

Wanderers Tramping Club Inc



BULLETIN

September - December 2021

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 2020/2021

President:	Dianne Lee	027 272 6617
First Aid/Social	leedi444@gmail.com	
Past President:	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 & FMC Co-Ordinator:	Position Vacant	
Bulletin Editor:	Brenda Petersen brenda22269@hotmail.com	0273 117 372
Merchandise :	Ron Clarke	07 846 5183
Transport Co-ordinator :	Grant Svendsen gsveny@gmail.com	021 0476518
New Member Co-ordinator :	Jenny West tsew.ynnej@gmail.com	07 856 3140

Trip Programme

TRIP DATE	TRIP DETAILS	BOOKING INFORMATION
12 September	Otawa Trig Te Puke	Brenda Petersen Phone/Txt 0273 117 372 Email : brenda22269@hotmail.com Open : Monday 30 August at 6pm
26 September	Leyland O'Brien Track Whakamarama	Dianne Lee Phone/Txt : 027 272 6617 Email : leedi444@gmail.com Open : Monday 13 September @ 6pm
10 October	Hurunui Hut Kaimais	Colin Standing Phone : 07 855 1335 Phone/Txt : 021 253 1105 Email : standings@xtra.co.nz Monday 27 September @ 6pm
13 October	AGM	Age Concern Centre 30 Victoria Street Hamilton 7.30pm
24 October	Pukemokemoke Reserve/Woodlands Orini	Dianne Lee Phone/Txt : 027 272 6617 Email : leedi444@gmail.com Bookings not required – just turn up
7 November	Western Walkway Rotorua	Dianne Lee Phone/Txt : 027 272 6617 Email : leedi444@gmail.com Open : Monday 25 October @ 6pm
21 November	Grace Darling Mine and Battery Waitekauri	Grant Svendsen Phone/Txt: 021 047 6518 Email : gsveny@gmail.com Open : Monday 8 November@ 6pm
5 December	Christmas Walk & Lunch Hamilton Gardens	Colin Standing Phone : 07 855 1335 Phone/Txt : 027 326 6886 Email : standings@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 18 October Full payment for lunch by 22 November
30 January 2022		First tramp of 2022



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 last of the 2021 tramping bulletins, time has just flown! I hope you all had an enjoyable year so far. We've had some great trips and even the weather gods have been kind to us.

Again, this bulletin has a great mix - some new, some old and some challenges. Please if you are a member or go out with any other group and you have been some where that might be interesting for us, then get hold of me or one of the committee members so we can look at it. We are now looking to revisit some old places as we are running out of ideas.

I wish to send a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to the committee members who without them you would not be on the "track". There are also our friends and associates who help us out from time to time.

The AGM is coming up on Wednesday 13 October so please consider joining us and possibly become a committee member, we do not bite and we are so friendly. The committee need your support as we are a few doing a lot, many hands make light work!

Christmas is just around the corner and as we had such a great mid-winter lunch at the Gardens we are going to go there for a special sumptuous lunch with a welcome drink on Sunday 5 December. Next year I'll look at out of Hamilton options. Members are receiving a subsidy for this and the menu is out of this world.

Remember: On any trip bring a change of clothes and shoes please, book early as the vans fill up quickly on most trips. Some of the trips listed in this bulletin will have an email with more details closer to the time as they were not fully surveyed before going to press. So keep eye on the website and emails.

Enjoy the Christmas break, be safe and we will be back on the track at the end of January 2022. See you on the track

Dianne

AGM

Wednesday 13 October 2021

7.30pm

Age Concern Centre, 30 Victoria Street Hamilton

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 on 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 12 September

Te Puke

Grades 1 & 2+

Trip # 1123 – Ottawa Trig

We will travel to Te Puke and then up into the hills to take a walk to the Ottawa Trig. The track starts on private farmland then up through forest dominated by tawa and rewarewa. Entering the forest, this track follows the undulating ridgeline to the Trig.

Although the track is in the bush for most of the walk there are a couple of places where on a good day we will have great views across the Bay of Plenty. The track is well formed and easy to follow but is up hill for 2 ½ -3 hours with almost no flat walking to the trig.



The G1s will have morning tea on arrival and then walk up as far as desired. The G2+ group will go to the trig and return to the van walking approx 5+ hours.

Bring extra money for an ice cream/coffee at the real fruit ice cream shop on the way home if time allows.

