



Wanderers Tramping Club

Bulletin January – April 2014

Trip Programme

Trip Date

Booking Information

January 19	Te Aroha	Just turn up at the car park 8.30 am
February 9	Wharepunga	Peter or Audrey (854 5478) Open 28 January
February 23	Karakariki Loop	(Carol (853 5527) Open 10 February
March 9	Rangitoto Island	Margaret & Colin (855 1335) standings@xtra.co.nz Open 3 February
March 23	Pylons/Old Toatoa Track	Open 10 March Colin or Margaret 855 1335
April 6	Te Tuhi Track	Marion (827 5150) Open 24 March
April 18-21	Whirinaki	Lyn (856 8071 or 0211507079) l.kingsbury@xtra.co.nz Open now

Quote:

**“There is no such thing as bad weather,
only inappropriate clothing.”**
Sir Rannulph Fiennes

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.

If you check the programme you will see that each walk or tramp is graded 1, 2 or 3. These "gradings" are defined here:

Grade 1 (easy): A tramp on fairly level formed tracks, duration 4+ hours and where there may be the option of returning by the same track.

Grade 2 (moderate): A tramp of 5-6 hours, often on less well-formed tracks, or on off-track routes; can involve river crossings, or short sections of steep terrain.

Grade 3 (fit): Can be over 6 hours duration, tramping on either formed tracks or off-track routes, river crossings, steep terrain, snow conditions.

You will enjoy a tramp better if your level of fitness isn't of concern to you.

NOTE: Until further notice all trips will leave from the **Wintec student carpark, cnr Collingwood & Tristram Streets.**

President's Ponderings

Hi everyone to my first “ponderings” as president. Well the year has nearly come to an end, but the tramping is still in full swing. We are having a small break over December/January commencing back on 19th January 2014. Highlights; February 9th “wet legs”; March 9th a trip to Rangitoto Island and Easter weekend we are off to Whirinaki to name a few. Remember to book in early.

I have to say that the recent Waitomo Natural Tunnel trip was “awesome” and this is now in my top 5 trips with the club. In keeping with this theme of trips, I would like to let you know the behind the scenes preparation that goes into making your Sunday tramps enjoyable and safe.

The trip committee meets 5-7 times a year. We look at exploring tramping options for 3-4 months at a time. Each tramp is proposed and discussed in depth. From here a leader usually volunteers, and along with some other members, will undertake a survey. This involves everything from travel (can a bus get to the start/end points and turn around safely), timing (how long is the travel, time frames for the tramp etc), walking the tramp, working out lunch stops, alternative plans if there are possible hazards on the day (such as rivers too high), and convenience stops. So a BIG thank you to all those who help behind the scenes.

On behalf of the committee I wish you all a safe and merry Christmas and New Year. Remember “it is better to be late than not arrive at all”.

Dianne

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**New Club badges still available @ \$15.00
See John Davies**

Plastic name badges @ \$10: also through John



Coming Up

Sunday 19 January

Te Aroha

All grades

Let's ease back into tramping for the first outing of the New Year at Te Aroha. The day will have a different format to our usual tramps. We will car pool from our usual parking spot on the Cnr Collingwood/Tristram Streets. There are many tramps to do at Te Aroha – up to the top and back – Horsemans Track – Te Tui track; to name a few. Groups will head off on the various walks, some culminating in a swim at the hot pools or a latte in town later in the day. So come and enjoy.

Depart: 8.30 am

Return: Approx 5.00 pm

Cost: \$5 for club; \$10 for drivers

No requirement to book in – just arrive at the car park at 8.30 am.

Any queries, phone Ann on 847 2460 (email: summerfields@vodafone.co.nz)

Sunday 2 February

Wharepunga Stream Ramble

Grade 2

[A classic Wanderers summer stream tramp – revisited.]

The day begins from a bridge on the Ngaroma road and follows a delightful little river upstream towards its distant source in the Pureora Forest Park. Thanks to the forested catchment, the stream is remarkably clear as it flows over its gravelled bed and the water temperature will be comfortable for the crossing required by the stream's meanders. As we progress the surrounding scenery changes from grazing land to scrub and pine plantations, but soon after it becomes enclosed by beautiful bush from all sides. The river travel continues on past inviting clear pools; until reluctantly, we will need to leave our stream for the only climb of the day, up through the bush to farm paddocks and our waiting transport!

Bring your usual tramping gear, a change of clothes and footwear while a towel for the swimmers could be an idea. The actual walk will take approximately six hours although the number of swims enjoyed could exceed that estimate!

