

Wanderers Tramping Club Inc



BULLETIN

January – April 2023

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 2022/2023

President

Transport Co-Ordinator: Keith Wilkinson 07 847 4399

Past President: Dianne Lee 027 272 6617
First Aid/Social leedi444@gmail.com

Treasurer: Colin Standing 07 855 1335
standings@xtra.co.nz

Webmaster: Tony Dickens 027 476 4098
wandererswebmaster2@gmail.com

Social Convener : Pam Cornforth 07 856 5922
pcornforth@xtra.co.nz

Secretary Sue Grocock 027 440 2448
rongee@xtra.co.nz

Bulletin Editor: Brenda Petersen 0273 117 372
brenda22269@hotmail.com

Merchandise : Ron Clarke 07 846 5183

**New Member
Co-ordinator :** Jenny West 07 856 3140
tsew.ynnej@gmail.com

Trip Programme

TRIP DATE	TRIP DETAILS	BOOKING INFORMATION
29 January	Social River Path Ramble Hamilton	Dianne Lee Phone/Txt : 027 272 6617 Email : leedi444@gmail.com No bookings required – just turn up
12 February	Whiritoa Coastal Walk Waihi	Pam Cornforth Phone/Txt : 027 278 0690 Email : pcornforth@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 30 January
26 February	Tapapakanga Regional Park Franklin	Colin & Margaret Standing Phone : 07 855 1335 Txt : 027 326 6886 Email : standings@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 13 February
12 March	Waitekauri/ Golden Cross Hapuakohe North	Keith Wilkinson Phone : 07 847 4399 Txt : 027 366 6194 Open : Monday 27 February
Weekend 24-27 March	Huia Extended Weekend Waitakere Ranges	Colin & Margaret Standing Phone : 07 855 1335 Txt : 027 326 6886 Email : standings@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 27 February Close : Friday 17 March
26 March	Local Walk Hamilton	Tony & Rose Dickens Phone/Txt : 0274 764 098 Email : wandererswebmaster2@gmail.com No bookings required – just turn up
9 April (Easter Weekend)	Karakariki Whatawhata	Carol Davies Phone/Txt : 027 319 0852 Email : grandmacarol@xtra.co.nz No bookings required – just turn up
23 April	Redwoods Walk & Hot Tub Rotorua	Tony & Rose Dickens Phone/Txt : 0274 764 098 Email : wandererswebmaster2@gmail.com Open : Monday 10 April

Emergency Information

Wanderers' trips occasionally return up to an hour or more beyond the stated return time given in the Bulletin. This happens due to the variable nature of the tramp, the weather and the people on the tramp. However, in the event of a trip being seriously held up (possibly two hours after the time indicated), communication will be made through the Operations Room, Central Police Headquarters, Hamilton.

Trip Bookings

Remember that any default in notifying the leader of cancellation of bookings renders you liable for the cost of the trip.

Responsibility

"Whilst the committee will take all reasonable care to ensure the safety of participants on trips, the participants themselves undertake such trips entirely at their own risk and no responsibility will be accepted for accidents, injury, loss, delays or other misadventures which may occur or happen to members while on trips arranged by the Group."

[Constitution, Rule 29]

Booking Information

Bookings for trips open two weeks before the trip date. 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

Hello Everyone

Here I am back at the helm and I will give the club my best shot as we navigate the year to come.

A very great thank you to Dianne for the excellent job as president over the past three years as with varying covid situations changes had to be made, sometimes at short notice.

The committee will remain the same, with the addition of Margaret who we welcome aboard.

Ray will be standing down after many years as the Webmaster. He has been very reliable and helpful, so thank you Ray. Tony and Rose will be taking over webmaster duties and we thank them for that.

A new year will see us out on new and old adventures, with the incoming committee already working on those for the next bulletin. Any ideas for trips would be very welcomed as it is hard finding new ones, short or long.

We also give thoughts for older members who have sadly passed over the last year.

Enjoy and all the best for the year ahead

Best wishes *Keith*



COVID Safety

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.

At our recent AGM it was decided that mask wearing in the vans is now optional and is a personal choice. When travelling in private vehicles i.e. carpooling, the wearing of masks will be up to each individual driver. The Committee has the right to change this decision at any time depending on Government information and directive.

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

29 January

Hamilton

Grade 1

Social River Path Ramble

Fist trip of the new year, so we will meet at the Flagstaff shops car park at 8am.

