

Trip Programme

Bookings Open

July 17	Mangatangi Trig to Vinings Track	Mon 4 July
July 23	A Journey into the Darkness	Mon 11 July Note: 6.00 pm
July 31	Auckland Coast to Coast	Mon 18 July
August 14	Ngaroma Circuit (Tolley Road)	Mon 1 Aug Note: 6.00 pm
August 28	Waitawheta Tramway	Mon 15 Aug Note: 6.00 pm
September 11	Nikau Cave and Waterfall Walks Waikaretu, Glen Murray area	Mon 29 Aug
September 25	Aongatete to Wairere Falls	Mon 12 Sept
October 9	Pirongia Hihikiwi Lookout & beyond	Mon 26 Sept Note: 6.00 pm
October 13	AGM [see p 9]	[Contact: Margaret]
October 21-24	Labour Weekend	Mon 5 Sept
November 6	Wharawara Rd to Lindemann Rd	Tues 25 Oct
November 20	Karioi Traverse Te Toto Gorge/Bridal Veil Falls	Mon 7 Nov
December 4	Christmas Trip [Katikati]	Mon 31 Oct



Emergency Information

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

Trip Bookings

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

Responsibility

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

[Constitution, Rule 29]

Booking Information

Bookings for trips open two weeks before the trip date **NOT BEFORE 5.30pm**. 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.

Grade 1 Easy – suitable for all-comers.

Grade 2 Medium – not strenuous but including a mixture of terrain. Suitable for those of medium fitness.

Grade 3 For those with a good standard of fitness. Trips often average 6 hours tramping and include significant uphill climbs.

NOTE: All trips leave from **Caro Street** unless otherwise stated.



President's Report

Hi Everyone

There have been some interesting and varied trips this year, details of which are in the write ups. One of the highlights was the Wharepuhunga trip, which occurred on a very hot day when all participants enjoyed walking or swimming in the river; and many requested that this trip become an annual event. The Easter trip was also very positive with some great walks and fun social times. In addition the Antique Road Show was very successful.

The nature of the Club is changing as the average age of members is increasing. It has become uneconomic to have a tramp which is just a grade 3, so whenever possible there will also be a grade 1. The tramps in this bulletin have been carefully planned by the committee, so overall, there is something for everyone.

My term as President comes to an end at the AGM in October. The club is very fortunate that Ann Cloke is willing to stand as the next President. Ann has been a staunch member of the committee for many years and ably held the position of Treasurer for five. If Ann is voted in as President, the Club will be in very good hands.

From time to time the secretary needs to get in touch with Club members and sending emails is the easiest method. Therefore, if a member changes their email address please let the secretary know. Obviously not all members have an email address and therefore, members of the committee try to make phone contact instead. However, occasionally, for various reasons this doesn't happen; so if you are one of those who have been "missed" please accept our apologies.

We are now into winter with shorter days and colder weather: but it is worth checking out both the tramping and social events for the next six months as there is a varied programme to be enjoyed.

Margaret Standing



Coming Up

Sunday 17 July

Mangatangi Trig to Vinings Track

Grades 2 & 1

We will travel to the Southern end of Auckland's Hunua water catchment at Mangatangi via Pokeno and the Kaiua Road to our start point at the river bridge on Workman Rd.

After "boots on" we start off on a wide, mainly gentle up hill on the Ring Track through mixed bush until we take a morning tea stop.

After refreshing the track continues to ease up hill until we gain a good view point before the trig at just 487 metres. If the weather is kind we will have lunch there, if not it will be back in the shelter of the bush.



After lunch we backtrack for fifteen minutes before turning off downhill on the Vining Walkway for the easy exit stroll to the farmland, where we ford a shallow stream (the only one on the tramp) and out to our waiting bus on Kaiua Road.

Grade 1: There are several very nice and easy shorter walks to choose from. We Grade 1's will decide on the day which of these options we will take.

Leaders: Peter S, Grant S, John D, Zoë

Depart: 8.00 am **Return:** 5.00 pm

\$25.00 (members)
\$30.00 (non members)

Bookings: 5.30 pm Monday 4 July

8545478 (Peter or Audrey)

PHOTO COMPETITION: Closes 7 October [see p 8] for details



New Club badges available **NOW**
See Grant [Svendsen]
to purchase yours [\$15]



Plastic name badges @ \$10
also available through Grant

Saturday 23 July**A Journey into the Darkness****Grade 1**

Come along and see what's out there after Dark!

