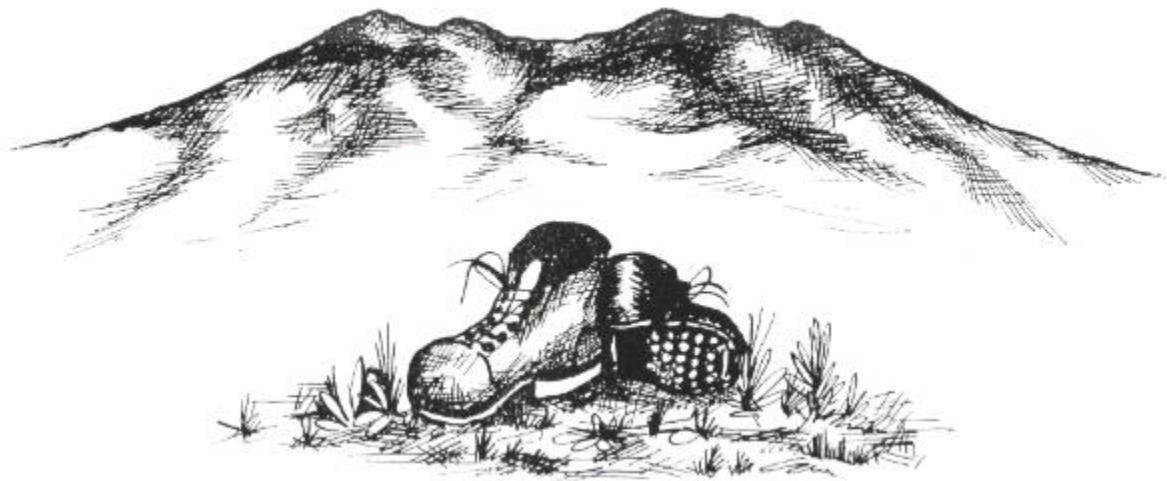


Wanderers Tramping Club Inc



Bulletin

September - December 2019

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 2018/2019

President:	Keith Wilkinson	847 4399
Treasurer:	Colin Standing standings@xtra.co.nz	855 1335
Webmaster:	Ray Hoare info@wandererstramping.org.nz	856 2675
Committee:	Pam Cornforth (Social Convener) pcornforth@xtra.co.nz	856 5922
	Carol Davies (Secretary/Trip Co-ordinator) grandmacarol@xtra.co.nz	853 5527
	Brenda Petersen (Bulletin Editor) brenda22269@hotmail.com	0273 117 372
	John Davies (Merchandise) deejohn@xtra.co.nz	854 0654
	Lyn Kingsbury (FMC Distributor/Advisor) l.kingsbury.nz@gmail.com	856 8071
	Grant Svendsen (Transport Co-ordinator) gsveny@gmail.com	853 3434
	Dianne Lee (First Aid Co-ordinator/Social) leedi444@gmail.com	027 272 6617
	Val McArthur (New Members Convener) val@herbaltouch.co.nz	855 6724
	Kathy Potter (Social Committee) kathypotter25@gmail.com	855 6224
	Jenny West tsew.ynnej@gmail.com	856 3140

Trip Programme

TRIP DATE	TRIP DETAILS	BOOKING INFORMATION
1 September	Woods Mill Track Mamaku's	Keith Wilkinson Phone : 07 847 4399 Txt : 027 366 6194 Open : Monday 19 August
15 September	Rapurapu Kauri Track Kaimais	Brenda Petersen Phone : 07 8493 716 (evenings) Txt : 0273 117 372 Email : brenda22269@hotmail.com Open : Monday 2 September
29 September	Aratiatia Dam to Huka Falls Taupo	Jenny West Phone / Txt : 027 611 0550 Email : tsew.ynnej@gmail.com Open : Monday 16 September at 5pm
13 October	Awatiro Waitomo	Colin Standing Phone : 07 855 1335 Txt : 027 326 6886 Email : standings@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 30 September at 6pm
16 October	AGM	Age Concern, Hamilton - 7.30pm
25 – 28 October Labour Weekend	Ruapehu Forest & Bird Lodge Whakapapa Village	Lyn Kingsbury Phone : 07 856 8071 Txt : 021 150 7079 Email : l.kingsbury.nz@gmail.com Opening dates : TBA
10 November	Tarawera Falls Kawerau	Alison Orchard Phone : 07 855 2370 Txt : 027 618 3569 Email : alorchard14@gmail.com Open : Tuesday 29 October at 5.30pm
24 November	Salvation Hut Daisy Hardwick Walkway Tauranga	Grant Svendsen Phone /Txt : 021 047 6518 Email : gsveny@gmail.com Open : Monday 11 November at 6pm
8 December	Christmas Trip McLaren Falls Walk & Lunch at Kaimia Cafe Kaimia's	Colin Standing Phone : 07 855 1335 Txt : 027 326 6886 Email : standings@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 28 October at 5pm Close : Friday 29 November at 7pm

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 **Wintec student carpark, cnr Collingwood & Tristram Streets.** **\$3.00 parking fee or park free nearby on Collingwood Street on the road.**

President's Ponderings

Well, it is time for another report and sadly I start with the sad passing of one of our members, Peter Scott, on 4 July 2019. Peter was an enthusiastic trumper who would often lead some great tramps and guess who would always be in the lead from start to finish...Peter! Peter was also involved with the organising of buses and vans for our trips which did a fine job of and also had an excellent rapport with the firms concerned.

