



# **Wanderers Tramping Club**

## **Bulletin**

### **September - December 2014**

# Trip Programme

<u>Trip Date</u>		<u>Booking Information</u>
September 7	Volunteer Mine	Lorna (849 0940) Open 25 August
September 21	Waitete Rd to Reservoir Rd Waihi	Grant (853 3434) Open 8 September
October 5	Ananui Falls to Franklin Rd	Colin or Margaret (855 1335) Open 22 September
October 15 <i>[Wednesday]</i>	Annual General Meeting	Margaret (855 1335)
October 19	Waitewhata Hut (pot luck lunch optional)	Just turn up at Wintec car park
October 24-27 <i>Labour Weekend</i>	Urutawa Forest Reserve (Opotiki area)	Colin and Margaret (8551335) Open 6 October Closes 20 October
November 9	Hora Hora Bluffs Redwoods Tokorangi Pa Track	Dianne (853 2980) Open 28 October
November 23	Kaitarakihi Rock Broken Hill – Tairua	Dianne (853 2980) Open 10 November
December 7	Christmas Tramp	Open 6 October

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## **Quote**

"After a day's walk everything has twice its usual value."  
— *George Macauley Trevelyan*

## **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]

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## ***Booking Information***

**Bookings for trips** open two weeks before the trip date **not before 5.30pm**. 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.**

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## ***President's Ponderings ....***

Hi everyone

I cannot believe how fast this year has gone. We are into the last bulletin and tramps for 2014 already.

The planning committee has some good challenges for those who want to get out of your comfort zones and we will revisit some places we've been before but with a twist.

The Labour weekend trip is a go, "we are off to the Urutawa Forest Reserve (Opotiki); numbers are limited so book early. The Christmas trip is well on its way to being finalised; this will be a social event with a walk and of course a little something special to celebrate the end the year. This trip is always popular and is for everyone, so book early to reserve your place on the bus.

In October we have our AGM and a reminder that subscriptions will be due. As I have mentioned previously in my ponderings, a club is not a club without its members so get involved and I hope to see you at the AGM. If any of you have a tramp you would like us to consider please contact me, remember not all of have been everywhere and some of us might like to go back for another look.

Keep well, keep safe, enjoy life, happy tramping and season's greetings.

***Dianne***





# Coming Up

**Sunday 7 September**

**Volunteer Mine**

**Grade 2**

Time to explore another old mining area. You may get wet feet as we have to cross the Maratoto Stream first thing, then it's a steady uphill for about 30 minutes, after that whilst it is still upwards it is a gentler gradient. There will be time to pause and take the views to Maratoto Rock and the Waipahake and Wires track areas. Some of it quite clearly an old road way as there was a saw mill in area in the 1940's. Then we move into virgin bush and a lovely kauri grove. It is near here we find the evidence of the Volunteer mine the only mine in the Maratoto that returned a profit to its owners.

It isn't a long walk, about 8 km, and should take about 2.5 hrs into the relics where we will explore. It isn't a manicured track, so expect a few windfalls and scrambles.

**Leader:** Lorna

**Depart :** 07.30 am Return 5.00 pm

\$25.00 (members)  
\$30.00 (non members)

**Bookings:** Monday 25 August after 6.00 pm

07 849 0940 (Lorna)

## A SMALL WORLD

A member of the Hamilton Tramping Club walked the Hollyford Track earlier in the year and stayed the night in the Demon Trail Hut. She saw Ray Hoare's WTC name badge beside the hut log book that someone had found and knowing we are Hamilton based and knowing Kathy Old is a member of both clubs gave it to her. Kathy gave it to her sister Lucille who then gave it back to Ray at the Whirinaki Easter Tramp.

