



## **Wanderers Tramping Club**

**Bulletin January – April 2014**

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

# Trip Programme

<u>Trip Date</u>		<u>Booking Information</u>
May 4	Ruapane & Mahaukura track	Marion (827 5150) Open 22 April
May 18	McBrinns Creek / Maratoto Valley	849 0940 (Lorna) Open 5 May
May 22 [Thursday]	Dinner at Windows	Margaret or Colin (855 1335) Open 5 May: Close 19 May
June 1	Queen's Birthday Hakarimatas (options)	Just turn up at the car park 8.30 am
June 15	Matakana Island	Lyn (856 8071) Open 3 June
June 29	Henderson tramline/ Hurunui hut	Ann or Bernie (847 2460) Open 16 June
July 13	Mt William	853 2980 (Dianne) Open 30 June
July 16 [Wednesday]	Social	Queries to Pam (856 5922)
July 27	Whareotetarakakeho/Otawa trigs	Colin or Margaret (855 1335) <a href="mailto:standings@xtra.co.nz">standings@xtra.co.nz</a> Open 14 July
August 10	Kaitarakihi/Devcich Kauri	Peter or Audrey (854 5478) Monday 28 July
August 24	Rainbow Trail	Lyn (856 8071) Open 11 August

## Emergency Information

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

## Trip Bookings

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

## Responsibility

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

[Constitution, Rule 29]

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## *Booking Information*

**Bookings for trips** open two weeks before the trip date **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

The tramping year is in full swing and the weather gods have been kind. For me I loved the Wharepuhanga stream trip in February which was “awesome” and we have another lot of great tramps to look forward to in this bulletin. Last ponderings I touched on what happens behind the scenes for our Sunday tramps. This time I would like to ask for your help.

Every 3-4 months the club has a planning meeting, where we look at future trips and planning etc. I know there are several of you in the club who belong to other clubs or groups and tramp on other days, so I would like you to get in touch with me or any other committee member and tell us about where you have been, especially if it was interesting or just a great place you went.

Sometimes it can get a bit hard to plan ahead so if you have been somewhere or heard of somewhere, we as a club could consider please let us know. There is a wealth of experience and knowledge out there.

*Dianne*

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### ***Reminder: What to take in your pack***

It has been noted (especially when someone takes a tumble into a river) that some trampers are obviously not taking enough equipment with them. The following is the minimum equipment required for day trips.

Thermal layer (polypropylene, polyester or wool)

Insulating layer of fleece or wool

Water/wind proof parka

Shorts or long johns / over trousers in cool or wet weather

Spare clothing

Torch

Sunscreen

Boots or strong shoes

First aid kit

Lunch, snacks and water bottle

[Don't forget to include Emergency Information form]

Extra clothing to be left on the bus

Extra footwear and plastic bag for boots [no dirty boots on the bus]

Pack cover and liner to keep everything dry.





# Coming Up

**Sunday 4 May**

**Ruapane and beyond /  
Mahaukura Track**

**Grades 2+ & 1+**

The *grade 2+* group will leave from the Lodge car park on Pirongia to walk up the Mangakara Walk and onto the Ruapane track to the trig where both morning tea and the view can be enjoyed. Leaving the trig the group will wander along the track to the splendid view from Tirohanga. Following lunch on the rock the group will return to meet the other party back at the bus. [Expect to walk approx 5 hours on a lovely autumn day!]

*Grade 1+*: The Mahaukura track takes us through tawa forest, starting with a gradual slope for some time and after that a steeper climb. Although we will not be going onto the lookout you can be guaranteed a good view for lunch. After that it's all downhill back to the bus.

**Leaders:** Alison (Williams) & Audrey; Marion & Morva

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

**Bookings:** 5.30 pm Tuesday 22 April      827 5150 (Marion)



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

**Plastic name badges @ \$10: also through John**

**Photos for website:** Do keep these coming but please give details on which trip they were taken. Thanks.

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

**Sunday 18 May    McBrinns Creek - Maratoto Valley****All grades****[A mixed bag – something for everyone]**

We will start the day by exploring the mining relics around the McBrinns Creek area. Keith has been in the area many years ago when it was a loop walk at the end but due to slips we have two in-out walks up creeks to explore. We do criss cross the creek so you may get wet feet and make sure you bring your torch as there are a couple of adits (tunnels) to enter. There is one steep climb up but it is only short.



After lunch you can chose to either continue to explore mining relics at the end of the Maratoto road, relating to the old gold and silver claims, with Keith. Or if you want a workout take on Maratoto Rock with Lorna. If you don't want to go to the very top the view is worth the climb to the saddle.

The end of Maratoto Road is falling into disrepair with vegetation encroaching. Let's do a community service as we should have time to do some trimming back. So please bring secateurs, loppers, hedge trimmers and gloves, many hands will make a huge difference.