Peter was a battler and he overcame some limiting injuries so he could tramp again. Peter was also very involved with the cycle group and I hear that he was on most trips out the front here also.

A sudden stroke not long after our clubs 50th year celebrations took him down and after a long and hard battle he could not suffer anymore and he passed away. It was very good to see a large turn out at his funeral which was very fitting. Our deepest sympathy and condolences go out to Audrey and family.

Our Winter trips have been down in numbers due to some of our members being away overseas and on holiday as well as the usual winter elements. But those who have come out have enjoyed the selection available. Hopefully with an improvement of the weather and the new selection of trips we can bring the numbers back up.

Now it's time for me to step down as President after a three-year term and make room for a new person.

During my time at the helm I hope that I have managed to keep us all together and enjoy our outings as I am a strong believer in variety and adding new dimensions to trips.

It has been a privilege to have been at the helm of a team of dedicated people who got in there and gave their support by attending committee meetings and taking on their various roles without complaint.

I would like to give a big thank you to Carol as Secretary who has had to keep me in line, Colin for his meticulous work with the books, Brenda for producing a fine bulletin and all other committee members for making things happen – a truly wonderful and lovely team who have made my job a pleasure.

I would also like to mention the Wandering Wheelers who get out cycling even in all sorts of conditions - a big thank you to Grant and Bernie who dedicate themselves to this group.

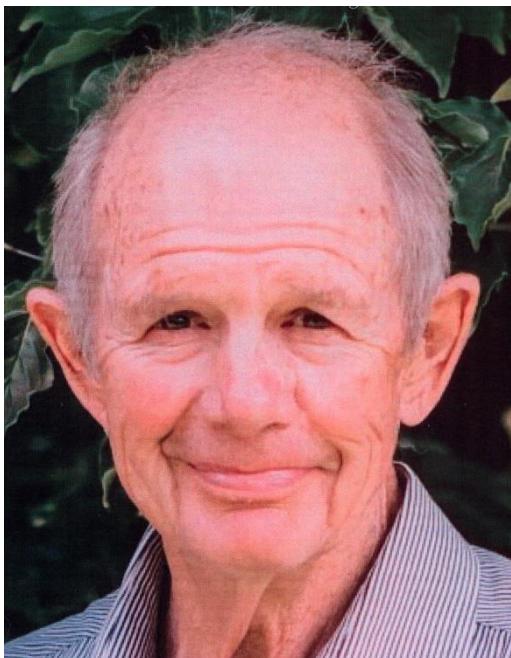
Sorry if I have missed out anybody but also a huge thank you to all the club members for their dedication and support and making the club what it is today.

So, with best wishes, good health and safe journeys...

Keith



Tribute to Peter Scott



1938-2019

Peter had been a very active member of Wanderers Tramping Club organising and leading trips for more than 20 years and to many, was considered the "Godfather" of the tramping club.

His knowledge and experience of farms, farmers and roads all over the district was exceptional, stemming from his work with the Dairy Company refrigeration installations.

Peter measured his tramps by length and height...the longer and higher, the better. He liked getting his feet wet, and the Waipa river wetlegs and Wharepuhunga stream were favourites of his.

Beware if he was the tramp leader, as he would set a fast and consistent pace. He was determined and it was his way or no way in response to many suggestions.

He will be remembered for his catch cry " Let's do it before we can't". For many years Peter arranged the Club's transport, liaising especially with GoBus. Of more recent years he established a strong interest in cycling, belonging to several groups and going off to multi-day rides in the North and South Island. To his cycling he applied the same enthusiasm and effort as he did tramping.

Peter suffered a devastating stroke in 2018, fought hard to recover, but was released from his ordeal on 4 July 2019. Our thoughts are with Audrey and family at this time.

He will be sadly missed by all of his tramping and cycling mates.



Where We Are Going

Sunday 1 September

Mamaku's

Grade 1½

Woods Mill Track

Today's tramp is an old favourite, starting on the left-hand side of the road on the way to Rotorua.

This was once an old timber mill and we will see a few old relics from that area, mainly old rail bogies, cuttings and wooden rails.