Leaders: Peter Scott, John Davies & “the co-opted”

Depart: 7.30 am **Return:** 6.00 pm approx. \$25.00 (members)
\$30.00 (non members)

Bookings: 5.30 pm Tuesday 28 January 854 5478 (Peter or Audrey)

Sunday 23 February

Karakariki Loop

Grades 3 & 1

Grade 3: A 20 minute walk from the Karakariki Road end sees us entering the bush proper. We follow a small river up a picturesque valley until reaching a lovely pool beneath a waterfall. Skirting up and around the falls we begin walking a series of ridges, interrupted occasionally by pebbly-bottomed streams. Ninety percent of this tramp is unmarked – not a bush bash as such – more the following of faint game trails through quite dense podocarp. A 20 minute splash down an idyllic stream completes the loop. [The stream is not deep.] At one point we have to sidle quite high above the river. This section is not long but has to be done twice. Despite handholds some confidence of height is required. Expect to walk between 6-7 hours.

Grade 1: From the car park, follow the stream through small areas of bush and open grassy areas to cross two suspension bridges to reach a small waterfall. Fossils can be found in the rocks and stream here, if you look. Continue along the track to cross a stream and climb steeply up to a bush covered ridge. The track ends at the boundary fence. Turn to retrace steps. Expect to walk 2 to 3 hours.

Leaders: Carol Davies & Ron Crosby; Ann Cloke & helpers

Depart: 8.00 am **Return:** 5.30 pm \$25.00 (members)
\$30.00 (non members)

Bookings: 5.30 pm Monday 10 February 853 5527 (Carol)

**Latest “Safety in the Mountains” booklet now on sale
[only \$5.00].**

To purchase your copy contact John Davies.

Sunday 9 March**Rangitoto Island****All grades**

The club will be leaving at 7.00 am sharp to catch the 9.15 am ferry from the Ferry Terminal at 99 Quay Street, Auckland. The travel time is approximately 25 minutes and the return boat leaves from Rangitoto Wharf at 2.15 pm which gives us more than 4 hours to look around the Island. There is a wide choice of walks to suit all levels including one to the Summit.

Check out the Fullers website or the Doc website on Rangitoto Island summit walks: Rangitoto Island walking tracks for more details. The Island is now pest free so make sure your footwear and clothing are free of soil and seeds and your food is in rodent-proof containers not plastic bags. It is important to have enough food and water for the day; as well as suitable clothing and footwear, in case of rain, cold or very hot weather.

Cost and booking details:

The bus fare will be \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members.

The price of the boat is \$29 for an adult and \$26 for a senior: children are \$14.50 each.

The full cost for the day needs to be paid in advance.

Bookings open on Monday 3 February and close on 17 February. All money has to be in by Thursday 20 February and any bookings without subsequent payment will be invalid.

Please book with Margaret and Colin Standing.

Phone: 855 1335 Email: standings@xtra.co.nz



Sunday 23 March**Waiorongamai****Grade 3****Kauri Loop track, Pylons track, Old North-South track, Old Toatoa track**

From the Waiorongamai car park we follow the Low Level Loop track to the tunnel and down to the old Bendigo Battery site where we cross the Waiorongamai stream. Then begins an often steep climb for about 1 hour, bringing us to the Kauri Grove and a short break. We continue following the Pylons track (some remnants of a line of 469 pylons built in 1913 to carry power to the Victoria Battery at Waikino can still be seen) through stunted bush and gorse (don't forget your gaiters) to have lunch at the top (great views if fine). We then follow the Old North-South track a few hundred metres before diverting down the Old Toatoa track (long disused) to pick up the Kauri Loop track near the remnants of the old Waikato Tramping Club Hut. The track continues to re-cross the Waiorongamai stream and returns to the carpark along the Low Level Loop track.

Expect to walk about 6½ –7 hours.

Leaders: Colin Standing and Peter Scott

Depart: 7.30 am **Return:** 6.00 pm

\$25(members)
\$30 (non-members)

Bookings: 6.00 pm Monday 10 March

855 1335 (Colin or Margaret)



Sunday 6 April**Te Tuhi Track
[in the Kaimai Ranges]****Grades 2½ & 1½**

We travel to Te Tuhi via Morrinsville. Morning tea will be before commencing our tramp. There is a farmland walk up into the bush on the side of the Kaimais. This is quite steep in places with great views over the Waikato, but the 1½ grade group will take time and enjoy. When we reach the bush line a rest will be taken.

The *grade 2½ group* will keep going to the North-South Kaimai route and on through a good track to Wairere Falls where lunch will be partaken. From there we will retrace our steps to the car park at Te Tuhi.

