

# **Wanderers Tramping Club Inc**



# **BULLETIN**

**May - July 2024**

[www.wandererstramping.org.nz](http://www.wandererstramping.org.nz)

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# Wanderers Tramping Club Inc

**New club postal address : c/- 8 Camberley Way, Huntington, Hamilton, 3210**

*Bank account number 03-0306-0208429-000 - Always put your name as a reference*

## Club Committee 2023/2024

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<b>President</b>	Dianne Lee	027 272 6617
<b>First Aid/Social/Transport</b>	leedi444@gmail.com	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Colin Standing standings@xtra.co.nz	027 326 6886
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Tony Dickens wandererswebmaster2@gmail.com	027 476 4098
<b>Social Convener:</b>	Pam Cornforth pcornforth@xtra.co.nz	07 856 5922
<b>Secretary:</b>	Sue Grocock rongee@xtra.co.nz	027 440 2448
<b>Bulletin Editor:</b>	Brenda Petersen brenda22269@hotmail.com	0273 117 372
<b>Merchandise:</b>	Ron Clarke	07 846 5183
<b>New Member Co-ordinator/Committee</b>	Margaret Standing standings@xtra.co.nz	07 855 1335
<b>Committee</b>	Glenys Morrow	

# Trip Programme

TRIP DATE	TRIP DETAILS	BOOKING INFORMATION
<b>5 May</b>	Te Tapui Track Richmond Downs	Alison Orchard Phone/Txt : 027 618 3569 Email : alorchard14@gmail.com Open : Monday 22 April
<b>19 May</b>	Horotiu Bridge to Ngaruawahia Waik River Trail	Bookings not required Just turn up at the Collingwood Street carpark
<b>2 June</b>	Mt William Walkway Pokeno	Colin or Margaret Standing Phone : 07 855 1335 Txt : 027 326 6886 Email : standings@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 20 May
<b>16 June</b>	Kauri Grove Track Waiomu	Pam Cornforth Phone/Txt : 027 278 0690 Email : pcorforth@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 3 June
<b>30 June</b>	Walks from Windows Karangahake Gorge	Colin or Margaret Standing Phone : 07 855 1335 Txt : 027 326 6886 Email : standings@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 17 June
<b>SATURDAY 6 July</b>	MIDWINTER LUNCH Forest Lake Gardens Pavilions	Dianne Lee Phone/Txt : 027 272 6617 Email : leedi444@gmail.com Open : 10 June - Payment by 3 July
<b>14 July</b>	Waiuku Forest Walk Waiuku	Dianne Lee Phone/Txt : 027 272 6617 Email : leedi444@gmail.com Open : Monday 1 July
<b>28 July</b>	Western Okataina Walkway Rotorua	Dianne Lee Phone/Txt : 027 272 6617 Email : leedi444@gmail.com Open : Monday 15 July

## 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

Hello fellow trampers

Wow the first part of the 2024 year has flown by and we are now looking at the winter tramping season.

Unfortunately, the Ruapehu Weekend in March had to be rescheduled due to our hosts having COVID. This will now happen the weekend of 22-25 November 2024, so put this in your diaries NOW. I'll send out further information and reminders September/October to start the booking process. Everything is set up so we just need the people to attend, full details will be in next bulletin.

Daylight savings has ended in April so we are having trips closer to home for this period. We are going back to a couple of favourites and to try some new challenges also.

We are averaging at least one van and possibly a car for most trips, so remember to book in early or miss out, you can always cancel with 24 hours' notice. We confirm vans on the Wednesday prior to tramp day, so book in early please.

We are planning a midwinter lunch on Saturday 6 July at Forest Lake Gardens Café in the village pavilion. See further on in the bulletin for more details. We need 20 people to attend otherwise the price will need to be increased. Currently this is \$35 per person for a great feed.

I am away all of May, so Colin is standing in for me (excuse the pun) and I will be back on 2 June.

I hope you have all kept well and I will see you on the track soon.

Cheers Dianne



# COVID Safety

Due to the recent public health events, we are required to follow the guidance set out by government and follow protocols of the Protection Framework that is in place.

Due to our club members being in the older age group vaccinated people are welcome to join us on tramps. This is due to the fact that most of our travel is in vans, where we are in close proximity to each other during the trip.

Mask wearing in the vans is now optional and is a personal choice. When travelling in private vehicles i.e. carpooling, the wearing of masks will be up to each individual driver. The Committee has the right to change this decision at any time depending on Government information and directive.

