



Wanderers Tramping Club Inc



Bulletin

January – April 2015

Trip Programme

Trip Date

Booking Information

January 25	Waiorongomai Valley	Just turn up at Wintec car park
February 8	Kiritehere (Marakopa area)	854 0654 (John or Dee) deejohn@xtra.co.nz Open 26 January
February 22	Tarawera Falls & Outlet	856 5922 (Pam) Open 9 February
March 8	Karamu Walkway	854 0654 (John or Dee) deejohn@xtra.co.nz Open 23 February
March 22	Hiwiroa Trig via Wood's Mill	855 1335 (Colin or Margaret) standings@xtra.co.nz Open 9 March
	Wood's Mill & Waihou Walkway	827 5150 (Marion) marionfnz@gmail.com Open 9 March
April 3-6 <i>Easter</i>	Mayor Island	855 1335 (Colin or Margaret) Open Now
April 19	Mahoenui Giant Weta Reserve {First 3 days members only}	Open 7 April 853 3434 (Grant) gsveny@gmail.com txt 0210476518

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

To purchase your copy contact John Davies.

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 **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.**

President's Ponderings

Hi everyone

The tramping year is in full swing and the weather gods have been kind. For me I have loved the Wharepuhanga stream trip in February which was "awesome" and we have another lot of great tramps to look forward to in this bulletin. Last ponderings I touched on what happens behind the scenes for our Sunday tramps. This time I would like to ask for your help.

Every 3-4 months the club has a planning meeting, where we look at future trips and planning etc. I know that there are several of you in the club who belong to other clubs or groups and tramp on other days, so it would be appreciated if you could get in touch with me or any other committee member and tell us about where you have been, especially if it was interesting or just a great place you went.

Sometimes it can get a bit hard to plan ahead so if you have been somewhere or heard of somewhere, we as a club could consider please, please let us know. There is a wealth of experience and knowledge out there.

Just a **reminder book in early** for tramps otherwise you will miss out. Transport decisions are made on the numbers booked by the Tuesday night before the Sunday tramp.

Dianne





Coming Up

Sunday 25 January

Waiorongomai Valley

All grades



We meet at the car park at 8.00 am and travel in private cars to the start of the tramp, having perhaps split into groups for those who wish to go in different directions for a shorter/longer day. Some may also wish to relax later in the hot pools or sample the local coffee.

No specific leader; however we will have our usual club safety gear with us.

Costs: \$15.00 [\$10 to drivers \$5 for club].

Any queries to Dianne on 853 2980 or email: leedi@clear.net.nz



**I told you to keep
your rice in a
plastic bag!**

Sunday 8 February**Kiritihere
(Waitomo/Marakopa area)****Grades 3 & 1**

Grade 3: We access the valley via Marakopa. We start at a woolshed and climb up to a beautiful section of DOC bush (lots of fossils), working our way around then up to Pehimatea peak (467 m) – a short but steep scramble with outstanding views of the West coast and inland country. The descent is via a beautiful section of coastal cliff top before we cut down through farmland and return to the bus.

Walking time will be 5 hours.

Grade 1: Again, lots of fossils! The walk will leisurely follow the Grade 3 group with a short climb to get to the unused part of Soundy road, a "main road" built in the 1920's from Awakino to Kawhia when it was felt that Kawhia would be a major port. We enter the unspoiled bush and after approx 1 hour arrive at our lunch spot with magnificent views.



We return to the bus and visit the beach for a walk along the coast for a swim, a snooze, a fossil hunt, and wait for the Grade 3s.

Depart:	7.30 am	Return: 6.30 pm	\$25.00 (members)
			\$30.00 (non-members)
Leaders:	John Davies & John Sheat (G 3) Ann Cloke & friends (G1)		
Bookings:	6.00 pm Monday 26 January		854 0654 (John or Dee) deejohn@xtra.co.nz

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"Everywhere is walking distance if you have the time."

-- *Steven Wright*

Sunday 22 February The Wonderful Tarawera Falls/Outlet Revisited Grades 1 + 2

Please be aware the leaders reserve the right to substitute an alternative tramp in the same area as it is dependent on forestry access on the day.

We travel via Rotorua to Kawerau; all going well will get our access permit to drive on the forestry roads to the falls car park. The track is easy and follows the river, past pools (swimming) to a drain hole where the river disappears underground before emerging at the spectacular Tarawera Falls. We have allowed lots of time for photo's and swimming on this trip



The *Grade 2's* will get ready to walk to the falls and onto the outlet, your leader will choose a good spot for a cup of tea. Once you reach the outlet you will turn onto the Humphries Bay track for a certain distance, having lunch somewhere nice and then returning the same way back to the waiting transport.