**Sunday 21 September      Waitete Rd to Reservoir Rd      Grades 3 & 1  
Waihi**

This is a new tramp for the club. After leaving the bus we head up a track, over a small stream and then a little further on we come to a pine forest which we enter. The track follows a gentle slope until we come to an intersection with the native bush which is our starting point to climb up onto the ridge. There are glimpses of the surrounding area and of Waihi township along the way. We will come to a point where the track then heads down to the Walmsley Stream, which we will cross, and connect with a vehicle track. Not far away we can have a look at an old dam which supplied water to Waihi. The bus will be waiting a half hour walk down the vehicle track. Expect to tramp for 6 hours (G3).

The grade 1s will do the start of the track as far as the native bush and the end as far as the dam with something of a historical nature in between.

**Leaders:** Grant, Peter & Colin (Grade 3)  
Ann & Keith (Grade 1)

**Depart:** 7.00 am    Return: 5.00 pm      \$25.00 (members)  
\$30.00 (non members)

**Bookings:** 5.30 pm Monday 8 September      853 3434 (Grant)  
gsveny@gmail.com, txt 0210476518



**New Club badges still available @ \$15.00  
See John Davies**

**Plastic name badges @ \$10: also through John**

***Quote:***

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." — Albert Einstein

**Sunday 5 October****Ananui Falls to Franklin Road****Grade 3 & 1+**

**Grade 3:** From Woodlands Road south we follow the Waitengaue stream (we may have to ford the stream near the site of the suspension bridge which has been washed out and may not have been repaired) to the site of the old Waitengaue hut. From here we trek uphill with occasional views of the falls. Lunch will be at the top of the falls, or nearby. The intrepid can walk to the edge and see the stream tumble over. Then we continue northwest over fairly easy terrain to join the Waitawheta Kauri loop track where we can stop to look at the two huge Kauri trees. The track continues down to the Waitawheta river where we cross (with wet feet + more) and then a flat walk out to the bus at Franklin Road.

Expect to walk about 6½ - 7 hours.

**Grade 1+:** Our walk also commences at Woodlands Road following the Waitengaue stream and [yes] wet feet are a definite but the stream crossings are not difficult. We continue on to a clearing (easy grade) and from there it's approx 10 minutes to the junction. However we will return to the clearing for lunch. We retrace our steps back to the bus and then it's on to Waitawheta to meet the others – time permitting a cup of coffee on the way.

**Leaders:** Ray Hoare and Colin Standing (G3); Ann & Dianne (G1+)

**Depart:** 7.30 am      **Return:** 6:30 pm (approx)      \$25.00 (members)  
\$30.00 (non members)

**Bookings:** 6.00 pm Monday 22 September      855 1335 (Colin or Margaret)  
(standings@xtra.co.nz)

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**Quote:**

"Anyone who thinks the sky is the limit, has limited imagination." — Unknown



**Sunday 19 October****Waitewhata Hut****Grade 2**

We will meet at the car park and travel in private cars to the start of the tramp and make our way to the hut for a pot luck lunch (optional) – some may prefer to bring their usual lunch but perhaps a few extra “goodies” to make a fun day. We may split into groups for those who do not wish to go all the way. It is a 3 hr walk to the hut on a good flat track, crossing the river a number of times, some crossings on bridges, others wading through the river. After lunching at the Hut we will retrace our steps back to the cars.

Come along for a fun day out.

No specific trip leader, however will have our usual club safety gear with us.

Any queries, phone Ann on 847 2460, or email:

[summerfields@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:summerfields@vodafone.co.nz)

**Just turn up at 7.30 am at the Wintec car park, and bring some cash to pay the drivers.**





# Annual General Meeting

**Wednesday 15 October 2014**

**To be held at the Celebrating Age Hall, in Victoria Street.**

The AGM starts at 7.30 pm and full details will be posted to all members beforehand.

This will be followed by a presentation by the Webmaster, Ray Hoare. He will explain the main features of the Wanderers' web site, and show how you can submit your own materials for display. By presenting some of the interesting, amazing and sometimes funny videos and slides already on the website, Ray will entertain you this night, encourage you to tell others about the site, and invite you to view the site for information and entertainment every now and then throughout the year. Come and enjoy the show!

