

Wanderers Tramping Club Inc



BULLETIN

May – August 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 :	Emma Juggins jugginsemma@gmail.com	027 612 6228
Bulletin Editor & Trip Co-Ordinator :	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
23 May	Strawberry Trees Waihi	Ray Hoare Phone/Txt : 021 170 0713 Email : ray.hoare.nz@gmail.com Open : Monday 10 May @ 6pm
6 June	Wilsons Clearing / Bell Track Pirongia	Grant Svendsen Phone/Txt: 021 047 6518 Email : gsveny@gmail.com Open : Monday 24 May @ 6pm
20 June	Lake Okataina Cruise & Walk Rotorua	Colin Standing Phone : 07 855 1335 Txt : 027 326 6886 Email : standings@xtra.co.nz Open : Sunday 23 May Close : Wednesday 16 June
4 July	Lake Okareka & Tikitapu (Blue Lake) Rotorua	Keith Wilkinson Phone : 07 847 4399 Txt : 027 366 6194 Open : Monday 21 June @ 6pm
11 July	Midwinter Lunch Hamilton Gardens Café Function Room	Colin Standing Phone : 07 855 1335 Txt : 027 326 6886 Email : standings@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 14 June Close : Tuesday 6 July
18 July	Summerhill Rec Park and Hot Pools Papamoa	Brenda Petersen Phone/Txt 0273 117 372 Email : brenda22269@hotmail.com Open : Monday 5 July at 6pm
1 August	Waiomu Thames Wires Track Maratoto	Colin Standing Phone : 07 855 1335 Txt : 027 326 6886 Email : standings@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 19 July @ 6pm
15 August	Parker Road Huntly	Ray Hoare Phone/Txt : 021 170 0713 Email : ray.hoare.nz@gmail.com Open : Monday 2 August @ 6pm
29 August	Hapuakohe North Walkway Mangatarata	Grant Svendsen Phone/Txt: 021 047 6518 Email : gsveny@gmail.com Open : Monday 16 August @ 6pm

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 second tramping bulletin for this year. We've had a great start to the year and the tramping numbers have been steady at around 22-24 people on each trip. A big thank you goes to the van drivers who without them we would not get to the tracks. They pick up the vans on Saturday, do the driving and sometimes leading as well, then refuel and drop off Sunday night. This can make it a long day for them.

We are now heading for the winter tramps so possibly a bit closer to home, raincoats might be needed, but still challenges and laughs to look forward to. On any trip remember a change of clothes and footwear please, book early as the vans fill up quickly on most trips.

We are travelling to Rotorua for the Okataina adventure, thanks Pam for sourcing the boat trip at end of June and the blue lake wander. Off to Papamoa, Huntly, Pirongia and Thames, so lots of variety.

Some of the trips in this bulletin may not have been surveyed by time of publishing so keep eye on website and emails.

Keep warm, keep safe and dry and I'll see you on the track.

Dianne

CHEQUES - PLEASE NOTE

As New Zealand banks are phasing out the use of cheques the club will no longer be accepting cheques as payment for trips and events

CLUB MERCHANDISE

Wanderers member name badges

Put these on your hat, pack or shirt to identify yourself and the club

Only \$12.00



Embroidered Wanderers cloth badges

They look great on your pack or clothing, and help to promote the club

Only \$10.00



For more information or to order speak to Ron

Celebration of the Life, of a long-term member -Marion France-



Marion had been a member of the Wanderers and a regular tramper for over 40 years.

Late last year she was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer and subsequently moved to Resthaven, in Cambridge. Many of her friends phoned her, but it was difficult to visit. First Marion was told that: 'she was in isolation' and then later that only family could call in to see her.

Marion died shortly after moving to Resthaven. She had requested a private funeral, for family only. Many of Marion's friends in the Club were shocked by the sudden death, so soon after the surprising diagnosis. We needed to grieve, to celebrate and remember Marion's Life, particularly as a tramper. We met in the Rose Garden, in Hamilton Gardens, on Sunday 31st January, and just hung out together, there were 21 of us. Keith made a short speech, as he had known Marion for many years, then others contributed their memories, some of which were amusing. Afterwards, we had a picnic lunch and enjoyed each others' company. It seemed a good thing to do.