The *Grade 1's* will have a cup of tea in the car park before making our way to the spectacular falls past the swimming hole and onto the outlet and DOC camp site where we will have lunch and a swim. We retrace our way back to our waiting transport and probably stop at the swimming hole for another swim.

Walking time: **Grade 2:** approx. 6 hours **Grade 1:** approx. 3-4.5 hours

Leaders: Pam Cornforth, Dianne Lee and Keith Wilkinson

Departs: 7.00 am **Return:** approx 6.30-7.00 pm \$25.00 (members)
NB: early departure \$30.00 (non members)

Bookings: 5.30 pm Monday 9 February 856 5922 (Pam)

Extras: Bring swimming gear [*Dianne's cell on day 027 272 6617*]

Sunday 22 March**Hiwiroa Trig via Wood's Mill****Grade 3
(G 1 see below)**

Grade 3: This is a long tramp for fit trampers and requires an early start. The track starts at the turn-off area adjacent to State Highway 5 between Rotorua and Tirau and makes its way through bush to the old road that leads to the site of Wood's Mill, where remnants can still be found. The track continues along the old tramline (easy walking apart from windfalls) to pass



through the second mill site. The track then descends down to the Waiomou Stream, reaching it near a small waterfall and the 'Wood's Mill Track End' sign (probably have play-lunch here). The track from this point on is not officially marked but various coloured ribbons and a GPS track lead the way. Crossing the river at a suitable point, the track then climbs very steeply in

places until leveling off for a while. It then continues to climb less steeply but in an undulating and sometimes tortuous way. Track finding is sometimes a little difficult. After multiple episodes of thinking the trig must appear soon, the track suddenly comes upon an old hut with a damp/smelly bunk. Just a few metres through the bush, the chopper platform offers great views and a good lunch spot. Nearby, a tall mast dons the highest point, alongside a large rock marking the Hiwiroa summit. Return is by the same route.

Expect to walk about 7–8 hours + stops.

Leaders: Colin Standing, John Sheat, Lorna Gribble and others (G3)

Depart: 07.00 am **Return:** 6:30 pm (approx) \$25.00 (members)
\$30.00 (non members)

Bookings: 6.00 pm Monday 9 March 855 1335 (Colin or Margaret)
standings@xtra.co.nz

3-6 April (Easter)**Magical Mayor Island
Revisited 15 years on****All grades**

As stated it is a long time since we went to Mayor Island. Come and join us on the treat of a lifetime. On the 3rd April we will car pool to Tauranga where there is safe parking at the marina. At 9 am we will board the boat for Mayor Island arriving in time for lunch.



DOC has built 6 cabins and a big cooking / eating shelter overlooking the beautiful cove. We have booked cabins to sleep 24 people and also 3 tent sites.

There is no power on the island so, like for the Whirinaki weekend, you need to bring all your own

food and a cooker. There are plenty of well marked half day tracks to walk, and on one of the days we will do a full day walk round the island for those who want to. All the walks are grade 1 or 1.5.

I expect this will be a popular trip so if you are wanting to come, book early.

Leaders: Lyn Kingsbury and friends

Bookings open: *NOW and close 27 February*

855 1335 (Colin & Margaret)

Full payment must be made to the treasurer at the time of booking.

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

If payment is by internet banking please send an email to:
standings@xtra.co.nz

Cost: \$155 includes return boat trip, and 3 night's accommodation
or \$125 includes return boat trip, and 3 nights on a tent site

Where we Went

Hapuakohe: 10 August

Grade 2: Seventeen Wanderers set off on a beautiful sunny winter's day to the hidden delights of the Papamoa Hills. We morning tea'd amidst bovine company at the first trig with 260° views from the Kaimais down the east coast and over avocado and kiwifruit orchards.

Fantails welcomed us into their home and we proceeded about 2 hours through very pretty bush to the next trig (564 m) for lunch. The next part was notable for lots of punga and nikau and the realisation that underfoot was lots of dry crunchy leaves, showing how relatively dry it has been. We knew we were on the right track when we came across the fabled pine needles which we all successfully negotiated. It was a short journey back to the bus which had been skillfully manoeuvred up the narrow path.

Thanks to the leaders and organisers allowing us Wanderers to see parts of NZ that many of us wouldn't see otherwise!

Anon



Grade 1: After separating from the grade 2's some distance into our tramp, Grant took command of our small brigade. As we progressed along the top of the range, he drew our attention to the many interesting aspects of the flora and fauna of the area. Of particular note were the holes made by the puriri moth in the trunks of ancient puriri trees along our path. We also encountered evidence of wild boar which had torn up the track to feed on fern roots etc.