The *grade 1½ group* will pick up packs and wander up the hill for about half an hour onto the North-South track. From here the track is easy going to the junction where they will have lunch, then about-turn to walk to the car park for afternoon tea.

Leaders: Morva Blackie & Marion France; Roger McGirr & friends

Depart: 7.30 am **Return:** approx 5.00 pm \$25(members)
\$30 (non-members)

Bookings: 5.30 pm Monday 24 March 827 5150 (Marion)



Our web site - www.wandererstramping.org.nz

Do visit our web site occasionally to see what is new. See upcoming trips and events (good when you lose the bulletin!), read about the trips you missed, see yourself in the photo shows and laugh at your fellow member's antics in the movies. Other pages that we can consider are a feedback page, or a page for artistic creations. Think what you would like – it is **your** site.

And if you take photos send them to the webmaster with a brief description – instructions are on the trip report page. Of course, do consider writing up your experiences of trips – we can have many reports of the same trip.

Fri-Mon 18-21 April**Fantastic Whirinaki****All grades**

Whirinaki Forest Park is about 100 km south east of Rotorua on SH 38. Accommodation is at DOC Whirinaki Recreation Camp; 5 km from Minginui Village (past Murupara).

This adventure will be a first for many of the Wanderers – we had to book the camp more than a year in advance to secure the accommodation.

Accommodation/facilities

- Sleeps 30 in three cabins of 10 bunks each; wood heaters in all cabins.
- Lighting by candle (or head torch).
- Large separate cooking shelter with wood BBQ, big tables with lots of bench space for own cookers.
- Flush toilets. Solar showers now.

Whirinaki has amazingly tall trees, stunning tawa podocarp forest and a grove of pure totara. There is a wide range of habitats including large populations of North Island kaka, red and yellow crowned kakariki, robins and kereru. The lagoon is alive with tiny green frogs. The tracks are easy and well graded with walks from 15 minutes to 6 hours. Come and see the spectacular Te Whaiti nui a toi canyon, Arahaki Lagoon, Waterfall, Loop River and Lookout tracks (360° views and cell phone coverage). This is a really special place with lots of original untouched forest and amazing birdsong. This was one of NZ's most famous conservation battle grounds where people actively fought to save a magnificent podocarp forest.

Book early to be sure of a place.

Transport: carpooling. **Accommodation:** \$20 pp **Travel:** \$50 pp.

No refunds after closing date of 11 April 2014

Leaders: Lyn, Keith, & Grant

Bookings to Lyn: 856 8071 or 0211507079 l.kingsbury@xtra.co.nz



Where we Went

Waihaha Hut, Pureora: 21 July

This trip involved a fairly long bus ride, of about 2 hours but it was well worth the travel. It was a beautiful, fairly cold winter's day with clear blue skies and from the bus could be seen the distant mountains with snow covering the tops. There was a sense of anticipation even before we left the bus. This was fulfilled when there were glimpses of Ngauruhoe, also snow-capped, early on in the day. The group began by walking alongside the sparkling Pikopiko stream until the swing bridge was reached. Here there was time for contemplation as only one person at a time was allowed to cross. The track continued with very few ups and downs or difficulties through a pleasant rimu forest and then beech woodland to the Waihaha Hut. Here lunch was enjoyed in the sun, before the return trip. Altogether the group walked for about 6 hours but it was a really pleasant day – one to remember.

Thanks to the leaders for facilitating such a memorable trip.

Margaret

Lindemann Road, Katikati: 4 August

Twenty-two trampers set off on a wonderful tramp on a beautiful day – every now and then an ocean view presented itself. It was a feel-good day with a great place for lunch and a mostly downhill tramp to the bus. For those who could look down at their feet while moving through the bush there were tiny orchids in bloom. The kauri grove was a great sight and well worth going to – the beautiful bark and colour of the trunks was superb. They looked so healthy growing in their grove.

The river crossing taught some of us that it is sensible to go carefully over slippery rocks – or watch out for surprises!

All in all a great day with thanks to Bernie and Ann.

Morva

PS. Our bus broke down!

Quote:

“You need special shoes for hiking – and a bit of a special soul as well.” *Emme Woodhull-Bäche*

Tauranga and Mt Maunganui: 18 August

We had an early spring day for this urban tramp. An enthusiastic group of 27 headed over the hill leaving Hamilton at 8am. On arrival there was time for a quick drink and snack before we all ventured around the Daisy Hardwick Boardwalk. It took us about two hours to get around the estuary. Competing with cyclists, runners, triathletes, other individuals and families also out enjoying the summer rays, we finished our stroll back at our starting point and enjoyed a leisurely lunch. We then travelled over to the Mount where groups departed for destinations known (and unknown). Some headed around the Mount, some went up to the summit and others ventured along the beach. A quick dip in the hot pools, ice-cream or coffee (the choices were plentiful) completed the day and we were well rested on our journey back home.

