

Wanderers Tramping Club Inc



BULLETIN

May - August 2022

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 2020/2021

President:	Dianne Lee	027 272 6617
First Aid/Social	leedi444@gmail.com	
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Treasurer:	Colin Standing standings@xtra.co.nz	07 855 1335
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Merchandise :	Ron Clarke	07 846 5183
Transport Co-ordinator :	Keith Wilkinson	07 847 4399
New Member Co-ordinator :	Jenny West tsew.ynnej@gmail.com	07 856 3140

Trip Programme

TRIP DATE	TRIP DETAILS	BOOKING INFORMATION
8 May <i>(Mother's Day)</i>	Waikato River Walk - Avantidrome to Hooker Road	Tony Dickens Phone : 0274 764 098 Email : dickensnz@gmail.com Bookings not required – just turn up
22 May	Eliza Mine Loop Track	Keith Wilkinson Phone : 07 847 4399 Txt : 027 366 6194 Monday 9 May @ 6pm
5 June	Lakes Hakanoa & Puketirini	Dianne Lee Phone/Txt : 027 272 6617 Email : leedi444@gmail.com Bookings not required – just turn up
Saturday 11 June	Night Walk Hamilton Lake	Pam Cornforth Phone 07 856 5922
19 June	Rotorua Surprise	Pam Cornforth Phone : 07 856 5922 / 027 278 0690 Email : pcornforth@xtra.co.nz Monday 6 June @ 6pm
3 July	Te Uku Windfarm Pipiwharau Trail	Tony Dickens Phone : 0274 764 098 Email : dickensnz@gmail.com Monday 20 June @ 6pm
17 July	Hillary Hope Reserve	Tony Dickens Phone : 0274 764 098 Email : dickensnz@gmail.com Monday 4 July @ 6pm
31 July	Mount Maunganui + Swim	Colin & Margaret Standing Phone : 07 8551335 Txt : 027 3266886 Email : standings@xtra.co.nz Monday 18 July @ 6pm
Saturday 6 August	Midwinter Lunch Open : Mon 4 July Close : Sat 30 July	Pam Cornforth Phone : 07 856 5922 Txt : 027 278 0690 Email : pcornforth@xtra.co.nz
14 August	Waipapa Dam	Tony Dickens Phone : 0274 764 098 Email : dickensnz@gmail.com Monday 1 August @ 6pm



COVID Safety

At the recent AGM it was agreed that the following would be supported.

Due to the recent public health events, we are required to follow the guidance set out by government and follow protocols of the Protection Framework that is in place.

Due to our club members being in the older age group vaccinated people are welcome to join us on tramps. Please be aware you may be asked for your vaccine pass or may be asked about your vaccination status. This is due to the fact that most of our travel is in vans, where we are in close proximity to each other during the trip.

It is expected that everyone will wear masks while travelling. The drivers have the option not to wear masks while driving if they feel they are unable to have adequate safe vision. When travelling in private vehicles ie carpooling, the wearing of masks will be up to each individual driver.



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. 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 **Community Living Trust** carpark, **Collingwood Street**. **Park free on Collingwood Street on the road.**

President's Ponderings

Welcome to the second bulletin of the year, the winter tramps. COVID is still impacting on our lives but we are still able to get out there and see some great places.

Winter means wearing layers, no jeans and carrying spare thermal top/bottoms, hat and gloves, good wet weather gear and extra food in your pack. For returning home in the van you do need a bag with a full change of clothes and change of footwear, no dirty boots in the van please.

The tramps in this section of the year will be closer to home. We have planned a mid-winter lunch and our renowned night walk with Keith's famous soup and buns, we might even have some sausages!