While we were having lunch a hunter with a pack of savage looking dogs passed us carrying a huge wild boar on his back which he told us he had killed with his knife.

We returned home early after a really great day out thanks to our leaders and van drivers.

Roger McGirr

Rainbow Trail: 24 August

Twenty-three good keen men and women turned out for what was to prove a great day out; 20 of us tackling the grade 3 tramp. We enjoyed a bit of everything – a tramping smorgasbord.

From the onset, we entered lovely bush, flanked by an equally nice stream. Trackside fauna was prolific; lots of mosses, ferns, early orchids, an abundance of rangiora and rewa rewa to name a few. We saw several drives from the gold mining era. A light fog hung over the valley as we ascended, and the sunny day continued to get warmer. Lunch was on a wonderful rock ledge, where we admired the view of Table Mountain and Kaitarakihi.

After lunch we set off, and turning left at a junction, we descended down the winding twisting Waitohi Valley track, taking in many sea views; the last section being down a sealed road to the waiting bus. Great weather and as always, great company. Thanks to Lyn and her helpers for a well led tramp.

Ron Crosby

Volunteer Mine: 7 September

A lovely clear morning, two vans and off we went to Maratoto Valley. From the end of the road 26 eager trampers set off at 9.30, soon to cross the Maratoto stream (cold and wet). Upward we went through the mud until we reached a benched track. Running alongside this track there was a depression; maybe a log chute. Further up, we looked out over a lovely northern rata with small orange flowers, green hooded orchids, and golden tainui (bushman's soap), along with plenty of birds-nest fungi. At the top of the ridge were 3 giant kauri trees, one being a double trunker.

The party divided at this point and some went over the side down to see a mine adit (one member decided on a vertical descent). The other party made their way down to the mine (?) site; no mine was found. Then it was up again past what looked like a campsite.

The track up to the main ridge again became a little unclear and Gail and her team managed to bring us right out on target onto the inward track (well done). The rest was downhill with caution as it was extremely slippery; crossing the Maratoto stream and back to the vans at 4.00 pm – home by 5.40 pm.

A very enjoyable and interesting day, and a big thank you to Lorna Gail and associates.

The Weathermaster

Waitete Road to Reservoir Road: 21 September

Grade 3: Together with the 1s we crossed the stream and headed up through pine forest and native bush. This was an area not familiar to us. We seemed to be following some sort of old gold mining route, at times with occasional views out to Waihi town, Matakana Island and other coastal areas. At last we scrambled into a flattish area; we assumed it was the top of the range – our destination. A quick lunch, as there was a cold wind, then we headed on down. We crossed a stream and had a scramble round the old Waihi water supply dam. An old vehicle track took us back to Reservoir Road where the 1's had a boil up on the way. A cup of tea and an ample slice of Grant's cake was enjoyed by all. A very rugged and satisfying day.

Alison W

Grade 1: After morning tea the 3s continued onward and upward, while we retraced our footsteps back to Waihi. After lunch (partaken at the railway station) we walked around the Martha Mine pit rim walkway, finishing up at the Cornish Pumphouse – the complete circuit is ~5 km long, with some hilly parts affording great views over the town and surrounds. Then on to Union Hill which is part of the historic gold mining precinct and which was once the site of the Waihi Battery and a major industrial mining site in Waihi with significant historical associations. The hill still contains extensive remains of this historic industry. The tall concrete cyanide tanks were most impressive and are so significant that they have been registered as a Category 1 Historic Place by the NZ Historic Places Trust.



Thanks Keith (for the titbits of history) and Ann for a most interesting day. *Ebullient Ellie*

Labour Weekend: 25-28 October

Seventeen of us attended the Labour Weekend at Bushaven which was a fairly remote venue; we stayed in a house which was very comfortable and convenient. As always the group got on well together and enjoyed shared meals on the Friday and Sunday evenings. On Saturday evening we drove into Opotiki and partook of food at a RSA. There was a local touch when the waitress distributed the dessert menu with about 5 items on it, but told us that only 2 of them were actually available!

There are separate write ups for the two tramps on Saturday and Sunday. However, on Sunday evening there was an extra activity in the form of a “glow worm” walk. Most of the group elected to come on the walk and we were rewarded with good views of the glow worms, as well as a clear view of the stars. On Monday after an enthusiastic cleaning of the house, some people set off for Hamilton, others did short local walks and a group of us cycled the Opotiki Dune Track; which was undulating. Although it seemed to be more *updulating* on the return journey when the wind had got up! An interesting trail though.