From here we will head to the river path and make our way around doing a loop returning to the car park for hopefully a coffee and/or ice cream. The walk will be at a gentle pace doing about 5km. Bring water, hat, slip slop slap and wear your walking shoes. Yes, there is a small hill but don't panic.

Depart: 8am

Return: 11-12 noon approx

Cost: No charge

Leaders: Dianne & Pam

Bookings: Not required – just turn up

Contact Dianne

Txt/Phone 027 272 6617

Sunday 12 February**Waihi****Grade 2****Whiritoa Coastal Walk**

Whiritoa is a coastal town north of Waihi Beach, 90 minutes from Hamilton. Vehicles will park by the toilets and General Store where we will have our morning tea.

The walk starts with the crossing of a shallow lagoon so there could be a water wade and then we head up steps towards Waimana Bay. At the north end of this bay we head up and across paddocks to Papakura Bay or Shipwreck Bay. Remnants of the Hipi (a steam tug) from 1976 are still visible. An option here is to have lunch or descend to the beach on a chain and walk a little further. After lunch we will retrace route back to vehicles.

Finally, a drive to the south end of Whiritoa beach to admire some rock carvings and an exciting blowhole if it's high tide.

Total time 4-5hrs



Depart: 8am

Return: 5pm approx

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

Leader: Pam and Barbara Durrant

Bookings: Open Monday 30 January
Contact Pam Cornforth
Txt 027 278 0690
Email pcornforth@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 26 February**Franklin****Grade 1****Tapapakanga Regional Park**

This is a lovely 7.5km coastal walk for a summer day. The Regional Park is on the western shore of the Firth of Thames. We park the vans in the car park adjacent to the Ashby Historic Homestead and the walk begins along the beach.

The Tapapakanga Stream has to be crossed (depth depends on the tide and you may like to bring sandals or crocs to protect the feet from the knobbly stones). Once across, the track turns up a short hill and then meanders through bush and pohutukawa with good views across the Firth of Thames. After about 2km the track veers inland to become a farm walk, climbing to a trig at 128m. The track continues across the working farm back to the start point.

There is a beach for those who would like to swim, so bring your togs. When the swimming is done, the vans will relocate to Waharau Regional Park where those that wish can partake of the Waharau Bush Walk, a pleasant 2km walk through regenerating forest.

If members prefer, a further stop can be made at Miranda Hot Pools. Bring some extra cash if this is likely to be you. Make sure you bring sun hat and sunscreen.

Expect to walk about 4+ hours total.



Depart: 7.30am
Return: 5pm approx
Cost: \$25.00 (members)
 \$30.00 (non-members)

Leaders: Colin and Margaret Standing

Bookings: Monday 13 February @ 6pm
 Contact Colin or Margaret
 Phone 07 855 1335
 Phone/Txt 027 326 6886
 Email standings@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 12 March

Grades 1 & 2

Grade 1 - Waitekauri/Golden Cross – Waikino Area

We will drive as far up as Waitekauri then walk up open grasslands (could be roasting hot or freezing winds) so come prepared with sun protection and plenty of drink plus windproof clothing.

On reaching a hilltop junction we will turn either left to Maratoto Saddle or right around a lake then return down to the van. We will have great views on a clear day.

Grade 2 - Hapuakohe North Walkway

This is a second go at the walk we abandoned due to the high winds in mid 2022 that was originally organised by Grant.

The van will leave Hamilton at 7:30am and it will take about an hour to get to the start of the track at the end of North Road. We will walk in for two hours and then return to the van on the same track for a total of four hours of hard walking. The first part of the track is a steep climb up to the ridge line. We then walk mainly on the ridge line with views out across the Hauraki Plains.



Depart: 7.30am

Return: 5pm approx

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

Leaders: G1 - Keith, Dianne and Friends
G2 – Tony and Rose

Bookings: Open Monday 27 February at 6pm
Contact Keith
Phone/Txt 027 366 6194

24-27 March

Waitakere Ranges

All Grades

Huia Weekend Trip

The weekend will be based at Huia Lodge with accommodation arranged for the nights of 24,25,26 March.

Proposed Itinerary:

Note tramps will be decided on the day subject to weather/interest/vehicles etc.