Rest in peace, Marion, our loyal tramper and friend. We haven't forgotten you.

Margaret



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 23 May

Waihi

Grade 2

Trip # 1139 – Two Mines and a Bunch of (Strawberry) Trees

Many of you will know this as the Strawberry Tree walk, however in mid-April there appeared to be few berries on the dogwood trees at the old village site. Of more interest are the 2 mine sites and other relics, as well as a likelihood of many amanita toadstools.

We drive almost to Waihi, and then head northwards. The walk starts across farmland, and initially rises about 200m up a farm road, which we will take steadily for about half an hour. After that there will be no climbing until after lunch, except for those that wish to descend into the stream bed to see the remains of the Maoriland mine. Walking is on an old mining road. Lunch will be at the strawberry trees, and points of interest include an enormous pine tree and a weta cave.

After lunch we climb another 50m or so, still on the mining road, and then turn right onto another road that goes up a gentle ridge through pines where there are usually many amanita toadstools. We then have the choice of turning right to return to the vans, or left to visit the Jubilee mine, where the main point of interest is a large steam boiler, half buried in the ground, looking a bit like a submarine in the water. (This a steep 70m deep scramble on a marked but unformed track.)

Depart:	8am	
Return:	6pm approx	
Cost:	\$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members)	
Leaders:	Ray & friends	
Bookings:	Open	Monday 10 May @ 6pm
	Contact	Ray Hoare
	Phone/Txt	021 170 0713
	Email	ray.hoare.nz@gmail.com

Sunday 6 June

Pirongia

Grades 1 & 2+

Trip # 1140 – Wilsons Clearing/Bell Track

The WTC last did this tramp in 2013. We will drive to Limeworks Loop Road and park in the Kaniwhaniwha Reserve carpark, and then the two groups will walk up the Nikau Track alongside the Kaniwhaniwha Stream.

The G2+s then head onto and up a marked route, crossing the Blue Bill Stream to where the clearing was once farmed. The route then follows a fence line to a point where the bush starts again and the route heads down to intersect the Bell Track and back out to the vans. Expect to walk 6 Hours.

The G1s will walk the Bell Track to the caves and the tall Kahikatea tree, and beyond if time allows.



Depart: 7.30am

Return: 4pm approx

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

Leaders: G2+ Grant & Co
G1 TBA

Bookings: Open Monday 24 May @ 6pm
Contact Grant Svendsen
Phone/txt 021 047 6518
Email gsveny@gmail.com



Sunday 20 June**Rotorua****Grades 1 & 2****Trip # 1141 – Lake Okataina Cruise and Walk**

This will be a great day. Three hrs walking for the G1's and 4+ hours for the G2's. We start the day with a boat trip from Okataina Lodge wharf. For one hour we will cruise the lake. A guide will inform us of stories and history of the lake.

We will alight at the south end of the lake. The Grade 2 group will leave us to walk to Humphries Bay and possibly beyond.

After a lunch stop we will return to the van walking through bush on the east side of the lake. Mostly flat with glimpses of water through the trees.



Please note the closing date for bookings is Wednesday 16 June and payment to be made at time of booking. First week will be priority bookings for Wanderers club members then club visitors and friends bookings will be accepted.

Depart: 7.30am

Return: 6pm approx

Cost: Members - Boat trip \$45 + Van \$25 = **Total cost \$70**
 Non-Members - Boat trip \$45 + Van \$30 = **Total cost \$75**
 Full payment to be made at the time of booking
 Payment to Colin Standing (Treasurer)
 Bank a/c 03 0306 0208429 000
 Put your name as reference

Leaders: Pam & friends

Bookings: Open Sunday 23 May @ 6pm
 Close Wednesday 16 June
 Contact Colin Standing
 Phone 07 855 1335
 Txt 021 253 1105
 Email standings@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 4 July**Rotorua****Grade 1****Trip # 1142 – Lakes Okareka & Tikitapu (Blue Lake)**

Today we will venture to Rotorua and go around the Tarawera Road to Lake Okareka where we will stop for morning tea by the lake.

