

Wanderers Tramping Club Inc



BULLETIN

August - December 2022

www.wandererstramping.org.nz

Wanderers Tramping Club Inc

PO Box 61, Hamilton 3240

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

Club Committee 2021/2022

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| President: | Dianne Lee | 027 272 6617 |
| First Aid/Social | leedi444@gmail.com | |
| Past President | | |
| Transport Co-Ordinator: | Keith Wilkinson | 07 847 4399 |
| Treasurer: | Colin Standing standings@xtra.co.nz | 07 855 1335 |
| Webmaster: | Ray Hoare info@wandererstramping.org.nz | 021 170 0713 |
| Social Convener : | Pam Cornforth pcornforth@xtra.co.nz | 07 856 5922 |
| Secretary | Sue Grocock rongee@xtra.co.nz | 027 440 2448 |
| Bulletin Editor: | Brenda Petersen brenda22269@hotmail.com | 0273 117 372 |
| Merchandise : | Ron Clarke | 07 846 5183 |
| New Member Co-ordinator : | Jenny West tsew.ynnej@gmail.com | 07 856 3140 |

Trip Programme

| TRIP DATE | TRIP DETAILS | BOOKING INFORMATION |
|--|---|---|
| 28 August | Ruapane Variation Base Track / Nikau Walk Pirongia | Dianne Lee Phone/Txt : 027 272 6617 Email : leedi444@gmail.com Open : Monday 15 August @ 6pm |
| 11 September | Ngongotaha Summit Rotorua | Jenny West Phone/Txt : 027 611 0550 Email : tsew.yneej@gmail.com Monday 29 August @ 6pm |
| 25 September | Tect Park Tauranga | Colin Standing Phone : 07 855 1335 Txt : 027 326 6886 Email : standings@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 12 September |
| 9 October | Tui Mine Loop Pylon Short Loop Te Aroha | Keith Wilkinson Phone : 07 847 4399 Txt : 027 366 6194 Monday 26 September @ 6pm |
| TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER | AGM | Comries Road Church Hall 7.30pm |
| 23 October (Labour Weekend) | Kakepuku Te Awamutu | Carol Davies Phone/Txt : 027 319 0852 Not required – just turn up |
| 6 November | Waihou Walkway Putaruru | Colin Standing Phone : 07 855 1335 Txt : 027 326 6886 Email : standings@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 24 October @ 6pm |
| 20 November | Raglan Ramble Raglan | Sue Grocock Phone/Txt 027 440 2448 Email : rongee@xtra.co.nz Monday 7 November @ 6pm |
| 4 December | Christmas Lunch & Bowentown Walk Waihi Beach | Dianne Lee Phone/Txt : 027 272 6617 Email : leedi444@gmail.com Open : Monday 31 October Close : Wednesday 30 November |



COVID Safety

Due to the recent public health events, we are required to follow the guidance set out by government and follow protocols of the Protection Framework that is in place.

Due to our club members being in the older age group vaccinated people are welcome to join us on tramps. Please be aware you may be asked for your vaccine pass or may be asked about your vaccination status. This is due to the fact that most of our travel is in vans, where we are in close proximity to each other during the trip.

It is expected that everyone will wear masks while travelling. The drivers have the option not to wear masks while driving if they feel they are unable to have adequate safe vision. When travelling in private vehicles ie carpooling, the wearing of masks will be up to each individual driver.

Pam's Delicious Caramilk Slice Recipe

250g arrowroot biscuits crushed

½ cup coconut desiccated

½ cup chopped walnuts

Mix together

In a bowl microwave 180g Caramilk choc (in pieces) with 85g butter

Then add 1 tin condensed milk

Mix all together and pour into greased and lined slice tin

Smooth top

Cool in fridge

Topping

180g Caramilk choc melted in microwave

Add 2t oil

Mix

Pour over base

Smooth top

When cooled score top with final cut marks to prevent cracks when cutting later

Cool in fridge



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

Well, another year is nearly at an end and the club is still going strong even with all the happenings and events in our part of the world. Thank you so much for your support attending the walks and events to keep the club running successfully. I know I have enjoyed my year on the track with you all. A BIG THANK YOU to the committee and helpers, without you there is no Wanderers.