This year's trip takes us down to the Waitomo Caves area. We will retrace our steps of a previous daylight trip last year.



The route follows a good gravel track, boardwalks, steps and cavities. We will travel around in a circle, approximate return 1 hour.

Hot Vegetable Soup, bread, cake, tea and coffee will be served to you on your return to the cars.

What to Bring: A good torch, good footwear, warm and waterproof clothing, and a sense of adventure. Hi visibility jackets or other reflective clothing is optional.

Meet at the Pathlab Carpark opposite Noel Leemings at 4 pm.

We will carpool there and back.

Pay to drivers \$15, Pay to club \$5 for supper

Leaders: Keith & Jennifer Wilkinson and associates.

Bookings: 6.00 pm Monday 11 July

847 4399 (Keith)

Cellphone: afternoon of trip only 027 3666194 (Keith) or 021 1347830 (Jennifer)

Sunday 31 July**Auckland Coast to Coast****Grade 1**

An historical walk across the isthmus of Auckland. The bus will drop us off at the Ferry Buildings in down-town Auckland and we will walk across to Onehunga which will take about 4 hours, passing many Maori and Pakeha historical sites. For those who do not want to do the full walk, you will be able to join the bus at Mt Eden or Cornwall Park.

Leaders: Grant Svendsen & Angus MacDonald

Depart: 8.00 am

Return: 5.30 pm

\$25.00 (members)

\$30.00 (non members)

Bookings: 5.30 pm Monday 18 July

853 3434 (Grant)

[Cell phone for contact on day of tramp only: 0210476518]

Sunday 14 August Ngaroma Circuit (Tolley Road) Grade 2+

This tramp is in the northern section of the Pureora Forest Park. The bus takes us to the end of Tolley Road where there will be time for a quick drink and snack. The track begins with a 15 minute uphill walk across farmland to the Park boundary (good views - weather permitting). We cross the boundary fence and begin a generally downhill meandering track through sometimes dense bush with fine specimens of totara, bush lawyer and supplejack (kareao). Part way down the track we may be lucky to have views of Titiraupunga etc. After about 2 hours we emerge at the old pine plantation (milled about 12 years ago but now regenerated pine). A rambling track through the new pines brings us to the old mill road which we follow northwards until reaching farmland again. An undulating route along the boundary fence followed by farm tracks brings us back to the bus.

Expect to walk about 6 hours

Leaders: Peter Scott and Colin Standing

Depart: 07.30 am **Return:** 5.30 pm \$25(members)
\$30(non-members)

Bookings: 6.00 pm Monday 1 August 8545478 (Peter or Audrey)



Sunday 28 August Waitawheta Tramway Grade 2+

From the carpark at Franklin Road end, the track crosses private farmland adjacent to the Waitawheta river until the boundary of the Kaimai-Mamaku State Forest Park. The track generally follows the Kauri Timber Company tramline on which logs were hauled. Many remnants of the tramway still exist with recent renovations providing a first class image of tramway operation. The track crosses the river 6 times (first major crossing now has a bridge) so expect to have wet feet at some stage. The track continues past the old Waitawheta hut site and on to the old sawmill site (lots of remnants) where the new Waitawheta hut now resides. The return trip is a retrace of steps. This is a relatively easy walk up a spectacular gorge.



Expect to walk about 6½ hours.

Leaders: Sharon Woodward and Colin Standing

Depart: 07.30 am **Return:** 6.00 pm \$25(members)
\$30(non-members)

Bookings: 6.00 pm Monday 15 August 8473080 (Sharon)

September 11**Nikau Cave and Waterfall Walks
Waikaretu, Glen Murray area****Grade 2**

Today's walk has it all, an adventure waiting to be had. We travel to Waikaretu via Rangiriri and our base is the Nikau Café. Here the guide will kit us out with hard hats and a waterproof torch before leading us off to the cave, across farmland and through bush. Once in the cave we walk in a stream bed –wet feet are a certainty. A short way in we have to get onto our hands and knees and crawl along for about 15 metres before entering a large cavern. The rest of the walk is done upright, through some large caverns where stalactites and stalagmites abound. Several times along the way we turn off our torches and admire the glow worms. Should the crawl not be to your liking there is a possibility that some people can go into the cave from the other end, walk in half way and then walk out the same way. We exit the cave via a short wooden stairway



and make our way back to the café. Here you can either purchase a light meal and hot drink or you can eat your packed lunch outside. After lunch we walk up the road a very short distance and cross a bridge into bush. Here we follow a marked track alongside a stream. After a while we leave this track and go up into bush and across

farmland to a waterfall, passing a pa site. Once we have admired the waterfall we retrace our steps back to the café.