Friday 24 March

Leave Hamilton mid-morning (by arrangement with vehicle driver) – 150 km drive (approx 2½ hours). Meet up in Titirangi for a short walk of 5-6km. Access to the lodge is not before 2pm. Bring a pot-luck meal to share for dinner.

Saturday 25 March

Choose one of the many day/part-day tramps or other activities (swimming, fishing, museum etc.) available in the area (could be several groups) a list of potential tramps will be available. In the evening bring a pot-luck meal to share. A dress-up theme could also apply if sufficient interest from members.

Sunday 26 March

Choose another tramp or activity. In the evening, groups may like to go out for a meal in Titirangi (15km - approx 20 mins) or make other arrangements.

Monday 27 March

Clean up and vacate the lodge by 10am. Make our way slowly back to Hamilton. Maybe stop on the way for another short walk (say the Puhinui Stream Forest Trail – 4 kms) or visit a place of interest.

Accommodation:

Huia Lodge (originally the Huia schoolhouse 1893 – now fully restored with added accommodation block) is situated at 1334a Huia Road, Huia and can accommodate up to 30 persons in 6 bunk rooms (two double bunks and one single bed in each). There is a fully equipped kitchen with fridge, freezer, large toaster, pots and pans, crockery, cutlery and utensils. Separate male/female toilets/showers are available in a separate block. No dogs or other animals are permitted. Smoking and the use of aerosols are not permitted within the buildings.

What to Bring:

- Sleeping bag or bed linen + blankets
- Towels, tea towels
- Personal medications
- Sunscreen
- Fishing gear (optional)
- Tramping gear
- Wet weather gear/warm clothing
- Food for breakfasts (x3) lunch (x3) Shared pot-luck meal (x2)
- Your choice of beverage (tea/coffee etc)
- Extra money for dinner/outings/coffee/snacks etc
- Tea, coffee, milk and sugar will be supplied
- Pillow
- Towel and washing gear
- Sun hat
- Towel + swimming togs (optional)
- Insect repellent
- Personal first aid
- Special food if necessary

Transport:

Will be by private vehicle. The number of vehicles parked on the site is limited to 12.

A list of prospective drivers will be available prior to departure. If you require transport you are expected to contact a driver on the list and share in the cost of travel with your agreed driver. Discuss a reasonable amount to pay with him/her (suggested range \$25-\$35). This may increase if your group decide on an alternative days activities that include increased travel.

**Leaders:**

Colin and Margaret Standing

Cost:

\$75 (\$25/night) + transport contribution (to your driver)– this cost may be modified to suit number of people attending to ensure lodge charge of \$362/night is covered.

To reserve your place, please pay the Treasurer. Email standings@xtra.co.nz

Bookings Open:

27 February

Close:

17 March

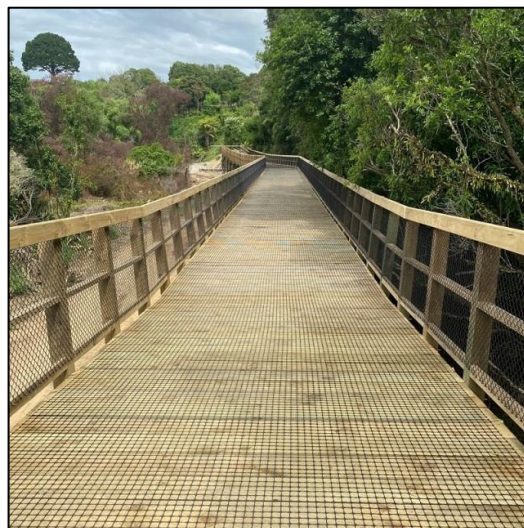
More information to come



Sunday 26 March**Hamilton****Grade 1****Local Hamilton Walk**

As this is the same weekend as the Huia Trip we will have a very informal walk on this Sunday. Tony and Rose will lead you on one of the new sections of the Te Awa Walkway alongside the Waikato River from the Hamilton Gardens to Tamahere and return.

We will meet at the usual car park in Collingwood Street and drive to the starting point of the walk together. No bookings required as whoever turns up can help out with the car pool.