**Leaders:** Lorna & Keith

**Depart:** 7.30 am    **Return:** 5.00 pm approx    \$25.00 (members)  
\$30 (non members)

**Bookings:** 5.30 pm Monday 5 May    849 0940 (Lorna)

***Quote:***

“Getting to the top is optional. Getting down is mandatory.”

Ed Viesturs

*No Shortcuts to the Top: Climbing the World's 14 Highest Peaks*

## **Dinner at *Windows* on Thursday 22 May**

There are 25 places available for dinner at *Windows* on Avalon Drive at 6.30 pm.

*Windows* is a Student Training Restaurant at *Wintec* which offers superb food, with excellent service in a setting that has ambience but at moderate prices. For example, on an *a la carte* dinner menu: an entrée costs a maximum of \$6, a main \$19.50 and a dessert \$5.50. There is no BYO but the price of wine is also reasonable.

The menu changes frequently, so details of the relevant menu will be sent as an email nearer the time.

This is an opportunity to dress up and share an evening of good food and wine with your friends from the Wanderers.

- ❖ **Bookings are with Margaret or Colin Standing: 855 1335**  
**Phone only – no emails please**
- ❖ **Bookings open on Monday 5 May and close on Monday 19 May**
- ❖ **This event is restricted to members only**

*Numbers are limited so avoid disappointment and book early.*



*No deposit is necessary – just pay for your own meal at the time.*

Check out the website: [windows@wintec.ac.nz](mailto:windows@wintec.ac.nz)





**Bookings:** 5.30 pm Tuesday 3 June

856 8071 (Lyn)

**Sunday 29 June****North South Track to Hurunui Hut  
(Kaimais)****Grade 2+**

We take the Hamilton – Tauranga highway till reaching the top of the Kaimais where we leave the bus at the parking area opposite the spring. We head in a northerly direction on the North South Track towards the Henderson Tramway Loop Track. This section of the track rises some 150 m so expect a steady uphill near the beginning, after which the track is slightly undulating. We continue on the North South Track to reach Hurunui Hut for lunch. We'll retrace our steps and head along the Henderson Tramway Loop Track (southern track) to meet the bus. As this is a winter trip, leaders on the day may alter the trip to suit conditions.

**Leaders:** Ann, Bernie & Morva**Depart:** 7.30 am **Return:** 5.30 pm\$25.00 (members)  
\$30.00 (non members)**Bookings:** 5.30 pm Monday 16 June

847 2460 (Ann &amp; Bernie)



**Sunday 13 July****Mt William Walkway  
[A ramble]****Grade 1+**

The day starts off with a morning tea stop (extra money for coffee/muffin) and then onto Mt William. We are going to commence our ramble from the Puketutu Road end of the walkway. This is on private farm land and will lead us on a steady climb and in some places short steep bits, so take your time onto the Puketutu trig (376 m). There are lots of great 360 degree views. From here you retrace some of the walk and follow fence markers over several great stiles along the ridgeline to Mt William trig (369 m). We are aiming to have lunch at Mt William trig – weather dependent. From here it is downhill into the scenic reserve, then out onto farm land and to the waiting transport.

For those who want to ramble a bit more, then once you are over the last stile onto farm land heading for our transport there is a sign to the Kauri grove just down the fence and over another stile which will add approx 1 hour. Total ramble 3-4 hours. Please be aware this walk is on open ridgeline so be prepared for any weather conditions as there is no shelter. Bring extra money for a Pokeno stop.

**Leaders:** Dianne, Keith & friends

**Depart:** 8.00 am    **Return:** approx 5.00 pm    \$25.00 (members)  
\$30.00 (non members)

**Bookings:** 5.30 pm Monday 30 June    853 2980 (Dianne)

**Latest “Safety in the Mountains” booklets still available  
[only \$5.00].**

**To purchase your copy contact John Davies.**

**Quote:**

“The long distance hiker, a breed set apart,  
From the likes of the usual pack.  
He’ll shoulder his gear, be hittin’ the trail;

Long gone, long 'fore he'll be back.”

M.J. Eberhart

## Wanderers' Social Evening: Wednesday 16 July

**Venue:** Celebrating Age Hall, Victoria Street

**Time:** 7.30 to 9.30 pm

**Refreshments:** Supper will be served after the presentations by the speakers

**Cost:** A gold coin donation

### **Program**

We are fortunate to have two speakers!

- Colin from *Trek and Travel* will showcase some of the latest gear available in his shop.
- David Ellis from *Earth, Sea and Sky* will talk about his company and share some of the highlights of his own adventures

### **Details of David Ellis – Head Honcho: taken from the Earth, Sea and Sky website.**



David has over thirty years of experience designing and selling outdoor clothing and equipment. He is involved in the sourcing of fabric, designs, sales and marketing. He spends hours talking about climbing with little time to actually participate. His goal is to reverse this while he still has full use of his hip and knee joints. David has climbed and tramped over most of New Zealand. His favourite mountain is Mt Aspiring – a mountain climbed by his grandfather, father and two youngest sons. His second home is the Solu Khumbu region in Nepal where he has visited regularly since 1972.