Depart:	7.30am	
Return:	6pm approx	
Cost:	\$25 members \$30 non-members	
Leader:	Brenda	
Bookings:	Open	Monday 30 August
	Contact	Brenda Petersen
	Phone/Txt	0273 117 372
	Email	brenda22269@hotmail.com



Sunday 26 September Whakamarama Grades 1+ & 2+

Trip # 1124 – Leyland O’Brien Track, Puketoki Reserve

We will make our way to Whakamarama Road, Tauranga

Grade 1+ - Puketoki is one of the oldest reserves in the Western Bay of Plenty and the Te Puna Stream, which runs past the picnic spot, provides a safe, shallow spot to cool off. This bush reserve (34 hectares) was donated to the Whakamarama Community in 1926 by Henry Sharplin of the Whakamarama Land and Timber Company. Before that time it was milled, so only the old surviving trees would be those not suitable for timber at that time. Tramways for transporting logs can still be seen along the track.

We will drive to the Reserve (we may need to drop off some G3’s on the way), have morning tea, then from here we will walk the long loop track within the reserves which has some amazing trees and history. After this we go to the Whakamarama Road end (off road 4WD area). The track descends for 100m to the junction of the Leyland O’Brien Tramline and Ngamarama Tracks. We will take the track which follows the old tramline beside the headwaters of the Ngamuwahine River. This section is flat and a loop track which will bring us back to the vehicles, with a slight climb to get out of valley. Some beautiful bush. Total Walking time approx 4-5 hours

Grade 2+ - This trip is to the historic Salvation Hut off the Leyland O’Brien track. At this time the plan is for the group to be dropped off at the Leyland O’Brien tramline. The hut is located in an area known to locals as the "long swamp." There is a track that branches off the Leyland O’Brien track to the privately built hut built in the early to mid 80’s. Total walking time approx 6 hours

Depart:	7.30am	
Return:	6-7pm approx	
Cost:	\$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members)	
Leaders :	G1+	Dianne and friends
	G2+	Colin and friends

Bookings:	Open	Monday 13 September @ 6pm
	Contact	Dianne Lee
	Txt	027 272 6617
	Email	leedi444@gmail.com



Sunday 10 October**Kaimais****Grade 2+****Trip # 1125 – Hurunui Hut**

The track starts at the Old Kaimai Road carpark near the Tuakopae Stream Bridge. After crossing the stream, we follow the western branch of the Henderson Tramline and continue up haul lines to the ridge of the North-South track. From here we turn north along the North-South Track, passing the junction of the northern branch of the Henderson Tramline and on to the 4 bed Hurunui Hut.



Hurunui Hut

After lunch we walk southwards back to the junction of the Henderson Tramline where we turn eastwards crossing two large streams before reaching the Old Kaimai Road. Then a walk along the road back to the van. Likely to get wet feet if the streams are high.



Expect to walk about 6 hours including lunch and stops.

Depart:	7.30am	
Return:	6pm approx	
Cost:	\$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members)	
Leaders:	Colin Standing and Ron Clarke	
Bookings:	Open	Monday 27 September @ 6pm
	Contact	Colin Standing
	Phone	07 855 1335
	Txt	021 253 1105
	Email	standings@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 24 October

Orini

Grade 1

Trip # 1126 – Pukemokemoke Reserve & Woodlands Ramble

We will meet at the usual place Community Living Trust car park and carpool for this trip.

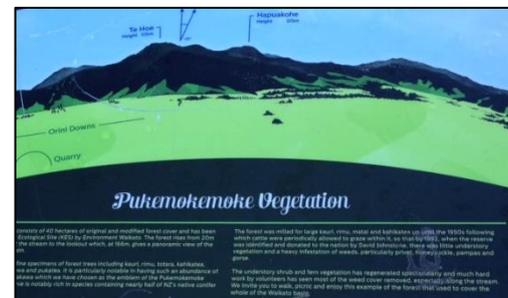
This private reserve has lots of native trees and birds. The aim is to gently climb up to the summit lookout (166m) and with good luck get great panoramic views over the Waikato Basin. We then wander down the ridge line back down to the cars. This walk can be muddy in places and possibly slippery on the downside if wet, but we will take our time.

From here we will make our way to Woodlands for lunch and a coffee plus a walk around the grounds for those who feel like it, then home.

Total walking time around 4 hours max. Bring money for coffee/ice cream.