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## GEAR LIST



- Lunch, snacks - plenty
- Lots of drinking water - in an unbreakable bottle
- 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
- Toilet paper
- Personal First-Aid Kit – including emergency blanket
- Emergency Contact/Medical Details form: keep in a zip lock bag
- Whistle
- In winter include : warm hat, gloves, an extra warm layer, thermos (optional - but nice)
- Money to cover tramp cost
- Extra money if you wish for coffee/ice cream etc, for on the 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 5 May**

**Richmond Downs**

**Grade 2**

## Te Tapui Track

From the car park the track enters the bush for a short distance before splitting into two. We will take the track to the right which is steep in places with lots of tree roots but is easier to go up than down.

There will be no hurry so we can take our time through the very pleasant bush to reach the summit and lookout tower (vertical climb of approx 360m). From the tower there should be good views of the Kaimai Range and Firth of Thames. We will probably lunch here before starting the longer, easier grade loop back to the carpark.

Expect to walk about 6.5Km (3 - 4) hours.



**Depart:** 8am

**Return:** 4.30pm approx

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

**Leaders:** Alison Orchard and friends

**Bookings:** Open Monday 22 April @ 6pm  
Contact Alison  
Phone/txt 027 6183569  
Email alorchard14@gmail.com

**Sunday 19 May****Ngaruawahia****Grade 1****Waikato River Trail – Horotiu Bridge to Ngaruawahia**

We are meeting at our usual place in the Community Living Trust Car Park and will carpool to the start of the walk. Cars will park adjacent to Horotiu Bridge or across the road on spare ground. The walk is on a paved cycleway so we will need to be aware of bikes sharing the track.

We will walk as far as we want and return the same way, some may wish to go further or faster than the rest of us, that's okay as we will set a time to be back at the cars.

Once at the cars we will head off for a nice coffee/ice-cream stop to end our leisurely walk.

Bookings: Not required – just turn up



- Depart:** 8am
- Return:** 1pm approx
- Cost:** \$5.00 to drivers
- Leaders:** Ron Clarke
- Bookings:** Not required - just turn up



**Sunday 2 June****Pokeno****Grade 1+****Mt William Walkway**

We are going to commence our ramble from the Puketutu Road end of the walkway. This is on private farmland and will lead us on a steady climb and in some places short steep bits, so take your time onto the Puketutu trig (373m).

There are lots of great 360 degree views. From here you retrace some of the walk and follow fence markers over several great stiles along the ridgeline to Mt William trig (369m). We are aiming to have lunch at Mt William Trig - weather dependent. From here it is downhill into the scenic reserve, then out onto farmland and to the waiting transport.

For those who want to ramble a bit more, then once you are over the last stile onto farmland heading for our transport there is a sign to the Kauri grove just down the fence and over another stile which will add approx 1 hour. Please be aware this walk is on open ridgeline so be prepared for any weather conditions as there is no shelter. Expect to walk 3-4 hours.

Bring extra money for an ice cream/coffee stop if you wish to partake.



**Depart:** 8am

**Return:** 5pm approx

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

**Leaders:** Ron Clarke & friends

**Bookings:** Open Monday 20 May @ 6pm  
Contact Colin  
Txt 027 326 6886  
Email [standings@xtra.co.nz](mailto:standings@xtra.co.nz)

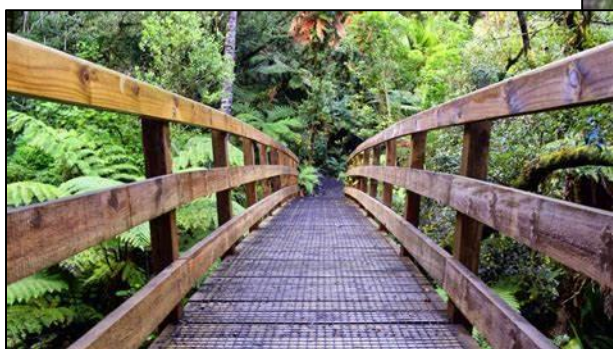
**Sunday 16 June****Waiomu****Grade 1+****Kauri Grove Track**

The track follows a formed gravel road for 600 metres before heading into regenerating bush. Be prepared to get your feet wet as there are several stream crossings. About 25 minutes from the start a short side track leads across the stream to the old Monowai Goldmine battery site.

Further up the main track the forest becomes more luxuriant and diverse. A 10-minute climb further up the ridge takes you to a stand of mature kauri. They are magnificent.