Then we will travel a little further to do the Lake Okareka outlet walk and return (approx 2 ¼ hours)

Next on to the Blue Lake where we will walk around it in a clockwise direction returning on the lovely lower track (dependent on lake level).

Two nice walks with very little hill work.



Depart: 7.30am

Return: 6pm approx

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

Leaders: Keith, Dianne & Pam

Bookings: Open Monday 21 June @ 6pm
Contact Keith Wilkinson
Phone 07 847 4399
Phone/txt 027 366 6194

Midwinter Lunch

BUFFET LUNCH

At The Hamilton Gardens Café Function Room

Sunday 11 July 2021

1pm

Doors open 12.30

Bar will be open

Cost

Members \$35pp (this has a member subsidy by the club of \$10 pp)

Non-members \$45pp

Bookings

Open 14 June - Close 6 July

Full payment to be made at the time of booking to

Colin Standing (Treasurer)

Bank a/c : 03 0306 0208429 000

Reference : your name

Phone : 07 855 1335 | Txt : 027 326 6886

Email : standings@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 18 July

Papamoa

Grade 1+

Trip # 1143 Summerhill Rec Park

Summerhill has many kilometres of amazing scenic walking trails through varied terrain including pasture, forests and native bush. From the carpark, we will start with a ridgeline walk through farmland to the Pa site in the adjoining Papamoa Hills Regional Park. Once at the trig point, if the weather is clear, we will have amazing 360-degree views over the countryside right down to Whakatane, all of Mount Maunganui and Tauranga and the Kaimais!

This is not a long walk but there are definite hills to climb! Bring wet weather gear if it looks like rain as there is no shelter at all and if windy can also be chilly.

After our walk those who wish to can have a hot swim at the Welcome Bay Hot Pools. Bring extra money, your togs and a towel plus some warm clothes for afterwards. Cold drinks, snacks and ice-creams can also be purchased from the kiosk at the pools.

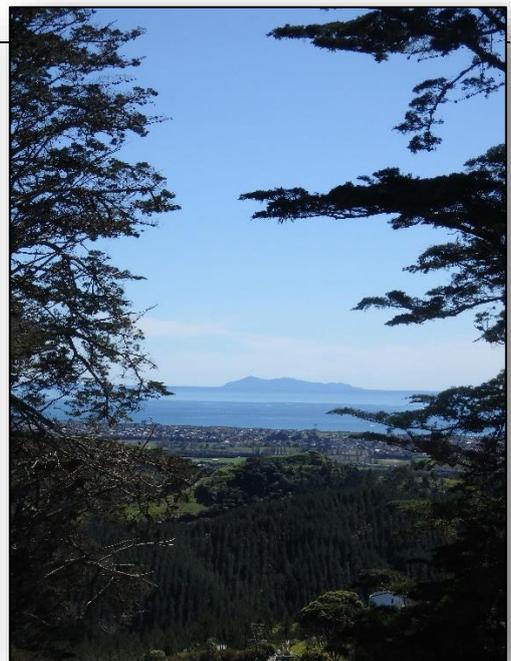
Depart: 7.30am

Return: 6pm

Cost: \$25.00 (members)
 \$30.00 (non-members)
 Extra cost for swimming at pools :
 Adults: \$11
 Seniors: \$7

Leader: Brenda

Bookings: Open Monday 5 July at 6pm
 Contact Brenda Petersen
 Txt 0273 117 372
 Email brenda22269@hotmail.com



Wanderers members can receive up to 15% discount off purchases in store at Bivouac, 311 Barton Street, Hamilton

Just mention you are a Wanderers TC member to receive your discount on non-sale items

Sunday 1 August Maratoto/Thames Grades 1+ & 2+

Trip # 1144A Waiomu Kauri Grove Walk – Thames - Grade 1+

We are making our way to the Waiomu reserve around the Firth of Thames for a shared morning tea. So, bring a plate to share and your own drinks. From here it is a short drive and if the gods are with us a good parking spot, if not a bit of a walk on a gravel road to start of track.