We will be carpooling for this trip so please bring \$5 for the driver and \$5 for the club.

No bookings required, just turn up



- Depart:** 8am
- Return:** 2pm approx
- Cost:** \$5.00 to drivers + \$5.00 to club
- Leaders:** Dianne & friends
- Bookings:** Not required – just turn up
- Contact: Dianne Lee
- Phone/txt: 027 272 6617

Sunday 7 November**Rotorua****Grade 1+ & 3****Trip # 1127 – Western Walkway - Millar Road to Lake Okataina Education Camp**

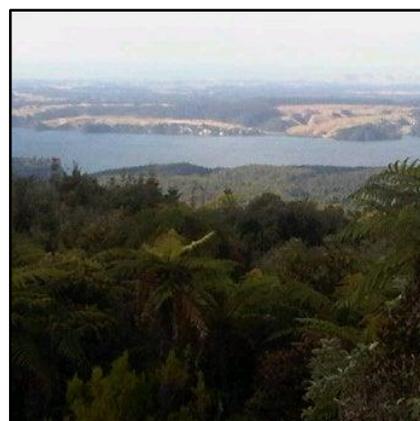
We make our way to Millar Road on Lake Okareka. You will be sharing this track with mountain bikes, so be careful. The track is well formed but could be rutted due to bikes.

The Western Okataina Walkway is an old forestry road that dates back to earlier last century when the area was logged for rimu, totara, rata and kahikatea. It is generally wide and well formed. Pass through some stunning native bush. Absorb amazing views of Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti from the Whakapounakau Trig.

Grade 3's - will be walking from Millar Rd through to Lake Okataina Education camp this is approx 19 km. You will have morning tea and lunch on the track. There will be some challenges such as the 758m climb up to the Whakapounakau trig along the way.

Total approx walking time 6-7h – suggest you carry torches

Grade 1+'s - are going to have morning tea then walk in and return on same track for about 3 hours. We then relocate the vehicles to Lake Okataina and walk in from the camp to meet the others. You might if you feel up to a challenge go to the trig this is optional.



Depart:	7.30am	
Return:	6-7pm	
Cost:	\$25.00 (members)	
	\$30.00 (non-members)	
Leaders:	G1+	Keith and friends
	G3	Grant and friends
Bookings:	Open	Monday 25 October at 6pm
	Contact	Dianne Lee
	Txt	027 272 6617
	Email	leedi444@gmail.com

Sunday 21 November**Waitekauri****Grades 1+ & 3****Trip # 1128 – Waitekauri Valley/Grace Darling Mine****Grade 3 - Grace Darling Mine and Battery**

The Grace Darling Co. was formed in 1892 to work this area using a ten stamp battery, but the results were disappointing. The battery was powered by water from the Kathleen Stream and a village was nearby.

From the parking spot, we will walk over some paddocks on a paper road, and once in the bush we will follow a loop pack track/route anti-clockwise and parallel to the Grace Darling Stream for a couple of hours, and then head west to hook up with the old Alpha Rd where we head back down to the Grace Darling Battery site and then back to the van.

This tramp may be done in the opposite direction starting at Scheltema Road which will include a 1km walk on the road back to the van.

Grade 1+ - Golden Cross, Waikino

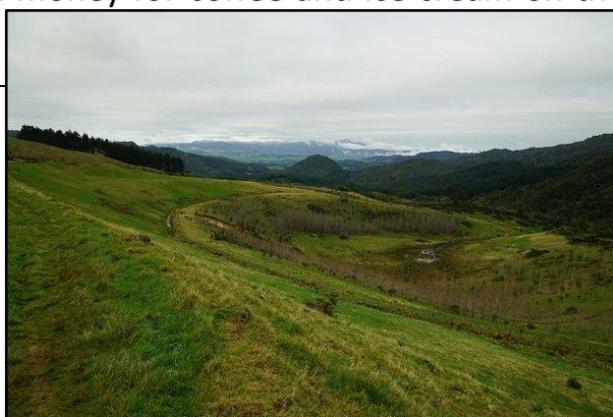
While the G3's are exploring the lower area of the Waitekauri Valley we will drive up to the top of the Waitekauri Road and start our walk from here. This area played a huge part in gold exploration both in days gone by and in more recent times.

After morning tea we will set off and see what we can find. A walk around a man-made lake possibly. Also, we will take a walk back down the track to the Maratoto Valley and look at part of history that are almost lost. So come along and explore this area and have a great day out. Bring extra money for coffee and ice cream on the way home.