The gradient is mostly level but at the end we will descend to the river. This is a clay track so poles will be helpful.

We plan to have lunch here before retracing back out. Approx 3 hours walking.

If time permits, we can visit a local private museum displaying photos of the mill (bring extra money for this).

If you have a hi-viz vest bring this with you as we are walking in an area used by hunters.

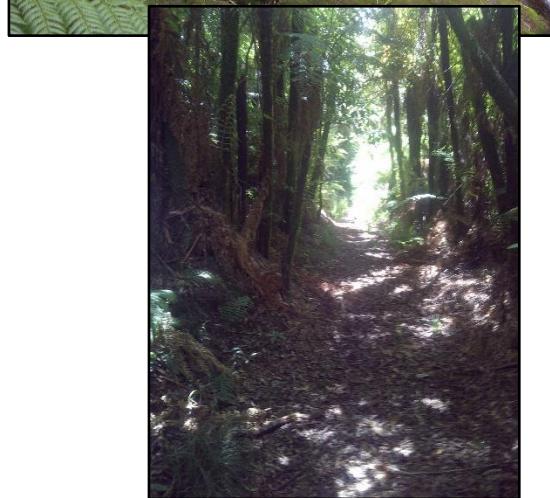
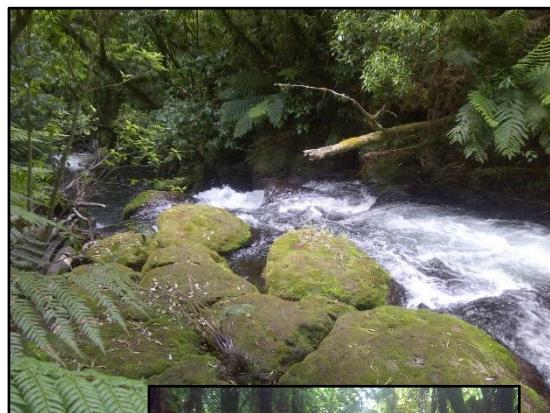
Depart: 8am

Return: 5.30pm approx

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

Leaders: Keith & Friends

Bookings: Open Monday 19 August
Contact Keith Wilkinson
Phone 07 847 4399
Txt 027 366 6194



Sunday 15 September

Kaimais

Grade 2

Rapurapu Kauri Track

This track features mature tawa/podocarp forest with many fern species in the understorey, a stream with swimming holes and three impressive kauri trees that are growing near their southern limit.

We leave from a carpark on the Waikato side of the Kaimai range on SH29 and pass through a pine forest before entering bush. The track continues on an easy grade for 20 minutes before descending to the Rapurapu Stream, which we will cross **many** times before reaching the kauri grove.

We return to the van back along the same track. Be prepared for wet boots and bring along walking pole/s to assist.

We will stop for coffee, ice cream etc on the way back if time allows.

Depart: 8am

Return: 5pm approx

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

Leaders: Brenda Petersen & Ron Clarke

Bookings:	Open	Monday 2 September
	Contact	Brenda Petersen
	Phone	07 849 3716 (evenings)
	Phone/Txt	0273 117 372
	Email	brenda22269@hotmail.com



Sunday 29 September

Taupo

Grade 1+

Aratiatia Dam to Huka Falls

If you have or have not seen the mighty Waikato river spilling through the gates at Aratiatia then you are in for a treat.

We will arrive there before 10.00am, watch the spectacular water show, and then start the walk back to Huka Falls.

The track is good and undulating. Expect to walk about three hours.

Bring money for refreshments at the end.



Depart: 7.30am

Return: 5.30pm approx

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

Leader: Jenny West & John Davies

Bookings: Open Monday 16 September at 5pm
Contact Jenny West
Phone/txt 027 611 0550
Email: tsew.ynnej@gmail.com



Wanderers members can receive up to 15% discount off purchases in store at Bivouac, 311 Barton Street, Hamilton

Just mention you are a Wanderers TC member to receive your discount on non-sale items

Sunday 13 October**Waitomo****Grade 1+ & 2+****Awatiro - Stubbs Farm**

We travel to Awatiro (Stubbs' family farm), located about 10km past Waitomo village. The trip starts at the parking space at the top of the airstrip and traverses a karst rich landscape featuring the highest concentration of doline land formations on the planet.

The route takes us down the airstrip and over some adventurous limestone contours to reach Frog Pond. From here the route takes us into the native bush of the QEII block and an optional (in and out) look into Stubb's Canyon.

In a short while Grade 1's can opt to take one of the shortcuts back to the van with optional walk into Max's cave. Grade 2's veer left through the bush and traverse rocky ridge to the "Hole-in the Rock" emerging onto farmland. After a while the route re-enters the bush and follows the QEII boundary and the Love Track back to the van.