The track starts with a ford crossing so possibly wet feet at this time of year, then onto the beautiful track into regenerating bush. Other than the ford all crossings are now bridged.

We have a couple of diversions to investigate on the way back so bring a torch. The main track in the forest becomes more luxuriant and diverse. There is 10 minute hill climb (steps) further up the ridge which takes you to a stand of mature kauri, they are magnificent . Walking time approx. 3 hours. On the way home we will have an ice cream if we have time, so bring extra money .

Trip # 1144B Wires Track - Grade 2+

The Wires Track gained its name for the telegraph line that was constructed along the route in 1872 with remnants still to be seen. The tramp today starts at the carpark at the end of the unsealed Wires Road and continues up the Whangamata Off Road Vehicle Track to the junction of the Wires Track.

Time permitting, we will walk on to view the 12 hp Ruston and Proctor portable steam engine on the old sawmill site. After lunch we will descend the Wires Track through bush on steps cut large enough for a pack-horse for the route to Whangamata. Further down we can take a short track down to see a waterfall on the Hamuti stream.

Actual plans on the day may vary to suit weather conditions. 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: G1+ Dianne, Keith and friends
 G2+ Colin Standing and friends

Bookings: Open Monday 19 July @ 6pm
 Contact Dianne Lee
 Phone/Txt 027 272 6617
 Email leedi444@gmail.com



Sunday 15 August**Huntly****Grade 2****Trip # 1145 – Parker Rd/North Hakarimata**

This track is at the Northern end of the Hakarimata range. There are a lot of steps, and an elevation gain of up to 250m, but you get to see a 1000 year old Kauri, a grove of rickers, and several nice views. This part of our day we will spin out till lunch time. After lunch we will drive to one of the other short walks in the Huntly area – Taupiri Mountain, the Scientific Reserve, or one of the lakes.

We start with a 10-to-20-minute climb up steps, to gain 60m elevation in 400m horizontal. We can get a view there, and then take the right-hand fork to walk to the kauri. At this point there is a planting of labelled native species, where we will stop for an education break. From here there are flat sections, and a short climb through some bush and lots of scrub. 20 minutes gets us to the 1000 years old Kauri, that has a 7m circumference. A bit further on are more Kauri, and a nice resting spot.

Steps begin again here, to climb 140m up to the upper lookout. This will take us about a half to one hour, through Nikau forest to a great viewpoint, looking north up the Waikato valley. We will not be rushing it, but we will have deserved our morning tea at this point.

Those who wish can then start on the tramping track up to the Southern Lookout, 700m along and 50m higher, where we look out to the south Waikato valley. (About an hour return.) The rest can enjoy their view a bit longer or start down the hill.

We return via the rest of the loop track, much steeper but all downhill on a very well formed path (with steps!). Very fine Nikau forest is seen on the way. We will probably have lunch at a lookout near the junction where we meet up with our original track. Check the website closer to the day to find out which of the afternoon options we will select.

Depart: 8am

Return: 4pm approx

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

Leaders: Ray and Ron



Bookings: Open Monday 2 August @ 6pm
Contact Ray Hoare
Phone/txt 021 170 0713
Email ray.hoare.nz@gmail.com

Sunday 29 August**Mangatarata****Grades 1 & 2****Trip # 1146 - Hapuakohe North Walkway**

The vans will head along SH27 to North Road where we will park at the end of the road and the start of the track. The first part of the walk is on private land along a farm track to a fence line where the two groups will start a climb up through a pine plantation to the bush edge, once in the bush the track is well marked.

There are two lookout points along the track, the first (G1) 1h.30m and the second (G2) 3h. We will return the way we came.

If time allows we can stop for a coffee at the Native Tree Cafe on the corner of SH27 and North Road.