The final event of the evening will be supper, which will be provided by the committee. If other members wish to bring a small plate that would be very acceptable.

The evening is expected to end at around 9 – 9.30 pm.

*To offset expenses a cold coin donation will be collected.*

Contact numbers:

Margaret Standing: 855 1335

Pam Cornforth: 856 5922

Ray Hoare: 856 2675

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**Latest "Safety in the Mountains" booklets still available  
[only \$5.00].**

**To purchase your copy contact John Davies.**

**24,25,26 October (Labour Weekend)  
Urutawa Forest Reserve (Opotiki area)****All Grades  
[Members Only]**

Come and join us for the Labour weekend in the Urutawa Native Forest reserve, alongside the TeWaiti stream near Opotiki.

Accommodation is at Bushaven

(<http://bushaven.wix.com/bushaven#!bushavenaccommodation/vstc5=house>)  
a 5 bedroom house, with full facilities, suited for about 20 persons.

Plan is to leave Hamilton morning/afternoon of Friday 24th and staying at Bushaven for 3 nights, returning Monday afternoon.

You will need to bring sleeping bags/bed linen and pillow/pillow case etc. Accommodation charges at Huia Lodge are \$350/day, so this amount will be divided between the number attending.

**Tramping:** Several walking, tramping and mountain biking tracks are available close by including Motu Trails, Pakahi Track and TeWaiti track. Decisions will be made on the day relative to weather and group requirements. Expect to walk on Saturday, Sunday and maybe a short walk on Monday (take a look around Opotiki and area) before returning home.

**Costs:** Accommodation – about \$17.50/night (depending on numbers), transport – (shared private vehicles) expect about \$30-\$40 each (negotiate with your driver). Adequate parking is available.

**Food:** Expect to provide your own dinner on Friday, maybe provide a shared pot-luck dinner for Friday/Saturday, maybe eat out on Sunday (Opotiki only 20 minutes), or cook your own at the House. Provide food for breakfasts and lunches + imbibing fluids where required.

There are limited places for this long weekend trip, which is restricted to members only - so book early to ensure your participation.

**Leaders:** Colin and Margaret Standing, Dianne Lee + others.

**Bookings:** Open Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October, closes Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October  
\$50 non-refundable deposit applies. 07 8551335 (Colin and Margaret)

Send cheques to treasurer PO Box 61 or  
internet bank transfer to Westpac a/c 030306 0208429 00

Please send email note if paying by internet banking to [standings@xtra.co.nz](mailto:standings@xtra.co.nz)

**Sunday 9 November****Hora Hora Bluffs  
South Rotorua****Grade 3**

South of Rotorua we take the Tokoroa-Te Kuiti turn. Our tramp starts from the Rongomai Marae with a farm walk of 30 minutes to the bush. As we approach these bluffs, the immediate thought, is, “how the devil do we get up there”. Well, it’s not impregnable, and there is a way. We climb steadily for 1½ hours; a bit like human dominoes. Eventually we attain a flattish area beneath a huge rock buttress, where we can recharge – more “up” from here. We then enter into nice virgin bush, old totara, tawa, tawari, miro, horopito and rimu. Once on the top its an easy track southeast for a half hour to our lunch spot, and awe inspiring views on a clear day; peaks from Ngongotaha to Ruapehu. Our return will be a reversal – care and concentration required descending.

Fair to say; be fit, take plenty of water and high octane solids. Expect to be out for near to 6 hours.

**Leaders:** Winston Flemming, Rotorua Tramping Club and his band of merry men.

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**Redwoods Tokorangi Pa Track**

**Grades 2 & 1+**

This track (purple) takes you through the redwoods before a steady climb eastwards to 500 m above sea level. This is a beautiful walk with stunning views over Rotorua City, Mt Ngongotaha, the airport and countryside. There



has been quite a bit of logging/clearing on and around the track.