**Depart:** 7.30am**Return:** 3pm approx**Cost:** No charge**Leaders:** Tony and Rose Dickens**Bookings:** Not required – just turn up

Contact

Tony Dickens

Phone/Txt

0274 764 098

Email

wandererswebmaster2@gmail.com

Sunday 9 April (Easter) Whatawhata Grades 1&2

Karakariki Scenic Reserve

“Once set aside as a water conservation reserve, the Karakariki Scenic Reserve now provides a popular short Waikato Walk. The Karakariki Reserve was once filled with kauri trees that were milled in the early 1900’s. The remaining forest and small stream provide a peaceful Waikato walk, just outside of Hamilton City.

A 20-minute walk will bring us to a small waterfall, where fossils can be found in the rocks and water, while a further 45 minute walk reaches the fence line and end of the trail. The waterfall site provides a great spot for a family picnic and paddle in the stream during the hotter months.”

From the car park we cross farmland so please take care around any animals. We will walk up to the fence line and return the same way, approximately two and a half hours tramping. Those wanting an easier walk will walk the same track for an hour at their pace and then return the same way. Morning tea will be at the waterfall. It is a short day but bring some lunch in case of unexpected holdups, or time is taken for a swim by the waterfall.



- Depart:** 8am
- Return:** 1pm approx
- Cost:** \$15.00 to driver as we will carpool
- Leader:** Carol Davies
- Bookings:** Not required – just turn up
 - Contact Carol
 - Phone/Txt 027 319 0852
 - Email grandmacarol@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 23 April

Rotorua

Grades 1 & 2

Redwoods Walk and Hot-Tub Experience

We depart Hamilton at 7:30am and travel to Rotorua. Both Grade 1 and Grade 2 walks start from Quarry Road car park. The tracks are easy walking and require an average fitness level and easy pace.

Grade 1: We will walk the Pohaturoa Track which is 7.5km circuit expected to take about 3 to 4 hours. This track is for walkers only.

Grade 2: We will walk the Tokorangi Pa Track. It is an 11.5km circuit and we expect to walk this in 3-4 hours as well. We will be sharing this track with mountain bikes. The rules of the track are that mountain bikes must give way to walkers but we will keep alert at all times.

The intention is for G1 and G2 walkers to finish at the same time. At the end of the walk you will have three choices :

- 1) Spend 45 minutes in the Secret Spot Hot Tubs in a beautiful bush setting at a cost of \$39 each. Swim costumes and towels are required. Each tub holds six people
- 2) Have a free foot hot tub if you purchase a coffee or beer to drink
- 3) Wait in the vans for about an hour until the hot tub people finish their soak

It is possible that one van may head back to Hamilton an hour early if it can be filled with non-hot tub people.



Depart:	7.30am
Return:	5pm approx
Cost:	\$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members) Hot tub experience is optional and will cost \$39 each (paid on the day)
Leaders:	G2 Tony & Rose G1 Dianne & Friends
Bookings:	Monday 10 April @ 6pm Contact Tony Dickens Phone/Txt 0274 764 098 Email wandererswebmaster2@gmail.com

Where We Went



Hillary Hope Reserve

Sunday 17 July

A van and a car set off to Te Pahu for a tramp at Hillary Hope Reserve and stopped briefly at Te Pahu to pick up one other trumper. We turned off the Te Pahu Road onto Old Mountain Road and drove past an old tank trap that was there in case the Japanese invaded during WWII.

We parked at the reserve carpark and left the other group having morning tea. Five of us started walking towards the Mangahiriri Track, the first of the three tracks we tackled on this day. The recent rain had made the track very slippery, and walking wasn't easy in some places. After reaching the top we stopped for morning tea. As we walked on crossing a small bridge we came upon the second track – The Hope Loop which was steep and slippery as well.

As we climbed up towards a patch of bush you could look back and see the wind turbines and the fog covering the gully below like a blanket which made for great photos. Once on top walking through the farmland we saw a couple of goats and heard shotguns going off in the distance. We were close to the Four Brothers Reserve entrance off the Raglan Road. Walking on we came across a huge slip that had damaged the track. There had been an effort to stop the subsidence by planting trees inside PVC tubing to protect them. Further on we stopped for lunch and came to a river. We stayed on this side to take the longer route on the David Thom track which is quite steep and heads towards an airstrip. Here we also had great views looking out towards Raglan.

After walking across a ridge and through a bit of bush we walked back to the carpark. We phoned the other group to find out how long they would be and found out they would still be a while so headed back to Hamilton.

