

Wanderers Tramping Club Inc



BULLETIN

February – April 2025

www.wandererstramping.org.nz

Wanderers Tramping Club Inc

New club postal address : c/- 8 Camberley Way, Huntington, Hamilton, 3210

Bank account number 03-0306-0208429-000 - Always put your name as a reference

Club Committee 2024/2025

President/Treasurer: Dianne Lee 027 272 6617
leedi444@gmail.com

Social Convener: Pam Cornforth 027 278 0690
pcornforth@xtra.co.nz

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

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

New Member Co-ordinator: TBA

Committee
Ron Clarke
Glenys Morrow
Jennifer Wilkinson
Kathy Potter
Angus MacDonald

Trip Programme

TRIP DATE	TRIP DETAILS	BOOKINGS
2 February	Beach Walk Raglan	No booking required Be at Collingwood Street carpark ready to leave by 8am
16 February	Hongi's Track Rotorua	Dianne Lee Phone/Txt : 027 272 6617 Email : leedi444@gmail.com Open : Monday 3 February
2 March	Te Aroha Wetland Te Aroha	Margaret Standing Phone/Txt : 021 253 1105 Email : standings@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 17 February
16 March	Te Kauri Kawhia	Carol Phone/Txt : 027 3190852 Email : grandmacarol@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 3 March
18 March	Trip Planning Meeting	All welcome – 7.30pm St Albans Church Comries Road, Chartwell
30 March	Sainsbury Forest Park	Pam Cornforth Phone/Txt : 027 278 0690 Email : pcornforth@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 17 March
13 April	Papamoa Hills Cultural Park + Swim Papamoa	Dianne Lee Phone/Txt : 027 272 6617 Email : leedi444@gmail.com Open : Monday 31 March
27 April	Ruakuri/Natural Bridge/Marakopa Falls Waitomo	Dianne Lee Phone/Txt : 027 272 6617 Email : leedi444@gmail.com Open : Monday 14 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

Welcome to the start of our 2025 tramping year and our first Bulletin.

We had a great weekend away in November 2024 for the Fabulous Socks Weekend. 14 people plus two friends who were our hosts at the Taupo Ski Club. YES, the socks were "Fabulous". Unfortunately, the gondola was having maintenance done before the summer season.

We ended the year with a trip to Katikati for the wetlands walk and lunch at the local Talisman Hotel.

We finally held our AGM in November 2024 and we have a couple of new people on the committee as well as the regulars, so welcome to you all. I will continue to need the clubs support and help to keep it running, so don't be shy if I ask for help, you won't be alone.

This bulletin we are starting a week later and is a mix of places starting with a beach walk in Raglan and covering areas such as Te Aroha, Kawhia, Rotorua, Pirongia, Papamoa and Waitomo with a couple of swims included.

Remember we are in our summer tramps so be prepared – slip, slap, slop – bring a hat and lots of water/fluids to keep hydrated - no matter what the forecast looks like.

Important Information

I have taken over the day-to-day accounts, so if you are paying by internet for a Sunday tramp, please pay by the Monday night following so I can balance the accounts. I will be checking and following up to keep the records straight.

Membership subscriptions are due NOW, so if you have not paid it needs to be paid by 31 January 2025 otherwise you are not a financial member and will be expected to pay the non-member costs for each trip you attend, plus you will not receive the bulletins in the future.

The website is being kept up to date on the home page so you can see when and what the next tramp will be and any changes. Also, a copy of each bulletin will be on this site.

Thanks for your support and I hope to see you on the track sometime soon.

*Cheers
Dianne*

GEAR LIST

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



Optional Extras:

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





Where We Are Going

Sunday 2 February

Raglan

Grade 1

Raglan Beach Ramble

For the first trip of the year, we are going to the beach so meet at our usual car park at the Community Living Trust on Collingwood Street. Just turn up as we are going to carpool. Recommend you bring a change of clothes, shoes and your togs as we might have time for a quick swim if the weather is good plus our usual ice cream.

We will park at the Raglan campground and walk on the beach as far as we want, this could depend on tides of course. There are toilets and a café nearby. I think last time we stopped and had hot chips at the campground shop as a treat.