Grade 1+ expect to walk about 6kms, Grade 2+ about 11km

Depart: 7.30am

Return: 5.30pm approx

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

Leaders: G2+ Colin Standing & Ron Clarke
G1+ TBC

Bookings: Open Monday 30 September at 6pm
Contact Colin Standing
Phone 07 855 1335
Txt 027 326 6886
Email standings@xtra.co.nz



AGM

AGM

Wednesday 16 October 2019

7.30pm

Age Concern Centre, 30 Victoria Street Hamilton

AGM

25-28 October**Ruapehu****Grades 1-3****Labour Weekend**

Forest & Bird Lodge -Whakapapa Village

We have managed to secure the whole of the upper floor of the flash nearly new Forest and Bird Lodge at Ruapehu for the long weekend.

There are 2 upstairs sleeping areas and a library/lounge. Downstairs is a great kitchen and dining plus more sleeping accommodation.

The walking is delightful and all grades available. It is close to a range of interesting walks where you may see native wildlife including whio (blue duck), tomtits, robins, tūī, grey warbler, rifleman (titipounamu), bellbirds, fantails, or kererū.

The special cost to us for accommodation is \$25pp a night plus there will be extra costs for transport and food.

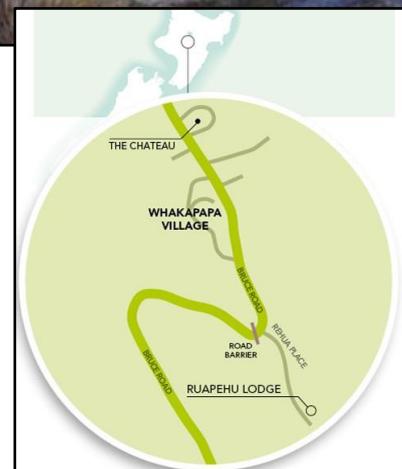
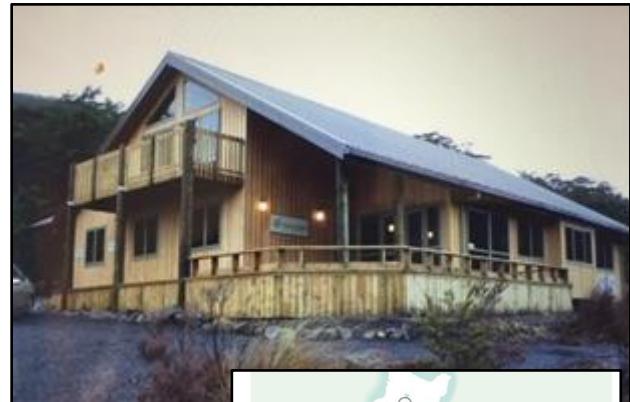
Lyn will email details of cost, what to take with you and travel details closer to the time.

Depart: TBA

Cost: TBA

Leaders: Lyn, Keith and Associates

Bookings: Open TBA
 Contact Lyn Kingsbury
 Phone 07 856 8071
 Txt 021 150 7079
 Email l.kingsbury.nz@gmail.com



Sunday 10 November**Kawerau****Grades 12**

Tarawera Falls

The Tarawera Falls track is accessed from Kawerau. It is about a 20 km drive on a forest road to the start of the track and a 20-minute walk to the falls viewing area.

The Tarawera river plunges 65 metres down a cliff face. After taking in the spectacular view of the falls we follow the river through bush to the Tarawera Outlet. The river is in view most of the time and provides interesting photo opportunities of rushing water or peaceful spots depending on the terrain.

This takes about 1½ hours. We will have lunch there and return on the same track. Walking time approx. 4 hours. Those who want a shorter trip could turn back sooner.

Please be aware that if the forest is closed due to fire risk an alternative tramp will be substituted.

Depart: 7.30am

Return: 6.30-7pm approx

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

Leaders: Alison Orchard & Cheryl Meier

Bookings: Open Tuesday 29 October at 5.30pm
Contact Alison Orchard
Phone 07 855 2370
Phone/txt 027 618 3569
Email alorchard14@gmail.com



Sunday 24 November**Tauranga****Grade 1 & 2½****Salvation Hut - Grade 2½**

The start is from the carpark at the end of Whakamarama Road. The track follows the Leyland O'Brien Track to a point where the track makes a route detour to Salvation Hut.

From there we follow the route to a stream, where we will cross and walk up stream to a waterfall for lunch. We will then head up to intersect the Te Tuhi Track and back to the van.

**Daisy Hardwick Walkway – G1**

This walkway is around the Waikareao Estuary and made up of boardwalks and gravel type paths, it is shared use by walkers and bikes. It is a 9km loop track which will take approx. 2 -3 hours give or take.



The walk is suitable for all levels and is a picturesque walk seeing wetlands, trees and native plantings with great views over the estuary and Motuopae Island.