Depart: 7.30am

Return: 6pm

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

Leaders: Grade 2 - Grant & Co
Grade 1 - TBA

Bookings: Open Monday 16 August @ 6pm
Contact Keith Wilkinson
Phone 07 847 4399
Phone/txt 027 366 6194

Where We Went

Sunday 14 February

Whangamata



Luck at Last Mine

On a perfect mild mid-February day 26 trampers, under Dianne's expert guidance, headed along the picturesque rocky, river- flanked track and old carriageway to explore well-preserved relics of this 1899-1901 promising gold operation. We were 7kms north of Whangamata, and 3kms down a forestry road.

The native trees and many hopeful seedlings were dwarfed by giant conifers and the water below in the Wharekawa river kept up a gentle babble as it moved along its rocky course. The cicadas held the same note throughout. An hour in, having passed the access to the saloon site, we reached the main historic archeological battery site of the crushing and extraction operation with many "exhibits": cyanide ponds; the petton water wheel that drove the whole operation; a row of 6 huge bergen bowls for refining the powder; and above the bluff a big well preserved brick construction with the furnace and tunnels to convey the heat. Gold fever archeological relics!

Here is where we stopped for lunch, and also viewed the interesting descriptions and photo boards before tracking on in search of the bakers site. Not sure if it was found but the beautiful rocky pool which was easily accessible was a welcome invite to some.

Dianne features is the story of the day! Still wearing boots, bras and a little more, Diane took the plunge with a splash, only to retreat rapidly after something bit her leg –it was an eel. Just as well she had her boots on.

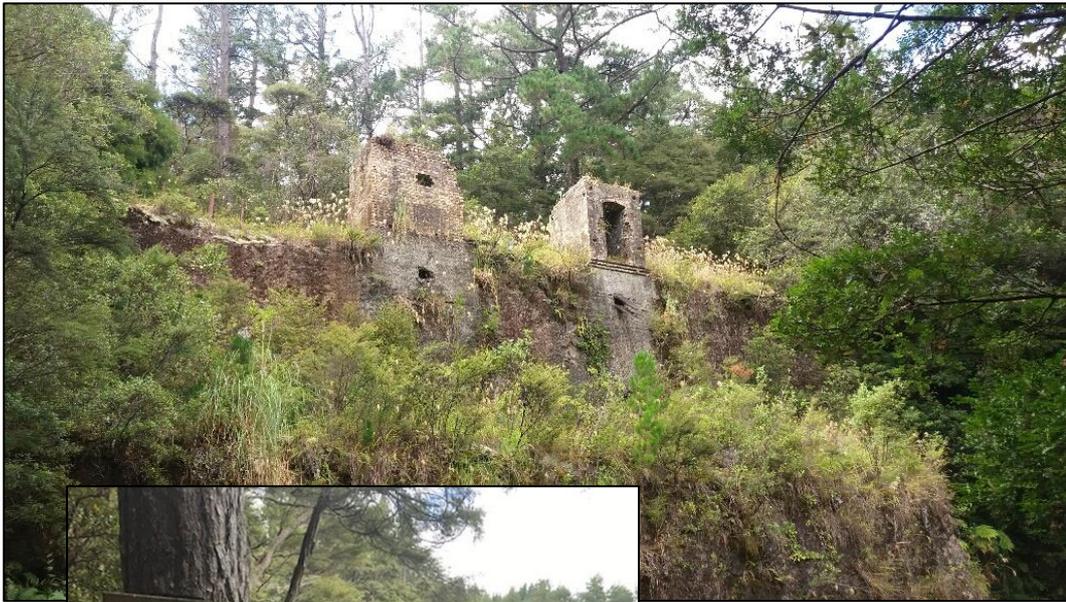
At this area a little cairn had been piled with jasper rocks which sent some on a rock search. Apparently in 1896 the mine and the Wharekawa 294 acre lease were bought from the Abbot brothers by a London based company called Whangamata Propriety Ltd.

The council site says that flush with money the company lavished money that the site did not warrant. When the money ran out the company restructured in 1999 as the Whangamata Gold Corporation to raise more revenue from new shareholders. At one stage there were 140 men on site, and the first crushing began in 1899. The company closed in 1901. I wonder what this bush settlement looked like. Did any women join the men?