Remember to *slip, slop slap*. Bring and wear sun protection - including a hat.

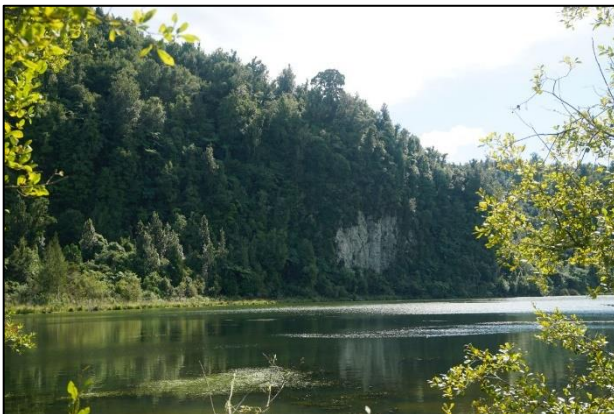
Depart:	8am
Return:	4pm approx
Cost:	\$15.00 as we will be carpooling
Leaders:	Dianne and friends
Bookings:	Not required - just turn up
	Contact Dianne
	Phone/Txt 027 272 6617
	Email leedi444@gmail.com

Sunday 16 February**Rotorua****Grade 1+****Hongi's Track – Rotorua**

We will make our way to Lake Rotoiti, near Rotorua and have morning tea by the lake before we start. There are toilets available. We last did this trip in 2022.

From here will start the track which goes through the bush between lakes Rotoiti and Rotoehu. It was originally known as Te Ara-o-Hinehopu (the pathway of Hinehopu). A famous ancestress, Hinehopu, used it to travel between her two homes. Midway along the track she met her future husband, Pikiāo III. The spot is now marked by a tree known as the Wishing Tree. The name 'Hongi's Track' recalls the time in 1823 when Hongi Hika and his army of Ngāpuhi warriors hauled their canoes along the track, enabling them to attack the Te Arawa people on Mokoia Island in Lake Rotorua.

This is a lovely walk through great bush and bird life. We will be walking for approx. 3-4 hours on an easy, well-formed track. Hopefully, if time allows a swim in Lake Rotoiti and coffee/ice cream on the way home.



Depart: 7.30am

Return: 5pm approx

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

Leaders: Dianne and friends

Bookings: Open Monday 3 February @ 6pm
Contact Dianne
Phone/Txt 027 272 6617
Email leedi444@gmail.com

Sunday 2 March

Te Aroha

Grade 1+

Te Aroha Wetlands plus a Surprise

We will make our way to Spur Street (by the sports clubrooms at Boyd Park), Te Aroha where we will park and have morning tea. This wetland is also known as the Howarth Memorial Wetlands and is approx. 1-1.5h (3.2km), easy walk mostly flat on track/boardwalk with bird watching and great views of the wetlands. There is an additional walk which will be a surprise. Coffee/ice cream on way home.



Depart:	8am	
Return:	4-5pm approx	
Cost:	\$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members)	
Leaders:	Roger McGirr and friends	
Bookings:	Open Contact Phone/Txt Email	Monday 17 February @ 6pm Margaret Standing 021 253 1105 standings@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 16 March**Kawhia****Grades 1+ & 2****Devlin's Route, McKenzie Route, Fort Route, Sheep Track, Waikuku Track, Warikanui Route, Manuka Track**

These tramps are in the Te Kauri Scenic reserve on the road to Kawhia.

Grade 1+

The tramp is made up of several short tracks of varied terrain. We will start on the Manuka track, across the road from the Te Kauri Junior Naturalist Lodge. This takes us down steps to beautiful bush and a level track alongside the Waikuku Stream. We will stop in an open camping area for morning tea before a gradual climb takes us to the Fort Route. This track is level for some time and then goes down to the stream where we will have lunch. We head back up to the ridge and along the McKenzie track to the vans. Expect to walk 4 - 5 hours.