We then make our way to Mount Maunganui where there are several options including walk up/around the mount, go for a walk on the beach, have a hot swim/soak, have a coffee and of course the must do - have ice cream!

So, bring some extra money to do as you please...the day is social so come and join us.

Depart: Salvation Hut 7.30am
 Daisy Hardwick Walkway 8am

Return: 5-6pm approx

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

Leaders: G2½ Grant Svendsen, Ron Clarke and Colin Standing
 G1 Dianne, Keith & Pam

Bookings:	Open	Monday 11 November at 6pm
	Contact	Grant Svendsen
	Phone/Txt	021 047 6518
	Email	gsveny@gmail.com

McLaren Falls Park Xmas Social Ramble and Lunch

We make our way up the Kaimai's to McLaren Falls Park where we will have a broo up and traditional xmas cake morning tea.

After this you are free to wander around the 190 hectares of parkland set alongside Lake McLaren. You may just want to ramble around the lake edge, go to the waterfall or something a bit more strenuous.

Return to the vans change into your glad rags to make our way to the Kaimai Café for a buffet lunch at 2pm. You are able to purchase alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

NB: Bookings and full payment to Treasurer Colin by Friday 29 November as catering needs to be confirmed

No refund for lunch after this date

**Bank Account: 03-0306-0208429-000
Ref : name and xmas**



Depart: 8am

Return: 5-6pm approx

Cost:	Members	Transport \$25 + lunch \$25 = \$50 (members lunch subsidised by club)
	Non-members	Transport \$30 + lunch \$35 = \$65

Leaders: Dianne and Friends

Bookings:	Open	Monday 28 October at 5pm
	Close	Friday 29 November at 7pm
	Contact	Colin Standing
	Phone	07 855 1335
	Phone/Txt	027 326 6886
	Email	standings@xtra.co.nz



Where We Went

Sunday 14 April



Rangitoto Island

24 trampers left Hamilton at 7am for the journey to the ferry terminal in Auckland to catch the 10.30am ferry to Rangitoto Island, the ferry journey was 25 minutes. Approaching the island on the ferry, the island looks long and flat but on the map the island is almost completely round.

On arrival at Rangitoto Island, we sensibly waited for the crowds of ferry passengers to set off on their walk.

We were all delighted to discover that Brenda had arranged for Ranger Tim to give us a guided walk to the summit. This was a nice surprise and an added bonus, as Tim was a Geologist and very knowledgeable about the history of the island and also told us some funny stories too!



As we started our walk, I was surprised by how green the island was, it is home to the world's largest Pohutukawa forest, I could imagine at Christmas time the crimson flowers of the Pohutukawa tree would be absolutely beautiful against the greenery, dark volcanic rock and blue sea all around.

The summit walk takes around an hour but it took a little longer as we had lots of stops to learn about the flora, fauna and geology of the island.

The first part of the walk was relatively easy and was a very gradual incline to the first rest stop, then the terrain became more rocky, with a steeper incline and steps. At the intersection there was an opportunity for a few trampers to visit four lava caves, this was a 30 minute detour.



Once back at the intersection, there were 111 steps to the summit on a steep tramping track with a boardwalk to the lookout. At the summit which is 259 metres, we had 360 degree views including a view of the crater which was completely covered by trees.

At this point the group split into three; one group returned via the same track with Ranger Tim, the second group set off to Rangitoto Wharf via McKenzie Bay and after a very swift lunch stop at the summit, the third group who had visited the lava caves also descended via the 374 steps to McKenzie Bay and then onto Rangitoto Wharf.



The descent was really easy walking firstly along a boardwalk with 374 steps, and views on the right out to Motutapu Island, and then on a very wide path between large volcanic rock formations. When we had walked further around the island, the Auckland skyline came into view and we could see the Sky tower and harbour bridge.

We crossed lava fields and a causeway, then we passed a few baches, most are still occupied and there was a pink one! They were perfectly positioned facing the sea. We visited the Bach museum and it was interesting to see the elaborate flooring in the bedroom and how small the rooms and beds were. It was only a couple of minutes' walk from the museum back to the wharf with enough time for another bite to eat and then onto the 4pm ferry back to Auckland.

Thanks to the leaders Brenda and Carol, this was a really special walk, I have never walked on a dormant (not extinct – thanks Grant!) volcano before.

I would like to visit again when the Pohutukawa trees are in bloom and walk across to Motutapu Island.

Emma



Sunday 12 May

Ngaroma

Tolley Road

Eight lucky trampers started off for the Northern Pureora Forest on a cloudy day with no concern about weather anticipated heavy rain coming in the afternoon.