We have some great places to go in this our last bulletin for the 2022 year and planning is under way for the first one for 2023. We have our Christmas lunch on Sunday 4 December at the Waihi Beach RSA, where we have always had a good meal and service.

A reminder that if you want to come on any tramps please book early or you might miss out. If you need to cancel, we require at least 24-48 hours' notice if possible as there might be a wait list for a place in the van. If under 24 hours then the club may ask for the trip payment to cover costs. A final decision on the number of vans is made around the Wednesday/Thursday before the trip.

The committee are currently trying to keep an eye on trip costs, as you know everything is costing more. This will be brought up at the AGM to discuss further. The AGM is being held on Tuesday 11 October at the meeting room – St Alban's Church on Comries Road, Chartwell (opposite the Caltex garage) at 7.30pm.

I have been president for three years and as per the constitution and I will be standing down but will remain on the committee. With this in mind we need nominations for others to support the club and committee so please think about joining us. We meet around every six weeks as a committee and have three planning meetings for the bulletins. We really need new blood to keep going and new ideas of places to go. Everyone will support you. Please contact Dianne or Sue if you are interested in joining us.

Well, have a great and safe Christmas break, thanks for your support and I will hopefully see you on the track in 2023.

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 back-pack
- Whistle
- In winter include : warm hat, gloves, an extra warm layer, thermos (optional - but nice)
- In summer include : sunhat, sunscreen, sunglasses
- Money to cover tramp cost
- Extra money if you wish for coffee/ice cream etc, for on the way home
- Leave a spare change of clothing, including footwear, in the van. This is in case you get wet, hot or dirty and need to change



Optional Extras:

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





Where We Are Going

Sunday 28 August

Pirongia

Grades 1+ & 2

Ruapane Variation and Nikau Walk with Kaniwhaniwha Caves

Grade 1+ We will go Pirongia to Limeworks Loop Road, where we will park have and have an early morning tea before starting off on our walk along a lovely track that follows a stream and is lush with nikau palms and fern trees. We will make our way to the limestone caves, they are approx. 20m long for the main cave. There is a short hands and knees crawl and can be wet under foot, so bring a torch, you will have an opportunity to try to get through them if you wish. The walk is approx. 7km

Grade 2 We will have a relatively short day, but in good weather we should have good views and a nice bush walk.

This track is Ruapane from Corcoran Road but walked as a loop. We will go up the usual track, but about halfway up we will cut across to the track that comes up from Waite Road using one of the very good quality bait line tracks. About 1.5 hours to the trig station. Instead of returning down the usual route, we use a track that descends the ridge to the west. It is an old tramping track, but well-marked with tape.

| | | |
|------------------|--|------------------------|
| Depart: | 9am | |
| Return: | 3pm approx | |
| Cost: | \$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members) | |
| Leaders: | Grade 1+ | Dianne & Friends |
| | Grade 2 | Ray |
| Bookings: | Open | Monday 15 August @ 6pm |
| | Contact | Dianne |
| | Txt | 027 272 6617 |
| | Email | leedi444@gmail.com |



Sunday 11 September**Rotorua****Grades 1- 1 ½****Ngongotaha Summit via Jubilee Track and Nature Loop Walk**

We will start our walk from the car park on Paradise Valley Road and head up Mt Ngongotaha.

Access to the Nature Loop starts at Jubilee Track and follows an easy grade through unlogged native bush. This part of the track features a large rata with a viewing platform. Past this is the signpost for the Nature Loop Walk to left and right, a circular loop with gentle grades and even surfaces, and sidles along the lower contours of Mt Ngongotaha and returns to the car park having crossed and re-joined Jubilee Track near the rata.

There is opportunity to complete the first part of the Nature Loop and then strike off uphill along Jubilee Track towards the summit, or to return to the car park via the other section of the Nature Loop. Jubilee Track is moderately steep from the Loop intersection until near the summit.

The final part of the track crosses Mountain Road for the last little climb. There is no view at the top due to surrounding trees.