A big thanks to Diane, Keith & Co for leading another super hike.

Rosanne

Luck at Last Mine snaps....



Sunday 28 February

Thames

Kauaeranga Valley - G1.5

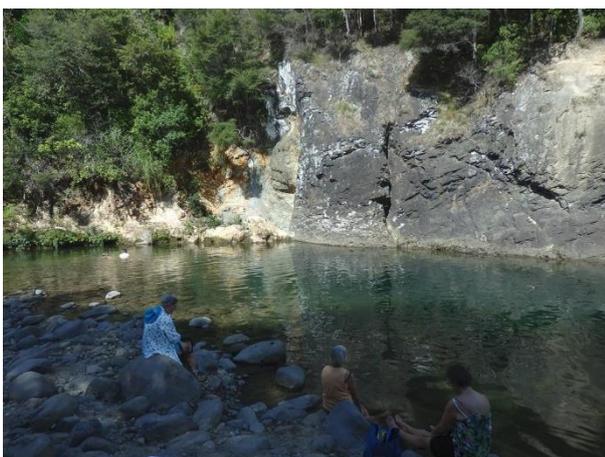
We set off with a full van of Wanderers on a beautiful day and made our way to Thames via the Swamp Road. At the DOC information centre, we viewed a film on the history of kauri milling in the valley during the late 19th/early 20th century. This made us appreciate the location of our tramp as it showed us the hardship which the inhabitants were faced with extracting the huge kauri logs.

After seeing the film, we went to inspect a large replica of a kauri dam of the sort employed in the valley by the original loggers.

From here we made our way up the valley to Jasper Creek, Track 76 to the lookout, Edwards Look Out which gave us magnificent views of the valley to the 'Pinnacles' in the distance and then on to Murray's Boardwalk.

On returning from this farthest point, we stopped at 'Hoffmans Pool' where four daring Wanderers stripped off and went for a swim while the rest of us dangled our feet in the water and shouted words of encouragement.

After an ice cream stop at Turua we returned home at 6.40pm after a truly enjoyable day. Thanks to our wonderful leaders Dianne and Keith. **Roger**



Sunday 14 March

Auckland

Tiritiri Matangi Island

21 Wanderers, after refreshments at Ripples café left Gulf Harbour on a yellow Fullers ferry, each with mask on face, on a beautiful sparkling day bound for a day on Tiritiri.

15 of us took a tour hosted by Sahrah, a very knowledgeable and enthusiastic guide who went well over the allotted 90 minutes to impart information on the flora and fauna of Tiritiri. We saw tui, kereru, bell birds, red headed parakeets, stitch birds, saddlebacks, and whiteheads and were very lucky to see kokako that even made a little beautiful noise for us, as well as a family of 5 takahe lunching around the lighthouse.

Most of the trees are less than 40 years old, we got to see a couple of old survivors - pohutakawa and puriri which are over 800 years old.

No low carb diets on Tiritiri – 9 tonne of sugar is used every year to fill the bird feeders – very entertaining to observe the tui and bellbirds “getting their fix”.

Before the ferry trip back some took the chance to have a dip in the clear, calm, refreshing waters of the Waitemata. A speedy trip back to Hamilton ensued; the lovely day meaning not enough wind to sail the Americas cup.

A great day out surrounded by NZ’s wonderful nature.

Thanks to all the drivers for getting us there and back safely and huge thanks to Colin for all his work in organising us, and all so that an excellent day was had by all.