Further details contact either:

- Pam Cornforth: 856 5922
- Margaret Standing: 855 1335





and psychology in the world.”

*Paul Dudley White*

# *Where we Went*

## **Christmas Trip: 8 December**

We were warned! At the outset Colin reminded us that we should know not to trust what was printed. He could have told us to expect the unexpected. In fact, we had at least three changes of plan in the morning session, for reasons beyond the control of our leaders, such as the new bus being too long to negotiate the road to Dickey Flat and slips in the Karangahake Gorge making part of the track impassable. However, it didn't matter. We all had a splendid day out.

We **did** do the Windows part of the walk and enjoyed its narrow tunnels and spectacular views over the Waitawheta Gorge. And we had a pleasant ramble beside Gilmour Lake, a product of Waihi's gold mining, previously unknown to most of us, and along Mill Stream and the pretty Ohinemuri River. We weren't able to climb Black Hill, but did catch a glimpse of the cyanide towers at its foot, no doubt a reason for the track's closure.

Next it was on to a delicious lunch at Waitete Restaurant in Waihi, organised with Germanic efficiency. Our choices of meal had been recorded on the bus from Hamilton, and that certainly sped up the whole process of getting the food to the table for almost all of us. We were able to linger over a last drink and still arrive in good time for our return train trip to Waikino, which brought back memories of the trains of our youth for some of us! Not that then we were then able to ride in an open "cattle" car in order to admire the views and wave at friendly passing motorists, until a sudden heavy shower drove us inside to experience the hard old slatted wood seats again!

Finally it was back in the bus to Karangahake for the traditional boil-up and copious slices of the wonderful Christmas cake made by staff and children of Newstead Country Preschool (see recipe in the January–April 2014 bulletin). We were back in Hamilton around 5.30 pm, well-satisfied with a great day out in excellent company. Thank you Margaret, Colin and Keith for arranging it for us!

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## **Karakariki Loop: 23 February**

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Fifteen “tough as old boots” trampers let themselves to be led astray over the hills and gullies out past Te Kowhai. There was some “old” track, uncharted course and more “old” track to hopefully make a loop. To be fair we knew Carol, Ron and Grant had been out numerous times on surveys to find the missing link from the ridge to the stream, linking up the two bits they did know and had marked with pretty pink and yellow tapes. It was a great day of adventure; we saw rata flowers at eye level and some really special orchids. With trial and error, a sort of bush bash, some modern technology and some good old fashioned bush craft, we made it.

We had two swim opportunities. Ray had a snooze at the first water hole and gave his phone a dip at the second. We had numerous food and water stops and rest breaks and all came home happy and tired and grateful to our leaders for giving us such a great day out.

Another memorable adventure had by the 3's.

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### **Kauri Loop via pylon track and ToaToa (Grade 3): 23 March Tui Mine: (Grade 1)**

*Grade 3:* Well, off we went, all 16 of us; everyone full of banter and enthusiasm. Everyone managed the first stream crossing, then it was up, up and more up. We took a welcome break at the Pylon junction, turning right on a surprisingly well defined track, considering its lack of maintenance, and we climbed even more, until reaching the North South Track. We lunched at this spot and admired the views over the greater Waikato. We then uprooted ourselves and turned north, through stunted bush, and connected with the old ToaToa track. Colin had to be on his game here; actually, he had the stealth of Sherlock Holmes, the way he stuck to the trail, with the aid of his trusty GPS and a pair of loppers. Completely unfazed and unflappable, he brought us out at the precise spot, then downhill for a change, three river crossings and an hour's walk out. By then all previous chatter had abated as tired limbs were apparent. Thanks for the workout guys, Colin, Peter, and John.

*Ron Crosby*

*Grade 1:* The weather gods were looking good on the 14 members that went to Te Aroha to walk up via the road to the Tui Mine. Keith gave us the history on what has been done as part of the restoration and we had some photos to look at as well. We all managed to get to level 3 of the mine, then we diverted to a mine entrance along an unused “path” in the bush to our lunch spot. Wow; the views of Te Aroha and Waikato valley were fantastic but you needed to watch out for vertigo. Once fortified, we back tracked to the bush access for the Tui track to make our way downhill through some interesting bush and passing the odd relic. At the junction some went with Keith back to

our transport. The others continued down the track where a couple of hardy souls got wet in a stream pool and then onto meet the transport at the other end. Once all together we ended up at the Domain for either a hot swim or a coffee. Thanks to Ann, Keith, Marion and friends for a great day.

*She who loves hot water*

Congratulations to members Ray [our webmaster]  
and Carolyn on their recent marriage.



## **Trek 'n' Travel**

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