Both walks take approximately one and half hours each. The going is easy for most of the day; the grade reflects the cave aspect of the adventure.

Cave requirements: warm clothing, boots/shoes with good tread, windcheater/fleece. Waterproof watches and cameras.

Leaders: Grant Svendsen and Carol Davies

Depart: 8.30 am **Return:** 4.30 pm

\$25 (members)
\$30 (non members)
+ \$35 cave

Bookings open: 5.30 pm Monday 29 August

Carol 8535527

[Emergency number for the day only: Carol 0273190852]

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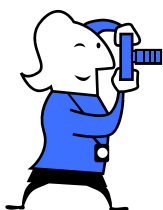


Photo Competition

The club is having a photo competition at this year's AGM, so get your cameras out and enter your photos. We will run the competition to the FMC rules and this will allow us to enter their competition with our winning photos. The categories will be:

1. Landscapes (no people)
2. Hut or camp life
3. Above bush line
4. Below bush line
5. Native Flora & Fauna (no people)
6. Historic (pre 1980)

The members will judge the competition. Photo size to be 6 by 4 mounted on cardboard with your name, date and description. Other than an historic photo the photo must have been taken after 1st Jan 2009. The digital photo file should be between 500 kb and 5 MB.

Please hand your photos to us by Friday 7th October.

Grant Svendsen 8533434 and Carol Davies 8535527

**Sunday 25 September Aongatete to Wairere Falls
Kaimai Ranges**

Grades 3 & 1

Grade 3: The journey starts at the Lodge, climbing the ranges for approx an hour to join the north-south track. We follow this undulating track with several stream crossings until we reach the Wairere Falls Track. At one point we walk above the Kaimai tunnel. From the falls, it is downhill to the coach. A great walk with beautiful bush and views. Approximately a 7 hour walk, so we'll have 2 lunch stops.



Grade 1: Will do the Loop Walk, an area that is home to the "Bring Back the Birds" Restoration project. We should see the seed collecting trays, the deer enclosure and various types of bait stations used by the volunteers. The track has been upgraded and time, including lunch, will be approx. 4 hours. Time permitting, a short walk on the Wairere track to meet the Grade 3's is a possibility.

Leaders: Bernie & Ann Cloke and helpers

Depart: 7.00 am **Return:** 6.30 pm \$25 (members)
\$30 (non members)

Bookings: 5.30 pm Monday 12 September 847 2460 (Ann or Bernie)

**21-24 October
(Labour Weekend)**

**Waimana Valley
(Te Urewera National Park)**

All grades

Come and join us for a fun weekend in this spectacular area not before visited by the club. We will leave Hamilton Friday 21st staying at the Lions Hut (www.lionshut.org.nz) for 3 nights, returning Monday morning/afternoon. The Lions Hut can accommodate 40 (bunks in 3 bunkrooms) and provides kitchen (gas oven and hob + outside bbq), inside w.c's (x3), lounge and dining room with tables and chairs, hot water and showers (marshal wood heater) and Educational room. Mattresses are provided but you will need to bring sleeping bags, pillow etc. You must also provide your own cutlery, plates, mugs, lighting (lodge has only low level solar lighting). As a group it will also be necessary to take

- Drinking water to last at least 1 day
- Paper rubbish bags, toilet paper, cleaning product (mops/brooms etc provided)
- First aid equipment
- Firewood at least ½ wheelbarrow load a day (for hot water & heating)



Tramping: A large range of tracks catering for all grades is available in the local area, some starting from the hut. Other tracks start nearby and some enter the Northern Te Urewera Ecosystem Restoration Project (home to a successfully recovering Kokako population). The area also boasts an increasing kiwi population. Expect to walk on Saturday and Sunday and maybe a short walk (1-2 hours) on Friday afternoon/Monday morning.

Food: Expect to provide all your own food for breakfasts and lunches and maybe shared dinners (shared pot-luck dinners have been a great success on previous occasions). Imbibing fluid should also be provided if required. Note: there are no shops etc in local vicinity.

Costs: Accommodation costs are \$10 pp/night + part of the shared cost of (wood + \$50 booking fee), + transport (shared private vehicles) - distance about 250km (4 to 4 1/2 hours) – expect transport share to be about \$30-\$35 pp.