Depart:	7.30am
Return:	5.30-6pm approx
Cost:	\$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members)

Leaders:	G1+	Keith & friends
	G3	Grant, Ron and Ray

Bookings:	Open	Monday 8 November @ 6pm
	Contact	Grant Svendsen
	Phone/Txt	021 047 6518
	Email	gsveny@gmail.com



Sunday 5 December**Hamilton****Grade 1****Trip # 1129 – Walk and Lunch - Hamilton Gardens**

Our last get together for the tramping year, so we've organised a stroll along the river from the Hamilton Gardens followed by a sumptuous Christmas lunch.

We will meet outside the Hamilton Gardens Café at 9.30am for a social walk using the river path to Victoria Bridge (police station bridge) and back to gardens - approx 6kms.



After there will be plenty of time to change into your glad rags for a leisurely lunch.

Those wanting to join us for lunch only the function doors will be open at 1pm. Drinks and bar available at additional cost.



- ★ Walk starts 9.30am
- ★ Doors open for lunch 1pm
- ★ Welcome drink on arrival
- ★ Lunch 1.30pm

Cost: \$35 members (club has subsidised this \$15)
\$50 non-members

Leaders: Dianne & Pam

Bookings: With full payment for lunch
 Open Monday 18 October
 Close Monday 22 November (no refunds after 23 November)
 Contact Colin Standing
 Phone 07 855 1335
 Phone/txt 027 326 6886
 Email standings@xtra.co.nz



Where We Went

Old Reservoir Road

Sunday 25th April



Getting up early Anzac Day is something most of us will have done and whilst we couldn't go to the local dawn service as I ate my breakfast I listened to the broadcast on National Radio of the service held at the Pukeahu National War Memorial Park. On arrival at the carpark I was greeted like a long lost wanderer – maybe I am, last time I was out with the club was August 2019.

The day was a bit cool to start, with heavy dew on the grass – but we warmed up as it was a steady climb most of the morning. Past the old Paeroa water reservoir (1929-1959) on what was the original coach road to Waitekauri. Morning tea was in or around a door-less tin shed/hut that Grant said was something to do with the local scout group. We didn't see the small lake that is somewhere nearby.

About 11.30 we came out onto open farmland with views towards the Firth of Thames. We stopped to learn about the native passion-fruit vine (kohia or passiflora tetrandra) and its fruit which some sampled.

Then across the boundary fence and into the bush – once we found the correct spot. From now on it was ‘find the tags’ which varied in colour and age. The afternoon weather cooled down a bit and we had two brief showers. The downhill was steep and slippery, there were a few slides taken by several of us. One trekking pole even broke.

Near the bottom six of the nine headed off to find the old coalmine – not really knowing what to expect – we came across some coal slag, and some man altered landscape. The coal was discovered in 1875 – there were two seams overlaying each other about 50 ft apart. The coal was delivered to Paeroa in wagons pulled by bullocks.

It was along this bullock track that we walked out on – after we found the beginning of it – much of it has succumbed to the damp undergrowth and a few slips, not always easy walking.

We had brief company of two dogs and their pig hunter – but no pig.

Thanks leaders Grant and Ron and everyone else for the company.

Lorna

Sunday 9 May

Hakarimatas

There were nine members aboard the van for this close to home trip and two visitors were going to join us at the Ngaruawahia car park. Then the fun began...The bulletin described one trip, but an email had been circulated describing three options. Who would go where?? We all went up the track that led to the old quarry. Not many of us knew about it, and nature has been reclaiming it, but it was an interesting and quite scenic location.

From there two returned to the base of the hill, taking in the walk to the historic dam and its environs. They then drove around to the Waingaro Road car park and walked in from there. They went up the track a little way and then retraced their steps to the picnic area and to the cascades. As the weather was not the best, they enjoyed their lunch in the comfort of the van.

Two others returned to the base of the hill and then went up the steps, as the original write up suggested. They were greeted at the top by the remainder of the group. The remainder of the group had continued a little further along the quarry track and then dived off to the left into the bush. It was uphill of course, but a true tramping track, coming out at the lookout. Only a few went up to enjoy the misty view. After lunch we went off to meet those coming up the stairs.