Along the track, we have witnessed countless surprises from natural decorations. White plant roots hovering over on the damp ground, colourful watery mushrooms, sparkling insect nets in the looming sun, green leaves waving breeze greetings, the birds jumped on the branches, and the little singers who sang cheerfully. The active parties of all the spirits in the forest make us feel like we are entering the spring that just woke up instead of autumn.

Excited as we pass through the tall bushes of humans, feeling like we accidentally broke into war-themed movies or scene of a wild survivor. After successfully passing through a few shallow creeks, we stopped in front of a dilapidated temporary barracks where there were some basic necessities to provide warm shelter for those in need. In the following track, some junior trampers almost exhausted all their energy in conquering the 4*4 off-road vehicles on the up and down slopes.



A miracle appeared in the last corner of the track. As a herd of grazing beef cattle followed our steps tightly lined up in another side the fence. They curiously looked at us who are a group of energetic strangers as if they were enjoying an unexpected fashion show. Just one seconds after all of us were sitting in the van ready to go home, the heavy rain that had been delayed for a couple hours finally broke out, which shows that the sky tried its best to take good care of us and keep us happy and dry.

Joyce



Sunday 26 May

Pirongia

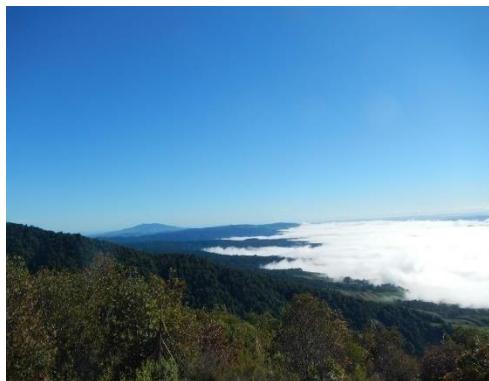
Ruapane Trig - Grade 1+

We set off in a thick fog which was to stay with us all day. As we discovered that the Nature Loop Walk was closed (possibly for repairs) we were able to spend more time on the Ruapane Trig track and climb higher than originally anticipated. Along the way we stopped for morning tea and then again when we came to a very strange rock know as jelly rock due to its resemblance to an oversized jelly or pudding mould.

We pressed on upward and eventually emerged into brilliant sunshine at the top of Ruapane Peak where we stopped for lunch. Here we met the other Wanderers group who had just finished lunch around the trig. From the top of Ruapane Peak it was possible to see the very top of Mt Te Aroha, Mt Maungatautari and Mt Kakapuku just protruding above the fog which covered the Waikato and Thames Valley.

One feature of the trip was the constant and ever-present bird song all the way up and down the mountain. We saw to our delight tui, wood pigeon, white eye, fantail and a little male tomtit which kept flying just ahead of us on the track coming down.

The 10 Grade 1+ trampers were all very pleased with themselves for completing what turned out to be a Grade 3 trip! Roger Mc



Sunday 9 June

Brook Park



FMC MEMBERSHIP

When it is time to pay your subs for our club there is the opportunity for you to subscribe to the Federation of Mountain Clubs too.

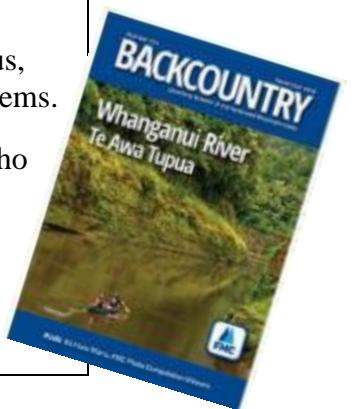
They advocate for us in the conservation estate, the national parks, the back country and the mountains. Walking, climbing, biking, fostering the outdoor community.

They keep an eye on commercial use of public land, DOC funding, land status, environmental issues, pest control, water, and tourism, huts and booking systems.

Their quarterly bulletin called Back Country is eagerly read by those of us who receive it.

Contact me for further details....

Regards Lyn Kingsbury (FMC Distributor/Advisor)



Sunday 23 June

Bill Garlands Property – G3

There were only five of us (Grade 3's) on a cold and windy day with intermittent light misty rain, it was invigorating, so we kept moving, and we found a sheltered spot for lunch.

I have done this tramp several times and always enjoy it. It has so much good stuff going for it: close to home, access to a top-notch farm, a bait line walk where the bush is up-close and in your face, a variety of bush habitats and some technical challenges.

The steep downs were very slippery due to the overnight rain, one area had the addition of nylon ropes which were also very slippery, at some stages there were a few stumbles and slips by some of us but soft landings every time.