Further details will be provided nearer to the time.
To ensure your place on this special trip, book early.

Leaders: Colin and Margaret Standing, Sharon Woodward and friends

Bookings: Open: Monday 5 September Close: Friday 30 September

A \$50 non-refundable deposit (to the Treasurer) applies.

8551335 (Colin or Margaret)

Sunday 6 November Wharawhara Rd to Lindemann Rd Grades 3 & 1+

This promises to be a truly excellent six or seven hour springtime tramp in the Eastern Kaimai Ranges. The bus will take us to Katikati via the Ohinemuri Gorge and will deposit us at the gate to Katikati's water treatment plant. Almost still in sight of the bus we need to ford the Wharawhara Stream before we pick up a track that leads us to a junction where we turn right onto the almost manicured New North-South track.

The track which follows the Wharawhara upwards on its true right bank follows the line of an early logging tramway built for kauri extraction. The regenerating bush containing a lot of kauri is quite beautiful and the little streams are as pretty as a picture. Nearing the head of the Wharawhara the stream slides down a well polished rock chute into a superb circular pool surrounded by overhanging ferns. The track then climbs more steeply for an hour onto a plateau where a lookout provides expansive views over the B.O.P. and a great spot for lunch.



Soon after we leave the North-South we will take the side track that will lead us down past the Wairoa Shelter and then to the Lindemann Loop Track junction where we have a choice which leg we will take to walk out to the waiting bus.

Grade 1+: We will follow the same track as the Grade 3's, as far as the "superb circular pool surrounded by overhanging ferns". Then we will return to the start point to rejoin the bus (having had lunch at the pool or on the way back). This means we ford the Wharawhara Stream twice – it is not expected to be a difficult crossing but be prepared for water up to calf-deep.

The bus will then take us to Lindemann Road to collect the Grade 3's, so those of us who wish a little more exercise can walk in to meet them on their way out. Depending on time, weather, and the wishes of the group, we may stop in Katikati on the way to Lindemann Road, for coffee, ice cream, extensive shopping in fashion boutiques etc !

Leaders: Peter Scott, Bernie Cloke and Zoë

Depart 7.30 am Return: 6.30 pm

**\$25.00 (members)
\$30.00 (non members)**

Bookings: 5.30 pm Tuesday 25 October

8239405 (Alison W)

Sunday 20 November**Karioi Traverse
Te Toto Gorge / Bridal Veil Falls****Grades 3 & 1**

The tramp starts at Te Toto Gorge car park on Whaanga Road and climbs steeply along the edge of Te Toto Gorge to provide a very scenic but reasonably strenuous walk to the lookout. From the lookout to the summit of Karioi the track is a little easier but a chain has to be negotiated. From the summit the track descent is easier and shorter and emerges from the bush line to cross private farmland to the bus waiting at the car park off Ruapuke Road. Expect to walk for approx 6 hours.

Grade 1: We will walk through the Wainui Reserve to the Surf Club, along the coast (hopefully the tide will be OK), over the new footbridge to Raglan township. Subject to time factors lunch may be in town or on the beach. We then board the bus for the short drive to Bridal Veil Falls for the short walk to the top of the falls and any other tramping there that may be of interest. We finally proceed to Te Toto Gorge where, those who wish, can walk up to meet the Grade 3 trampers walking to meet our bus.



Leaders: Carol, Keith and Angus

Depart 7.30 am **Return:** 5.30 pm \$25.00 (members)
\$30.00 (non members)

Bookings: 5.30 pm Monday 7 November 8535527 (Carol)

Sunday 4 December**Christmas Trip: Katikati****Grades 2+ & 1**

We'd love to see you come and join us for the last tramp of the year!

The grade 2+'s will cross the Kaimai ranges by walking over the Tuahu track, then on to the end of Sapphire Springs Road, near Katikati. Expected time is 5 hrs.

The grade 1's will travel to Katikati after dropping off the 2+'s and have a range of possibilities, including a loop walk to the large kauri and taking a gentle walk up the benched track to meet the 2+'s.

Then it's all aboard for a short bus trip back to Sapphire Springs hot pools for a cup of tea or coffee and swim (bring your togs). The day will culminate with a delicious BBQ dinner.