Thank you Keith and Grant for organising this day.

She who walks slowly

Maungatautiri: 1 September

Grade 2: After meeting a little “Go” bus at 8 am we all got to Maungatautiri by 9 am. Morva proceeded to lead us up into the enclosure and we had a bit of creative off track adventure until we had to settle for the metal track – the bush was as always beautiful. At first we heard birdsong but later on it was pretty quiet except for one wood pigeon. The day was pleasantly warm once we got into the bush and we got a lovely clear view of snow clad Mt Taranaki and some other great glimpses of the Waikato area. After this I thought it would be all downhill as we had already been to the trig, but no such luck. Up and down we went to where we would be meeting the bus. We enjoyed the Information Centre and a conservation DVD while we waited for the “ones” to come round the mountain with the bus.

A lovely day had by all and back to about 4 pm – time for some chores at home. Thanks Morva and Marion.



Coast to Coast Walkway: 15 September

This very interesting walk of 16 km from the Manukau to the Waitemata Harbour in Auckland replaced the advertised tramp. There is enough here to keep you occupied for a week. Information on the historic sites along the way is available if you want to explore it at your leisure.

The landscape is varied from well-kept homes and gardens to the harbour and city views from two of Auckland's volcanoes – One Tree Hill (Maungakiekie) and Mt Eden (Maungawhau), historic buildings and the bustling city. Monuments and plaques remind us of the past. One heritage building is Acacia Lodge in the One Tree Hill Domain (gift of Logan Campbell to the city). This is the oldest wooden lodge in Auckland. Cornwall Park offers avenues lined by huge trees to walk, run or sit under. It was a vibrant place to be. On Maungawhau, the near perfect crater is tempting to go into, but signs say you can't go there. You just have to make do with the 360 degree views from the top!! The last section took us through the Auckland Domain, past the University, through Albert Park to the CBD and a welcome ice-cream/coffee.

Thanks to Colin and Margaret for guiding us to the bus.

Tapapakanga Regional Park: 13 October

Grade 1+: The walk started off from the beach area which had lovely views of the Coromandel, with the water being several different colours of blue in the sunshine. The day was not too hot and a nice breeze gave the walkers a nice respite from getting too hot in the sun. We walked along the beach to the fresh water stream which was a little too deep for us to cross, so we backtracked and followed the path winding along the coast with lovely views of the water, fishermen and others out enjoying the day.

We had lunch at the hut which gave us million dollar views of the Coromandel and then there was a bit of a climb up a hill through farmland which had lambs and sheep to the top which gave us spectacular 360 views of the area and lucky for us the rain held off, so we could enjoy the view. It was downhill from there and back to the car park.

As this was my first walk with the club, it was a lovely introduction to the group and to a grade 1+ walk. I will be back for another walk soon.

Labour Weekend: 25-28 October

After a stormy night with high winds and rain we wondered what the tramps would be like this weekend. But Saturday morning greeted us with birdsong, sun, blue skies and a calm breeze.

Grade 1+: We decided to walk the Sunrise track as far as we saw fit. The track meandered around the mountain, slowly up and up, and we walked through a beautiful beech forest with some massive tall beech trees in sheltered places; learning there are two kinds of beech trees in NZ (red beech and black beech). This depends on the form of their leaves. A couple of trees had fallen across the track during the storm the previous night, and families coming down the mountain told us about the wild night they had experienced in the Sunrise hut. We all enjoyed the variety of trees, some covered with the flowering clematis and the sunshine and vista of higher mountains around us. We heard birds singing, and found mistletoe near the track which was covered with netting to keep the opossum out so the native birds could feast on the nectar from the red flowers. After lunch we did the Swamp track which was a delight with lots of moss underfoot, great variety of trees and ferns and beautiful views of the sun sparkling through the trees. We saw flowering clematis, mistletoe and heard lots of birdsong. The track was easy and took us an hour to walk and enjoy.

The next day our plan was to walk the Yeoman track to Ellis hut (named after Jack Ellis who hid in the hut for 9 months after committing a murder). Obviously a good hiding place because we looked for a crossing of the river but it was too deep and swift to be safe to cross. We returned to the Swamp track and walked this again with a lunch break at the TripleX hut.