The walk continues on through early 1900’s planting of Douglas fir, European larch, walnut and various eucalypts onto an ancient Maori pa though nothing remains today (lunch stop). The track continues down to the valley floor along “The Wash” – **Watch out** for bikes on the *Water Reservoir and Lynmore Link* sections as these are dual-use tracks (this part of the walk

is about 3-3.5 hrs). At the reservoir you have a choice of getting on the bus or continuing on for a further 1.5-2 hrs on flattish unusual landscape to the

“cardiac steps” which brings you up past the wastewater treatment ponds to return to the start via Katore and Nursery Roads.

Total walking time if you complete the loop will be approx. 4.5 – 5 hours.

**Leaders:** Dianne, Keith & Pam

**Depart:** 7.30 am      **Return:** approx. 6.00 pm      \$25.00 (members)  
\$30.00 (non members)

**Bookings:** 5.30 pm Tuesday 28 October      853 2980 (Dianne)

**Sunday 23 November**

**Kopu-Hikuai Road to  
Kaitarakihi Rock**

**Grade 3**



The “in and out” track commences at the summit of the main highway with a short climb from the road onto the main north-south ridge. The gently undulating track is easily followed as it wends its way north through variable bush with occasional glimpses towards the Firth of Thames to the left and the Pacific to the right, before it trends downward past the branch leading to the Devcich Kauri until it eventually arrives at the foot of “the Rock”. The scramble up the rock is helped by some fixed chains while the view from the 835 metre high luncheon place is superb!

Expect to walk approx 7.5 hours.

**Broken Hill – Tairua**

**Grade 1+**

The Broken Hill area has a Gold mining history going back to 1912 and was logged for Kauri. We start the day leaving our transport near the DOC campsite on Puketui Valley Road end and make our way past the Government Battery and then up onto the track which is a steady climb and

steep in places, but do not worry, we will take our time. This then comes to a junction that will lead us onto Collins Drive which is a 15 minute boardwalk through the 500 m long tunnel; so you will need torches. Onto the Water Race tunnels track (the original race was 3300 m long) and back to the waiting transport.

Total walking time approx. 3-4 hours. Lots to stop and see.

**Leaders:** John Davies, Peter Scott (G3); Dianne, Keith & friends (G1+)

**Depart:** 7.30 am **Return:** 6.00 pm \$25.00 (members)  
\$30.00 (non members)

**Bookings:** 5.30 pm Monday 10 November 853 2980 (Dianne)

## **CHOKO**

Club Member, and trained in the art of Thai Massage Full Body, Foot Massage (Reflexology) and release of muscle pain and tension associated with sport.

Thai Massage Full Body.....	one hour	.....\$50.00
Foot Massage.....	one hour	.....\$45.00
Neck, Shoulders and Back.....	one hour	.....\$50.00
Neck, Shoulders and Back.....	half hour	.....\$30.00

***Club members, family, and friends only***

Please phone for an appointment: (07) 855 5684  
or 0224293610

**ONE HOUR FREE MASSAGE FOR FIRST CLUB MEMBER  
TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT**

**Sunday 7 December****Christmas Trip****A DAY OUT FOR EVERYONE!**

- Bus leaves at 8 am for the Te Puna Quarry near Katikati. On arriving we will have our morning tea.
- Spend the morning walking the various pathways in and around the Quarry enjoying the surroundings and views.
- As we will have approximately two hours to walk about, you can take your lunch and have it at your chosen spot, noting that we will depart the Quarry at 12.30 pm.
- We will travel to Katikati for a walk along the picturesque Uretara Stream.
- A swim at the Dave Hume Swimming Pools can be enjoyed for those who bring their swim gear. People choosing not to go for a dip can coffee in town or browse the shops and murals (for which Katikati is renown).
- At 4.30 we will be at the Talisman Hotel ready for a delicious three course meal (vegetarian included). Details of the dinner will be passed around on the bus.
- At approx. 6.30 we shall depart and return to Hamilton.