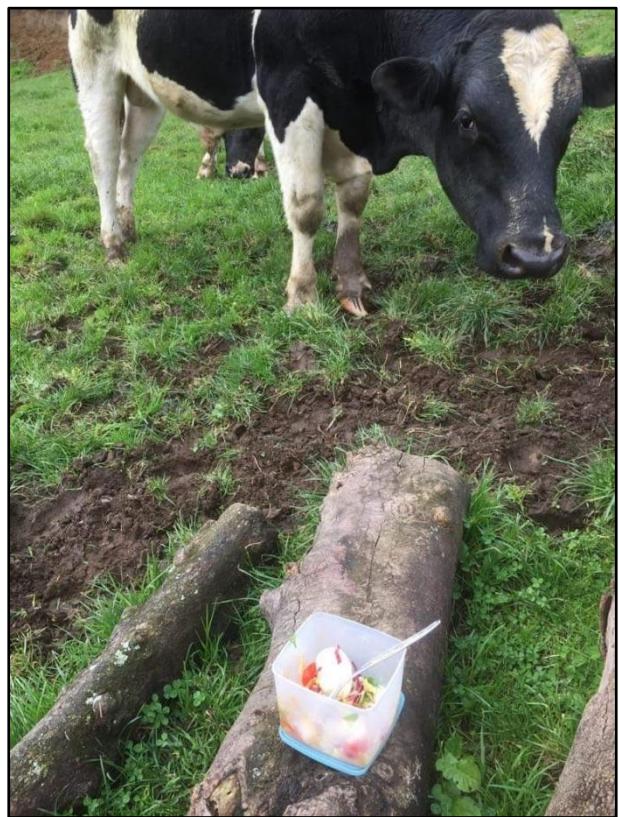
I think the wind reduced the bird activity but we did hear a flock of popokotea (whitehead) chattering, and saw some riroriro (grey warblers) and miromiro (tomtit).

The fungi were varied and delightful, we had been told about the big brackets to look for – yes they were big, but many fungi are humble and almost hidden, with our heads down we see some – and shared our delight each time.

The last technical challenge was at one of the pest-proof access gates – it wouldn't open, “open sesame” didn't work necessitating a walk along the perimeter to the next gate.

We walked, we talked, as trampers do, and some invigorating opinions were expressed – thank you to my companions for a good day.

Maungatautari



Saturday 29 June

Te Waotu-Arapuni

Night Walk – Jim Barnetts Bush

“Keith’s Tours” set off with 20 hardy souls, climbed into the vans and made our way to Jim Barnett Reserve for a night walk followed by Keith’s famous soup and our contributions to supper.

Unfortunately, Keith was unable to make it, but the soup did, so all was well.

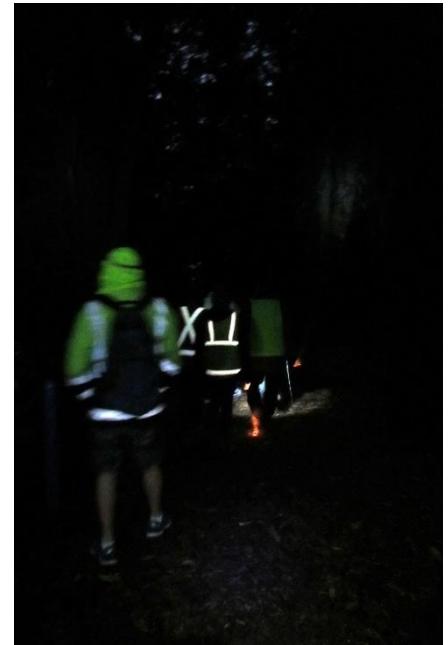
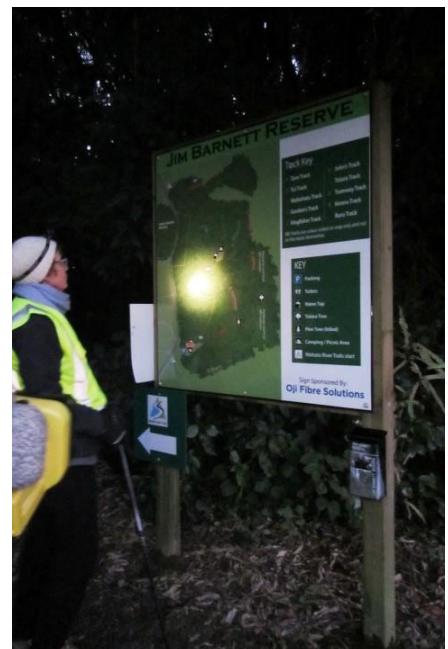
Pam and Anne set up the camp kitchen and warmed the soup, while the rest of set off in high viz vests, torches and warm gear lead by John Sheat into this amazing bush that was very different at night. We passed and admired the 1000 year old totara tree which looked huge at night.

We arrived back to the cooks with the hot soup waiting for us and the famous Wanderers Broo up.

While drinking and eating we were visited by a couple of possums who though they might join us for supper, but once they saw the lights they were off, no doubt to come back after we left.