Thanks to Tony for leading our group and the use of his car

Ron

Mount Maunganui

Sunday 31 July

A van and a carload of us headed off to the BOP in drizzly weather in the hope that it may improve once over the hill. The plan was changed from going up or around the Mount, (due to the track around being reported to be closed), so instead we were heading to walk the Daisy Hardwick track around the harbour.

At the beginning of the trip there was some carry on in the back seat due to Angus having his legs exposed, however that settled down.

Thankfully, all the op shops were closed near our toilet stop, or we may well be over there still.

We had morning tea before setting off. The weather was pretty kind to us, only one squall at the end of our walk. It was cold in the wind, but okay in the sheltered areas or in the sun. It was a pretty 11 km walk, all quite easy. There was some interesting info on the mangrove areas. We tended to break into smaller groups, depending on how fast people wanted to walk, and then catch up at various spots. I got a whiff of coffee from the Mobil station towards the end, so that spurred me on to the finish.

We had lunch in the sun before heading off to the pools. There was a little issue with finding the exact location of Fernland Spa, so we stopped and got the high tech equipment out, and off we set again, only to find it was about 30m around the corner. Much hilarity!! What a lovely hot pool spot!! It is such a lovely setting, and very nice and clean. The temperature was just perfect. Most of had a soak, while some just relaxed. Then a quick ice cream and off home.

What a lovely day out. Nice treat to have a soak and to be driven home. I may have nodded off.

Thanks team, may not have been strenuous, but definitely enjoyable.

Glenys Morrow

Waipapa Dam

Sunday 14 August

Two vans of us started out on a very frosty morning, glad to be in the van warm and cosy. The views across the countryside were stunning in the early morning frost, where some has melted but some still very white. The scenery from Arapuni Road through to the dam was especially spectacular with the early sun, amazing rock formations, little lambs, and some very white and cold looking spots. We really are blessed in NZ.

The G1's stayed at the dam in a nice sunny spot for morning tea, while the Twos headed off for the cold of the bush. The first part of the track was in lovely bush alongside a very clear stream with a few little waterfalls. We then ascended about 60 steps up and away from the water and then on towards the pine forests. Here the track widened and was quite solid. There were a few climbs to get us warmed up, and also some exposed areas to get some sun. So it was a bit, cold, warm, cold, warm.

Then we found a nice sunny spot for our timed ten minute morning tea. Off again, with much the same terrain to the swing bridge. The swing bridge was 80m long and 40m above the river below. It was certainly something to see and the scenery from it was gorgeous. Unfortunately, it is shut off at the other end, so the track stops there. We also had the fortune of a picnic table to eat our lunch. The track would be quite good for a bike ride too if you didn't mind lifting your bike up the steps.

As we set off home, it seemed like there were more hills going home than there should have been. We obviously didn't notice those downhills on the way there. However, after a couple of short rest stops, we found a sign saying 4kms to go. Yahoo. Considering that some those walking were unsure of whether they could manage 20kms, and the fact that Aron was under the weather a bit, they did extremely well to finish the walk in fine stride.

It was a good walk that left most of us thinking we would be heading straight for a hot bath. Of course, Tony had to tell us that he and Rose (who were heading back to Taupo) would be straight into the hot tub with a wine in hand and a view over the lake. Thanks Tony!! And thanks to you and Ron for arranging the walk. It was really good.

Thanks again to our drivers for a safe and sedate drive which allowed us to just rest.

Glenys Morrow

Pirongia

Sunday 28 August

After morning tea in the carpark eleven of us set off in high spirits on a beautiful morning for a day in the bush. The track into the Nikau Loop Walk and caves is becoming more attractive with the maturing native trees and shrubs along the way.

Upon reaching the caves one brave trumper (C.S) showed us how it was done without getting stuck midway. Others less intrepid ventured in a little way but chose caution over valour. Once C.S had been reunited with the rest of us we carried on along the Bell Track only to be stopped when Dianne who had gone ahead returned to say the track was impassable. We returned to the Nikau Loop Track which led us to the DOC campsite where we had lunch while we soaked up the sun in the enjoyable company of good friends,

We returned to Collingwood Street at 3.15pm after a most agreeable day in the countryside.

Many thanks to Dianne and Colin for organising the tramp.