Annemarie Farrell



Sunday 28 March

Pureora

Waihaha Hut - Pureora Forest Park

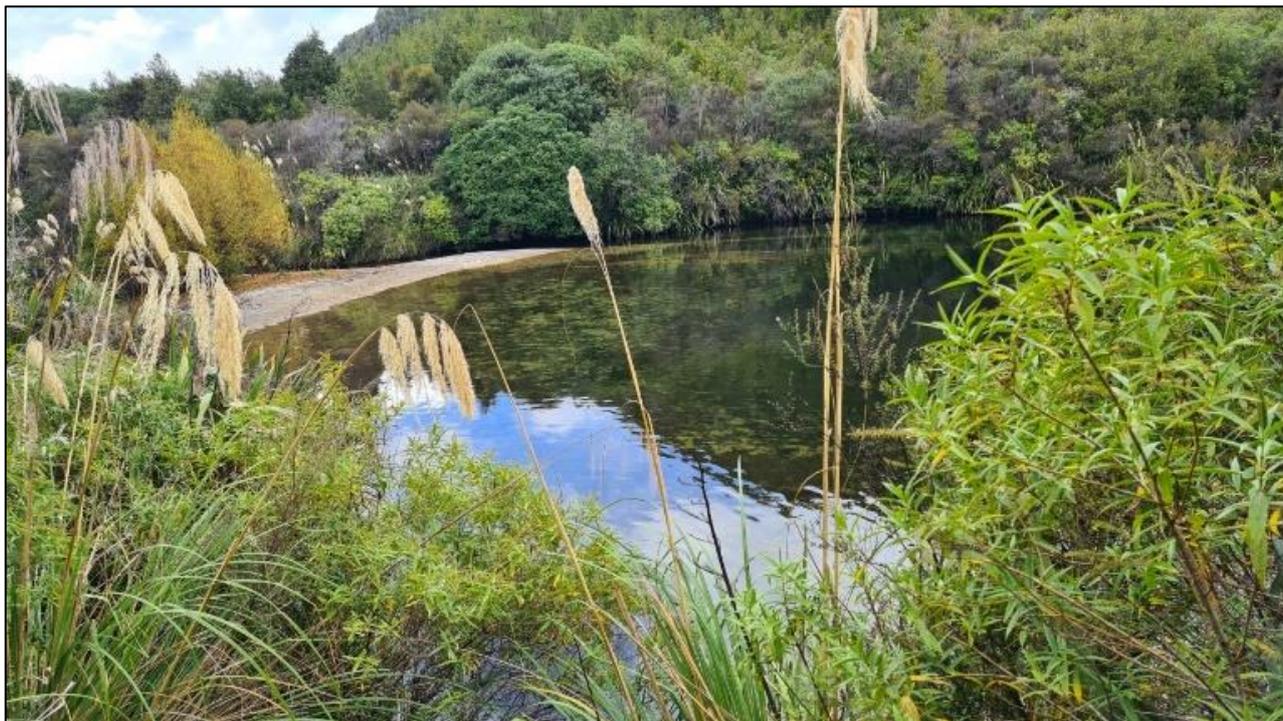
Two vans and a car left Hamilton at 7.30am and headed down to Waihaha on the Taupo Western bypass road, stopping at Tokaroa for a toilet stop, and those quick enough a coffee.

The drive down through the Southern Waikato was very pleasant as it is a long way. Once at the carpark we all donned our tramping gear and split into 2 groups, a G1 and a G2.

The G2s immediately headed off having to walk over the busy road via a bridge to the start of the Waihaha Hut track and virtually followed the Waihaha river, on the true left, 3hrs to the hut, where they had lunch.

The landscape changed often from open scrub to mature bush with very tall trees, mainly Rimu, Totara, Matai and Miro. They retraced their steps back to the vans for the return journey back to Hamilton. Nice to see some new faces and thanks to Colin and Ron.

Grant



Sunday 11 April

Tairua

Broken Hills - Grade 1+

There were nine keen trampers for this trip. Rain had been forecast but we were fortunate, it was a beautiful autumn day, very hot and humid at times.

After the usual morning tea, we set off with enthusiasm up the Water Race Track. It wasn't an easy climb but we walked slowly and steadily and it was no problem. From there we headed, partly up and down steps, with a few tricky parts that needed extra care.