**This trip is subsidised by the Club and the total cost for the bus and meal is:**

<b>Members</b>	<b>\$45</b>
<b>Non members</b>	<b>\$60</b>

**Bring some extra cash for:**

- Gold coin donation to Quarry Trust
- Swimming Pool (\$3.50 Senior Citizens / \$4 Adults)
- Coffee in town and drinks with dinner



**The full cost of the trip must be paid to the Treasurer by 1 December,** otherwise the booking will become invalid as the Club has to finalise numbers with the hotel.

Bring sturdy shoes, a small pack for your lunch, coat and sunhat. There will be time to change into something more elegant for the dinner.

**Leaders:** Morva, Ann & Bernie

**Bookings:** Open Monday 6 October

Contact Ann & Bernie 847 2460



# Where we Went

## Te Tuhi Track: 6 April

*Grade 1+:* There were 12 of the 33 trampers who did the 1+ grade tramp on a beautiful autumn morning. We set off from the bus around 9.30 after the 2+ graders had left. We climbed slowly up over open farmland, then down into the bush by a small stream, much cooler, then up through a variation of trees [including large tawa] punga, moss and ferns covered with dappled sunlight. On a well defined track we saw fantails, a tomtit and a black robin; also heard tuis. We kept climbing until 11.30 am, had lunch [daylight saving] then retraced our footsteps back to the bus at 1.30 pm.

We then drove to meet the 2+ group at the start of the track to the Wairere Falls. Some of us walked in to meet them. We arrived back in Hamilton about 5.45 pm. A lovely day!!

*Grade 2+:* The remaining 21 members set off straight into the same uphill walk through farmland following a fence line, then more uphill and down to a stream where we entered the forest. From here it was quite steep until we arrived at a clearing where we were “allowed” a welcome morning tea. It was then a short climb to a formed track. Continuing along this track we



came to a junction from where we headed north. Lunch was taken along the way and a few hours later another signpost and we were well on the way to Wairere Falls. It is usual to encounter lots of mud towards the falls but today little was seen. Nearing the falls we passed the new missionary commemorative plaque which has been erected (courtesy of the Cambridge Tramping Club) in the place of the old one which used to lie neglected off the track.

A rest stop was taken at the falls; some went to the viewing platform, one went for a swim, while the majority just sat and rested. Most took the main descent down to the bottom of the falls while a few hardy ones opted to use the old Maori trail. In all a great day and thanks to Marion, Colin, Peter, and Ann.



## Fantastic Whirinaki: Easter 2014

With Cyclone Ita only just passing, we were in for wet weather for the whole weekend but that did not stop the 30-odd trampers determined to have a good time. Each day had rain in part but that did not stop us from getting into the wonderful bush each day.

Getting there was unnerving, as after Minginui there were few signposts at crossroads, and no-one to ask the way. By tea-time Friday we had all done a recce of the camp and set up for the weekend. We lit a roaring fire in the cook-out and made our own dinners on gas cookers. Facilities were basic, but we had hot showers and flush toilets and warm dry bunk rooms, despite such a remote location. Thanks, DoC! We had to make a dash between raindrops to collect food and cookers, and secure all for the night afterwards against furry invaders! We had a plentiful supply of food, with fresh field mushrooms, hot cross buns and cakes. We were treated to a great lightning display that evening, and clear skies full of stars between showers.

Saturday we convoyed to River Road carpark in the bush and walked to



Waiatiu Falls through wonderful towering moss-covered trees, then back to cars for lunch, when it rained quietly above us while we stayed relatively dry. Then another short walk to Arohaki Lagoon, serene with kahikateas all around but no water to be found. No frogs either, but heaps of fungi throughout the bush. Bird life was vocal and we were treated to sight of NI robin, and sounds of kaka and red or yellow crown parakeet. Back again to a hot shower, the roaring fire, happy hour and dinner. Time passed slowly after dinner and many hit their beds early. Others braved the cold and reminisced and played noisy card games until 10.00 pm!