This is an in/out on same track about 2 -3h.

Coffee/ice cream stop on the way home if time allows.




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<b>Depart:</b>	7.30am	
<b>Return:</b>	4-5pm approx	
<b>Cost:</b>	\$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members)	
<b>Leaders:</b>	Pam, Dianne and friends	
<b>Bookings:</b>	Open	Monday 3 June @ 6pm
	Contact	Pam
	Phone/Txt	027 278 0690
	Email	pcornforth@xtra.co.nz

## Sunday 30 June      Karangahake Gorge      Grades 1+ & 2

### Windows to Dickey Flat (G1+)

### Windows to Dubbo 96 to County Road Track (G2)

Starting at the Ohinemuri River Bridge, both grades cross over and enjoy the Windows walk (don't forget to bring a torch). Then follow the Waitawheta River on the Pipeline Walk via a longish tunnel. Before reaching the bridge to Dickey Flat, Grade 2's will turn right along the Dubbo 96 track climbing steadily to the junction of the County Road Track going left and right.

Turning right here we follow a fairly level track for about 1 km before dropping down and turning into Scotsman Gully Track back to the Ohinemuri Bridge and waiting van.

Grade 1's will, after a suitable rest at Dickey Flat, retrace their steps down the Waitawheta River back to the van. If the Crown Tram Walkway is open, this may avoid the steps up to the Windows.

Grade 2: Expect to walk about 8.5 km (about 4 hours).

Grade 1: Expect to walk about 6 km (about 3 hours)



<b>Depart:</b>	8am	
<b>Return:</b>	5pm approx	
<b>Cost:</b>	\$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members)	
<b>Leaders:</b>	G2	Colin and Ron
	G1+	TBA
<b>Bookings:</b>	Open	Monday 17 June @ 6pm
	Contact	Colin or Margaret
	Phone	07 8551335
	Txt	027 3266886
	Email	standings@xtra.co.nz

# MIDWINTER LUNCH

We are planning a midwinter lunch at  
**Forest Lake Gardens Pavilion**  
in the village at Te Rapa, Hamilton

**Saturday 6 July**

Arrive at venue for 12 noon  
Lunch will be served at 12.30

**Cost \$35per person**

For a minimum of 20 people. If we have less than 20 people book in the price will increase

The menu will include lamb and ham as the meat and  
a mixture of hot seasonal vegetables and salad plus a scrummy desert  
The bar will also be open

## **Bookings:**

Open Monday 10 June 2024

Contact : Dianne

Phone/txt : 027 272 6617

Email : leedi444@gmail.com

Payment by Wednesday 3 July to 03-0306-0208429-000

Ref: you name/Lunch

## Sunday 14 July Waiuku Grade 1+

### Waiuku Forest Walk

It will take us about 1½ hour drive from Hamilton through to Pokekohe to the iron sands mine main gate at Waiuku. The walk is a loop track through pine forest and is on an easy, relative flat walk on a dry sandy base. It is nice no matter the weather on the day. Part of the walk is along the Waikato Riverbank on the other side from Port Waikato. Lunch will be in the forest somewhere. We return to the vans via the centre of the forest.

This area is popular for horses, dogs and cycling. We will walk approx. 4 hours at a leisurely pace to admire our surroundings.

Coffee/ice cream stop if time allows on way home at Pokeno.

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**Depart:** 7.30am

**Return:** 4-5pm approx

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

**Leaders:** Dianne, Pam and friends

**\Bookings:** Open Monday 1 July @ 6pm  
Contact Dianne  
Phone/Txt 027 272 6617  
Email Leedi444@gmail.com



## Sunday 28 July

## Rotorua

## Grades 1+ & 3

### Western Okataina Walkway

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. You pass through some stunning native bush. Absorb amazing views of Lakes. Both trips will start from Millar Rod

#### Grade 3's

We start a gradual climb through native bush for about the first 1 to 1½ hours before descending again. Then it's an undulating up to the Whakapounakau Junction (highest part of the track) Then it's all downhill to the Okataina Education Centre. We may come across some of the Grade 1's who have come out to meet us.

This is a shared track with mountain bikers, so we must take special care. Expect to walk about 17 km (5-6) hours.

#### Grade 1+'s

We will drive to Millar Road on Lake Ōkāreka and will have morning tea before making our way on to the track to walk as far as we want and return, lunch on track. We will relocate the vehicles to the Education Camp to pick the G3's up.