Depart: 7.30am

Return: 5pm approx

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

Leader: Jenny West

Bookings: Open Monday 29 August @ 6pm
Contact Jenny West
Txt 027 611 0550
Email tsew.ynnej@gmail.com

Sunday 25 September**Tauranga****Grade 1****Tect Park – Te Rerenga, Lucitanica and Sequoia tracks**

This is the first time the Club has been to this area – 1650ha set aside for multiple activities. The Te Rerenga Track starts from the carpark at the park entrance (toilets available) and winds through mature pine forest, around a pond, to finally descend into a gully with boardwalks taking us through a hand-dug 60m tunnel that diverted the stream under SH36.



A short climb brings us to Peterson's Camp, where the tunnel workers lived during the tunnel construction period. The track then starts to ascend towards the Te Araroha Road and diverts right along the Lucitanica track to end at the Equestrian Hub. Maybe lunch under cover here – also a toilet available.

A short walk then takes us along the Mangakopikopiko Road before diverting left on to the Sequoia track (a shared walking/horse riding track) which undulates southwards. The track can be a little slippery in places of exposed clay. The track finally turns north again alongside the Te Araroha Road before diverting off into the bush to arrive at Peterson's Camp once more. From here it's a short walk through mature trees back to the carpark. Expect to walk approx. 10km at a leisurely rate, with time for coffee or ice cream at Pyes Pa shops. Bring a torch for the tunnel walk.



Depart: 8am (check your clocks as will be first morning of Daylight Savings)

Return: 5pm approx

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

Leaders: Colin and Margaret Standing and John Sheat

Bookings: Monday 12 September @ 6pm

Contact Colin

Phone/Txt 027 326 6886

Email standings@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 9 October**Te Aroha****Grades 2/2+****Tui Mine Loop – Grade 2**

While the higher grade group are doing the harder walk in the Waiorongomai Valley we will drive up Tui Road to the carpark then walk steeply up the road to the Old Tui Mine site then retrace back down through the bush to our vans or go out to Hamilton Street and be picked up from there

**Pylon short loop track - Grade 2+**

This is a round trip in the Waiorongomai Valley, but a shorter one than the two others that have been led by Ray in the past. We start the trip up the Pylon track, taking it only to an altitude of 500m or so. At a certain point, a short track, about 300m, connects to the northern part of the Kauri Grove Loop Track. Although the southern part of that loop is closed, the northern part is still usable.

After we pick up the north arm of the Kauri Grove Track we then get into the Waiorongomai Stream tracks which we follow back to the car.

Total distance about 6km. Altitude gain about 500m. Estimated duration 5 hours.

| | | |
|------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Depart: | 8am | |
| Return: | 5pm approx | |
| Cost: | \$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members) | |
| Leaders: | G2 - Keith and Friends G2+ - Ray | |
| Bookings: | Open | Monday 26 September at 6pm |
| | Contact | Keith |
| | Phone/Txt | 027 366 6194 |

AGM**Tuesday 11 October 2022****7.30pm**

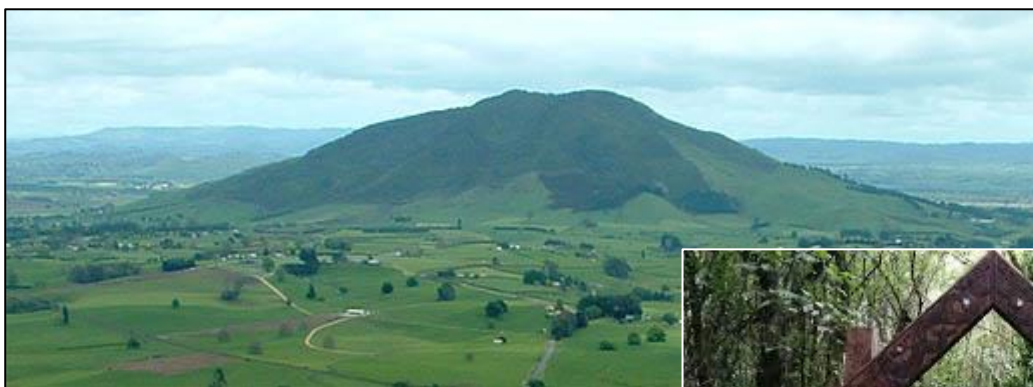
Comries Road Church Hall

Sunday 23 October**Te Awamutu****All Grades****Kakepuku - Labour Weekend**

This is information from the Department of Conservation's notes: The first 5-10 minutes follow a wide easy path to a grassy area and low-level viewing platform. From there it is a steady climb on an old farm track that winds round Kakepuku to a point 400 metres below the summit. Steps take you from here through bush to the summit with its excellent views and historic features.

