin (Pine Tree) Meads and later it was a quick stop at Kopaki for Keith to give us some interesting history on this area.



Along the loop track from the reserve John repeatedly played his tape recording of kokako calls where the birds were (well, hopefully) located. Unfortunately, it seemed the elusive kokako had the last “laugh” as no birds answered or came into close range; though a few members assured us that they did spot one on top of a dead tree some distance away. Another thought she saw one at the first stop we made. However, we were rewarded with other interesting sightings; a falcon and a few wood pigeons were seen and along the track green-hooded orchids and bush fuchsia berries on the ground were aplenty.

After a late lunch we drove a short distance to the Omaru Falls where an interesting half hour walk took us to a spectacular view of these 45m falls. We were rewarded seeing more kereru near the start of the track.

John was thanked in the appropriate way and a big thank you to the drivers for a safe journey.

*“Still a kokako enthusiast”*





## Sunday 1 October

## Paeroa

### Karangahake Gorge – Grade 1

The magnificent seven went to start off the day trip to Karangahake Gorge - but before they had left the car park, a grade 3 had seen the light and joined their ranks. So, the Great Eight set off instead. Rain greeted us at the gorge, however Keith's local history and story-telling had us all enthralled, especially as to how "Dickey Flats" was named. It turns out a mine work horse was put out to pasture there - yep, you guessed its name - "Dickey".

We explored the tunnels and learnt that the rocks inside Karangahake Mountain and the gorge area are extremely hard. Miners would find a 'vein' of quartz rock that was likely to contain gold by exploring the exposed rock faces on the mountain. They would tunnel into the rock following the vein to create a mine. Because the rock was so hard, they had to drill long holes into the 'face', into which they placed explosives. The force of the 'shot' would shatter the rock so they could use picks and shovels to load rubble onto rail trolleys for transport to the surface.

Once the 'ore' (gold-bearing quartz) was on the surface it was transported by horse-drawn trolleys along tram rails (or in the case of the Talisman Mine, aerial tram) to the battery for processing. Old and very deep pits were filled with trees which were burnt to roast the stones to make it easier to grind them to get the gold out.

We wandered along the gushing river looking at previous slips and noted that parts of the track were closed. A rather large group of adolescents from Auckland were encountered who had just spent 2 nights at Dickey's Flat completing their level 2 Duke of Edinburgh's award.

The rain followed us until lunch time but a break in the weather allowed us all to have lunch in relative calm weather. Another short walk and eventually we returned home. A thoroughly excellent day thanks to Keith's wonderful knowledge and storytelling.

*Susan*



## Sunday 1 October

## Paeroa

### Old Reservoir Road, Paeroa, Grade 3

There were 11 eager trampers in the van today as we set off for Paeroa. It was a little cool on arrival and the rain looked imminent so most of us started off in raincoats. We made our way uphill, stopping at an old scout hut for morning tea. The hut was well ventilated (a roof and a floor, no walls) but nevertheless a very welcome respite from the rain.



Still more slippery, muddy uphill was to come before popping out of the bush onto farmland. Back in the bush a suitable spot for lunch was found and most people put on more clothes as it was quite cold and miserable. However, after a couple of very steep slippery descents through thick overgrown bush, the afternoon improved.

We followed the stream out to the beginning of the loop and back to the van, enjoying a little bit of sun peeking through the trees. During our day we had admired the bush; the flora (Clematis, Olearia, and 3 types of orchids) and the fauna (one very small stick insect) Thank you to our leaders and driver for a good day.

*Carol*



## Sunday 15 October

## Welcome Bay

### Summerhill's Rec Farm

I went expecting a lovely Grade 1+ tramp, however soon learnt that Grant was taking a small group of intrepid trampers to tramp along the bikers' trails to the trig.

We tramped down gullies following the biking route and up short steep hills and across farmland. A detour over a fence and down through native bush found us crossing a small creek and then through some mud and uphill through farmland dotted with lambs, sheep and horses.

A small detour and ignoring an "upside do not enter sign", we found ourselves overlooking the quarry and big trucks..."it was really a blast" of time.

Back up the hill and through a grove of lovely old gum trees to where we had lunch in a yurt. From here we tramped up to the trig with amazing views of the Bay of Plenty and in the distance White Island.

Back to van and then a lovely stop for a "real fruit ice cream" and the day was completed wonderfully.

*Susan*





## Sunday 29 October

## Te Kuiti

### Mangaokewa Reserve

A van load of happy trampers set off on their walk only to be 'bushed' immediately. Well not quite, but we did encounter dense undergrowth that had to be circumnavigated.

From there it was an easy walk following a fence line alongside a stream before we crossed open spaces and passed through some bush that was predominantly Tawa, Kawakawa, Nikau palms and Pongas. Some birdsong was heard and a few kereru sighted. There were some large rocky outcrops on the hills surrounding us. It was quite muddy in places resulting in a few slips and slides but NO rain, so it was a very pleasant day weather wise.



We met the grade 1's at the designated lunch stop. A very nice picnic spot beside the stream. Then it was uphill before making our way back following the stream on the other side. We met the grade 1's again at the reserve which was the end of their walk. After a rest/snack/catch up with the other group we set off to complete our loop.

We arrived back at the van in good time, so we were able to fit in an ice cream stop on the way home.

Thank you, John, for your leadership and driving. A wonderful day. *Carol*



## 12 November

## Waiomu

### Tararu Valley to Waiomu Valley

#### Grade 1's

After dropping off the Grade 3's at their starting point at the top of Victoria Road, Tararu their van was driven by a Grade 1 member to the carpark at the top of Waiomu Valley Rd.

The Grade 1's from the other van then began their trip up the National Valley. The day was still and sunny a perfect day for tramping! After getting their feet wet at the first river crossing the Grade 1s made their way up the valley to a most magnificent stand of huge and ancient kauri trees on a high bluff at the junction of two streams.

High up on this bluff among the kauris we stopped for lunch. On the way up the valley the track crossed a number of beautifully made wooden arched bridges. These bridges provided excellent viewing platforms to survey the prime forest in every direction. After stopping for coffee at Thames the grade 1's returned to Hamilton arriving at 4.35pm

Thanks Dianne and Pam for the lovely morning tea and a great day out. *Roger*



Photos supplied by Carol  
– Grade 3



## Grade 3's

This tramp was a replacement for the advertised trip due to a closed track. One of the leaders was not able to come but Colin Standing led ten of us magnificently after completing a survey of the first two to three hours of the track a few days before.

It was a challenging day. We began at 224m above sea level and eventually climbed to 690m after many ups and downs. The weather was fine and hot in sheltered places but every now and then a cool breeze was a welcome relief. Our second lunch stop at Crosbie's Hut gave us the opportunity to soak up the wonderful views of the beautiful bush, the Hauraki Gulf and the Pacific Ocean in the east.

Feelings of exhilaration and achievement were mixed with the realisation that we were several hours from civilisation (four to five in fact but we didn't know it then). Typical of many tracks are mud and tree roots. This was no different. Small detours around the sometimes-ankle-deep mud slowed our progress.

After seven hours we reached the Waiomu track junction. Another three hours to go!!! This was very steep downhill in places and the roots then became an asset. The final reward was the magnificent kauri grove. To be amongst these majestic trees is an experience not to be missed. A variety of bird life was plentiful at times.

We finally reached the van without any mishaps. We had covered 23 km and taken 10 hours. Thank you, Colin, for your consideration and leadership and to all members of the group for your support.

*Alison O*



Tararu to Waiomu, shows the tramp in a Google Earth Environment

Map supplied by Rob

# 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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