Everyone seemed to have a good time and the tramps were not too hard but very scenic. One of the highlights for me was on the walk to the Tauranga Bridge when we sat by the river, in the sun, ate our lunches and just enjoyed being out there.

Thanks to everyone for making it such a pleasant, memorable weekend.

Margaret

Saturday 25th: Te Waiti Hut

9 am was the scheduled time for departure, breakfast had been eaten, lunches made, and we were all ready and raring to go. It was just a matter of going out the entrance gate turning a sharp left uphill and we were off. The track was easy walking, sidling around the hill, following the stream with good views of our accommodation behind and the valley ahead. There were several small creeks to cross and at one Morva and I tried to climb the bank to look at the pool at the base of the waterfall. After several attempts we gave up and moved on. Others were botanising along the way, there were quite a few orchids along the track edge.



We arrived at the hut at 11.30 and enjoyed our lunch on the benches in the porch. There were a few small bones and an awful lot of socks lying around the place, all singles, but there was one pair of gloves. This led to many jokes being exchanged as to the whereabouts of the owners of said items! As it was a shared lunch there were lots of goodies being

handed around; cake, strawberries, biscuits and boiled eggs. The eggs caused another round of discussion as to how to boil them; the water had to

go bubble, bubble, bubble not blub, blub according to Ann and Diane. Then Keith entertained us all with his coddling eggs.

Anyway, back to the business of the day. Lunch was done and it was time to head back on the same track. Jesse and I went ahead to the waterfall and had another go at getting up the bank. We succeeded but didn't see a pool, we saw about another 5 small waterfalls cascading down the hill. Everyone else arrived and they were like rats up a drainpipe getting up the bank for a look. It was a speedy return with people getting ahead to get the first shower. No need to have worried, there was plenty of hot water. We had our afternoon tea, read or chatted until it was time to go to the Opotiki RSA for our evening meal.

Thanks to Colin and helpers for a great day.

Carol

Sunday 26th: Tauranga Loop Track in Waioeka Gorge

We had a nice start to the day and made our way in several cars to the gorge for our walk. Today's walk was an easy day walk and the weather was sunny.

The drive and walk was picturesque. We arrived at the Historic Tauranga Bridge which was our starting place. This is a suspension bridge over the Waioeka River and was built in 1922 by the Public Works Department to provide access to sheep farms up the Tauranga valley. The bridge is protected by the Historic Places Trust and is of national significance for its engineering design and appearance.

Once over the bridge we made our way clockwise (southern side) up the valley through regenerated farm land (now mostly blackberry) on a good grassy track. Some of us did get great whiffs of wild mint all the way along the track and there were some great photo opportunities. We knew we had to get wet feet so it was no surprise the first stream crossing was knee deep but not too hard (some did try to keep dry feet). We then continued down the northern bank and doubled back along the bush edge back to the Waioeka River to the second stream crossing at the mouth of the Tauranga Stream. At this point we all stopped, looked, muttered and thought for some time (were we going to need to swim for it as there were some deep holes). Thanks to our intrepid "tall" Jesse (Carol's grandson) he went in and found the path of least depth. We had lots of laughs, advice and helping hands and managed to get across and stay dry – just. At this point we stopped for lunch in the sun under the bridge overlooking the river. What a great day and to finish with an ice cream stop as well. Thanks everyone.

She who managed to stay dry (just)

November 9: The Hora Hora Bluffs Experience & Redwoods

Grade 3: On a nice morning a van load of us set off to Rotorua for a high octane walk. We were joined by our Rotorua mate, the intrepid Winstone Flemming and Dog. As promised, a steep farm walk got our blood well warmed up. Then into the bush and up sure was up. Plus the supplejack! As there was no track it was full on just to keep up with others as you needed eyes in the top of your head. Colin told us not to take poles – I did and regretted it all the way as tree roots etc were far better when on hands and knees. The rock buttress was a sight to behold, so high, so under cut, so pretty. It reminded me of the Rainbow Trail in Thames. Up and up only got steeper and steeper through the supple jack until finally daylight and flat ground. The trail was now old logging trails that came in from Mamaku. Were we really that high up? Yes, we were. Some of us sat on a rock for the view which was just unreal and sure not for the faint hearted. The return trip was almost a bum slide all the way for some and the supple jack was used as hand holds. I must say, it was a relief to see the grass paddocks again.

It was a really amazing trip and one I won't forget but will certainly cross it off my bucket list. A big thanks from us all to the leaders and Grant and Colin.