We all had a great night, no rain and lots of laughs.

Night Wanderer



Sunday 21 July

Rotorua

Hinehopu Hongis Track

On a very foggy winter morning 13 trampers left Hamilton to travel to Lake Rotoiti in Rotorua. After morning tea, we started the walk from the edge of the lake. This was a lovely bush walk, the track was slightly undulating with a few tree roots, we saw all sorts of fungi and many different trees, they were all very tall and some knobbly. We heard some birdsong and saw a tui. I think it was too cold in the bush for most birds. We soon warmed up on the walk.

The track is named Hongi's track after the warrior who dragged his waka along this track to launch an attack on Rotorua.

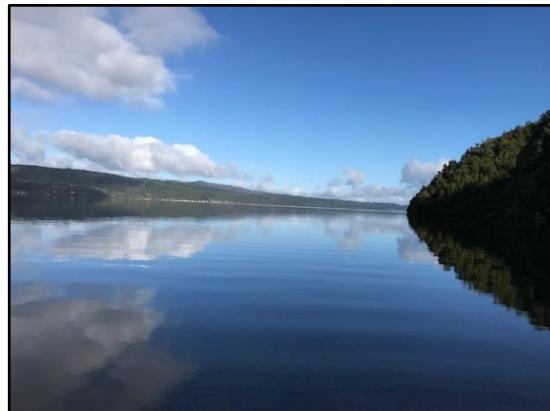
We came out of the bush and walked along the edge of Lake Rotoehu, it was very still with not much movement except for some black swans and Canada geese having a swim. On our left was a huge cliff and there were warning signs to beware of falling rocks, we did see a couple of large boulders which had recently broken off the cliff and had fallen onto the track.

We stopped for lunch halfway up a hill where Dianne kept us entertained by having fun on her lunchtime slide. After lunch a few ventured up the steep four-wheel drive track, hopeful for some lake views. The terrain was quite gritty and sandy which made for good traction under foot. The track under bush cover wasn't too muddy either surprisingly.

We returned the same way we came making a detour to the wishing tree, this tree is a sacred matai and where, as a baby Hinehopu was hidden from enemies by her mother, it is also under this tree that she met her husband. We picked up some greenery and headed for the tree, which was on the side of a busy road. We dropped our offering at the tree and made a wish. As cars drove by they tooted their horns, maybe this was for good luck also.

We had an ice cream stop in Tirau and were back in Hamilton for 5pm.

Thank you to Dianne for doing all the driving and for leading this walk, the weather was kind to us, on what started out as a foggy morning turned into a beautiful winter's day with a clear blue sky and no rain. *Emma*



Sunday 4 August

Kawhia

Deversons Medium Gorge

It was wet and windy winters morning when six hardy Wanderers grouped at the usual spot, picked up our seventh trumper at Ngahinapouri before heading out towards Kawhia. The van was buffeted around in the nasty weather, Colin did a great job staying on the winding roads in such atrocious conditions.

We put on our wet weather gear under the shelters at Te Kauri Lodge and headed off on the wet, muddy and very slippery track. Within minutes we met with a large 'puddle' that required navigation around the edges to avoid getting wet boots so early on.

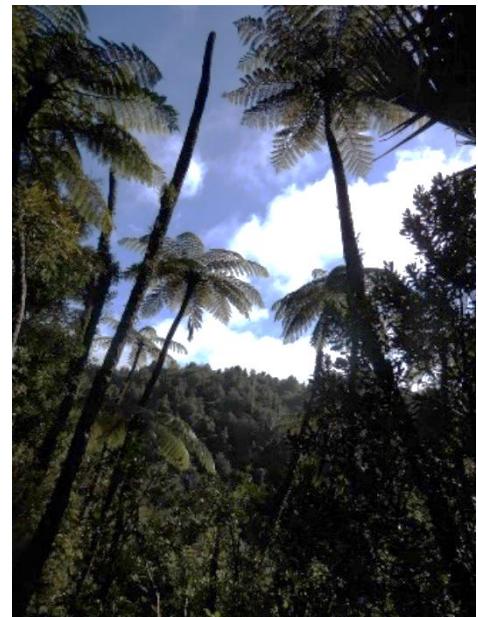
The bush was lush, green and very wet. There were a few obstacles to manoeuvre but that made the day even more interesting.

It was decided to have an early lunch at 11am before dropping to cross the stream that had become extremely deep in places. Some of the group managed to find a spot to cross further up without even getting their feet wet!

We started the ascent, that was quite steep at times along a ridge but sadly the cloud cover didn't allow for any great views.

We returned to Hamilton by about 2.30pm, all agreeing that it was a reasonably short day but the terrain definitely made it challenging enough.

Thanks to our leaders Colin and Ron for a great day out in the fantastic Waikato winter weather.
Brenda



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- 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

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