## Route to Nowhere

February 12, 2023
The Way to Go
(Waihi, Waikino and Te Aroha)

Bit of issue, more on concern...

Cyclone Gabrielle becomes the crux of today's walk...

Can't imagine, never thought of...?

The morning is, although cloudy, rather a calm day... the gloomy sky is...not a scratch, not a marking... giving some sort of uneasiness, calling for awareness...

Action has to be taken...to ensure safety, to guard against any mishap...Who knows, never know...

Just follow the old saying: Prevention is better than cure. Working under the shallow of recent catastrophic Auckland...

In the carpark at Collingwood Street, ideas are raised, considered, and discussed...among 12 of us.

Options come up...with hand-raising for decision.

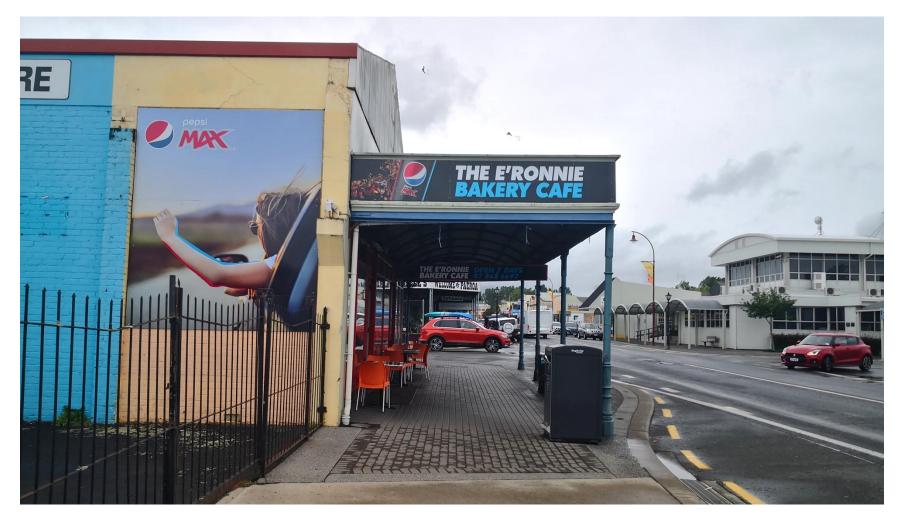
Keith concern is: Everyone should be safe for today's walk...

There is a need to change the location for the walk...

the sea...the coast would be hazardous with

pounding waves and winds...

There we go...in the usual full-loaded van... Heading to Waikino instead to Waihi...away from the coast... No more Whiritoa Coastal Walk...but to Golden Cross... Over the way, rain comes consequentially, pouring down in full load... comes and goes...still not that stable, the weather... All the way turning into Golden Cross Road...winding all along with a dip near the roadend to check for speedy driver... With careful move across the dip... Only to find the firmly-shut gate... What a disappointment! Right at the moment, nothing can be done... What to do... Where to go...that's not our plan...Oh, any other alternative? In the very minute, Dianne raises of going to the Lower Loop Track... Backtracking Golden Cross Road and then to State Highway 2... How about having a break, morning tea in Paeroa?



This's the café we spend some time in Belmont Road...

Morning tea...flat white, latte, mocha, tea...meat pies...in one of the best bakeries in Paeroa. For me, a yummy mushroom steak pie!





Seems having a lunch for me...Others are quite contempt of having somewhere to hang around...letting away the frustration of not able to do as planned.

Quite a rest in the midst of coming cyclone.

Carol is sharing her wonderful trip to Norway...

There we are going to Te Aroha. Taking a while of driving, thanks Keith and Dianne for driving us safely along...especially for the bewildering fallen/falling tree... Again, only to find this track also closed...

starting from 12 February, 2023 to until further notice...Oh, how come? What's next?

Sways from here to there...wind blows here and there...

The rhetorical question that comes with...

Take a picture, have a record...to see how we are in the way we intended to... The natural force wins and human (?DOC) follows.

The DOC notice is an announcement that should be followed...but should not be there as for our energetic urge for a walk in the wind.

One after the other, over the rock, in the wind...the grass sways.

We are looking, inside the shelter van.

With the sort of tenderness and flexibility, they are able to survive in the wild...the sort of existence in nature.

Agility and dexterity is the way, just follows what's in...

Winds are getting stronger...starting again, heavier that would be...

Wind or rain, what's blowing...

Should we change our initial plan, Whiritoa Coastal Walk or ... should there be any other more appropriate option(s) ... Who knows ...

Somewhat is..."blowing in the wind" - The Answer.



Note: From DOC Website
All DOC facilities in Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Coromandel,
Bay of Plenty, Gisborne and Hawke's Bay
are closed until 20 February due to Cyclone Gabrielle.



Sort of silence...bits of chatting in the van. Heading forward...Pam suggesting of going to a reserve... That's good idea, better than nothing... We are walker, hikers and trampers...This's the way to do for our Wanderers motto. We never cancel a walk in view of heavy rain. The same for today. Let's do it...just an insistence to walk our way, the way of life to be and ahead. The van is moving.....Out there, in Hamilton... how come? Where to go... Not having a reserve walk or... In a mindful wondering, it's better to get some sort of simple walk, just to kill time or simply follow our plan of "renting the van not without walking the track" Oh, the van stops at the petrol station outside Pak'nSave...How about having a shopping walk...to prepare for the cyclone... A breakthrough...Go shopping. No way to go but the way to move is there. Thanks to the drive and giving an indication of further walk...Adding more walk for today...Shopping in Pak'nSave...

Walking home with a shopping load in the wind.