We will have morning tea and lunch on the track, depending on our progress and the weather. We may stop at Yarndley's bush on the way home.

This walk has an open grading because we will all be walking together. It is 3.7kms, just under two hours walking one way, on a good track but it is a hill of 449m.



| | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Depart: | 8am | |
| Return: | When we're done | |
| Cost: | \$10.00 to car driver (carpooling) | |
| Leaders: | Carol Davies | |
| Bookings: | Open Contact Phone/Txt | Not required – just turn up Carol 027 319 0852 |

Sunday 6 November**Putaruru****Grade 1****Waihou Walkway - Blue Springs**

The track starts from Whites Road carpark and follows the Waihou Walkway to the famous Blue Spring, one of the purest water sources in the world. Travelling alongside the Waihou River, the track winds through wetlands, across rolling pastoral land with views of small waterfalls and on to the beautiful turquoise blue pristine water of the Blue Spring.

The round trip is about 10 km and will take about 3 to 4 hours at a leisurely pace.

There will be time for ice-cream or coffee on the way home.



| | | |
|------------------|--|--|
| Depart: | 8am | |
| Return: | 4pm approx | |
| Cost: | \$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members) | |
| Leaders: | Colin and Friends | |
| Bookings: | Open Contact Phone/Txt Email | Monday 24 October @ 6pm Colin and Margaret Standing 027 326 6886 standings@xtra.co.nz |

Sunday 20 November

Raglan

Grades 1 & 2

Raglan Ramble

Grade 1

We will park the vans at Raglan Reserve and walk the beach down to the surf club where we will have morning tea. From here we go up a small hill to the Bryant Home, walk to the lookout and return same way back to the reserve. Approx 2hrs walking.

Grade 2

From the Raglan Reserve we will walk down the beach to the surf club for morning tea. From here up the Bryant Home Track to the Water Trail Track then on the road for a short distance to Wainui Reserve. We will go through the reserve and have lunch at picnic spot in the reserve. From here there will be some road walking then return along the beach to the vans. There are stairs on this trip. Expect to walk about 4 hours.



Both options should have time for coffee and ice creams at Raglan township afterwards.

| | | |
|------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Depart: | 8am | |
| Return: | 4pm approx | |
| Cost: | \$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members) | |
| Leaders: | Sue & Friends | |
| Bookings: | Open | Monday 7 November @ 6pm |
| | Contact | Sue Grocock |
| | Phone/Txt | 027 440 2448 |
| | Email | rongee@xtra.co.nz |

Sunday 4 December**Waihi Beach****All Grades****End of year Christmas Lunch and Bowentown Ramble**

We are going to make our way to Bowentown, have morning tea and then set off on a nice ramble in the area. At the end of the walk its change into our glad rags for a delicious buffet lunch at the Waihi Beach RSA.

If you would just like to come for the lunch meet at the Waihi RSA at 12.30 noon for lunch at 1pm.

The bar will be open, so bring extra money.

The Sunday buffet is \$17.00pp and dessert is \$12.00pp, or you can order from their menu on the day at varying prices. All meals are to be paid for on the day direct to the RSA. They have provided a great meal in the past and will decorate the tables for the festive season.

For catering purposes and van bookings please book in by Wednesday 30 November.

There is no club subsidy for the lunch as the prices are reasonable.



| | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Depart: | 7.30am | |
| Return: | 5-6pm | |
| Cost: | Transport | \$25 members \$30 non-members |
| | Lunch | Paid direct to the RSA on the day |
| Leaders: | Keith, Pam, Jenny and Dianne | |
| Bookings: | Open | Monday 31 October |
| | Close | Wednesday 30 November |
| | Contact | Dianne |
| | Phone/txt | 027 272 6617 |
| | Email | leedi444@gmail.com |



Where We Went



Black Hill & Union Battery Reserve

Sunday 24 April

After morning tea at Gilmore Reserve 19 trampers set off from this starting point to walk around Black Hill. The track followed the edge of the Ohinemuri River where a number of our group broke off to climb Black Hill while the remaining members completed the full circuit of the hill. We all met back at Gilmore Reserve where we enjoyed lunch in the hot sun.