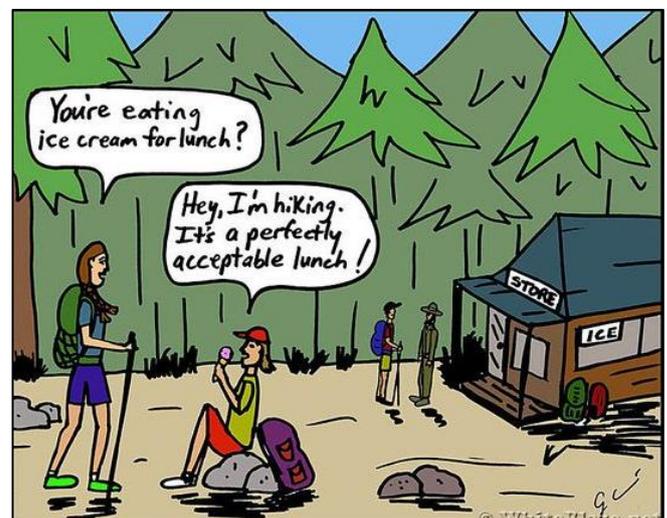
Remember sometimes the leaders are unable to undertake a survey before the bulletin write ups are due, so there may be changes to our schedule. We are starting to look at the next bulletin for tramp ideas so get your thinking hats on. Your new committee are working hard in the background so please keep getting out with us.

Also, if you have a medical condition, please let the trip leader know before leaving Hamilton so the best decisions can be made. Ask yourself if the trip grade you have chosen is the right choice for you, are you going to be safe for the whole tramp?

You will have noted that costs such as fuel are increasing, and this includes our van rental. The committee has decided to keep trip costs the same at \$25 members and \$30 non-members, but if the fuel costs get close to \$3.00/L then the club may need to consider and increase our costs by \$5.00 so members would become \$30 and \$35 non- members, but we will let you know via email and on the website. This will be reviewed on going.

I look forward to seeing you on the track - remember we very rarely cancel a trip but the leaders will keep a close eye on the weather and safety concerns.

Dianne



Gear list

- Lunch, snacks - plenty
- Lots of drinking water - in an unbreakable bottle. Take plenty in summer when it is hot – at least 2 litres.
- Raincoat or waterproof jacket with a hood or separate rain hat
- Extra warm layer in case it gets cold or we need to stop for some reason
- A torch - just in case
- Plastic bag (or similar) to sit on when having lunch. Keeps you dry when sitting
- Toilet paper
- Personal First-Aid Kit – including emergency blanket
- Emergency Contact/Medical Details form: keep in a zip lock bag in a front pocket of your back-pack
- Whistle
- In winter include : warm hat, gloves, an extra warm layer, thermos (optional - but nice)
- In summer include : sunhat, sunscreen, sunglasses
- Money to cover tramp cost
- Extra money if you wish for coffee/ice cream etc, for on the way home
- Leave a spare change of clothing, including footwear, in the van. This is in case you get wet, hot or dirty and need to change



Optional Extras:

- Gaiters (good in muddy, stony or prickly conditions)
- Walking poles (useful on uneven terrain and when crossing rivers)





Where We Are Going

Sunday 8 May

Waikato River Walk

Grades 1 & 2

New section from Avantidrome to Hooker Road (10 to 20km)

Note that this is Mother's Day, it is a really easy walk, close to Hamilton, so we are starting at 9:00am.

The carpool will head out on SH1 and park at the Avantidrome car park (about a 20-minute drive). The walkway is an easy graded concrete footpath running alongside the Waikato River and surrounded by farmland. It is a very pleasant walk along the newest section of the walkway only opened in March.

Grade 1. Will walk for two hours at their own pace and then return to the vans for a total of 4 hours walking

Grade 2. Will walk for two hours out and two hours return expecting to cover the full 20km length of this section

The intention is to coordinate our return time to the cars, so no one is left waiting. We should be able to have a cup of coffee at the Avantidrome if anyone feels like doing so.

Depart: 9am

Return: 3pm

Cost: \$10.00 given to the driver of your car

Leaders: Grade 2 – Tony and Rose
Grade 1 – to be organised on the day

Bookings: No bookings are required, just turn up and we will carpool

Contact Tony Dickens
Phone 0274 764 098
Email dickensnz@gmail.com

Sunday 22 May**Katikati****Grade 2****Eliza Mine Loop Track**

This is an approx. 7km and 5-6 hour return trip at a Dianne pace, so you can do it. This was last done by the club in 2018. The challenges are stream crossings which could be slippery but not deep, so wet feet and you will need poles because there will be mud.