Sore Legs Bernie

Grade 2 (Redwoods): Thirteen hearty souls set off to walk the "Purple Track" on a beautiful morning in the Redwood forest. After passing through



some lovely nature bush on the fringe of the park, we then ascended heart-attack hill, where we stopped for lunch on a grassy clearing. Keith then led us through "Death Valley" which had apparently been gouged out by the Tarawera eruption in 1886. It was a strange place that looked like the surface of the moon (where we have yet to tramp).

It was then up and over "Cardiac Incline" and back to the van. Dianne played hide

and seek with the van's keys but a very nice man from the AA joined in the fun and found them for us, so we were able to return home that day! Many thanks to Keith, Dianne and Pam for a really great day.

Roger McGirr

November 23: Kaitarakihi Rock & Broken Hill

Grade 3: In fine weather, fourteen keen trampers left the highest point on the Kopu Hikuai Road (424 m) to climb to the Kaitarakihi summit (852 m). By morning tea, we had a mystery to solve. How had our leader, John, dropped his thermos without anyone following noticing? A rich reward was offered, so we had a challenge for the return journey. We tramped on through attractive bush for a couple of hours leading up to the final steep ascent on the rocky sides of the peak, with open views back to the road and down to the Hauraki plains and Waihou river. A sturdy chain provided welcome security as we heaved ourselves up.

We lunched happily in sunshine on the summit, only to find that Grant had chosen to sit on a colony of large red ants that chose to mobilise and enter the webbing of his pack. It was all hands to the rescue! With visions for a zip line to carry us down to the valley, we carefully descended the rock face and retraced our steps to the waiting bus. The mountain did not reveal the whereabouts of John's elusive flask, but I understand a handsome reward is still on offer

Cheryl

Grade 1+: After dropping off the grade 3's sixteen of us carried on to our destination, starting our tramp about 10.30 after morning tea, going through the Doc camping ground by a lovely river in the valley. We slowly climbed the ridge which supplied us with lovely views – new growth, younger kauris, heaps of different ferns, white, yellow and purple orchids, serrated manuka flowers, and the tallest moss was also in flower. From the top we could see right out to the Tairua inlet and through the valley towards Thames.

We had lunch at the junction of Collins Drive West and Paton Stream dam, where Keith found a huia feather. He was concerned for Angus as he was sitting under a widow-maker, but he survived the afternoon!!! We continued on Collins Drive track, passing through a 500 m tunnel – cooler with water dripping from the ceiling, which had a few cave wetas and glow worms attached to it. The sides were made up of beautiful mineral colours – blue, purple, cream, yellow and orange. We also walked through water races and smaller tunnels, some of us climbing into a short tunnel which led into a mining cave. Not far from the Doc camp we came across a beautiful waterfall and pools (wishing pool). After a shared afternoon tea (3.30ish) we went back on the main road to pick up the other group.

Thank you so much Keith (your middle name should be “**giver of much information**”) and Dianne.

Faye (whose middle name should be – haven't done many tramps this year but enjoyed very much this one)!!!!

Christmas Trip: 7 December

Well – what a “cracker” of a day – from start to finish. On arriving at the Te Puna Quarry, in no time “whizz” Keith had whipped out his table, flasks etc, Carol followed up with the Christmas cake made by her “young pupils” at the Newstead Country Preschool and in no time at all we were enjoying our cuppa. Afterwards everyone (38) dispersed in all directions to enjoy the sculptures, specialty plant areas, native arboretum, gardens, ponds, bonsai corner – even spotted a monarch butterfly enjoying the day – am sure it was smiling. For those who wanted a more challenging walk there were tracks leading to upper levels with panoramic views over the Bay of Plenty.

A few chugged up the hill to the waterfall and I think a few others did intend going there but unfortunately got onto the wrong track but however it was such a great day what did it matter. There was something for everyone.



After lunch it was on to Katikati for a leisurely walk along the Uretara Stream. We did notice a very flash newly built retirement village but after a later head count discovered no-one had been tempted to abscond. Then some headed for the swimming pools and the rest for a stroll downtown for window shopping and coffee (or whatever took their fancy).



We seemed to fill the outdoor area at the Talisman Hotel for pre dinner drinks and then trooped inside for a most enjoyable meal. The hotel staff did make us feel very welcome.

Thanks to Ann & Bernie “Claus”, Keith and other elves who assisted throughout the day.

Ebullient Ellie

This notice was spotted while in Katikati on the day of the Christmas trip.

Dear Santa

I have been good this year. All I want for Christmas is a fat bank account and a skinny body – let's try not to mix these two up like you did last year!!

Yeah right!