Leaders: Grade 2+: Ann and Bernie Cloke
Grade 1: Keith Wilkinson and friends

Depart: 8.00 am **Return:** 8.30 pm (approximate)

Cost: \$25 for bus
\$30 for dinner



Bookings open: Monday 31 October

847 2460 (Ann & Bernie)

Deposit of \$30 payable on booking

The Rain

**Found in Architect's Creek Hut,
Westland National Park**

*It rained and rained and rained
The average fall was well maintained
And when the tracks were simply bogs
it started raining cats & dogs*



*After a drought of half an hour
We had a most refreshing shower
And then most curious thing of all
A gentle rain began to fall!*

*Next day but one was fairly dry
Save for one deluge from the sky
Which wetted the party to the skin
And then, at last, the rain set in.*

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Where we Went

Wharepuhunga: 13 February



Absolutely brilliant is how this tramp could be described. A real adventure where we were more in the river than out, wading through deep areas up to our waists or above, scrambling up the banks to get past difficult areas – then that’s right – back into the river, slowing to eat blackberries growing on the banks and having numerous “swims” along the way! All the while the hills on either side were encroaching and the valley turned into a gorge, making it more picturesque and challenging. Finally we left the river with a scramble up through bush to a farmer’s yard where the bus was waiting. Lots of laughs, shrieks and chatter. Well worth doing again. Thanks go to the leaders who did numerous surveys to clear bush, mark the tracks and find the exit point.

Waiorongamai [Kauri Loop track, Pylons track]: 27 March

This was to have been a walk from Ananui Falls to Waitewheta but the heavy rain experienced during the week prior caused a change to the Kauri loop track through to the Old Toatoa track. A select group of 10 members turned up on the day prepared to experience whatever Mother Nature, and Colin & John, had in store for us.

It turned out to be a great days walking. The first stream crossing was do-able but no hope of keeping dry feet and our first climb of the day had become a waterfall! On our way to the top we saw the remains of some old pylons and we got to enjoy the view over lunch. Coming back along the old North South track wasn’t too bad but then we got bushed as we tried to descend down the Old Toatoa track. The main body of the group exercised great patience and stayed put while the leaders, ably assisted by Grant, scouted around looking for the track. We were soon on our way again but the climb back onto the track was quite arduous due to the steepness of the gully and the denseness of the supple jack.

Along the way we saw some interesting fungi; brown earth stars and bright blue *Enteloma Hochstetteri*/Werewere-Kookako. Various members had collected a wasp sting, a broken pole and a bumped head but we had all enjoyed a great adventure. Thank you to our leaders; Colin and John.

Awanui Falls to Waitawheta: 27 March



An autumnal day with little wind but plenty of sun saw the hardy group of trampers criss-crossing the Waitangaue stream, stopping for refreshments at the clearing. It was then upwards and onwards to the top of the range for the lunch stop. Some went to the head of the Awanui falls for lunch while others stayed at the track junction amidst the beech trees. It was then relatively flat going until reaching the steep downward and joining the Kauri Loop track where we diverted for a few minutes to the large kauri, well worth visiting. An hour or so later we crossed the Waitawheta River and then it was a stroll to the waiting bus. We all knew we had been for a tramp, approx 7 hrs and to sit in the bus and rest our legs was bliss. Well done to the leaders, Grant and Peter, for the huge effort on this long tramp.

Easter in the back of Nowhere: 22-25 April

What can be said about this wonderful weekend at Whio Lodge, Whakahoro, at the junction of the Wanganui and Retaruke Rivers.

Upon arrival on Good Friday and settling in, we meandered about soaking up the “in the back of nowhere” atmosphere, the scenery and rivers, truly amazing. For some a coffee at the café was in order to finish off a lovely afternoon.

Saturday morning it was all up and go with the Grade 3's heading off for a 5 hr walk to Stans Whare then up into the hills and along the ridge line before looping around to make the return trip back to the lodge. The weather was clear so great views were had of the surrounding mountains and the broken landscape that stretched for miles in each direction. They were lucky enough on the way back to see blue duck in the stream. That topped off the day completely. The Grade 1's took a slower paced trip to the Depot where it was hoped the blue duck would be seen. Unfortunately not on this occasion. After lunch a few went to the local domain to view the wood chopping, horse jumping as well as home baking/preserves in the hall. A great country affair and very pleasant. Unfortunately, we all felt too shy to partake in the king of the mountain race. Didn't want to upset the locals by taking the glory.

Saturday evening was PIRATE time. Everyone dressed appropriately and looked amazing. Lots of laughs with walking the plank, a play, and the general shinannigans of wayward pirates. Ahoy me hearties!