We start on Thompsons Track and then join the Eliza Mine Track which climbs to join a historic pack track that was built to convey supplies and equipment via pack horse to the mines. We follow a gully to the mine junction but will not be doing the steep climb up to the mine as it is not in great condition.

We cross the Waitekohe Stream and zig zags to meet Thompsons Track. It's downhill from here on a very rough extreme 4WD track which is muddy clay with steep slopes and trenches and massive deep muddy pools. We will be taking our time getting back to the vehicles.



Depart: 7.30am

Return: 6pm approx

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

Leaders: Keith and Friends

Bookings: Open Monday 9 May @ 6pm
Contact Keith Wilkinson
Phone 07 847 4399
Txt 027 366 6194

Sunday 5 June**Huntly****Grade 1****Lakes Hakanoa and Puketirini**

We are meeting at our usual car park and will carpool from here, no bookings required as this is Queens Birthday weekend.

The first stop is Lake Puketirini on the western side of the Waikato River, is a man-made lake developed from a disused coal mine pit. We will have morning tea before we start. The lake track is about 3.5km long, on well-formed gravel and almost completely level. There is a side trip which does have a small hill. It is an exposed area so bring a jacket.

We then make our way to Lake Hakanoa which is on the eastern side of Huntly township where we will have lunch and a nice stroll around the lake or visa versa. This lake is a riverine Lake with links to the Waikato River, which lies 300m to the west.

Ice cream stop on way home.



Depart: 8am

Return: 4pm approx

Cost: \$10.00 given to the driver of your car

Leaders: Dianne and Friends

Bookings: Not required

Contact Dianne
Phone/Txt 027 272 6617

Saturday 11 June**Hamilton****Grade 1****Night Walk – Hamilton Lake**

Starting point at the lake entrance off Lake Crescent and Innes Common by the yacht club. Meet at 5pm and bring warm clothing and a torch plus a mug. Walking time approx ¾-1 hour on a good surface. Return to the shelters at the starting point for soup and bread plus sausages and bread.

There will be no charge for this event – the club will be providing the refreshments.

Caterers will be Keith, Dianne and Pam.

For catering purposes please indicate if you will be attending by 4 June to Pam



Meeting time: 5pm

Cost: Nil – refreshment provided by club

Caterers: Keith, Dianne and Pam

Bookings: Contact Pam Cornforth
Phone 07 856 5922

Sunday 19 June

Rotorua

Grade 1+

Rotorua Surprise

We make our way to our favourite place Rotorua, with a comfort stop on the way. We are going to walk three different tracks, the longest being 2½ hours, which we believe has not been walked by the club before.

Starting off with morning tea at the Blue Lake, then walk up to Keith's nature walk about 30-40m. Make our way back down to the Blue Lake and head on past the Top10 camp towards our second Track, Pam's walk. You will need poles for this one and it is about 1-1.5 hours. This walk takes you from the Blue Lake to Lake Okareka where the vans will pick you up.

From here we go back to the Blue Lake for lunch and then head for Dianne's track which is up hill so you will need poles and is about 2½ hours. This track is shared with mountain bikes so we will need to take care.

We will end up meeting the vans at the mountain bike park area known as Forest Hub 2 car park where there are toilets and changing facilities. Then on our way home with an ice cream stop at Tirau.



Depart:	7.30am	
Return:	6pm approx	
Cost:	\$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members)	
Leaders:	G1+	Pam and Friends
Bookings:	Open	Monday 6 June at 6pm
	Contact	Pam Cornforth
	Phone	07 856 5922
	Txt	027 278 0690
	Email	pcornforth@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 3 July Te Uku Windfarm Grades 1 & 2

Piwiwharauoa Trail

The vans will head out on SH3/ Kawhia Rd and park at the entrance to the track near Te Uku Quarry which is about a 55-minute drive. The track is a reasonable uphill grade on a farm road. It is very exposed to wind and rain so an alternative walk along Raglan Beach will be available should the weather be unreasonable.