Grade 2

Depending upon the weather, may elect to walk all of these tracks (about 9 km). Starting on Devlin's Route, descending through amazing bush and limestone bluffs followed by an ascent up the McKenzie Route to near Highway 31, with possible views to Kawhia. There may be an option to walk and return along the Fort track (which will put a further 1.5 hours on the total walk).

Carrying on through some farmland we then descend the pretty Sheep Track followed by a walk alongside the Waikuku Track leading to the Warikanui Route. After crossing a swing bridge, a steady climb up the Manuka Track will return us to the vans. Expect to walk 6 to 9 km.

Depart:	8am	
Return:	5pm approx	
Cost:	\$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members)	
Leaders:	Carol Davies, Alison Orchard and Ron Clarke	
Bookings:	Open	Monday 3 March @ 6pm
	Contact	Carol
	Phone/Txt	027 319 0852
	Email	grandmacarol@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 30 March**Pirongia****Grade 1+****Sainsbury Reserve Walk – Pirongia**

This Reserve is on Sainsbury Road, Pirongia and is a mountain bike, horse riding activity and walking area. The Reserve is on a working farm and is a network of tracks on a large farm block. So please be aware of horses as walkers are not allowed on the mountain bike tracks and also leave gates how you find them.

Walking approx. 3h with coffee ice cream on way home.



Depart: 8am

Return: 3pm approx

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

Leaders: Roger McGirr, John Sheat and friends

Bookings: Open Monday 17 March @ 6pm
Contact Pam Cornforth
Phone/Txt 027 278 0690
Email pcornforth@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 13 April**Papamoa****Grade 1+/2****Papamoa Hills Cultural Heritage Regional Park + Welcome Bay hot swim**

We will make our way to the Regional Park on Popular Lane to the cultural heritage car park which has a new toilet block and heritage signage, where we will have morning tea.



This park is in the Western Bay of Plenty near Te Puke and is a 182ha property which has on it the most significant historical and archaeological landscapes in Aotearoa which has several iwis dating back to 1350 and the arrival of the Arawa canoe.

The summit is 224m above sea level and offers sweeping views of the Bay of Plenty coastline, well worth the climb. There are several well-formed gravel tracks through the park plus numerous archaeological features and ancient pa sites sign posted.

Please note this is an operational farm and it is a “hill” where the track can be steep in places with 80m of steps in one area, but doable so take your time. This park is very popular with the locals. It is open to the elements so wind, rain and sun, be prepared and take your time as the views are worth it. Bring lots of fluids.



From here we are making our way to the hot pools at Welcome Bay for a well-deserved soak, there is coffee and ice cream available for those not partaking of the waters. The Swim is \$10 for gold card or \$15 for adults. Bring your togs and change of clothes.

Depart: 7.30am

Return: 5.30pm approx

Cost: \$25.00 (members) + optional swim \$10-15
\$30.00 (non-members) + optional swim \$10-15

Leaders: Pam and friends

Bookings: Open Monday 31 March @ 6pm
Contact Pam Cornforth
Phone/Txt 027 278 0690
Email pcornforth@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 27 April**Waitomo****G1+****Ruakuri Bush, Mangapohue Natural Bridge, Marakopa Falls**

We have three walk options today and depending on time we might do them all or just a couple.

Ruakuri Bush Walk - is a real highlight of the Waitomo area. It is a spectacular loop walk through a forested gorge, past natural sculpted cliffs and under low limestone arches. The track follows a stream and then winds up around a network of limestone bluffs and outcrops before descending to the Ruakuri Natural Bridge viewing platform. The walk is an easy 1.6km.

The Mangapohue Natural Bridge Walk – The track is boardwalk through an impressive limestone gorge that takes you underneath a natural bridge formed from two rock arches. The 17m high limestone arch which spans the stream is all that remains of an ancient cave system. The walk is easy 1km.

Marakopa Falls Walk - The Falls are 35m high and often described as the most beautiful and impressive in the country. Here the Marokopa River cascades over the undercut greywacke basement rock. A beautiful forest walk approx. 1km.