Rotorua and Rotoiti from the Whakapounakau Trig - 758m which is a side trip off main track. The track is well sign posted and is a shared track with mountain bikes to watch out, they are fast on the down hills.

**Depart:** 7.30am

**Return:** 6-7pm approx

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

**Leaders:** G3 Colin Standing and friends  
G1+ Dianne, Pam and friends

**Bookings:** Open Monday 15 July @ 6pm  
Contact Dianne  
Phone/Txt 027 272 6617  
Email Leedi444@gmail.com

# Where We Went

## Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park 28 January



This easy start to the 2024 Wanderers year of activities saw a keen, chatty seventeen gather at this relatively new 60ha park on Brymer Road which is now well linked up to the modernised Zoo complex. Some thought that negotiating the elaborate carpark was like being in a maze.

At 9am we were under no illusions that we were near the zoo...the hyenas across the road were raucous! Owing to the misty morning it was only a quick climb up the viewing platform for some before doing the circuit and admiring the peat lake and the native vegetation, all planted in stages over the last 20 years.

Started in 2004 with the aim to represent the ecosystem diversity of the Hamilton basin, the park comprises five main ecosystems from canopy species to wetland species.

It is so fortunate that Council had the forethought to purchase this farm years ago, before urban sprawl gobbled it up. The huge art pieces of barbed wire ball are a link to the land's farming history, and all the Raupo around the lake are a reminder of one of the main materials the Māori used to thatch and wall their whares.

Diane said it was to be a turn up/local/social walk and coffee and it was.

Thank you to the leader Dianne

**Rosanne Ludbrook**



## Firth of Thames

## Sunday 11 February

### Tapapakanga Regional Park



This park is north of Kaiaua on the way to Orere Point – not somewhere you go on the way to anywhere else and a bit far for a “Sunday Drive” however it is well worth the effort.

It was a warm, fine day and the coastal track provided a variety of terrain through bush with glimpses of the sea and coast along the way. The track then met a farm track which took us to a trig. Of course, we know that a trig means a climb but also a rest and a snack when we get there. There were great views which included the Coromandel Peninsular across the Firth of Thames.

Downhill then and back to the carpark at the beach, near to the Ashby Historic Homestead. It had become very popular while we were walking with lots of families having picnics and swimming. Some of us enjoyed a wonderful swim without pounding waves so we were able to wallow in water up to our necks. There are several campgrounds nearby to spend some “downtime” enjoying the environment.

We left in time to stop at the Waharau Regional park for a 30 minute walk through regenerating forest on the way home.

You can find maps for all the Auckland Regional Parks on the Auckland Council website.

**Alison Orchard**



**Photos by Aron**



## Morrinsville

## Sunday 25 February

### Piako River Walk

We parked at the Morrinsville Domain Carpark at the end of Cureton Street and started off on a flat path. Further on it became more sloping as we reached the Piako River banks. Following the river we were protected from the intermittent rain by the canopy covering.

Interesting information panels were erected along the way to document interesting local historical events.

The river was flowing quite fast and looked a bit muddy from the recent rain. Further on we climbed up to farmland, walked by the farm fence overlooking the river.

We crossed the bridge over the Piako River, walked under the Piako Park Line railway track and crossed the swing bridge and back to the left side of the river.

From here we arrived at Holmwood Park that is in a housing subdivision with a small pond in the northwest of the area. We had a break on the benches by the pond then returned to the vans via the town streets.

This walk was a nice, gentle walk, a good choice for a not too strenuous day.

Thanks Sue for leading us and Carol for driving the van.

**Aron**



## Morrinsville

## Sunday 25 February

### Piako River Walk

Ten of us left the carpark in Hamilton and travelled to the Morrinsville Domain. The weather was overcast and rain forecast for most of the day.

We started our walk from the edge of the park, walking through a patch of bush before coming out at Walton Matamata Road and crossing the road to the track to exit at Homewood Park.

Along the way signboards are erected of the history and points of interest of the early days. Walking along beside the river there was lots of gorse and deadly nightshade growing and the river was a bit dirty.

We crossed a swing bridge before coming across the railway bridge - a wooden trestle style that was very high. In the 1900's the bridge was covered in water when the Waikato Basin was flooded.

As we were heading back towards town it bucketed down and we all got drenched sheltering in town, it was decided to walk back to the van to get changed and then drive into town to have hot drink and something to eat and get out of the rain. Before heading back to Hamilton we drove to Lockerbie Estate and had a look at the sections of the new sub-division.