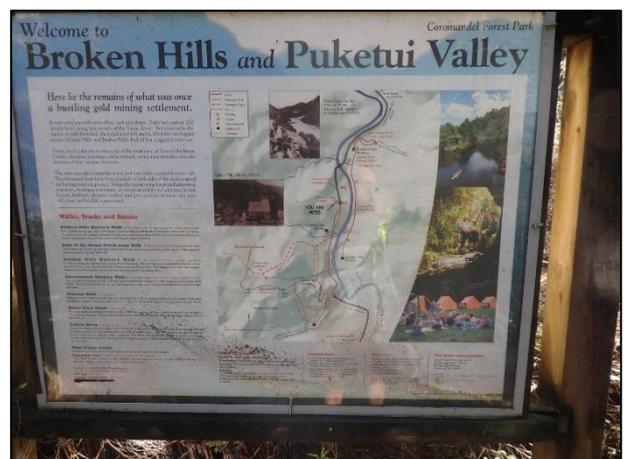
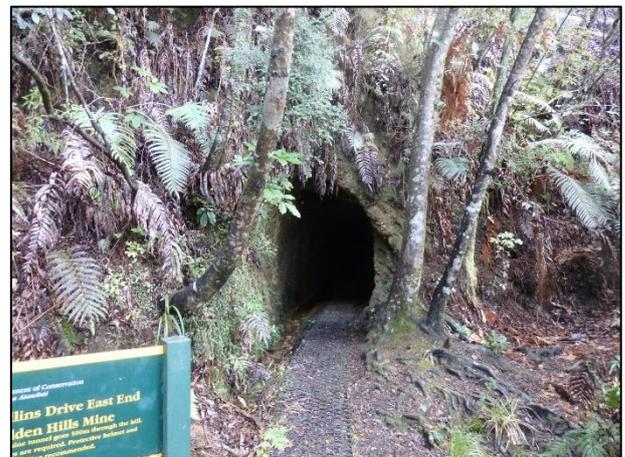
We climbed up to Collins Drive and looked at the entrance to the very, long tunnel, then walked around it to the other side where we ate lunch.

Afterwards, torches at the ready, we walked through the tunnel which was a good experience, then just for fun, walked back again.

From there we headed back, via a different track, back to the car park. On the way most of the group explored the huge cavity which was cut into the hillside, to view a huge stope.

It was a good day, challenging at times but manageable with good company. Special thanks to the leaders, Dianne, Pam and Keith for all their efforts; and to the rest of the group for contributing to a pleasant, day out.

Margaret



Sunday 11 April

Tairua

Collins Drive – Grade 2+

A full van of 12 set off from Hamilton with a forecast of rain ahead but luckily when we reached Tairua the sky was clear.

We set off up a pretty steep hill in good spirits, with the humidity at about 105% we were soon feeling the heat with some of us leaking as much liquid out as we could take in.

The climb was a bit of effort but rewarded with great views and even at the lookout despite some low hanging cloud around. Once we got the climb over with it was a pleasant trek through the bush and amazingly once we turned onto the track towards Collins Drive the temperature was quite different and a relief from the humidity.



A bit slippery in places we reached the tunnel to walk through to the other side we found glow worms and some large cave wetas, amazing to get up so close to them. The tunnels were so cool compared to the outside temperature a really interesting thing to experience.

Once through the tunnel we met the other group coming up and proceeded down the third branch track stopping to check out various mining sites and shafts. We stopped for lunch in a sunny spot with pleasant views then carried on to the Water Race Track and back to the carpark.



We had made good time so took the chance to check out the Broken Hill and Golden Hill batteries, again marvelling at the cool air coming out of the various tunnels which was so much colder than the outside air and really nice to pause at before heading home with a stop in Paeroa for ice creams and coffee.

A very interesting and informative trip, thanks to the organisers and drivers of the day.
Catherine Hunter

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

- Earplugs
- Insect Repellant
- Sunscreen
- Torch / Head Torch
- Trekking Poles
- Tent

FOR HUTS

- Toiletries
- Sleepwear
- Lightweight Clothing / Footwear

10%
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221A Victoria Street
Hamilton New Zealand
Ph +64 7 839 5681
Fax +64 7 839 5846
shop@trekntravel.co.nz