Depart:	8am	
Return:	5pm approx	
Cost:	\$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members)	
Leaders:	Glenys and friends	
Bookings:	Open	Monday 14 April @ 6pm
	Contact	Dianne
	Phone/Txt	027 272 6617
	Email	leedi444@gmail.com

Where We Went



Western Okataina Walkway

Sunday 28 July

Grade 1+

After driving along Millar Road to the start of the track we unloaded the vehicles and farewelled the Grade 3's. It was a cold cloudy morning with no breeze and hardly a ripple on the lake we had passed by. We were ready for our morning tea, especially a hot drink from the thermos.

Soon it was time to follow the others up the track into the bush. The sign told us it was 17km to the Okataina Outdoor Education Centre. That is where the others were heading but we would not be going that far. Our plan was to walk part of the track, then return in time to relocate the vehicles and meet the others when they completed their walk.

The wide undulating track was in good condition with very little mud and just a few windfalls to step over. We were walking through a lush forest of rewarewa, puketea, putaputaweta and tree ferns of all sizes. We spotted many kinds of fungi growing from fallen trees. The track opened out into a clearing which we thought may have originally been the site of a timber mill. Fantails were flitting about and in places we noted pig rootings. On re-entering the bush we continued on our gradual climb until eventually we could see dappled sunshine and the view across a gully to hills beyond. The level mossy bank alongside the track was a good place for a lunch stop and it was in the sun.

We calculated that it was now time to return as there was quite long drive to Okataina. On our way down the track we startled a pigeon which disappeared with a flapping of wings. We had covered a total distance of 11km.

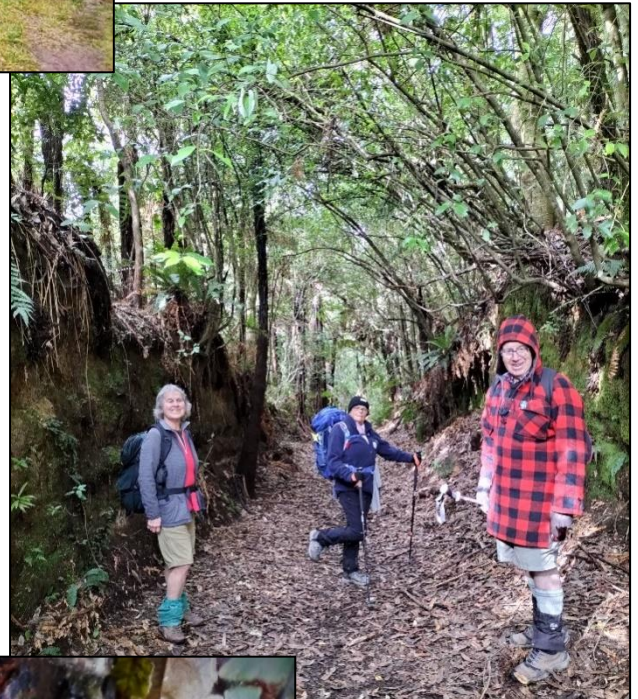
It was a pleasant drive to the Okataina Outdoor Education Centre where we chatted to the couple who ran the lodge along with their dog Shakespeare and it was not long before the trampers came into sight.

Thank you Dianne for a most enjoyable day.

Barbara

Western Okataina Walkway

Sunday 28 July



Rainbow Mountain

Sunday 11 August

Waiotapu Lake Okaro and Maunga Kakaramea – Grade 2

It was a beautiful day, very cold to start with, but fresh and crisp. A great day for tramping. Eleven of us loaded into the van, full of high expectations for a pleasant day out.

On arrival we had the usual morning tea and got into our boots and warm gear, then headed off for the first part of the day's activities. We all walked around Lake Okaro which is the smallest of the Rotorua Lakes. The path was a bit up and down, but not really difficult. The sun was shining and it was a very pleasant experience. Everyone walked at their own pace. We would have liked to have gone on, and strolled around the Crater Lake Walk, but unfortunately it was inaccessible.

Next, we undertook the challenge of walking to the top of Rainbow Mountain. The Wanderers have done this walk before, but they started from the other side. Fortunately, we were still able to see patches of the brightly, coloured rocks which led to the name. Two of our group opted to walk just part of the way at their own pace.