Roger



G2 Trip Photos - Aron



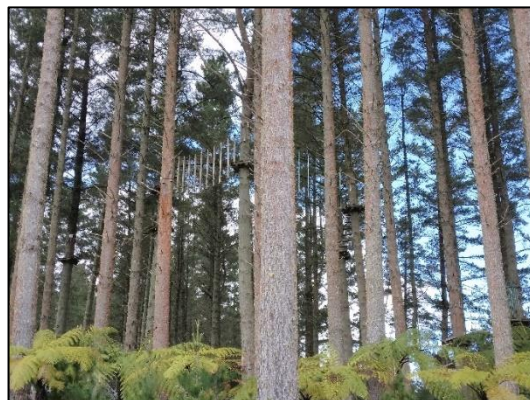
TECT Park - Tauranga

Sunday 25 September

It was the start of Daylight Savings and luckily with good information received from Colin Standing, everyone turned out at the correct time and no one was left behind. There were approx 20 people keen on today's Grade 1 tramp at TECT Park, about 26 km from Tauranga along Pye's Pa Road, SH 36 Tauranga to Rotorua.

We were well informed by Colin of how the day would proceed, with only a few gaps in the historical information! The weather forecast had promised a sunny day, and apart from a cool and breezy morning tea spot, this proved to be true. The walking was easyish with some little steep ups and downs. The park maps that can be picked up at the carpark were well done and easily followed and signposted (though of course we had our leader Colin to show us the way!). We walked about 12 kms today (according to Dianne) at a total of 4 or so hours. There were other longer trails on the map and maybe these can be 'reccied' and walked another day. If there was a downside to the walk, perhaps the noise of traffic and motorbikes in the distance, but otherwise a lovely day's walk out in a forest-like park.

Tect Park provides scope for popular outdoor activities such as an Adrenaline Forest for those that love hanging off trees, and mud trails for MTB riders, tracks for horse-riding, and finally for those of us that enjoy a walk in the forest – lovely easyish tracks to follow. Some of these tracks can be shared by horses and walkers, or walkers and bikers, and walkers, bikers and horses! For everyone on today's walk – this was a new area to venture. Points of interest for me today were the 60 metre tunnel, the names of the tracks (Te Rerenga, Sequoia, Lucitanica, Raho's Rollercoaster) and Peterson's Camp and the huge, long table and seats.



There were also a couple of mysteries today, 1) Why was such a big tunnel hand-built under the road and not just a culvert? (Colin noted in his information email that it was to divert a stream from going underneath SH36) And 2) What does 'TECT' actually stands for. Grant was potentially able to answer the first one – he noted the tunnel was chiselled out of ignimbrite rock so perhaps the usual council culvert was not the solution. And the best answer gathered for 'TECT' was Tauranga Ecological Conservation Trails (but we really had no idea).

Thank you to Colin, Margaret and John who provided an opportunity to explore an area not explored before by the club. Cheers to our drivers of the vans who got us all home safely (one van took the scenic route!). It was lovely to have a catch-up with members of the club and the realisation that the writer is getting older!

Kathy Old - (Scribe)