Anne Minkhorst

Grade 3: First Day. After breakfast 13 hardy souls set off, sharing transport, to walk to Sunrise Hut. The car park itself afforded a toilet, information panels and our first grand view of the day looking back over the way we had driven in. The well-formed track was a continuous zigzag upwards but at an easy gradient. We passed by some well protected native mistletoe before the gradient sharpened. We reached the hut in 2½ hours and as soon as we stepped out of the bush the wind just about blew us away. The hut was robust, as was the wood shed, but the dunny moved with the wind. Most of us braved the wind to take in the view behind the hut. It was 13 degrees in the shelter of the hut but the wind chill probably halved that.

We sat in the sun and enjoyed a leisurely lunch. Part way down some continued the way they had come up and some exited via another track. We returned to camp together and had time for a shower and a wine before enjoying a delicious evening meal.

Second Day. Sixteen set off from the woolshed (700 m) on Kerry's cousin's 4000 acre farm – up, up and over paddocks, past sheep and lambs and battling the wind heading for the Hinerua Hut.

A well deserved break was held in the shelter of a horopito grove. We crossed from private land into the Reserve and walked about an hour over moss and mud in increasing precipitation to the welcome and bright sight of the orange hued Hinerua Hut (1050m). There we cosied up with one man and his dog and they shared some of our lunches! The reverse trek with wind and slope assistance was done in about half the time – the fast fresh air meant any cobwebs were well and truly blown away. The lingering rain made for a magnificent display of rainbows, we were even able to look down upon them. So 16 returned to the woolshed invigorated in mind and body,

Thanks to Kerry and the Rowbottom family for enabling access to this wonderful place.

Waitomo Natural Tunnel: 10 November

Thirty-one members and guests came on this grade 2 trip over farm lands, through limestone country and down a bush-clad stream.

When Brian, our leader pointed to a hill at the start and said “We go up there” I looked at the bush-covered tops and thought “Well at least it is not as high as our Ruahine climbs”. I can't say I was disappointed to find that we went nowhere near the bush line, but instead made our way over the ridges from one valley to another. After all, this was a grade 2 trip. The skies were clear, and a breeze was just sufficient to stop us overheating on the steady walk up farm tracks. Lunch was in stock-free grass under a matai tree just before entering the tunnel. I was expecting a crawl through a hole, but the roof was at least 10 metres above us.

After the tunnel we made our way on an indistinct track down the left bank of the stream that had made the tunnel. A long hour's walk saw us on to another farm, with an interesting Karst landscape. Brian's local knowledge saw us take just the right track to get to the one gap in the barbed wire fence, so we could trot down the hill to the Mangapohue natural bridge walk and the road.

I congratulate Brian on an excellent choice of trip, and great leadership skills.

A Wanderers tradition

The Christmas cake as made by children of Newstead Country Preschool, and enjoyed by members of the Wanderers Tramping Club:

500 grams each of Raisins, Sultanas and Currants

125 grams each of Cherries, Mixed peel and Blanched almonds

(We just use 1½ lge packets mixed fruit because we don't use nuts with the children)

250 grams each Butter and Sugar

250-300 grams Flour

6 eggs

1tsp each of cinnamon and ground ginger

½ tsp each of cloves, ground nutmeg, vanilla, almond essence, and lemon essence.

2 tsp grated orange rind.

4 tbsp orange juice.

Line a square 8 inch or round 9 inch tin with grease proof paper

Cream butter and sugar

Mix in all spices, essences and orange rind

Add eggs one at a time, beat well.

Combine 1½ cups of flour with fruit (to coat it prior to adding it to mixture)

Add fruit, juice and rest of flour to mixture

Turn into tin; make a hollow in the centre

Bake 150 degrees for 2 hours and then 120 degrees for 1-2 hours.

Enjoy



The following is an extract from a pamphlet compiled and produced by the NZ Mountain Safety Council, Wellington (1976).

Ten Commandments for Survival

1. Panic not – for thy life depends on staying calm.
2. Neither worry – for it reapeth no reward and bringeth no help.
3. Take thy time in deciding what to do, using thy head before thy legs.
4. Take thy confidence from those who have faced similar problems before you – follow their good example.
5. Protect thy health and thy strength, and a ripe old age shall be yours.
6. Regard Nature as thy friend, drawing thy wants from Her bountiful store.
7. Nourish thy body, neglecting not thy need for water – though thy food supply may be meagre.
8. Waste not thy possessions – or regret thy lack thereof.
9. Employ thy talents wisely to aid the return to civilisation; remember thy rescuers, with pillars of smoke by day.
10. Be of cheerful countenance, though thy face be unwashed and thy beard unshaven.