The rest of us had our sights set on reaching the top. It was a bit of a climb, but not too strenuous and we were rewarded by good views at the summit and equally good views, at a couple of 'lookouts', during the climb. We all descended, fair quicker than we had ascended, which is not surprising, given the nature of the terrain.

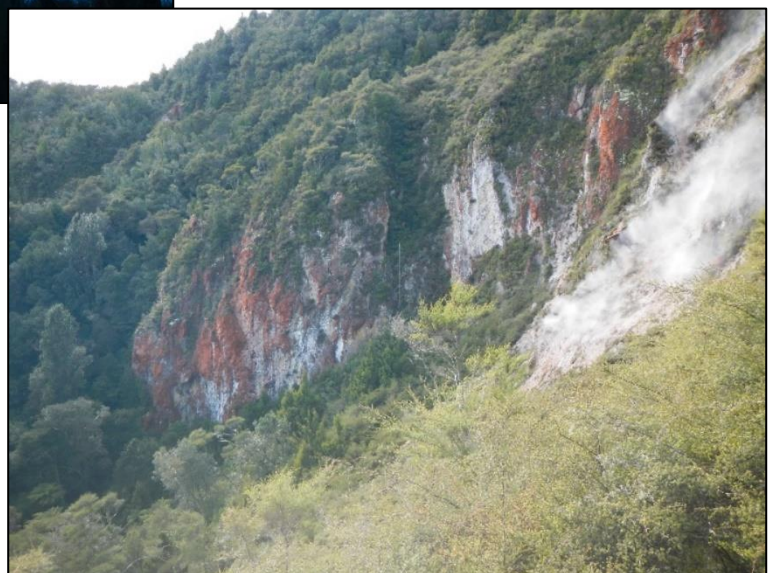
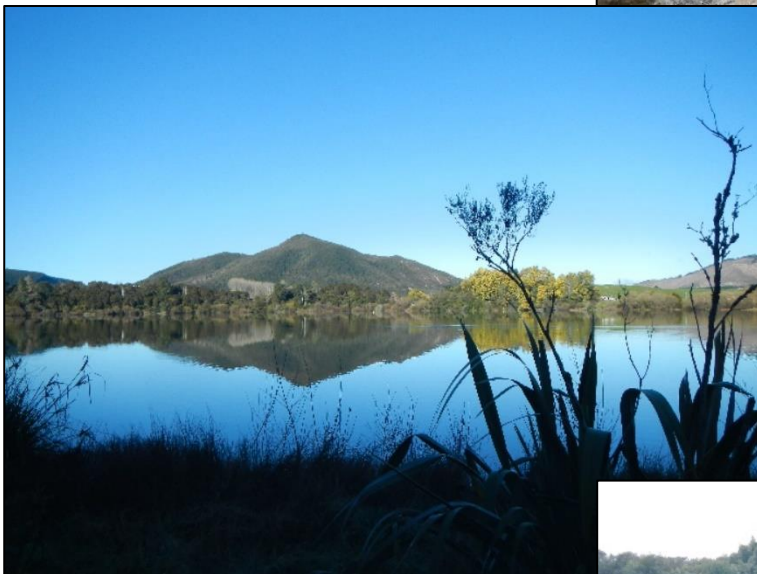
Mission accomplished we then headed for the Waikite Valley Thermal Pools. They were glorious, nice and clean, excellent facilities – and 'hot', 'hot' 'hot'. Almost all of the group enjoyed a good soak and then a coffee, or a large ice cream! Happy and content to sleep or chat, on the return journey. We arrived in Hamilton just as the sun was setting. What a great day.

Thanks to our drivers and organisers. Thanks, also to all who attended, I personally, enjoyed the company of those who came. It was a relaxed, happy, day.