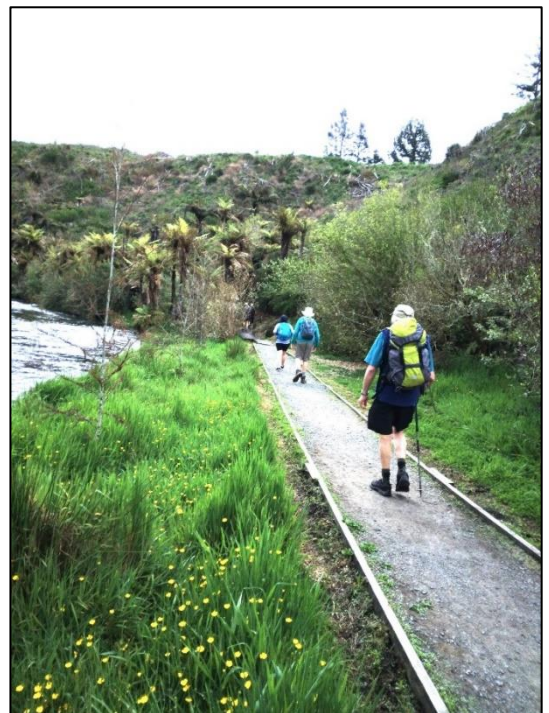
Waihou Walkway – Blue Springs

Sunday 6 November

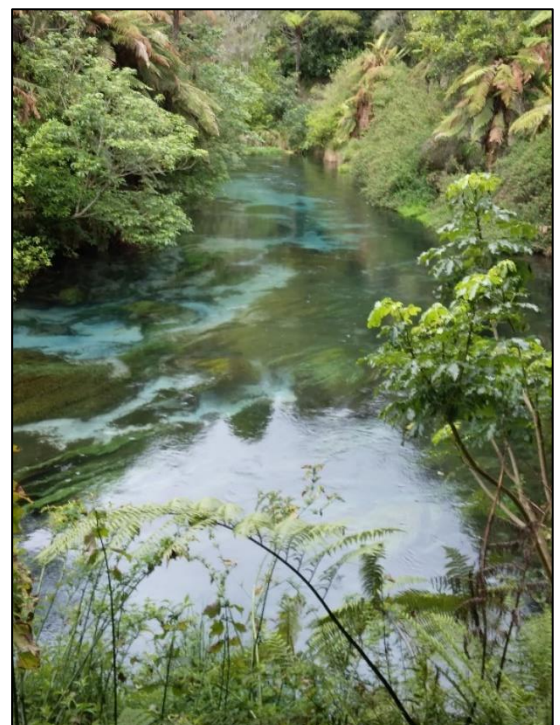
After morning tea in the Whites Road carpark 13 Wanderers set off to walk the length of the Waihou River Walkway. The track followed the edge of the river over contoured farmland and through pockets of native bush. There was abundant wildlife including rabbits, quail, paradise ducks with ducklings, a hare and small trout in the deep blue pools.



All along the way we met people from overseas enjoying the walk. We had lunch under the giant redwoods near the end of the track and on our return crossed the bridge to the other side of the river. It was along this section of the track we came across a full grown turkey in a distressed condition with a broken wing. As we couldn't do anything for the poor bird, we had to leave it to its fate.



When we were almost back to the carpark our driver noticed that they no longer had the keys to the van which had obviously been dropped at sometime when along the track. Six of us retraced our steps heading back up the river searching at both ends of the track. Eventually we came across two young girls who had found them and were heading in our direction. We thanked the profusely and returned to the other very anxious waiting wanderers.



On the way home we stopped at Tirau for ice creams and returned to Collingwood Street at 3.40pm. Many thanks to our leader Colin and drivers.

Roger

Raglan Ramble

Sunday 20 November

We set off for Raglan under clear skies and sunshine, despite the forecast of rain and heavy thunderstorms. We were there by 9am and all 16 of us were on our way to the beach a short while later, leaving morning tea for a suitable stop on the journey.

We headed down the beach at about high tide, meaning our walking space was impeded a couple of times by tree trunk debris and one live fallen tree and eroded tyre walls where erosion was active and the building above was threatened.

I have not been to Raglan for a number of years and all along the beach it was very clear the sea had been encroaching on the land, with deeply eroded dune cliffs above our heads, and obvious slips on the cliff base. The obstacles were negotiated mostly dry foot and our group gradually split into two. On agreement, 7 of us less energetic souls watched the faster group disappear into the distance while we sat down on a convenient set of steps and had morning tea, then stripped for action as the wind was warm and the day was heating up. There were already a few people in the water, but none of us were keen.

The day was going to the dogs! There were hordes of them all along the beach with their owners, chasing balls, carrying a long stick, full of energy and enthusiasm, but all well behaved. We ambled through them with a stop or two to enjoy the scenery.

Due to erosion, the Surf Club had been re-sited higher up the dune bank and there were new steps down to the beach. At the Surf Club building, we retraced our steps back up the beach against an increasing tide of strollers enjoying the sunshine like us. When we reached our morning tea spot again, we were ready for lunch. The wind had risen and had whipped up the waves and was attracting a group of kite surfers into the harbour. By the time we had finished our lunch there were 20-25 of them zipping up and back on the harbour behind us, often falling in.

We returned along the wider beach, through the puddles left by the retreating tide and found our way back to the van. We all clustered around the domain kiosk and bought ice creams and sat at the tables in the sunshine. By the time we had eaten them, we spied the G2 group coming into sight from the far side of the campground. They joined us for ice creams and then we set off home, still in sunshine.

Halfway home, the rain started coming down in bucketsful! Thankfully it was over by the time we got back.

Thank you to Sue for organising and leading the trip, and to drivers, Dianne and Keith.

Jenny

Raglan Ramble

Sunday 20 November



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