From the carpark, the wind turbines look like they're only a short distance away. But the full trail to the top and return is 18km with a 300m vertical climb. From the turbines, the views are amazing. On a clear day it's possible to see the distinctive cone of Mt Taranaki in the far distance.

Grade 1's will walk uphill for 2½ hours at their own pace and then return to the vans.

Grade 2's will walk to the top, have lunch below the turbines and return to the van in five hours.



Depart:	8.30am	
Return:	4pm	
Cost:	\$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members)	
Leaders:	G1	Tony and Friends
	G2	Rose and Ron
Bookings:	Open	Monday 20 June at 6pm
	Contact	Tony Dickens
	Phone/Txt	0274 764 098
	Email	dickensnz@gmail.com

Sunday 17 July

Waitetuna

Grades 1 & 2

Hillary Hope Reserve

The vans will head out towards Te Pahu and take old Mountain Road to reach the reserve. It is only a 30-minute drive from Hamilton. The 460ha reserve adjoins the Four Brothers Scenic Reserve and the Karamu Walkway. The entrance is at 732 Old Mountain Road, Waitetuna. There are toilets at the carpark.

Grade 1's will walk the David Thom loop first and follow up with the Mangakiriri Loop if they feel like a longer walk. Total walking time would be 3.5 hours.

Grade 2's will walk the three loop tracks for a total walking time of 5 hours with three climbs of 100 vertical metres and muddy underfoot conditions.

1) David Thom Loop Track

Description: Intermediate track generally well formed with some steep sections that may be rough or slippery in July.

Time: 2 hours with 100m vertical climb.

2) Hope Loop Track

This track is closed annually over the lambing season (approx. 1 August – 31 October).

Description: Advanced track with numerous very steep, rough, slippery sections

Time: 3 hours with a 130-metre vertical climb

3) Mangakirikiri Loop Track

Intermediate-advanced track with some rough, slippery and very steep sections

Time: 1.5 hours with a 100-metre vertical climb.

Depart:	8.30am	
Return:	4pm	
Cost:	\$25.00 (members)	
	\$30.00 (non-members)	
Leaders:	G1	Rose and Friends
	G2	Tony and Ron
Bookings:	Open	Monday 4 July @ 6pm
	Contact	Tony Dickens
	Phone/Txt	0274 764 098
	Email	dickensnz@gmail.com

Sunday 31 July

Mt Maunganui

Grade 1

Mauao (Mount Maunganui) + Hot Pools

A great way to spend a winters day. A walk with good company, good views and a hot soak. The vans will take us to “The Mount” and there a variety of ways to enjoy the Mauao experience.

- A leisurely walk around the base track 3.4 km
- The Waikorire Track is the steepest track to the summit of 232 metres with well-formed steps winding up eastern side of the volcano
- The Oruahine Track around the northern and western sides, eventually joining the 4WD track to the top
- All the way up to the top on the 4WD track

Afterwards enjoy a hot soak/swim at the Mount Pools with maybe coffee or ice cream (or both).



Depart:	8.30am	
Return:	5pm	
Cost:	\$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members)	
Leaders:	Colin and Margaret Standing and friends	
Bookings:	Open	Monday 18 July @ 6pm
	Contact	Colin or Margaret
	Phone	07 8551335
	Txt	027 3266886
	Email	standings@xtra.co.nz

MID WINTER LUNCH

Matte Black

St Andrews Golf Course

Saturday 6th August

Meet at 12noon

Lunch is at 12.30

Bookings to Pam please by 30 July for catering

**Matte Black are offering a menu choice of either
corn fritters, chicken salad, fish n chips
with small bite size slice and filter coffee
\$25pp**

Or you can choose from the cabinet or their menu.