After lunch we walked to Morgan Park through the bamboo grove to the waiting vans which took us to the Union Battery and cyanide tanks.

From this reserve we crossed the road and completed a circuit of the crater of the Martha Mine. Here the weather changed remarkably to a vicious cold squall with freezing rain and high winds.

We stopped along the rim of the crater to view the enormous slip which had forced the closure of the pit for mining. We all made our way down to the vans (except for one member who got lost) which were waiting for us at the designated place below the Cornish Pump House. After an enjoyable day we stopped in Paeroa on the way home for ice creams and arrived back in Hamilton at 3.50pm. Special thanks to our drivers Keith and Dianne, Ron and Alison.

Roger



Avantidrome – Hooker Road

Sunday 8 May

Having a late start (9am), we jumped in the van at the usual Collingwood Street Carpark in Hamilton. In the midst of cloud cover, the sun is getting stronger. By the time we arrive at the Avantidrome the sky is totally clear. Sun shining brightly, the morning mist has gone. Time flies, river flows... we start the new section of Te Awa River Walk.

On this mid-autumn sunny day, we begin our journey into new ground. All brand new, clean and tidy looking...so nice, unique concrete surface covering, lightly brown in the day, although a bit hard for some hikers...it was a nice path.

Scenic Waikato River Green swings all the way, with ups and downs, meandering too, that taxes our admiration. Mirror trees all calmly set on the crystal clear water. This part of Waikato River is deeply seated in the valley. Standing cliff on both riversides is fully exposed with much pride and appreciation. Boardwalks and bridges ease the way of access, saving our energy to ascend and descend the rolling terrain. Picnic spots with tables and benches are set along the track...having morning tea down by the riverbank, lunch up by the riverside top. Not at all, without any wind...we were delighted to have the clammy morning break and the warm dry sunny treat at lunchtime. What can I say, lovely!

Moving we are... Passed by bikers... Really a biking track, mostly electric bicycle bikers, no other hikers, except our Wanderers Group. Overlooking the Waikato River, deeply cut terrain with feeding streams churning through ... This the water of New Zealanders, the water in the largest river of Aotearoa. The natural water that we drink every day in Waikato. Thanks Tony for recommending this track. Charming!

Aron



Mount Eliza Mine Track

Sunday 22 May

One full van left Hamilton with Keith behind the wheel. After arriving in Katikati, we turned right onto the winding, narrow road marked Thompsons Track. The views were impressive as we drove upwards, leaving the avocado orchards behind us, the road turning to gravel for the last few kms. The last property an off-grid home, (but with mailbox), just as we reached the quiet and somewhat muddy carpark.

Dianne had told us what we were to expect – the “fun zone”- wetness and mud, especially as the previous week had been rainy and stormy pretty much everywhere. But we were all up for it, after morning tea, of course.



Just before 10 we headed straight into quite thick bush, a few little streams to cross, a few little bridges and a gradual incline. Plenty to concentrate on as we walked: overhanging branches, roots, ferns, and wet leaves making it slippery underfoot. Regular stops, keeping the group together.

Our first small river crossing was below a nice waterfall. Yes, Dianne you were right, poles needed. But all Wanderers crossed safely, ready for a climb on the other side.

The sun was welcome as we travelled upwards, the fantails greeting us, so agile as we squeezed under some big tree trunks across the path. Some interesting fungi to stop and look at, adding to the autumn feeling. It wasn't cold but most of us were keeping our layers on. And a fair few of us had wet feet!



A fellow walker, with dog, coming down the path looked surprised to encounter anyone else, let alone a group of twelve! She was the only other person we saw on this tramp. The second river to ford, maybe a bit wider and a bit deeper, but hey, we were wet already. More of the up after that, and more fallen trees to get under, packs off for at times and a bit of a scramble.

Our path met Thompsons Track and we were ready for lunch. According to the yellow and green, it should take 40 minutes to reach this point! A bit longer for us... Rain threatened but kept away as we enjoyed our sandwiches.