Unfortunately, one member had twisted an ankle on the way up so the descent was a bit painful, but he managed it and was thankful to see the van come into sight. DOC have been working on this southern track putting in lots of steps and a gravel path. It has lost a bit of its wilderness feel but the track is now more accessible to a wider range of people venturing into the bush.

Thanks to Grant and Ron for incorporating the quarry track into our day which was shorter than usual but a very nice day out.

Carol



Sunday 23 May

Waihi

Two Mines and a Bunch of (Strawberry) Trees

I led this group of 20 people on a loop track that I had done many times before, hoping this time to see the legendary drunk tuis feasting on fermented dogwood fruit at the site of a long disappeared mining village. Carol confirmed to us all at the start of our trip that she had seen this sight before.

We soon straggled into different groups, filtered by our energy levels up the initial farm track. I diverted from the bulldozed track after the first steep bit, on to the old track that is steadily being reclaimed by gorse but which is a much better grade and more interesting. I had secateurs, which served the dual function of clearing our way, and slowing our progress to hold back the energetic ones so we remained more as one group. The only problem with this route was where the old track joins the new one, because at this point we had to scramble up a loose mixture of dirt and tree fragments. Entertaining, for some!



Back in the open, with a little sun and good views, it was a suitable place for morning tea. Up a short hill section again, and we left the farm track on to what had once been the main road over the hills. Wide, almost flat for hours, with points of interest and with some wallows created by vehicles. One tree, a pukatea (?) had a very odd shape, as if it had been trimmed like a poodle. The track went through a short tunnel, where boulders waited to trip those without some kind of light. We followed a plastic water pipe till it disappeared into an old mine. A side-track went to the left, and appeared to be very well used, causing us to speculate on where it went and why it would be used.

After about an hour we reached the turnoff to the Maoriland Battery site, where some of us left to see what was there, while the rest went slowly on to the lunch stop. The group that went down to the battery site missed seeing the ripe fruit that Grant found somewhere about here.

It is almost 100m vertical distance down to the stream bed, on a track that had been cut by bulldozer to pull out the well-preserved best bits of



the machinery. Much further than most of us expected. There is not a lot left of the battery – some castings, lots of steel bars, and some beams. Three of us crossed the stream and found the remains of a stove and oven made of lots of bricks. Just below this in the dense bush are the steel bands that once held together the staves of the 4m dia. cyanide tanks.

Up out of the stream and back on the track the next point of interest was the “Weta Cave”, a short, dry adit with a fine population of cave wetas.

By now we were ready for lunch, but I persuaded the team to follow me to see a large pine tree on an indirect route to the lunch spot. Some scepticism about large trees was dissipated when they saw it. Lots of holly and some ivy was in this spot, too. A few minutes later we caught up with the rest of the party at the dogwood patch, huddled up trying to keep warm, having finished their lunch and ready to go. There were no drunk tuis, and very few fruit. We gobbled our lunch and the whole party got on the move again.

Up a short slope, then a sharp turn to the right, and we were heading mostly downhill again. An old pine forest had large orange toadstools (*Amanita muscaria*, or Fly Agaric) to entertain the photographers. Then out into open gorse hills.

Not long after getting back to a farm road again we had a problem. One of us slipped on the loose road metal and twisted her knee. It seemed to be just a bruise at first, but it quickly became apparent that she was unable to walk the 1500m or so back to the van. The farm track was in good condition for vehicles, so I took off with a key and a gate-opening companion to attempt to bring a



van up to where she was resting. On the way down I was looking at the grade of the road and feared that bringing up a 2 wheel drive could be difficult on the steep bits!

We got to the van in quick time and were just about to open the farm gate when the 4-wheel drive convoy of earlier in the day drove up, with our patient smiling in the front vehicle. I was very relieved to not have to find out if our van and my driving was up to the challenge of the farm road, even though I was also forced to admit that 4-wheel drives had their uses.

Half an hour later the Jubilee mine group arrived, having achieved their objective.

Another very good day out.

Ray Hoare

Sunday 6 June

Pirongia

Wilson Clearing – G2+

Two vans of Wanderers, down in numbers due to the inclement weather, set off to the Limeworks Loop Road and the Kaniwaniwha Reserve Carpark. Leaving the G1's, eight of us G2's headed off walking beside the Kaniwaniwha Stream on the Nikau Track.

After crossing a bridge, we turned off into the bush crossing the Blue Bill Stream to climb up very steeply. It was a bit tricky because the satellite coverage on Grant's phone app was fading out often plus finding the tape and ribbons wasn't easy. We had to do a bit of bush bashing to find the track.