The bar will be open



BOOKINGS

Open

Monday 4 July @ 5.30pm

Close

Saturday 30 July @ 5pm

Contact

Pam Cornforth

Phone

07 856 5922

Txt

027 278 0690

Email

pcornforth@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 14 August**Waipapa****Grades 1 & 3****Waipapa Dam to the Mangarewa Suspension Bridge**

The vans will head south for an 80-minute drive to the Waipapa Dam. There are toilets at the dam car park. Starting from the Waipapa Dam we walk north (towards Hamilton) following the Waikato River.

After walking only 1km the trail hits the Tumai steps. The reward at the top of the steps is awesome views down the lake. Another 9km from the steps is the spectacular 80m long Mangarewa suspension bridge which is 42m above the stream below. This is an out and back trail so we will be retracing our steps back to the Waipapa Dam where the vans will be parked.

Grade 1's will walk the trail at their own pace and after 2 or 3 hours return to the vans at the Waipapa Dam for a total of 4 to 6 hours walking.

Grade 3's will walk to the suspension bridge and return for a total distance of 20km. Expect to walk for 6 to 7 hours.



Depart:	7.30am	
Return:	5pm	
Cost:	\$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members)	
Leaders:	G1	Tony and Friends
	G3	Rose and Ron
Bookings:	Open	Monday 1 August@ 6pm
	Contact	Tony Dickens
	Phone/Txt	0274 764 098
	Email	dickensnz@gmail.com

Where We Went



Mystery Ramble

Sunday 30 January

It appeared in the Trip Bulletin as a Mystery Ramble although the fact that it started later than usual and at the Hamilton Gardens removed some of the mystery.

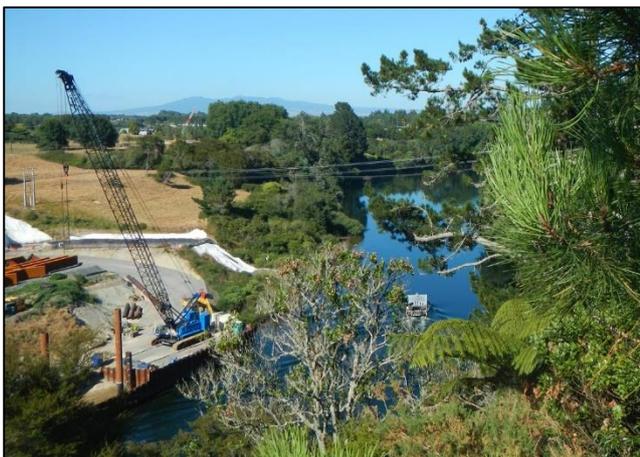
A group of 15 members gathered by the garden café and set off through the carpark and up the hill to the cemetery. We went through the cemetery and then towards the new roading on Cobham Drive. We got a good view of the new bridge and other road construction for the Peacocks Subdivision.

From there we dropped down to Howells Avenue via the very extensive new boardwalks to the riverbank. We walked along the riverbank and over more boardwalks until we finally found a suitable tree to sit in the shade and have a rest and coffee etc. in Hammond Park. We then continued southeast until the pathway gave out and we had a gentle climb up to a road

It was then time to ramble home along Malcolm Street and back to where we started at the Garden Café. It was a fine day but had a gentle breeze with a lot of sun.

We then got changed and some of us went to morning tea at the café. Overall, it was a very enjoyable short walk and a good start to the new tramping year. While I have not had much to do with the club lately, I look forward to many more tramps. I would like to thank Dianne and Pam for their leadership and Keith for his little snippets of additional information.

Angus



Mangatarata Hapuakoe Walkway Sunday 13 February

Two vans left Hamilton and headed towards SH27. We had a quick stop at Gordonton for the second van to catch up so Grant could lead the way. Once on the way there were a lot of tree branches and debris all over the road from the storm. The van was being buffeted by high winds and it was raining.

Turning off SH27 and up the North Road trees and branches had come down across the road. Someone had kindly cut a tree in half and pushed it to the side of the road so traffic could get through. No one had mentioned that an official announcement had said to 'stay at home and off the roads' because of Tropical Cyclone Dovi.