I learnt a little of the history of Thompsons Track, (Wanderers know a lot of stuff), a paper road, used for moving stock across the Kaimai Ranges, but originally dating back to pre-European times. Now, enjoyed by the off roaders, in their 4x4's, as well as us. Sticky orange clay, puddles, and deep ruts (that'll be the off roaders) made it quite challenging/fun in places. I got muddy, muddier than most, it seemed. I must have zigged when I should have zagged.



And then we were back at the carpark, at 2 O'clock. Our leader seemed relieved and perhaps even surprised that everyone was intact ... the First Aid kit wasn't needed! Thanks, Dianne for making sure we came prepared. Another memorable tramp.

Rebecca

Night Walk - Hamilton Lake

Saturday 11 June

On a day of torrential downpours, the pukekos thought their territory was safe from humans. They were most upset when just on dusk, cars appeared at Innes Common. The BBQ area was taken over and they were chased away. Food? This may not be so bad after all.

About 20 Wanderers attired in parkas, over trousers, hats, scarves and umbrellas, braved the conditions to find Keith preparing the BBQ. Hot soup and sausages would be very welcome on a day like this.

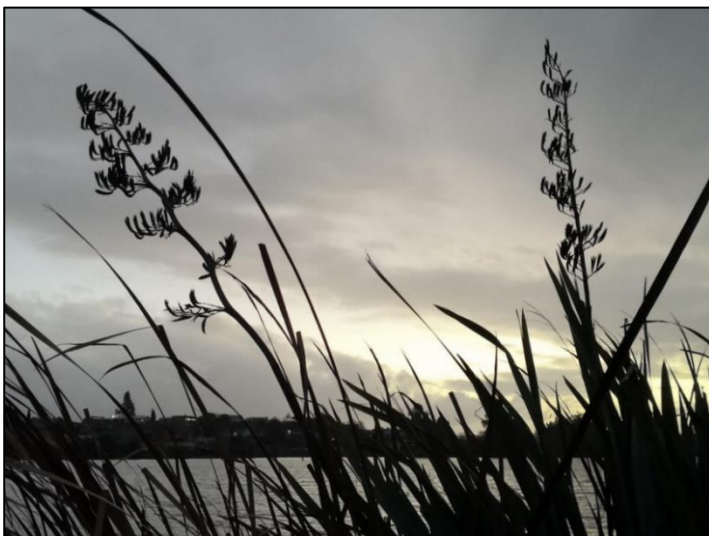
We took off on our walk around the lake in an anticlockwise direction, following the boardwalk beyond the Yacht Club. The rain had eased to a light drizzle and it was not long before it stopped completely.

The lake looked beautiful in the evening light with ducks resting on the water. Coots, Canada Geese, a baby dove and numerous pukeko were to be seen. White waterlily flowers poked their heads above the surface. As the daylight faded we were treated to twinkling lights around the lake shore. Waikato Hospital stood out across the lake with an impressive display.

Arriving back to the BBQ area we found Keith stirring the caldron. We gathered around in a circle, some on camp chairs and some standing. It was so good to have a hot mug of soup, followed by sausages, fruit salad and Pam's delicious Caramel Slice.

Thank you to Keith, Dianne and Pam for a wonderful evening.

Barbara



Rotorua Blue Lakes

Sunday 19 June

On Sunday 19th June, 15 trampers headed out in vans to Rotorua. The weather provided the occasional drizzle and a very cold wind coming off the Blue Lake but thankfully no heavy rain. We had morning tea with a small briefing about where we were going and what to take etc. Then we headed off (with Pam as our leader) past Top 10 camp, into Okareka Road where there is a track in the bush made by locals to get from the Blue Lake to Lake Tikitapu scenic reserve (a very busy road with hardly any shoulder).

We met a few locals along the way. A nice wander through bush. The vans collected us and took all back to the Blue Lake for the next walk lead by Dianne. We tramped along part of the Whakarewarewa Forest Loop Track which is also shared by cyclists. With Dianne's whistle and others watching out we managed to stay safe from being tangled up with cyclists!

Some interesting fauna to see plus at one stage we were on the Old Coach Road; the cobble stones clearly visible. Lunch was had at Te Pūtaka o tawa car park; coffee and hot chips for some (from a couple of small business there). This is a busy car park, (plus toilets and showers) as it's a starting point for many users of the track. It has many carved art works on display with informational plaques to read.