Carrying on up we came across a clearing and then out towards the paddocks with bush on one side, and a good view looking out over the farms. Heading on down through the bush we eventually came to Wilsons Clearing where we had lunch. It rained a bit in the afternoon which made the track slippery and more difficult underfoot.

Coming out on to the Bell Track was easier because it was well marked. We had to be more careful because it was mostly downhill which made slower progress down towards the swing bridge.

A few of us went to look at the tall kahikatea then it was onwards to the cave. Five of us took our packs off and entered. It was narrow in places and wet underfoot but we all got through climbing up a ladder to get out at the other end. We then made our way back along the track and returned to the van.

No ice creams on the way back – just straight home due to the miserable weather. Thanks to the drivers Carol and Grant and to Grant for the interesting tramp.



Ron

Sunday 6 June

Pirongia

Bell Track – G1

After a very early morning tea in the carpark seven of us set off in high spirits for a good day in the bush. As we got close to the forest, we were overtaken on the track by two people with seven very excited but well behaved dogs.

Once on the Bell Track we headed for the caves which we inspected but did not enter. We then continued to the giant kahikatea tree. A short distance from this giant tree we encountered a large bog hole which took up the full width of the track. As it was deemed unnegotiable the decision was made to turn back at this point.

We returned to the Nikau Loop track and completed the full circuit of this lovely area of tall forest. We came across many interesting fungi on rotting trees and it was here that Alison discovered a rare and possibly unrecorded plant which was promptly named Alisonium in her honour.

Despite the forecast of bad weather we completed our tramp just before the rain arrived and we returned home dry.

Many thanks to Dianne and Alison for a most enjoyable day out.

Roger Mc

Wanderers Wheelers Biking Group

We have a two hour ride 9am-11am every Wednesday around the Hamilton Area.

If there is a fifth Wednesday in the month we usually have a ride out of town.

Contact a committee member for further information



Sunday 20 June

Rotorua

Lake Okataina Cruise and Walk

The day started in drizzling rain with the possibility we would all get drenched. Indeed, it did rain all the way there but miraculously we had a mostly dry day. The meaning of Okataina is “place of laughter” reportedly due to a joke made by the member of a tribe. Lake Okataina is the largest of four smaller lakes lying between Lake Rotorua and Lake Tarawera. Unlike the other lakes it is surrounded by native forest. It has no inlets or outlets. As a result the lake level rises and falls up to five metres.

We were met by Nick, who owns the Lodge and the boat we were to cruise on. The track we were supposed to walk was closed due to a slip so the plans for the day had changed. The two grades became one and the cruise to the end of the lake became a cruise around the lake.



Nick related tales from the past and pointed out historic sites as we cruised slowly around the lake shore. One was a loosened rock up a cliff face which had revealed that a cave had been used as an ancient burial site.

As we neared the jetty he moored the boat and we all got off and after a short walk up a stream had the rare opportunity to view dozens of spawning rainbow trout all fighting to swim higher. What a treat. This only happens during July and August so our timing was perfect.



Then it was back to the jetty and a short drive to the nearby education facility where we parked and had lunch. Several short tracks near here connect with each other and provided about three hours of walking in bush, mostly rimu, pukatea and tawa. The Anaha and Kepa tracks show evidence of old logging sites. Dianne pointed out two secluded volcanic craters along the way.

A most interesting day was had thanks to Dianne and Colin

Alison

Sunday 4 July

Rotorua

Lakes Okareka & Tikitapu

Two vans and a car left Hamilton at 7.30am and headed towards Rotorua. First stop for morning tea beside a picturesque misty lake where we were briefed on the day ahead. We all climbed aboard the vans again and drove a few minutes up the road to the start of the Okareka Walkway. It was quite chilly to begin with but a brisk walk along the boardwalks soon had us warmed up. It was a 'take your time and enjoy the view' walk to the outlet and return. The blue sky was reflecting beautifully on the water and the hills covered in bush and farmland made it a very pleasant walk.



Once all back we boarded the vans and were off to Lake Tikitapu where on arrival we all sat on the tiered grass bank and ate our lunch. Was a great spot for a picnic and while we were here the duck bus/boat came and drove into the lake adding a bit of entertainment for us. There were dozens of friendly fantails flitting about on the grass around us almost like we weren't even there.