At the end of the road both vans parked up beside a fence out of the way of the pine trees. We walked towards the pine trees to get into the bush. It was very windy and having morning tea under the pine trees wasn't such a good idea. Branches were coming down and the trees swaying...a bit of a dangerous situation to be in. Once in the bush the weather didn't seem to be too bad. You could hear cracking of branches and every now and then a gust of wind would blow.

About an hour or so into the bush Grant had a phone call to say the other group were turning back and going to Pukemokemoke and meet us there. While walking out the weather was deteriorating, the wind was blustery and every time it blew you could hardly walk, it was so strong.

Arriving at Pukemokemoke we had lunch and started off on our walk. We met the other group walking back towards the carpark as they were coming out. Eight of us climbed to the summit, two stayed behind and walked back to the van. It was still foggy at the lookout, but it wasn't raining by the time we got there.

Driving back to Hamilton there was a police roadblock in place at Whitikahu beside the garage. They had a detour set up alongside the pumps and back out onto the road to avoid a branch that had landed on the wires and brought them down on the road.

We had a stop at Gordonton for ice cream and then headed back into town.

Thanks to the leaders and many thanks to the drivers who had to handle very difficult road conditions. **Ron**



Hori's Track - Rotorua

Sunday 27 February

A lovely golden summer morning and 22 happy Wanderers in two vans set off for Rotorua. We made a left hand turn on top of the Mamakus and went around the Rotorua Lake and stopped at Hamurana for a wee break.

Onward around past Hells Gate thermal area to Lake Rotoiti. We had morning tea then off we went with Dianne in the lead. We noticed many different fungi growing on the forest floor. Also, the recent wind had brought down a branch containing a lot of native orchid flowers with a great scent. We walked through to another lake and had lunch on an elevated bank.

Returning the same way, we diverted to Hori's Wishing Tree and made a donation into a cavity in the trunk – either money or green foliage and had a secret wish.

Back at the vans some of the brave ladies took a dip into the lovely Lake Rotoiti.

On the way home we stopped at Tirau and had an ice cream. We were back in Hamilton by 5pm. A very enjoyable day

Keith

Okataina Walkway- Rotorua

Sunday 13 March

We set out on a Grade 3 walk with 17km ahead of us, with the option of a one-hour side trip to the trig and many up and down grades to cover. Tony Dickens was the leader and Ron Clarke was the tail end Charlie.

The Grade 1 team walked down the same track for two hours and then returned to the vans. They then relocated the vans to the Education Camp to pick up the Grade 3 walkers. The weather was perfect with sunshine and warm winds with high streaky white clouds. The path was perfect. Smooth, wide and dry with lots of dead leaves covering the ground.



Our intention was to meet the Grade 1 team at the Education camp at 4pm which meant we needed to walk at an average pace of 3.4km per hour and we achieved this with a few minutes to spare.

The bush surrounded us with lush fern trees and healthy young regrowth forest. There were eight of us fit enough to walk at Grade 3 pace and everyone seemed to enjoy the effort required to maintain this pace both up hill and downhill.

Our first welcome break was taken after one hour and 3.5km covered when we stopped for smoko in the bush. After smoko we came across two marked river crossings only to find that DoC had put culverts in so we didn't even need to get our feet wet- luxury!



After 3½ hours we made it to the junction where the side trip to the Whakapoungakau Trig was an option 13.1 km completed. Only Aaron was keen to go so he ran to the trig whilst the rest of us enjoyed a leisurely lunch listening to the Bellbirds serenade us.

Having saved an hour by not walking to the trig it left us with a one hour downhill thigh burner to reach our destination and wait a few minutes for the vans to arrive.

The track is best described as an undulating endurance walkway rather than a hard tramp. We were sharing with mountain bikers so had to stay alert.

One of the highlights at the end of the day was the ice-cream at Tirau on the way home.

The walk definitely rated as a Grade 3 in the opinion of the eight Wanderers that completed the 16.4km journey in 5 hours as planned.