Then we regrouped and walked back along the track to the Blue Lake. The last hike was to view the Okareka mistletoe restoration project, led by Keith. This 20-minute walk is not far up the road, on right, from the Blue Lake. A pukatea (*Laurelia novae zelandiae*) tree was pointed out to us. This amazing tree had survived the 1886 Tarawera eruption and almost certainly, with significant damage that is visible today. This walk has many interesting plaques telling the names, origins and some other facts of the trees. We didn't find the mistletoe which is native to New Zealand and quite rare.

It was a very interesting day out for all and I'm sure we all came away with more knowledge about the area and its fauna. Thank you to all the organisers of this trip. I have been to the Blue Lake many times but didn't know about Pam's walk or Keith's nature walk so now will be able to share this knowledge with others, for them to enjoy as I have.

Dot



Te Uku Windfarm

Sunday 3 July

Piwharaura/Shining Cuckoo Trail

A van and a car with 17 trampers aboard left Hamilton and headed towards Raglan on a cold damp morning, stopping at the Bridal Veil Falls carpark for a toilet stop, and then onto the quarry carpark, the start of the trail. Here we split into two groups, a G1 and G2.

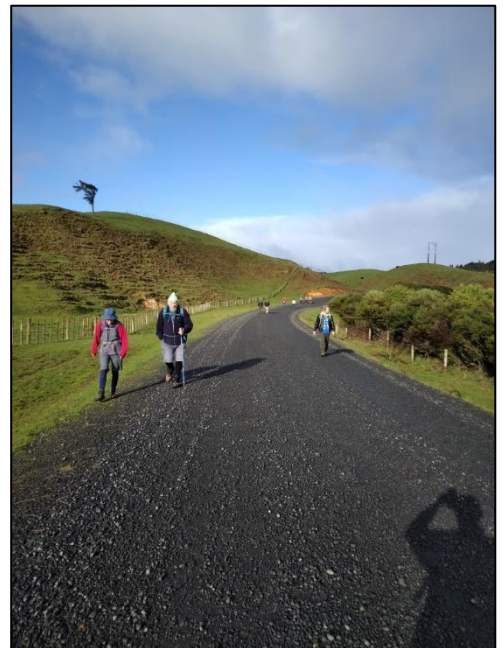
There were seven in the G2 group who took off at a cracking pace so they could get to the top for lunch and back to the vehicles so the G1s would not have to wait very long.

The first part of the walk was on the gravel service road, then halfway up we went through a gate onto a farm track and paddocks to the farthest spot we were allowed to go, standing amongst the whishing generator blades like The Man From La Mancha.

It started showering and the wind got up so we headed back to a more sheltered spot for lunch tucked under an overhanging bank, at least out of the wind. Twenty minutes later we were off back down to the carpark to join the G1s for the drive back to Hamilton.

Thank you Tony and Rose for a well organised tramp.

Don Quixote



Waitetuna - Grade 1

Sunday 17 July

There were six trampers who turned up for this grade trip which was pleasant walking. Our leader led us successfully on the David Thorn Loop Track and then onto the Mangakirkiri Loop Track. Walking on the first loop we could see for miles, extensive views all around, it was awe inspiring. However, we had to watch where we were putting our feet as the ground was steep and slippery in places. Fortunately, no one fell and we reached the end of this track without mishap.

The second track was slightly shorter in length but we found it a little more difficult. The 'ups' seemed to be more up and the 'downs' more down! Again, it was important to be careful not to lose our footing. However, the group was cohesive and supportive and those who had a tendency to fall were helped when necessary. The scenery was very different from the previous track, instead of expansive views there was beautiful bush and so many different kinds of fauna and flora. Some of the trees were huge and majestic. Also, we heard a few bird songs as we walked and there was a brief sighting of a kereru (wood pigeon).

We had expected to return to the starting place before the Grade 2's but it turned out that they arrived back before us. This didn't matter though as the G2's travelled in a private car and our group in a van. As usual we stopped on the way home for ice cream.

Many thanks to Tony and Rose for surveying this tramp and for Dianne our leader and driver on the day. My personal gratitude to all those on this trip who worked cooperatively together to make the day a success.

Margaret Standing

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

EXTRAS

- Earplugs
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- Sunscreen
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- Trekking Poles
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