Easter Sunday was still damp and misty, but nothing to deter hardy trampers. We set off for a full day, walking around the Waterfall Loop Track following Whirinaki River, stopping at mossy spots for morning tea and lunch, then back to cars via Whaiti-Nui-A-Toi Canyon. Birds were obvious and we again saw robin and whitehead, and heard kaka and falcon. Highlight of the weekend for me was to see blue duck in the river and watch them till they flew off. Fungi also were everywhere, all sizes, colours and shapes, so the

shutterbugs were busy. We finished the day with a dash to the H-tree, an unusual shaped rimu, and then back for dinner. There were also birthdays to celebrate. Some partied and played cards until it got chilly.

Monday was our last day and most headed off for a final look at the forest at the Sanctuary, a world heritage site, where a one hour walk took nearly two as cameras were constantly recording sites and sounds of the bush. The trees were so tall and majestic, so green in the rain with trunks covered in moss and lichen. Just the best conditions to see rain forest!

We then packed up to come home. Thanks to the organisers for a great camp that must be repeated!! And thanks too, to those who minded the cars and cleaned up the camp while the rest of us walked. *Jenny West*

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### **McBrinns Creek - Maratoto Valley: 18 May**

*Grade 2+:* Twenty-four Wanderers departed Hamilton in two mini vans, in foggy conditions, for the Maratoto Valley situated between Paeroa and Thames. On arrival everyone headed up to McBrinns Creek, passing relics of the gold mining era and where there are a number of mine shafts. The keen ones did some exploring and spotted a good number of cave wetas. Amazing to think what man can do with a pick and shovel. After lunch by a lovely stream, we then headed back to the vans and split into two groups, where the grade 1s went and explored the area at the end of the road and the grade 2/3s climbed up Maratoto rock. Some got as far as the saddle and 7 went to the top for a great vista of the surrounding area. A good day had by all and a big thank you to our leader Lorna. *Grant*

*Grade 1:* After lunch a group of about 8 ventured on a loop walk at the end of Maratoto Road. This walk took in old relics (no reference intended to the participating trampers!) from the gold mining days: eg. an old storage shed for explosives. I for one was impressed with the quality of the paint of the sign "Warning Detonators" – still very clearly readable. There was a huge hopper, which was ably opened by Ann. This was an interesting, enjoyable historical walk. *David Sedgwick*

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## June 15: Matakana Island

The extra large group of 46 eager trampers set off with great expectations, only to break down in foggy conditions in Cambridge where 3 extra trampers were waiting to be picked up. The cause of the breakdown was a split compressor hose. Fortunately the replacement bus was the comfortable Chief's bus, enabling us to leave at the later time of 8.30 am. Arriving at the Mount we quickly assembled on the chartered ferry which took us the short distance to Matakana Island. When on the beach we stopped for morning tea. Walking on we noticed the tuatua shells covering the beach in places and saw a deep shell midden enclosed in the sandbank. The sun shone as we reached the point. Here we observed sea birds including variable oyster catchers, dotterels, pied shag and little shag. The beach was full of big driftwood, forming interesting sculptures. The recent storm had brought up black sand on the normally white beach. Des – our Maori guide arrived by jeep and walked with us, relaying interesting information about the island. We learnt that 280 residents reside on the island and the school has 30 children. From the Bowentown channel to the Mount Maunganui channel the length of the island is approximately 27 km. The island is split into two sections – one part is forest and the other part is agriculture/horticulture. Income for the islanders is derived from both the land and the sea. One third of the way along the beach was our lunch spot looking out to the ocean and Mayor Island and Face Island. Next Des guided us from the beach into the forest which requires a permit to enter. We walked through old pine trees along Orchard Rd until we came to the main highway on Hume Rd. We walked south past an old sawmill closed 8 years ago. The mill's closure represented an economic blow to the island's residents. Logs are now milled on the mainland. We stopped at a memorial site which was in remembrance of a road block in 1993 to stop overseas development. The locals are still battling with developers and lawyers over custody of the land.