Margaret

Rainbow Mountain

Sunday 11 August



Wairoa Loop

Hunua

Sunday 24 August

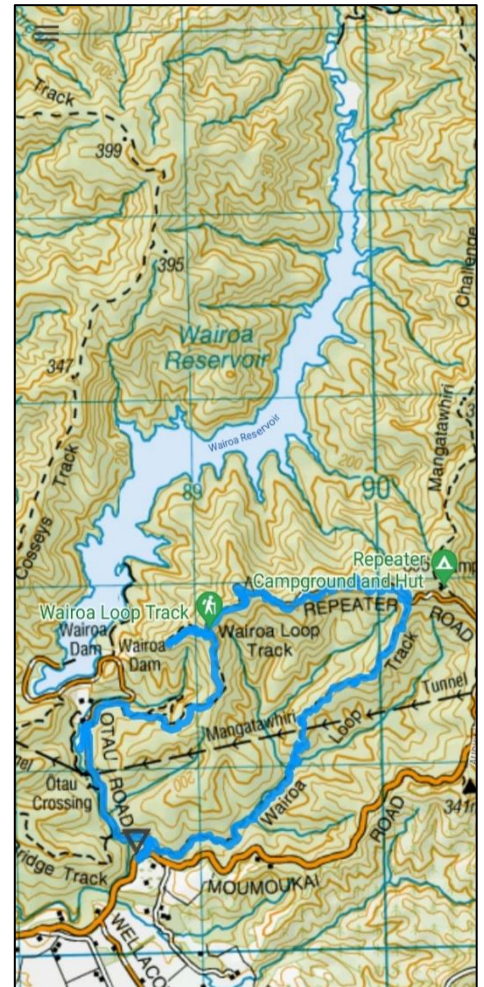
Grade 2's

Due to a new bridge being constructed at Hunua Falls the Cossey Dam tramp was changed to the Wairoa Loop. A van load headed off from Hamilton via Mercer to the Wairoa Dam carpark, which was full, so we parked in a good spot at the corner of the road.

A quick morning tea and we were off. Due to Kauri Die-back we had to disinfect our boots at the cleaning station before getting onto the track. It was then a gradual climb up to the ridgeline on a very well maintained surface and a lot of steps.

We stopped at a lookout with a good view over the reservoir noting that even during winter it was not full. We then carried on until we got to the Repeater Tower and found a nice spot for lunch, sitting on a handily placed pack of timber.

It was then down-hill, passing another lookout, then onto an access road and back to the van where the G1's were waiting for us. We then headed home stopping at Pokeno for an ice cream.



Thank you to Carol and Ron for getting us safely there and back.

Grant



McBrinn's Creek

Sunday 8 September

Grade 2's

No vans were available this day, so 14 Wanderers bundled into three cars and we were off with the weather forecast showing a fine day ahead.

Arriving at the concrete ford stream crossing up the Maratoto Road, the cars turned carefully to point facing homeward. After a short break for tea, we broke into two groups, one going up McBrinn's Creek, the other to walk up the Maratoto Road and then onwards.

The McBrinn's group of six walkers set off and soon reached the old quarry, with the burned-out skeleton of an old fridge and the remains of several cows in an advanced state of decomposition. Having seen enough of those, we walked on, the track narrow at times with slips and steep falls into the creek. Lots of ups and downs through the damp bush with a little scramble now and again. Crossing the stream, (nobody got wet feet I think) we reached a nice waterfall where we decided to have a little break.

After our break we found the track to the right of the waterfall and continued on for a while. Then, backtracking we retraced our steps (the cows were still there) and had lunch near the concrete crossing and the cars with the other group who had returned shortly before. Following, we adjourned to Paeroa for coffee and extras.

A nice short walk in good bush. Thanks to our leader Barbara

Colin



Nikau Loop Track – Pirongia

22 September

We ended up going on a different tramp than planned due to conditions of the track in Whatawhata. We made our way in three cars to the Kaniwhaniwha car park at the start of the Nikau Loop Track on Pirongia. The weather was looking good, we had quick cuppa then headed on our way across the road. The first part of the track is a farm road and always seems longer than it is following the stream, it is still boring but lots of conversation was going on around me to keep my mind off the distance.