Once fed and watered we started off around the lake on a very interesting, established bush track. It was relatively flat with a few small ups and downs. A short while in we turned left and went down towards the lake on a small side-track to a hidden away beach. We retraced back onto the main track and then further around we came across a carpark with a raised viewing area where both the Tikitapu/Blue and Rotokakahi/Green Lakes could be seen from.

From here we descended back down to the lake edge pausing at a scenic, secluded sandy beach and then headed back along the main track through the bush. While on this part of the track we could see the floating wetland that acts as a barrier and wave mitigation between the recreational area and the ski zone on the lake



The last part of the track was along a path on the road edge. Everyone enjoyed their ice creams and coffee from the campground shop before we headed off back to Hamilton. This was a fantastic day out only enhanced by the stunning weather. Thanks to Dianne, Keith and Pam for their organising and the drivers who got us there and back safely.

Brenda

Sunday 18 July

Papamoa

Summerhill Rec Park

16 keen trampers met for the trip across to Papamoa for the Summerhills Park tramp, despite the appalling weather the day before it looked like we would get most of the day in before rain forecast in the afternoon.

The Summerhills park was very well set up with toilets and large carpark areas, the path from the carpark was steep and there was a bit of puffing on the way up, the track was nicely made and wide with several lookouts where we could catch our breath and some magnificent views.

It was cloudy this day but on a clear day you can see through to Whakatane. As we reached the top the wind hit us and it was pretty blustery, after finding a sheltered spot we regrouped and those who were keen on some more exertion moved across the farmland to a bush area while the rest went back down to the carpark.

Once in the bush we were out of the wind and it was an easy walk through coming out at another carpark on the other side of the farm. Here we read about the park and the family who had set it up as a rec reserve for the public with many walking and biking trails. The total area is much bigger than the walk we did with 126 ha in total with many biking tracks as well as a track for walking around the whole park. As the rain had begun we decided to head back to the vans crossing farmland and even seeing some new lambs.

We stopped for lunch near the summit where we enjoyed views of the coast back to Mt Maunganui and Tauranga, the wind was still blowing so we didn't linger for very long, by the time we were back at the vans the sun was out and so we headed for the Welcome Bay Hotpools for a dip. The pools were very smart and we enjoyed a soak in the sun watching the clouds build again.

After an ice cream we headed back to Hamilton in the rain thankful to get our walk in the brief period of fine weather.

Thanks to Brenda for organising and to Dianne, Ron and Carol for driving.

Catherine



Sunday 1 August

Thames

Waiomu Grove Walk

There were 11 trampers who arrived, in the van, at the Waiomu Reserve, around the Firth of Thames, for a delicious, shared morning tea – complete with tablecloth! A while later there were 11 happy trampers, after they had all eaten well and enjoyed the sea views. Returning to the van, they were driven to the start of the planned walk.

Although it was a little cold, it was a beautiful day, as we waded through the ford crossing, mostly without getting really wet feet. It was the only river crossing; as bridges had been built over all the other traverses on this trail. .

Next, we walked the main forest track to the location of a stand of mature kauri, one in particular which stands majestically tall and straight where we sat and had lunch. The earlier part of the tramp, in particular, was very scenic, with spectacular bush, a clear, sparkling river and sunshine transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary. It was sheer pleasure just to walk and enjoy the day and the congenial company.

Then came the ‘plus’ bit of the tramp! There were wooden steps to climb, up to the ridge, to view the magnificent kauri. Actually it wasn't too bad, as we had plenty of time to climb at our own pace. Sitting by the huge kauri, was a good spot to have lunch. Some of the more energetic of the group enjoyed walking further up the hill and caught up with the main group within half an hour. The journey down was no problem; with a few options of side trips for the hardy: and we got back to the van in good time.

There was an opportunity to change, if necessary, and to take off our boots. Then back in the van, once more, to head for home. As usual, we stopped for treats, on the way and there were 10 happy trampers (one person didn't indulge) eating large ice-creams!

Thanks go to Keith, Dianne and Pam for the survey and for the leaders on the day. Special thanks to Dianne who did all of the driving. It was a very pleasant day out in the bush, away from the noise and busy-ness of Hamilton.

Margaret



Photos from G2+ Trip - Aron

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

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- Insect Repellant
- Sunscreen
- Torch / Head Torch
- Trekking Poles
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221A Victoria Street
Hamilton New Zealand
Ph +64 7 839 5681
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