When we arrived on the mud flats and mangroves it was low tide and timely for us to cross the estuary. We had fun walking on the soft surface and wading through shallow water. On reaching dry land we congregated at the school for a rest and afternoon tea. Des told us some of the school's history and then said his goodbyes as he was off to milk cows. It was a 30 minute walk through a small settlement of houses and farmland before we reached the wharf. Here the barge arrived and took us on board. As it was low tide the barge had difficulty following the channel and became lodged on a sandbar briefly. Soon we were chugging slowly towards Omokoroa landing and the waiting bus.

Thank you Lyn for negotiating a tricky situation with local iwi to enable us to get access to this little island paradise. Our guide Des made a very revealing comment when he said "People leave but always come back".

*The Shepherdess*

## June 29: Hurunui Hut



A nice fine and early start to the day, with some fog near the Kaimais which looked very pretty. The walk started off across a small creek (which we all took pains not to get our feet wet – if only we had known of what was to come), then through the undergrowth and up a bit of a climb. We had morning tea under a canopy of trees which was nice. Off we went past a beautiful pond which was so

reflective you could see the trees and sky in it...well until "boys will be boys" and they threw rocks in it!

Lunch was at the Hurunui Hut which was a lovely sunny spot; then down the Tramway track which was an interesting track consisting of mud, more mud, some more mud and slippery tree roots. There were a few tumbles and a few boots stuck in the mud. Just before we reached the bus, there was a lovely stream for us to clean our boots in by trudging through it...though who was it who took washing your boots too far and got one of their boots (with the foot still in it) stuck between two rocks! On the drive down the Kaimais, the sun's rays broke through some clouds which was a lovely sight.

A great tramp and not too strenuous – except when trying to get your boots out of the mud! I would love to do this in summer as all under canopy and swimming hole at the end.

*Susan*

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### Lemonade scone recipe (Camp Wakarara)

4 cups self-raising flour  
300 ml cream  
355 ml lemonade (Sprite or 7UP)

Preheat oven to 220 °C  
Grease or line tray with baking paper

Sift flour and mix all ingredients in a bowl to a smooth dough. Tip out onto a floured bench and pat out to make 8 - 10 scones.

Bake for about 15 - 20min until a nice golden colour.

## Mt William Walkway: 13 July

**Grade 1:** What a lovely ramble on Sunday to Mount William – I have googled this walk and am unable to find why or who this walkway was named after.

The Grade 1's had a lovely morning tea at the truck stop; then were dropped off to meander along lovely farmland up to the Puketutu trig. The farm land had paddocks with sheep (some sheared and some not) and steers. We had lunch on top of the Trig with the grade 2's then went our separate ways; the views from the top were great. There was one quick passing shower – otherwise a fine day, though the wind was brisk. We met a lovely mother and pre teenage daughter who as a family are off for 3 months backpacking to Mount Everest and then to Russia!

There was a bit of a muddy tramp downhill back to the bus and then a lovely stop in Pokeno for ice cream for some, sausages for others and a garden hoe for one person.

*Susan*

**Grade 2:** We started from the McMillan Rd end where the track follows a farm fence line with markers to the Mt William Scenic Reserve. Before entering it was essential to clean all boots to help stop the kauri dieback. The Reserve has a great variety of native trees and shrubs, including kauri, hard beech and king ferns. Then it was uphill again to the Puketutu trig for lunch (where we met a keen young cyclist who biked up) and afterwards it was mostly downhill (well just about) to the bus waiting at Puketutu Road.