Once we got into the bush we followed the stream where they have undertaken quite a bit of new planting. Entering the forest and the nikau palms were magnificent along with the tree ferns. It looked like wind and bad weather had been through recently with lots of debris around. We followed the loop and asked if anyone wanted to go the caves, some said yes, so they made their way with Colin leading to complete the caves while the rest of us had a sit down and snack.

The cavers came back exhilarated at having walked right through looking a bit wet and muddy with big smiles. We continued onto the campground and had a spot of lunch, the drizzle stopped just at the right time. Once fed and watered we headed back to the vehicle down the boring farm track. We had a great day even though I grumbled. We stopped for ice cream and coffee in Whatawhata Village.

Happy Trumper

Nikau Loop Track – Pirongia

Sunday 22 September



Lindemanns Loop Track

Sunday 3 November

It was a beautiful day with six of us setting off to do the Lindemann Loop Track. We stopped occasionally to admire the native orchids that were in bloom and dotted along the track. Thick bush greeted us, with amazing rock formations, waterfall and streams to be viewed along the way.

The track had many roots, damp vegetation and slippery stones in the stream crossings that required careful negotiation at times. A few gentle tumbles were had by some of us. In places you could see where they were improving the track with metal laid and wooden structures. Birds sang and we managed to spot a few as they flew around. We stopped to admire the old kauri dam which is now just remnants, an amazing structure so far up into the bush.

The steep track and steps down were a bit challenging after a long hike but we were pleased we were going down and not going up! We did the tramp in good time, just over 11 kms. A bit weary but we all thoroughly enjoyed the day out.

The reward was an ice cream at Waihi. Thank you to leader Ron.

Dot

Summerhill Papamoa Park With hot swim at Welcome Bay

Sunday 17 November

The planned Kawhia trip was postponed due to access issues so we headed to the Tauranga area.

Summerhill is privately owned and a not-for-profit charity and is a mountain bike park which is popular with locals walking and biking. It is an active farm and covers around 126 hectares. I had been here a month ago and boy things have changed, they were logging the area we were planning on walking through, so a quick plan B was made.

We headed down hill and into what was left of the forest and found one of the original tracks from last time. So off we went, just following my nose and adlibbing as we went. We eventually made it back to the top of a hill and again I recognised where we were, so we weren't geographically embarrassed.

We headed back to the vehicle and those who wanted an additional walk headed for the summit across the paddocks. They had lunch at the top and the rest of us stayed and had lunch in the carpark area. The views were amazing across the Bay of Plenty.

Once everyone was back, we headed for a much-earned hot swim, ice cream and coffee at Welcome Bay. Thanks, everyone for letting me lead you a stray.

Very Happy Wanderer

RUAPEHU WEEKEND WALKS

Tama Lakes

Sunday 23 November

Seven set off in Gary's steed to walk to and fro the Tama Lakes, about a 17km trek. After about an hour we reached the top of the Taranaki Falls where we rested awhile, refreshed ourselves and some spent a penny in the flash new toilets. Six of us continued onto the Tama Lakes on well-formed and maintained tracks, wooden walkways, steps - up and up and then down, down; bridges and even included a couple of small water crossings.

Everywhere (apart from the blue and white of the sky) was brown/reddish hues and any plants were small and low growing which is typical of high areas where you need to be tough to survive. We were lucky the day was pretty mild with a bit of wind and not too cloudy so that we got good views of the mountains - Ngauruhoe and Ruapehu. We made it to the lower Tama Lake which was far enough and enjoyed lunch and a breather looking down to the lake which has its own flock of seagulls.

We ventured back the same way with weary feet but determination. There weren't many birds obvious though the grey warbler (riroriro) was its usual vociferous self, a Tomtit (mirmiro) was seen flittingly, and some of us thought we saw an elusive fern bird (matata) dashing past. We saw lots of people from all over the world doing what we were doing and I hope they enjoyed the friendly Aotearoa inspired salutations from some of our group!

The sight of the Chateau in the distance was welcome and six weary but happy and satisfied walkers returned to the lodge for an evening of food and fun. Thanks to the group for the company and inspiration to keep walking well into your 70's, and thanks to Barbara for keeping an eye on us all.