Sunday morning with the weather looking a little ominous the Grade 3's took a trip up behind the Lodge which came out on the road about 2 km away. It was a scramble in parts, both going up and down, amazing views and passed

through what was a Maori pa site. The Grade 1's looked at the Retaruke river more closely, looked for fossils on the riverbank and Keith told us of the the history of the river and Lacys bridge. We visited the old homestead, over 100 years old. Sunday afternoon we followed a farm track past the old homestead, winding its way up up into the hills and eventually coming to an airstrip where we headed off on another farm track taking us back down. Again, the countryside was amazing with its ruggedness and many wild goats were seen. Finally, we joined the access road by crossing a new bridge, replacing the old bridge previously owned by the Berrymans, renowned for the ensuing court case when a bee keeper was killed when his vehicle fell through the bridge into the Retaruki river in the 1990's.

On Monday with the weather deteriorating, we wearily packed up and headed home. We all have memories of a great weekend and it was with a sense of sadness that it was over. Many thanks to Morva, Keith and Ann for their organization and especially to Bernie for leading the 3's. Well done all of you.



Booms Flat to Wainora Campsite (Kauaeranga Valley): 8 May

The weather forecast for the day was not promising, which may explain why only nineteen members boarded the bus at Caro St. bound for another Wanderer's Kauaeranga adventure. It transpired however, that the members who did not come missed out on a fine day in the hills!

At the Booms Camp the grade threes alighted leaving the bus to Keith and his group to do their thing for their day in the area. After the farewells it was boots on, a quick drink and off, initially along a vehicle track before starting up an increasingly steep track until we paused for a short drinks stop near the Whangaiterenga junction, then some more ups to Orange Peel Corner (the junction to Crosby's Clearing) and our lunch stop.

From the Corner, progress was mainly undulating through the bush as we followed a narrowing ridge to a great viewpoint quite close to Table Mountain. From there we had a scramble up and over a large rock outcrop to another view point and the start of the long trend down past the Wainora Kauri to find our tramping track had abruptly become a long characterless flight of new wooden stairs and with the stream fords now all bridged until we met up with our grade one friends and the bus for the drive home.



Except for Colin suffering a sprained ankle and the boring track "improvements" it was an excellent day and very well lead by a patient Sharon.

Peter S

Henderson Tramline Loop Track: 22 May

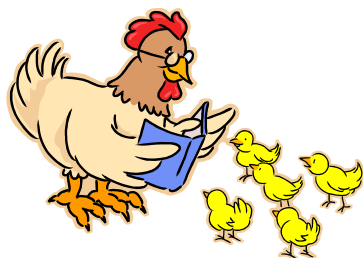
An early, foggy start to the day saw 22 trampers head for the Kaimai ranges and after the leaders checked the river levels, we started as scheduled on the Tramline track gently rising to the North South track. A still, quiet day in the bush with whiffs of fog now and then. Upon reaching the North South track we headed northwards and surprisingly the track was in pretty good order, not water logged as is usually the case during the winter months. We basked in the sun for lunch at the Hurunui Hut and retraced our steps for about half an hour to head down the northern branch of the Tramway line. A few areas of greasy clay saw one tramper frequently practicing his bush ballet skills. The streams were no problem to cross and its thanks to Bernie, Morva and Ann for a great day out – thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Te Akatea Farm, Glen Massey: 5 June

After a 15 min. drive from Ngaruawahia to the very end of Kereru Road at Glen Massey 17 trampers arrived on Te Akatea farm (property of John and Marcella Hodgson). The sunshine welcomed us with the promise of an open farm walk in the morning and a bit of a slog up to the trig (Pongawhakatiki, 309 m). We all enjoyed a pleasantly undulating nearly 3-hour farm walk with animals and some muddy bits before returning to base for lunch. We did enjoy the presence of bellbirds and a very fat glossy kereru (wood pigeon) around our lunch spot (back at the cars).

In the afternoon we headed off up to the Trig over more animal tracks and up the ridges to a great 360-view out over Raglan Harbour, Huntly power station, Karioi, Maungatautari, and Pirongia/Kakepuku. Those who did not want to go the whole distance found another high point nearby and no doubt got some great views from there too.



The free-range chooks and fluffy chicks were a welcome distraction and conclusion to a good day out with Kathy our very able guide. Thank you once again for the opportunity to explore yet another little bit of Aotearoa with fellow trampers.

Gail Currie