Rose Dickens

Waitawheta – G1

Sunday 27 March

Our walk began above Karangahake Gorge Road, shortly before road end and followed a track through farmland until we reached the bush entry. There was a pleasant but cool breeze.

Kauri trees were quickly obvious along the edge of the track. We walked the old tramway, up the valley following the river which offered numerous swimming holes, but access was often muddy and challenging. The track was also challenging, with part buried rail lines, cobbles and metal pegs holding down old timber sleepers. It went gently uphill.

At times towering cliffs loomed above the river and track. We passed a small waterfall at the edge of the track which then ran along the path and gravitated to the river, and a bogie on rails holding a large timber log.

The tramway finished at Devil's Elbow where the tight S-bend meant the locomotive could not pass - but it was no problem for trampers. As we got higher up the track, we encountered a number of swing bridges with views up and down the river quite a distance below.

We found a sunny spot for lunch and prepared for a warm return as the sun had come out, the temperature had risen and there was little shade close to the river. It was great to get back into the bush and shade.

We had seen many family groups on our way up who had been staying at Waitawheta Hut overnight. On our return we continued to meet others on their way up, including a school group from St Peter's School, Cambridge.

We also encountered a large group of twittering silvereyes right above the track in a shady spot and were visited by a number of inquisitive fantails.



Once back on the farmland, we had split into two groups, the fit, and the laggard (me!) and supporters. Thanks to them, I made it back to the van. The carpark was still full and the track obviously popular. We had walked 14kms.

A very enjoyable day! Thanks to organizers.

Jenny

Waitawheta – G2

Sunday 27 March

Two vans left the carpark setting off to Karangahake stopping in the gorge for a toilet break and then onto Franklin Road Carpark.

Leaving the G1 group, seven of us set off to walk to the hut, walking through farmland and then into the bush beside the Waitawheta River and on the old tram line. This was built in the 1800's to haul timber to the mill. Some old sleepers remain with steel spikes sticking up here and there. There is a gorge that you walk through with a steep gradient called Devils Elbow. This area was hit by a meteorite in 1923 and according to people who saw it, it lit up the cliffs.

About 1 ½ hours in we had morning tea beside a bush bogey sitting on rails with a log chained onto it. After crossing many swing bridges, we came to the end of the track where you cross the river. We decided to go on the alternative bush track which added another 1.2kms to reach the mill site.

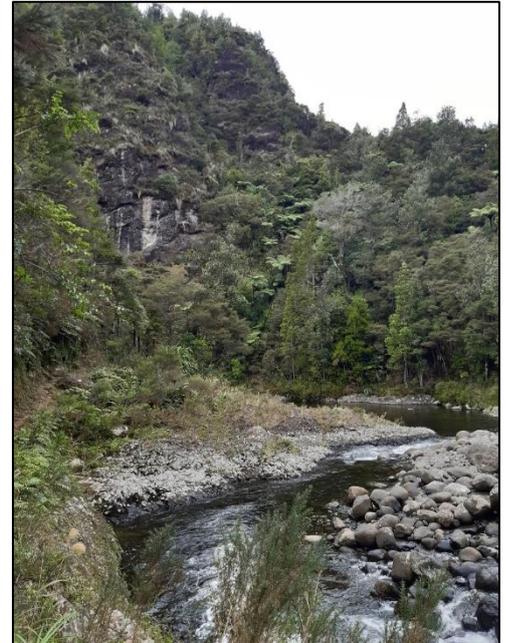
There are steel relics lying around the old turntable and crossover rails which was used to turn the bush tractor around to head back into the bush. There is also a mock-up of the mill structure with a drop saw blade and a log on a platform among other concrete structures.

We stopped for lunch at the hut which is built on the old cookhouse site. This is quite modern – has two outside toilets, sleeps 26 and was built in 2016.

The weather was good, and we had a great day out, although we were glad to get back to the van – it is a long walk. Of course, we stopped on at Paeroa on the way home for an ice cream!

Thanks to Colin for leading the trip and to both of the drivers.

Ron



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

10%
CLUB MEMBER
DISCOUNT



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