Annemarie

Silica Rapids

Sunday 24 November

15 people started the walk from the carpark halfway down the Bruce Road on a cold, clear, slightly windy day. It was about 9.15am when we started after waiting for the van to return having placed the other van at the visitor's centre for the return trip.

The group was divided in two with Barabara leading the front group and Dianne the back group. The track followed the tussock and a few gullies before reaching the Rapids about 10.15am. We stopped frequently along the way to admire the mountain views and take photos. On the way there were several interesting information signs covering lava flows and history of the area.

The front group had morning tea at the springs and spent 30 minutes or so exploring the springs. The track followed the stream and soon the landscape changed from tussock to an old beech forest. There were signs covering the different trees and shrubs which made the walk more interesting.

Around 11.15am we arrived at the track junction for Whakapapiti Hut and the round the mountain track.

From here we walked through another small tussock area with boardwalks and then the final leg back into the bush, through another track junction for the track which leads back to the road below where the golf club used to be and at 12.15 we reached the road which was the end of the walk. We then had lunch and waited for the other group before heading back up the mountain to our lodge.

Just before the last bridge we ran into the Hamilton Monday Trampers girls walking group who were heading off on a five day walk around Ruapehu.

An easy, enjoyable walk.

Dave

Taranaki Falls – Ruapehu

We left the Ski Lodge at 8.30am from the Top of The Bruce in the two vans and parked near the start of the tracks, just down from the visitors' centre. The Tama Lake group set off briskly as they would be walking for longer than us.

Our group of 10 people, including our hosts Vicki and Scott took off slowly as we ambled up to the start of the joint track. We decided to do the loop anticlockwise and this meant climbing down the falls, not up. The club last did this walk pre-Covid times and a lot of maintenance has been done with a few more steps and well-formed diverse track to walk on. It is still challenging in places and good footwear is a must.

The weather was overcast with slight drizzle and a bit of a nippy wind but we were dressed for it. There were plenty of people from other countries, including NZ, on the track, some prepared and some not which was a bit concerning.

We followed tussock, lava rocks, alpine shrub lands, heather and even saw a native daisy. Ngauruhoe and Ruapehu were looking fabulous, both still had a bit of snow on them. We passed the junction to Tama Lakes and carried on towards the falls which we could hear in the distance. The water was clear and view quite spectacular over the valley below. We made our way down the 100 steps to the bottom of the falls and because of the recent rain they were amazing. The drop is 20m and in summer people swim in the base of the falls pool. Not us today!!

We stopped just for bite of lunch and a quick look around as we started to get a bit cold. Then on the homeward part of the track through forests of beach trees following and crossing over the Wairere Stream which cascades down through the valley.

Finally, we saw our starting point and went off course a little up-hill through tundra and tussock back to the van. We headed back to the lodge for a well-earned cuppa tea and hot shower. We walked approx. 9km and took a leisurely 3-4 hours.

Majestic Trumper

Christmas Trip

Katikati

Sunday 2 December

For the last tramp of the year we took a van and one car to the Katikati Wetland Walk which started close to the town centre and followed the river out to the Tauranga Harbour.

The whole area is designated as a wildlife reserve and we spotted a number of uncommon birds including fern birds and spoonbills.

The weather was against us and it rained steadily and was very humid. When we returned to the van to change into our 'glad rags' for lunch we had a lot of laughs stripping off our wet clothes while trying not to look too conspicuous in our underwear.

We then drove a short distance to the Tailisman Hotel where we all enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch before heading home. Many thanks to Dianne, Pam, Barbara and Ron for a really lovely day.

Roger

TREK'N'TRAVEL

GEAR LIST FOR MULTI-DAY WALKS

FOR TREKKING

- Backpack / Pack Liner
- Sleeping Bag / Liner
- Towel
- Water Bottles / Bladder
- Sun Hat
- Quick Dry T-shirt / Shorts / Trousers
- Thermal Top / Pants / Leggings
- Wool or Fleece Hat / Gloves
- Mid Layer / Fleece Jacket
- Raincoat / Waterproof Overtrousers
- Boots / Trekking Shoes / Socks

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