It was a short but an interesting day. Thanks to Sue for leading and Carol for driving.

*Ron Clarke*



**Photo by Aron**

## Waihi

## Sunday 10 March

### Homunga Bay to Waihi Beach

This was a pretty costal one with tracks in dense pōhutukawa forest. I joined the Grade 2 more difficult walk, the costal part of the Homunga Walk can be rather steep with big dip on costal cliffy slope below. We dropped 10 members on Ngatitiangata Road above Homunga Bay, the track is an overall downhill one.

Climbing the steps over the entrance gate, we were grateful to have fine weather. Going in and out of the bush there were views of the sea and the rugged coastline below, especially on exposed slope section. After about an hour we reached Homunga Bay a beautiful, peaceful scene and returned along the main track to Orokawa Bay.

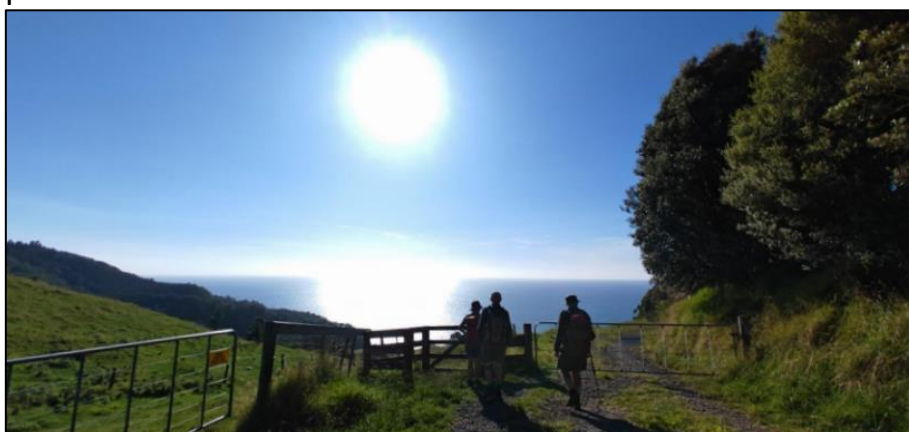
This part involved a rather scary, steep track high on the cliffy slope with pounding waves below. We crossed a stream and bridge on an undulating path, in and out of the costal forest. Our Leader Barbara made sure everyone was safe. Distracted by the beautiful costal scenery I got little off course and our group had to retrace their way back to the proper track, thanks Grant for your help.

The plan was to try and meet up with the Grade 1 Group at Orokawa Bay for lunch. They had taken an alternative track from Waihi Beach Carpark and had arrived about half an hour earlier than us. By the time we reached the beach they have already finished their lunch. Lingering around, having our lunch is enjoyable in such long straight attractive beach.

The other group started their way back to the carpark and I caught up with Dianne returning to the van. Looking through the seaside bush, it is spectacular to have a decent look back on the beach below. The returning walk is an easy one. Colin and Grant went to have a look at a blue penguin colony by Waihi Beach however due to coastl erosion the the location has undergone alot of change over the past decade and the little birds are not found.

We stopped for the usual treat of ice-cream at Waihi. Thanks for Dianne and Ron for being the drivers for the trip and for Pam for driving her own car so everyone could enjoy the trip.

**Aron**



## Pirongia Forest Park Mahaukura Track (Wharauoa Lookout)

Sunday 24 March

Two cars with 10 people left Hamilton on a sunny day after a previous day of heavy rainfall. We hoped with the brisk winds wind the track would not be too wet. Parking the cars in an open carpark at the end of Grey Road we prepared ourselves to start the walk.

Initially, the track was quite flat with gentle rise only. Then the ascent became steeper as we walked. Residual raindrops keep falling as we moved among the vegetation.

The track wasn't too slippery in view of the previous days rain, however it was still necessary to take care. Stepping here and there, reaching between exposed rooting, watchful footsteps were needed in the wet and humid environment.



Although track-rerouting has been made recently in some areas, we still encountered quite a number of fallen trees and collapsed wooden piles. Short detours were needed on the mucky terrain.

We saw whitish coral tooth and orange fungus, plus rimu and tōtara at the lower altitudes along with tawa and tree ferns. We came to a halt before lunch...and started our return. Not able to reach the predetermined lookout destination we only covered two thirds of the track this time.

As a reward for today's efforts, we had ice-cream on the way back!  
Thanks for Sue and Dianne our drivers

**Aron**

